



# The Miner's Lamp

Bringing the Light of Service to the Community and the World Through Rotary



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**February  
is World  
Understanding  
Month**

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**February is the month that all Rotarians celebrate Rotary's birthday on the 23rd, which has been designated World Understanding and Peace Day. One of the Objects of Rotary is to promote world peace and understanding all over the globe.**

## Gwyn Sproule & Whyte's Bay



Our guest speaker on Tuesday was Gwyn Sproule, teacher, historian, ethnobiologist and published author. Gwyn provided an interesting insight into the history of Cumberland based in part on the memoirs of Mavis Wall who with her family lived and grew up at Whyte's Bay. She outlined the abject poverty that was normal for many residents back in the early days of the coal mining industry of Cumberland and surrounding area. Gwyn described how a

community of consisting of 25 dwellings grew at Whyte's Bay—named after the mine manager, James Whyte, who built a dwelling there to remove his family from an outbreak of cholera in Chinatown. Many of the people who built small houses there worked at No 4 and No 5 mines that were nearby and others just because it was a beautiful spot. Gwyn's book, titled: "Whyte's Bay Days" covers the 1920s and 30s, which was an idyllic time for the children of the community but not so for the adults who struggled to feed their families, many relying on trout fished from Comox Lake and deer and grouse shot in the surrounding forest. Only 5 of the original cabins remain, some owned by local residents. The one in which Mavis Wall and her family lived has been ravaged by vandals and the elements. Gwyn talked about Jock Sutherland and his beautiful, talented wife, Mary. Jock suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder following his ordeal as a soldier in the trenches at Passchendaele and Vimy Ridge, a condition that was called "burn out" at the time. Jock was not a miner but worked as a watchman for Canadian Collieries. Following the meeting, Gwyn autographed and sold copies of her interesting book and our club bought one to place in the Lodge's library.

## Announcements

David Bossom suggested checking out: [www.manager-tools.com](http://www.manager-tools.com)

- Jill Cornwell is always interested in suggestions for speakers: [jcornwell@shaw.ca](mailto:jcornwell@shaw.ca) She is always accepting donations of good books for our library at Cumberland Lodge.



- **From President Linda:** RYE (Rotary Youth Exchange) conference will begin with dinner at the Westerly to welcome the students on Wednesday, 11 February. Spouses welcome; \$25 per person. Jon Toogood looking for volunteers to billet some of the 34 students who will be attending. Accommodations required for nights of 11 to 14 February inclusive. Maureen Swift, President of the CV Hospice Society will be visiting our club on 17 February to accept our cheque for \$10K pledged by us to help build the hospice facility. Linda announced receipt of a cheque from District 5020 for \$2,500 USD, the District Simplified Grant for which we had applied. This is the fourth grant we have received since we were chartered in 2005 for a total of \$10K US; proof that our foundation works for us as well as others around the world. We are invited to a Volunteer Appreciation tea from 3 to 5 PM on Thursday, 12 February at CV Child Development Centre, 237 Third Street, Courtenay.
- Adam Lewis of the Interact Club of Highland Secondary School announced details of the club's dinner and silent auction to be held at the school on Friday, 6 March at 6 PM. All proceeds to "Connecting With Kenya". Tickets available at Blue Heron and Laughing Oyster Books, Bodyworks Physiotherapy, and from the school. \$25 for adults, \$15 for students and \$10 for children 10 and under.
- **Program 3 February:** Club Assembly—Judythe will be making a presentation.
- **February Greeters:** Bill Armstrong and Gale Wheeler.
- **Greeters' Duties:** Arrive by 6:30 AM, set up room, greet everyone as people arrive and hand out badges, help with visitors' name tags and make-up cards. Return room to original setup.

## Rotary Moment



### R I President's Message - February 2009—Read to the Club by President Linda

Dear fellow Rotarians,

I grew up in a small village, the same village where my family had lived for many generations. I lived close to many members of my extended family, and our family traditions were very strong. In those days, few Koreans ever traveled abroad, and there was very little Western influence. My home, my language, and my culture were all I knew.

When I was in my 20s, I made a decision that would shape the rest of my life. With my father's encouragement, I traveled to the United States to work and to study. I chose San Francisco as my destination and spent nearly two years there, taking classes and learning English. I made my way working at several entry-level jobs. It is difficult even today to describe what an impact that experience had on me. Everything, and everyone, was different. I was used to seeing only Korean faces; in San Francisco, I saw people from all over the world. I worked hard on my English and in my job. I learned what it was like to be the person who did not understand, who cleaned up after others, who took orders but never gave them. I learned how large the world outside my village really was. And those experiences sent me back to Korea changed.

When I returned to join my father's business in Seoul, I knew what it was like to be a worker at the bottom of an organizational hierarchy - and that affected how I treated my employees. I knew what it was like to do physical labor all day - and that gave me increased respect for those who worked in every kind of job. Perhaps most important, I knew how much of the world lay beyond my own experience. I knew that there were so many different countries and cultures, so many different people in the world. I knew that as much as we are all different, we are all essentially the same. And I knew that everyone, everywhere, sometimes needs help from others.

In Rotary, February is World Understanding Month - a time to focus on the importance of goodwill and understanding for peace. It is a time for all of us to pause and consider how we are pursuing Rotary's fourth Avenue of Service - International Service - because it is our international service, and our international fellowship, that will do the most to help us all build a more peaceful tomorrow.

Dong Kurn (D.K.) Lee, President, Rotary International

### Attendance

15 Cumberland Rotarians attended our meeting on 3 February. Visiting Rotarian: President-Elect Wendy Lewis of the RC of Strathcona Sunrise. Guests: Adam Lewis of the Interact Club of Highland, Bayne Mann, guest of his mom, Deb Nolan, Jean Cameron, guest of Gale Wheeler and who's shirt was emblazoned with the words to the right and Gwyn Sproule, our Guest Speaker.



### Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays: 8 Feb: Wayne Giroday, 23 Feb: Dodie Brand, 30 Feb: Jamie Edwards. Anniversaries: No one in our club has admitted to getting married in February. Best wishes to everyone.

## Parting Shots

### In Honor of Black History Month

In all things that are purely social, we can be as separate as the fingers, yet one as the hand in all things essential to mutual progress.

-Booker T. Washington



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## Chuckle Corner

After a two year loan to the United States, Michelangelo's David is being returned to Italy . . .



His Proud Sponsors were:



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