

Rotarians Help Grade X Students Learn to Make Ethical Decisions

West Vancouver, April 7, 2008 – For the fifth year, Rotarians from the North Shore will be helping Grade X students at Rockridge and Sentinel Secondary Schools to consider ethics when dealing with difficult or complex life situations. Rotarians will be at Rockridge on April 7, 8, 14, and 15 and at Sentinel on April 21, 22, 28, and 29. In the past four years over 1000 students have participated in the program.

The ethics and values program involves small groups of students discussing situations and coming up with a solutions that stand up against prescribed ethical criteria. The criteria are based on the Rotary Four-Way Test -- “Of the things we think, say or do, Is it the truth? Is it fair to all concerned? Will it build goodwill and better friendships? And will it be beneficial to all concerned?”

Here is a sample of the type of ethical dilemmas that are discussed: “One of your very good friends is allowed to borrow his parent’s car. You know that he is taking it out street racing without their knowledge. He asks you to keep it a secret, but you know the potential for a serious accident. You also know that if his parents find out he will no longer be allowed to use the car. What do you do?”

The program not only provides students with a tool to help make decisions that meet ethical standards but also they have the opportunity to demonstrate leadership skills. The Rotarians have an opportunity to interact with students and pass on experience with ethical decision-making.

This program which was first introduced by the Rotary Club of Fort Collins Colorado in 1993 is now being used throughout the US, in Canada, and in several other countries. The Rotary Four-Way Test which was created in 1932 is one of Rotary’s basic principles that is followed by Rotarians worldwide in their business and professional lives.

The program is being co-ordinated by Rotarian Chris Loat and involves participants from the four North Shore Rotary Clubs. For more information on the program, call Chris at 604-922-8342 or email chris-loat@shaw.ca. For information about any of the North Shore Rotary Clubs, contact Janice at 604-921-7583.

-END-

Media Contact:
Janice Bosley, Past President
Rotary Club of West Vancouver Sunrise
Phone: 604-921-7583
Email: jlbosley@telus.net