



Eye Opener

MOUTHPIECE OF THE
Rotary Club of West Vancouver Sunrise



Proceedings of the meeting of May 27, 2004

O Canada

Invocation:

- o Jim

Guests/Visitors:

- o Paola Merkins, West Van School Board Chair of Trustees.
- o Mike Petryna, North Van Rotarian, great to see you again.
- o David and Asa Stevenson from the Children of the Golden Triangle organization.

Club Business/Announcements:

- o President Val welcomed one and all.
- o Nico spoke briefly about Dale and Tania Mostert, thanks to all members who have offered support during Dale's illness, special thanks to Sam for providing the family with meals. Val has pledged that the Club will maintain the meals and provided whatever is necessary to support the family.
- o Upcoming events:
 - GSE dinner meeting at Cheer's NV, Monday May 31st,

- Community Day Amble-side Park Saturday June 5th, the sign up sheet was circulated today and will be again on June 3rd,
- Installation of the new Hollyburn Rotaract Club will take place at Andrea's Restaurant, NV, Tuesday June 1st,
- West Van Chamber of Commerce dinner meeting Friday May 27th at the Capilano G&CC.

- o Tuesday night was the North Shore President's meeting, a discussion was held regarding the recent District 5040 Conference and the possibility of a Vancouver venue for the next conference.
- o The Rockridge Secondary graduation ceremonies will take place June 6th at 1:00pm, Club members will be on hand for the presentation of two Club sponsored awards: our scholarship for International Service and the Mike Jeffries Art Award. All members welcome.
- o David and Asa Stevenson gave a brief presentation on the Children of the Golden Triangle: this area is the region where Laos, Thailand and Myanmar converge. The CGT organization is working with Rotary to complete a school/training cen-

tre for the children of the area. These children are in great danger of abduction, slavery and exploitation by industry and the sex trade, as well as debt bondage. The children of the region are without human rights in an area famous for lawlessness and opium production. Asa, born in the region, told of the dangers children face and the hopelessness felt by many. With the help of Rotary Clubs in Canada (Kamloops West Rotary) and Australia the CGT is constructing the training centre and campaigning for human rights for the children of this region.

cators to re-establish limits, provide guidance and counselling, and pay more attention to the activities and behaviour of children.

Sam thanked Paola for speaking to us this morning.

50/50/happy/sad:

- no winners, no losers.

Meeting adjourned.

Mark introduced today's **guest speaker:** Paola Merkins, Chair of the Board of Trustees, West Van School District 45. Paola spoke today about the research being done on substance abuse by today's students. The research dealt with why some children easily resist drug use while others succumb. The project identified *internal and external* assets that promote a healthy lifestyle for today's children. These assets include: an environment of support from family and school, a feeling of empowerment in the children, boundaries for behaviour set by parents and educators, guidance, values and commitment. Paola notes that society has changed much in the past few decades: in the past children had a much greater role of responsibility in the family and society. Children are no longer required to undertake obligations and duties to the family and society creating a great deal of uncommitted time, fewer boundaries of behaviour and less guidance from family and school. The result is a higher rate of substance abuse and destructive behaviour. Paola urges parents and edu-



Val (middle front) and Esio Marzotto (back left) with the GSE team members.