



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.

Joe Franceschini "Up the Lake"



Our speaker on 10 March was Joe Franceschini, long-time resident of Cumberland and author of the book: *Up The Lake*. Joe described the events that led the writing of the book. It started when he received a call from a boyhood friend, Ray Walker, following the tsunami of 26 December 2004. Ray

asked Joe if he'd ever recorded the experience that they had had during the earthquake that hit the Comox Valley on 23 June 1946. Jack Monks, also a resident of Cumberland, showed Joe a collection of old photographs from that period and that spurred Joe into action and he began writing his book. As a fifteen-year-old boy, Joe, with Ray and Paul Pezel set out to the top end of the lakes "skinning" cascara bark to sell to a broker to be used in medicine.. They set out on Friday, 21 June 1946. the earthquake hit on Sunday, 23 June as the boys were launching a raft they had crafted to journey to the area where the cascara trees were. Suddenly, the ground began to shake, an avalanche started down the side of Rough and Tumble Mountain. A miniature tsunami of about four feet high started and carried the boys away from the beach and into the bush. The boys survived the experience without injury. Needless to say, though, they were shaken by the experience. Read more in Joe's book, on sale at the Cumberland Museum.

Announcements

"As I got, I gave ... as I give, I get. - Mary McLeod Bethune

- 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:** Next Board meeting on Thursday, 19 March at 7:15 Am at Island Timber Frame. President Tom Gray announced details of the upcoming RCMP Comox Valley 2009 Regimental Ball to be held on Saturday, 9 May at the Glacier gardens Arena, CFB Comox. Cocktails at 5:30 PM, served dinner at 6:30 and dancing at 9:00 to the music of the Steele Heart RCMP Band. Tickets \$100 each available at the RCMP detachment 800 Ryan Road and the CV Hospice Society or by calling: 338-1321. Proceeds to CV Hospice Society. Dress: Formal. Lantern Festival 2009 on 28 March at 8:00 PM in front of the Cultural Centre and Leslie asked that we help release sky lanterns. Plans are for the largest release of sky lanterns to date. Steve, accompanied by Alan, reported on their meeting with the Village council on 9 March, to review community projects and plans for the future. Steve then reported on his experiences at PETS during the past weekend.
- **Program 17 March: Joan Firkins - Chair District 5020 Foundation Committee**
- **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



RI Committee Seeks to Mobilize African Rotarians By Ryan Hyland



A young girl waits outside a feeding center in Niamey, Niger. Reach Out to Africa, an RI committee, was formed to promote collaboration, increase service projects, and boost Rotary club membership in Africa. Rotary Images/Alyce Henson Four African countries will each receive 20 incubators purchased by Rotarians in India as part of a project supported by Reach Out to Africa. Rotarians involved in the initiative worked with local clubs to raise funds for transportation and port charges, which will help the infant incubators arrive in Ethiopia, Nigeria, Tanzania, and Uganda by 30 June. Reach Out to Africa, an RI committee, was formed to promote this kind of collaboration, to increase service projects, and boost Rotary club membership on the continent. "Africa has always been full of challenges, where the needs surpass the resources," says Past RI Director Örsçelik Balkan, a member of the ad hoc committee overseeing the initiative. "Reach Out to Africa's aim is to essentially give clubs and districts the guidance, advice, and

resources they need to execute the best possible service projects," he explains. "Activities like the incubator service project will lead to a reduction in child mortality," says Balkan. "This is an example of the initiative helping local Rotarians practice teamwork." Originated by Past RI President Wilfrid J. Wilkinson's advisory committee, the ad hoc committee consists of four regional subcommittees that cover eastern, western, southern, and northern Africa, and another subcommittee made up of Rotarians from around the world who have participated in successful projects on the continent. The regional subcommittees identify the needs in their area, while the last subcommittee finds project resources from local and international Rotary clubs and organizations. Reach Out to Africa will focus on projects related to water, health, literacy and education, economic empowerment, children's welfare, and disabilities. Balkan says that increasing club membership in Africa is vital to the initiative's long-term success. The committee is striving to help African clubs and districts meet RI President Dong Kurn Lee's goals of a 10 percent net increase in membership and at least two new clubs per district. It would also like to boost African clubs' participation in programs such as Ambassadorial Scholarships and Rotary World Peace Fellowships. As one of the largest RI committees, it has the flexibility, experience, and capability to help clubs and districts carry out service projects, says Balkan. "We encourage all clubs to be proactive," he says, adding that the committee can be used as "a tool to help accomplish the best service projects in Africa. Rotary now has a great opportunity to reach our destiny and Make Dreams Real for all people in Africa." Source: Rotary International News Courtesy: eFlash_Rotary

Attendance

17 Cumberland Rotarians attended our meeting on 10 March. Visiting Rotarians: President Tom Gray and Chip Ross of the RC of Strathcona Sunrise and George Smyth of the RC of Courtenay. Guests: Ken Chrapko and our guest speaker, Joe Franceschini.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

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

Parting Shots



Our club received a certificate of appreciation from the Vancouver Island Society for Adaptive Snowsports (VISAS). Pictured are Cathe, an adaptive skier and Craig Gibbs.

Chuckle Corner

Oops!

A cowboy appeared before St. Peter at the Pearly Gates.

"Have you ever done anything of particular merit?" St. Peter asked.

"Well, I can think of one thing," the cowboy offered. "Once, on a trip to the Black Hills out in South Dakota, I came upon a gang of bikers, who were threatening a young woman. I directed them to leave her alone, but they wouldn't listen. So, I approached the largest and most heavily tattooed biker and smacked him in his face, kicked his bike over, ripped out his nose ring, and threw it on the ground. I yelled, "Now, back off!! Or I'll kick the #\$\$%)@ out of all of you!"

St. Peter was impressed, "When did this happen?"

Just a couple minutes ago..."