



# The Miner's Lamp

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



20 January 2009  
Volume 16 Issue 2

## January

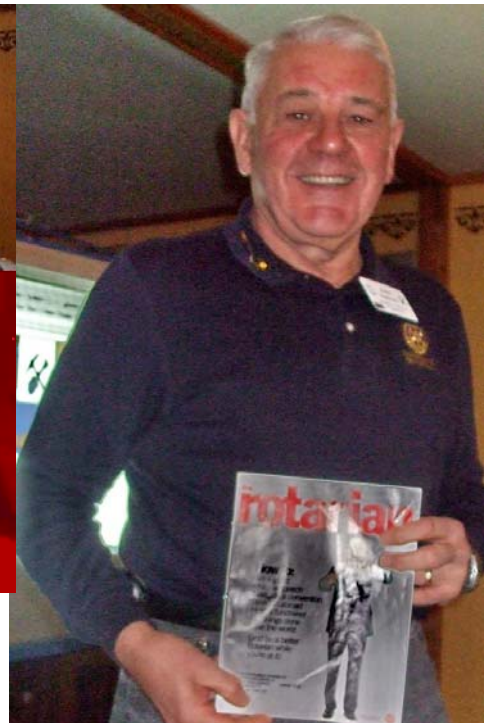
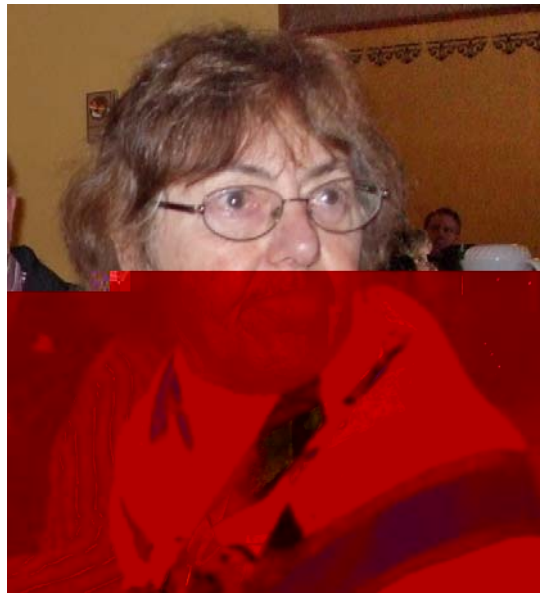
### is Rotary Awareness Month

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***January is the month that all Rotarians should be talking to family, associates and friends about the work of Rotary, in particular about our club. We should invite guests to attend our meetings to learn more and participate with us in service above self.***

## Rotary Awareness



John provided a Rotary awareness presentation entitled “What is Rotary” to remind our members of the many things we can talk about to family, friends and associates to make them more aware of Rotary. Inviting people to attend a Rotary meeting, particularly if they are potential Rotarians, is a great way to heighten awareness. Liz then provided a short presentation on the importance of membership to the life of a club and reminded us that attrition takes its toll in lost members. Our club has grown from its original 20 members in 2005 to 30 members at present but we have lost at least 8 members along the way.

## Announcements

- 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:** Board Meeting - Island Timber Frame 7:15 AM on Thursday, 15 January. RYE conference will begin with dinner at the Westerly to welcome the students on Wednesday, 11 February. Jon Toogood will be providing more details in the next week or two. Jill has sent out a message requesting feedback on programs and Linda asked that **everyone** reply to her request quickly. Steve, Judythe and Jon will be

attending the District Leadership Training Assembly (DLTA) in Victoria the weekend of 21 & 22 February. Linda encouraged others to consider attending. Register on the District 5020 website: [www.rotary5020.org](http://www.rotary5020.org) The 2009 Cumberland Lunar New Year dinner will be held on Saturday, 7 February at 6 PM in the Cultural Centre. A celebration of the rich cultural heritage of Cumberland. Meal catered by Panda Gardens, concert by award-winning: **Silk Road Duo**. Tickets: \$30 or table of 8 for \$230. Contact Mary at: 250-336-8313 or: [cumcham@shaw.ca](mailto:cumcham@shaw.ca)

### **Program 20 January:** John Bradley - Pacific Sport

- **January Greeters:** Stefan Pletscher and Jon Toogood.
- **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—What Are We Missing?

A man sat at a metro station in Washington DC and started to play the violin; it was a cold January morning. He played six Bach pieces for about 45 minutes. During that time, since it was rush hour, it was calculated that thousands of people went through the station, most of them on their way to work.

Three minutes went by and a middle aged man noticed there was a musician playing. He slowed his pace and stopped for a few seconds and then hurried up to meet his schedule. A minute later, the violinist received his first dollar tip: a woman threw the money in his case and without stopping continued to walk. A few minutes later, someone

leaned against the wall to listen to him, but the man looked at his watch and started to walk again. Clearly he was late for work.

The one who paid the most attention was a 3 year old boy. His mother pulled him along, hurried but the kid stopped to look at the violinist. Finally the mother pushed hard and the child continued to walk turning his head all the time. This action was repeated by several other children. All the parents, without exception, forced them to move on. In the 45 minutes the musician played, only 6 people stopped and stayed for a while. About 20 gave him money but continued to walk their normal pace. He collected \$32. When he finished playing and silence took over, no one noticed it. No one applauded, nor was there any recognition.

No one knew this but the violinist was Joshua Bell, one of the best musicians in the world. He played one of the most intricate pieces ever written with a violin worth 3.5 million dollars. Two days before his playing in the subway, Joshua Bell sold out at a theatre in Boston and the seats averaged \$100.

This is a real story. Joshua Bell playing incognito in the metro station was organized by the Washington Post as part of a social experiment about perception, taste and priorities of people. The outlines were: in a commonplace environment at an inappropriate hour: Do we perceive beauty? Do we stop to appreciate it? Do we recognize the talent in an unexpected context?

One of the possible conclusions from this experience could be: If we do not have a moment to stop and listen to one of the best musicians in the world playing the best music ever written, how many other things are we missing?

From: ROTI Member, Phillip Merit, RC of Mabalacat, D3790 (*This is a true story—Ed.*)

## Attendance

16 Cumberland Rotarians attended our meeting on 13 January. Visiting Rotarians: Blain Douglas, RC of Courtenay, Bayne Mann and Paul Vroom, RC of Strathcona Sunrise. Guests: Leslie Baird and George Stratford, guest of the club.

## Birthdays and Anniversaries

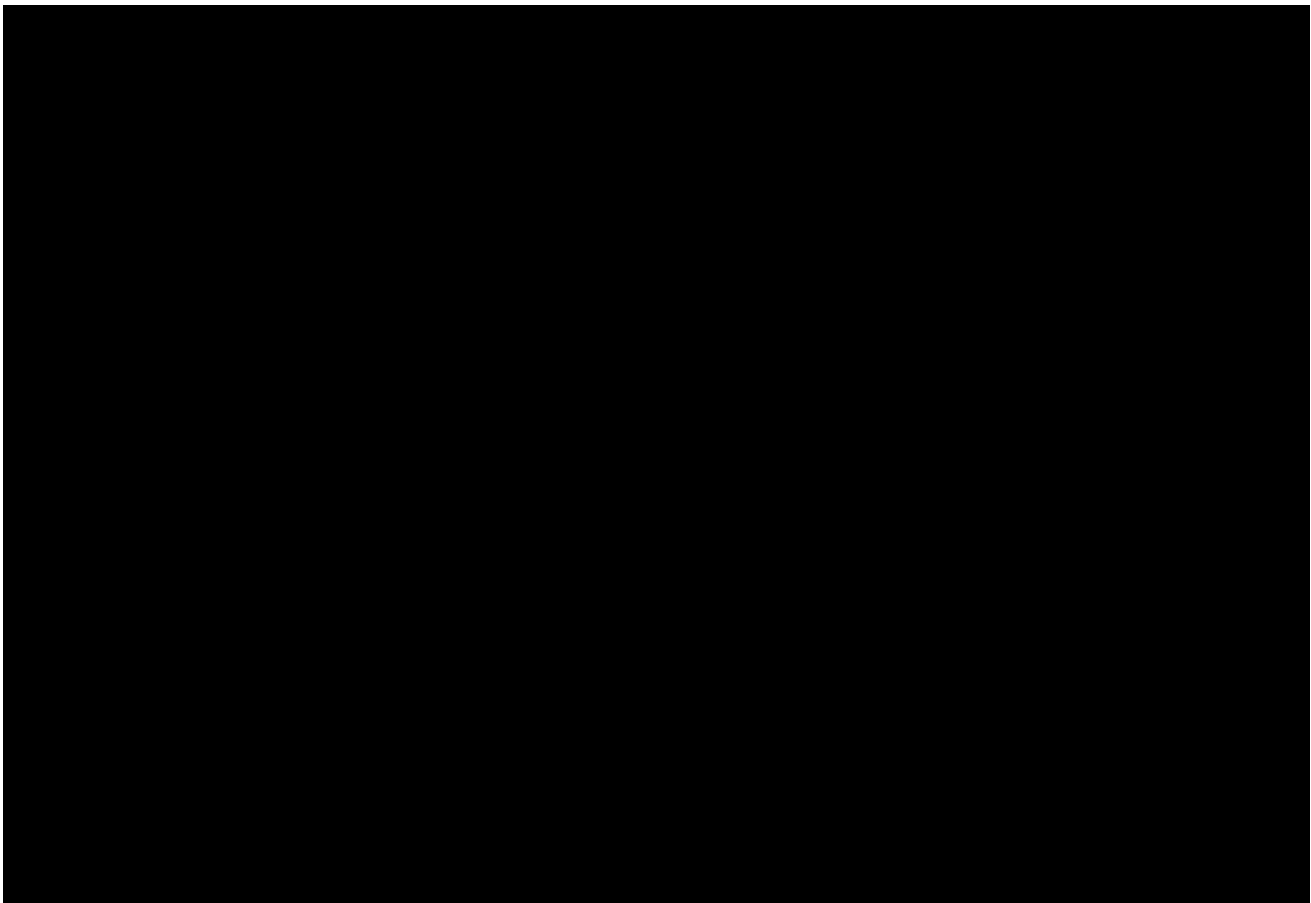
Birthdays: 4 January: Dave Bossom, 10 January: Deb Nolan, 30 January: Robb Flannery. Anniversaries: Rob and Margaret Neal: 30 January. Best wishes to everyone from all of us.



## Parting Shot - RI Float in the 2009 Rose Bowl Parade



## Chuckle Corner - Don't Embarrass Your Kids!



Never place your container of super glue next to your container of eye drops - - could be disastrous!