



# Eye Opener

MOUTHPIECE OF THE  
Rotary Club of West Vancouver Sunrise



Proceedings of the meeting of August 26, 2004

## O Canada

and entertaining. Thanks to all who made it a great social event!

## Invocation

- Marko distributed the WineFest 2004 tickets to members today, the cost is \$30.00 each, see Marko if you didn't receive yours.

## Guests/Visitors:

- Judith Harder, a member whether she knows it or not, great to see you, take care of that injured limb!
- Reza Mahammed, visiting with friend Ray, thanks for coming!
- Andrew Robertson, our soon to be newest member!
- Suzanne Laurin-Seale, today's guest speaker, thank you for joining us this morning.
- Persian night: Janice, Ian and Mary, Joan and Ron, Klaus and Michelle and Mark all attended the North Van Rotary fundraiser, interesting food, great music and dancing, and a Persian carpet auction rounded out the evening.
- Public Relations: Val reports that meetings have been held with the Rotary North Shore PR group District 5040 as well. Plans are to have at least 1 page per month in the NS News showcasing Rotary events and projects, a different pillar of Service will be highlighted in rotation. Rotary supporters will be offered advertising space on the page. Contact Donna Couturier at the North Shore News for details regarding the advertising.

## Regrets:

Peter, David, Ian and Ken.

## Make-ups:

Ken reports two for the last two weeks.

## Vocational Talk:

Andrew Robertson spoke to us this morning telling us a little about himself and his life.

## Club Business/Announcements:

- President Janice bid one and all welcome and good morning.
  - Day at the Races: a winner or two and plenty of losers but the day was fun
- Born in South Africa (now there's a new one eh?) Andrew grew up here in West Van.

An early starter, Andrew first entered business at the ripe old age of 9, selling lemonade and shoeshines he began his career.

In his early twenties Andrew went through a life threatening (and life changing) experience when he was diagnosed with leukemia. After the chemotherapy, sickness, nausea and baldness Andrew's epiphany was to understand what the proper order of life's priorities really is.

Andrew urges us to live as though we were dying, realize that we are here to Serve, and make the world a better place through love and kindness to our brothers and sisters.

#### **Guest Speaker:**

Val introduced Suzanne Laurin-Seale, our **guest speaker**.

Suzanne spoke to us today about the Bridges of Hope Ministry and its' Orphanage project in the western sub-Saharan country of Burkina Faso (formerly Upper Volta).

Suzanne was first introduced to the project when she met the President of Bridges of Hope and knew immediately that she wanted to help. The orphanage has been open 2 years and presently has 14 residents, 50% of whom are HIV positive. The orphanage also provides care for 150 children from the area on a daily basis.

Bridges of Hope is also now in the process of acquiring 200 hectares of nearby land where a self-sufficient farm and residence can be established. The project is in need of funds for all its' activities but most pressing are the establishment of a clean-water well (water must be carried 5 mile from a polluted river right now).

Also planned is a program to finance local micro-businesses and a project to provide

the new farm with a solar power source and increase its' potential to provide the basic necessities of life.

Bridges of Hope is holding a fundraiser at Cheers Restaurant Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> 2004, 90% of proceeds to BHM, 10% to the North Shore Harvest Project.

Klaus thanked Suzanne for speaking to us today.

- A new home and now a new citizenship, Michelle becomes a Canadian Citizen today. Our country is much the richer for welcoming you Michelle.

**50/50/happy/sad:** no winners, no losers.

**Meeting adjourned.**