



# The Miner's Lamp

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

28 August 2007



Volume 10 Issue 7

**August is:  
Membership  
Development &  
Extension Month**

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EVERY  
ROTARIAN  
EVERY  
YEAR

## Ryan Thorburn--The Comox Valley Volunteer Bike Squad.



Paramedic Ryan Thorburn, a member of the Cumberland Ambulance Station staff, spoke to us last week about the Comox Valley Volunteer Bike Squad. Ryan and 21 other volunteers have banded together to provide primary first aid response at public events like the theatre under the stars and "The Big Time Out" held in Cumberland the previous weekend. With the support of corporate sponsors and by investing

their own funds, the members of this dedicated team have a pickup truck (Comox Valley Dodge), which is insured courtesy of Coast Country Insurance, up to four bicycles, borrowed and purchased medical supplies and equipment. Thorburn informed us that to purchase and equip a bike runs to \$7,000. This figure would provide a defibrillator, an emergency oxygen tank, suction equipment, drugs, bandages, a reflective vest, pants and shorts, a helmet, lights and the bicycle itself. Ryan's talk struck a responsive chord with our members so we will likely investigate how we can help following our Extravaganza Italiana fundraiser on 13 October. Thorburn has had great response from his fellow paramedics and the members of the Cumberland, Courtenay and Comox Fire Departments who have committed to providing their skills as volunteers at public events where large crowds will be in attendance. The group has been promoting the use of helmets by rewarding youths with coupons for treats at local restaurants. In addition, they fit helmets and provide coupons for discounts

## Announcements—What's Happening in our Club—Please Read

- Jill Cornwell continues to be interested in suggestions for speakers: [jcornwell@shaw.ca](mailto:jcornwell@shaw.ca) She is also accepting donations of good books for the Cumberland Lodge Library we have helped establish.
- **2007 Extravaganza Italiana** We are aiming for a target of 200 live and silent auction items so, please, find sponsors, services and articles ASAP. Linda has challenged us all to bring in 10 items each—those who do will be entered in a draw for a \$50 gift certificate. John C has **tickets available** for the Extravaganza Italiana. Reserve yours NOW! \$25 per person. Make sure you have some extras to sell to people in our community who will ask you for some. [johnpegc@telus.net](mailto:johnpegc@telus.net) or 339-4068. The Home and Garden Gate in Cumberland and the CV Visitors' Centre on Cliffe will also have tickets for sale. If you sell a table of eight, please make sure you pass a name to John so a table can be reserved for the party.
- President Keith encourages all of us to **bring a guest to breakfast** who might be a potential Rotarian. The club will pick up the tab for breakfast. August is the month we emphasize the importance of membership development in Rotary. Nurture existing members and recruit new ones. Because of our club's small size, 2/3 of our total membership currently serves as members of the Executive, Board and on committees. *"More Hands Make Light Work"*...President Keith will make the first member who brings two new members into our club this year, a Paul Harris Fellow. Don't forget to complete the DG's form for points distributed by president Keith. Those who inadvertently left their form on their table when they were passed out can get a new one from our Sgt-at-Arms in exchange for a small contribution.
- Welcome back to the club, Dave Bossom, following your knee surgery.
- President Keith presented the Presidential Seal to John C for his PR work. No picture because it was fuzzy—actually so was the seal.
- President Keith acknowledged receipt of a letter of thanks from the Cumberland Lodge for the special wheelchair we donated for their swimming program. See news release sent to everyone.
- Debbie showed us the albums that she and Jill are developing to store our photos and other historical documents as part of our permanent record of our activities. One album will be prepared for each year.
- Gale explained an idea she has for a fundraiser involving staging a melodrama. It would be lots of fund. Contact Gale if interested. More to follow.
- Linda asked for interest in the ads on the back of the bidding cards and the back of the program. Debbie reserved the back of the bidding cards and Stefan the back of the program. Thank you very much!

**Today's Speaker (28 August):** Jennifer Brun—Recycling Guide for the Regional District.

**August** **Dodie Brand and Jill Cornwell Greeters' Duties:** Arrive by 6:30 AM, set up room—hang banners, arrange flags, guest register, bell and gavel, name tag box, place sandwich board on sidewalk, greet everyone as people arrive and hand out badges, help with visitors' name tags and make-up cards. At end of meeting, return room to original condition by putting everything away—please don't leave the sandwich board on the sidewalk after the meeting.

## Rotary Moment

### Rotarians Continue to Make a Difference in Post-Katrina Mississippi

By Lisa Baker— Rotary International News

With Katrina's second anniversary approaching, Rotarians continue to donate time and money to aid Biloxi, Mississippi, USA, one of the cities hit hard by the storm. They are only 2 years into a 10-year plan to rebuild, but funds and volunteers are dwindling.

**Biloxi today:** Mississippi has the lowest per capita income of all U.S. states, and Biloxi residents are among the poorest in the nation, according to the United States Census Bureau. Almost 20,000 families live in trailers issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), mainly because their hurricane-damaged or destroyed homes have yet to be repaired. "Biloxi was blown away," says Ellie Vasilopoulos, the Rotary Club of Biloxi's disaster relief committee chair. "We lost our history, heritage, and historic homes. They are all gone, and Biloxi is stark." According to Dan Giordano, of the Rotary Club of Bakersfield East, California, news coverage of the Katrina aftermath doesn't do it justice. "Garbage is piled up everywhere, and the people in Biloxi have fallen through the cracks." Giordano and Vasilopoulos agree that Biloxi looks like a city in a developing country rather than one in the United States.

**Rebuilding efforts:** After Katrina hit, the Biloxi club teamed up with the local First Presbyterian Church to help rebuild. According to Bob Bolitho, a pastor from South Carolina who has volunteered with the church for the past two years, there's still much to be done. "Even after two years, we receive requests for help faster than we can finish repairing houses," he explains. "The people we work with have no hope of ever living in their houses again unless we, or someone like us, rebuild it. What will these people do when the government orders them out of their FEMA trailers?" Bolitho also says the effort is no longer attracting the volunteers it needs, and he fears it's becoming a losing battle. Many volunteer groups are starting to leave, and there aren't enough workers to provide desperately needed help.

**Rotary's role:** The Bakersfield East club is one of many that have pitched in to assist those in need. The club contributed money for building supplies, and District 5240 (California) sent 50 mobile homes to Biloxi shortly after Katrina hit. Giordano has helped repair and construct houses there on more than one occasion and will be volunteering again in September. Vasilopoulos knows firsthand how significant Rotary's aid has been. "Rotarians have been outstanding with their compassion, money, and willingness to help. So many have come down here to rebuild homes." According to Bolitho, District 7300 (Pennsylvania, USA) has been among the relief effort's biggest supporters. Walt Sickles, of the Rotary Club of Ambridge, says the district has donated \$85,000 and raised \$14,000 to fund volunteer travel expenses. It has sent 17 teams, or about 100 Rotarians, to Biloxi so far. Another group will be going in September, and four more soon after that. Bolitho says the money from Rotarians primarily goes toward building materials, mainly for people who can't afford supplies but can do the physical labour needed to rebuild their homes. "Rotary International has really made a difference in getting homes built," he says. "I am thankful to Rotary for all they've done." Vasilopoulos continues to be overwhelmed by the kindness and dedication of Rotary volunteers. "It's sweltering down here," she says. "There's no air conditioning, but Rotarians come down here, and they come back. It blows my mind that they keep coming back. We could never thank them enough for their generosity. I hope one day we will be able to return the favour and be there for other Rotarians in their time of need."

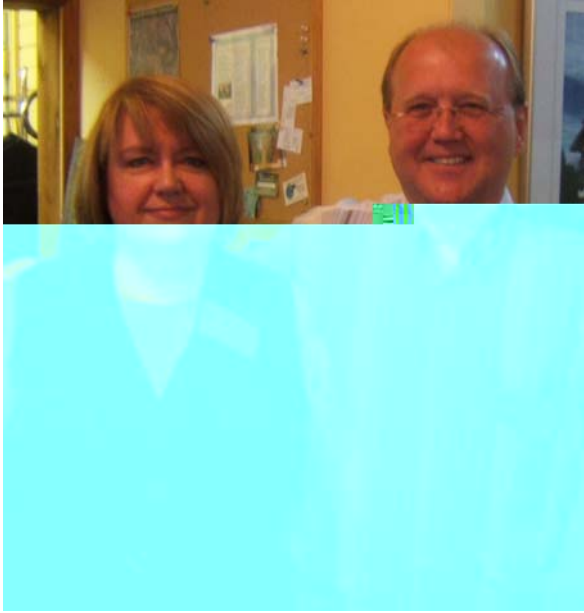
**How to help:** Vasilopoulos says the First Presbyterian Church has plenty of space to host volunteers; they can house 500 through December. "Mississippians have been very resilient, but we still need help, volunteers, and money to keep coming down here." Courtesy: eFlash\_Rotary

## Attendance

Eighteen Cumberland Rotarians attended our meeting last week. Visiting Rotarians included: Chip Ross of the RC of Strathcona Sunrise, and Cliff Piercy of the RC of Courtenay. Ryan Thorburn was our guest speaker.

**Anniversary and Birthday** Congratulations to Troy and Doug Bams who celebrate their wedding

## Parting Shots



Debbie and President Keith



President Keith, Activity Coordinator  
Rhonda Graham and Molly Shepherd

## Chuckle Corner

### **Smile, You're on Candid Camera!**

A man was driving down the road, and as he passed a traffic camera, he saw it flash. Astounded that he had been caught speeding when he was doing the speed limit, he turned around and, going even slower, he passed by the camera. Again, he saw it flash! He couldn't believe it. So he turned and, going a snail's pace, he passed the camera. AGAIN, he saw the camera flash! He guessed it must have been a fault with the camera, and home he went. Four weeks later he received three traffic fines in the mail, all for not wearing a seatbelt.

### **What Do You Say?**

While on maternity leave, a woman from our office brought in her new bundle of joy. She also had her seven-year-old son with her. Everyone gathered around the baby, and the little boy asked, "Mommy, can I have some money to buy a soda?"

"What do you say?" she asked.

Respectfully, the boy replied, "You're thin and beautiful."

The woman reached in her purse and gave her son the money.