



The Miner's Lamp

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



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March is Rotary Literacy Month

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March is the month that we promote literacy and numeracy in our communities and around the world. Giving young and old alike the gift of reading provides freedom, dignity and power to grow and realize their full potential. Encourage members of your families to read and read to your young children and grandchildren at every opportunity to help them develop a love of reading.

ALS Society of BC

Our speaker on Tuesday was Wendy Magee, Executive Director of the Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Society of BC or ALS BC for short. Wendy provided us with a moving video showing the progression of the disease in an ALS victim and told us that about 4 Canadians a day die of this terrible disease that robs people of their lives and families of their savings. More people die of ALS in Canada than die of AIDS. She then highlighted a fundraiser begun on Vancouver Island in 2001



by an ALS patient, the late Mike Pellet of Ladysmith, who decided to raise awareness and funds for research by driving his electric wheelchair from Campbell River to Victoria, ending his journey at the BC Legislature. Mike's torch was picked up by a succession of ALS patients who kept the "On A Roll for ALS" event alive. This year, the journey by a relay of four ALS patients will begin in Campbell River on 18 July and arrive in Courtenay on 19 July on its way to Victoria. Wendy asked us to consider partnering with the other Rotary clubs to raise awareness and funds and perhaps stage a reception and perhaps a barbecue to bring members of the community together to meet the team. ALS is also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease, a baseball player who died in 1941. It is called motor-neuron disease in the UK and Europe. For more information on ALS BC and the disease, please visit this website at: www.alsbc.ca

Announcements

Tension is who you think you should be. Relaxation is who you are. - Chinese proverb

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

- **From President Linda:** President Linda read a letter of thanks from Maureen Swift of the CV Hospice Society for the \$10,000 we have contributed to their building fund. A special purpose fund was established from the \$200 raised through the auction of an autographed Rotary calendar at the meeting by Dave S, more information to follow. Next Board meeting on Thursday, 19 March at 7:15 Am at Island Timber Frame. Guess who's Coming to Dinner begins the weekend on 7 March. Best wishes to PE Steve Galbraith as he travels to PETS in Tacoma the weekend of 7 - 8 March.



- **Program 10 March:** Dona Lemay Cumberland and District Historical Society
- **March Greeters:** David Bossom and Dodie Brand.
- **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



An Obituary Printed In the London Times.

Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend, "Common Sense", who has been with us for many years. No one knows for sure how old he was, since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape. He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as: Knowing when to come in out of the rain; why the early bird gets the worm; Life isn't always fair; and maybe it was my fault.

Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial policies (don't spend more than you can earn) and reliable strategies (adults, not children, are in charge). His health began to deteriorate rapidly when well-intentioned but overbearing regulations were set in place. Reports of a 6-year-old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate; teens suspended from school for using mouth wash after lunch; and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student, only worsened his condition.

Common Sense lost ground when parents attacked teachers for doing the job that they themselves had failed to do in disciplining their unruly children. It declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer sun lotion or an Aspirin to a student; but could not inform parents when a student became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion.

Common Sense lost the will to live as the churches became businesses; and criminals received better treatment than their victims. Common Sense took a beating when you couldn't defend yourself from a burglar in your own home and the burglar could sue you for assault. Common Sense finally gave up the will to live, after a woman failed to realize that a steaming cup of coffee was hot. She spilled a little in her lap, and was promptly awarded a huge settlement.

Common Sense was preceded in death, by his parents, Truth and Trust. His wife, Discretion, his daughter, Responsibility, his son, Reason. He is survived by his 4 stepbrothers: I Know My Rights; I Want It Now; Someone Else Is To Blame; I'm A Victim.

Not many attended his funeral because so few realized he was gone. If you still remember him, pass this on. If not, join the majority and do nothing.

Attendance

Wow, 24 Cumberland Rotarians attended our meeting on 3 March. Visiting Rotarian: George Smyth of the RC of Courtenay. Guests: Mike and Laura Holland and our guest speaker, Wendy Magee, Executive Director of ALS BC.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays: 4 Chantal Stefan, 22 Debbie Lemire, 26 Kurt Nielsen. Anniversary: Annemarie and Stefan Pletscher. Best wishes to everyone.

Parting Shots



Laura Holland of the Interact Club of Isfeld School is our RYLA candidate for 2009



Dave Durant and Dave Stevens brief us on and displayed the new trophy that will honour of the top RCMP officer in our valley every year. The two centennial rifles were obtained by Dave Durant from a retired RCMP officer.

Chuckle Corner

This fellow was on the side of the road hitchhiking on a very dark night in the middle of a terrible rainstorm, and no cars were on the road. The storm was so strong he could hardly see a few feet ahead of him. Suddenly, a car came toward him and stopped. Without thinking, he got into the car and closed the door and only then did he realize that there was nobody behind the wheel!

The car started to move very slowly. He looked at the road and saw a curve coming his way. Petrified, he started to pray, begging for his life. Just before the car reached the curve, a hand suddenly appeared through the window and moved the steering wheel.

The fellow, now paralyzed in terror, watched as the hand appeared every time the car was approaching a curve. Finally, although terrified, he managed to open the door and jump out of the spooky car.

Without looking back, he ran through the storm all the way to the nearest town. Soaking wet; exhausted and in a state of utter shock the pale, visibly shaken man, walked into a nearby bar and asked for two shots of whisky. Then, still trembling with fright, he started telling everybody about the horrible experience he just went through with the spooky car with no driver and the mysterious hand that kept appearing.

Everyone listened in silence and became frightened, hairs standing on end when they realized the fellow was telling the truth. About half an hour later two guys walked into the same bar and one said to the other, 'Oh my God, me son, look, there's the jerk who got into the car while we were pushing it!'