



# The Miner's Lamp

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



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## June is Rotary Fellowships Month

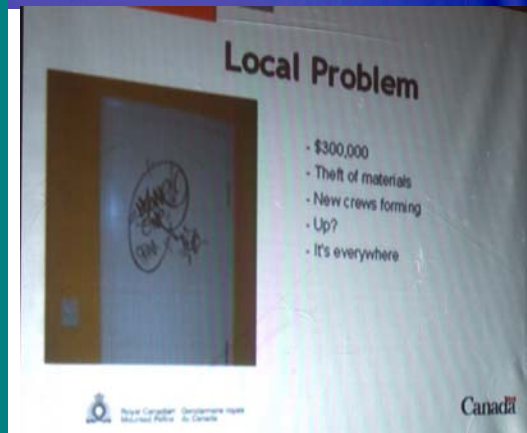
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June is the month that Rotarians all over the world celebrate the existence of the many fellowships that help connect people with particular interests and activities, providing an excellent avenue to learn and share.

To learn more, see: [http://www.rotary.org/Rldocuments/en\\_html/fellowships\\_files/frame.htm](http://www.rotary.org/Rldocuments/en_html/fellowships_files/frame.htm)

## GRAFFITI



RCMP constables Brad McKinnon and his partner, Constable Pierre Vezina, tag-teamed a presentation on the realities and problems created by graffiti in the Comox Valley. Through good old-fashioned police work, use of the internet and an understanding of the people involved in the practice of vandalizing properties through spraying buildings, the team has helped get to the root of the problem and find solutions. Sometime it's just a matter of having a chat with a young person. McKinnon emphasized that the majority of the practitioners of what some people call art are young males between the ages of 14 and 28 and are not bad people. Several hundred thousand dollars are spent cleaning up after these people, money that could be spent on other programs that could benefit young people such as a BMX park that was planned by the City of Courtenay but was cancelled because the funds were spent on graffiti cleanup.

## Announcements

*If at first you don't succeed get new batteries.*

*~ 6-year-old, first-grade student.*

- Jill Cornwell is always interested in suggestions for speakers: [jcornwell@shaw.ca](mailto:jcornwell@shaw.ca) Jill is also accepting donations of good books for our library at Cumberland Lodge.
- **From President Linda:** Rurik completed the Comrades run in South Africa. It was a very hot day.
- Keith Tatton reminded everyone that he has tickets for the Installation Dinner on 23 June.
- Brad McKinnon will ride in the 2010 Tour de Rock.
- Judythe McQuillan announced that our club has not achieved the Foundation giving goal we established at the beginning of this year. Have you considered giving a Toonie on Tuesdays? At the end of the year, the amount would be \$100 and painless.
- Megan Cursons announced that there would be a Special reception and Concert at the Cumberland Museum at 6:30 PM on Saturday, 30 May. Tickets are \$25 and are available at the Museum, Bop City records or by calling 250-336-2445. proceeds will be used to hire a student to work at the Museum this summer.
- **Program 2 June: Terry Nielsen - Trip to Africa**
- **June Greeters:** Robb Flannery and Brad McKinnon
- **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.



## Profile Alinda Ware



I was the last of 8 children born to John and Lily Ware of Dove Creek. My father was born in 1875 to tenant farmers in Devon, England. He had to leave school when 9 and work on a neighbouring farm. At 15 he joined the British army. He was shipped to South Africa during the Boer War (1899-1902), wounded and returned to England. After he left the army he migrated to the United States. When WWI started, he moved north, joined the Canadian army, was sent to England and met my mother on a blind date. My mother, Lily Kathleen Mantle, was born in 1895 to a wealthy English family. She was away from home when she met dad and when she took him to meet her parents, they were not pleased. Apparently my grandfather said, "You look fine in uniform, Jack, but how will you look with a sack of potatoes on your back?" They married and left England for Vancouver Island so their children could have more opportunities.

Mom and Dad and 2 children arrived in the Comox Valley in 1919. They settled in Dove Creek, began clearing stumps and added five more children. When mom thought she had finally hit menopause I started kicking! Dad (65) and Mom (45) had finally completed their family. Dad worked in the woods until he lost his sight at 75.

I attended the one room school at Dove Creek. We used to stop class to count the rail cars (the track was about 50 feet from the school) as the logs were taken through Dove Creek. The train seemed to go on forever. My favourite teacher was Anne Carwithan. She would take us into the bush and read us stories. In grade two I got to recite 'The Night Before Christmas while the others acted it out. Separating us from our parents was a sheet strung on a wire. For that concert we sang a new song, Rudolf the Red Nosed Reindeer.

After grade four I was bussed to the 'big school' - Tsolum. School was my social and academic life. I enjoyed working on the student's council, helping produce the Tsolum Echoes, being part of the athletic teams and all the other activities. The train trip to see Princess Elizabeth in Nanaimo, the basketball trips with Gus Vesterback, the mock UN debate in Victoria and the Adventures in Citizenship trip to Ottawa all introduced me to the world outside the Comox Valley.

And where have I been since graduation in 1958? I didn't become the psychiatrist or the adventurer I fantasized. I became a teacher with a master's degree in curriculum development. Over the years I had the privilege of working with students from kindergarten to grade eleven. I taught in Surrey. My husband, Leo Patsch and I built our home in Belcarra and raised two daughters. I spent 20 years with the Sasamat Volunteer Fire Department where I served as safety officer and training officer.

In 1997, I retired and returned to the Comox Valley. I met an old school chum, John Bowbrick. In 1998, an opportunity arose to volunteer in Kenya so John and I went and were married there. John died of a heart attack in Kenya in 2004. Since 1998 I have been spending 6 months of the year volunteering in Kakamega, Kenya and 6 months in Black Creek. I hope to be able to keep doing this for many years.

**Attendance** 19 Cumberland Rotarians attended our meeting on 26 May. Visiting Rotarian: Bent Harder of the RC of Courtenay. Guests: Heather McKinnon, Stephanie Bate, Camille MacCuspie, Brad McKinnon, Pierre Vezina, Megan Cursons and Bayne Mann.

### Birthdays and Anniversaries in June

Birthdays: 6 Steven Baird, 29 Judythe McQuillan. Anniversaries: 8 Sheila and Kurt Nielsen, 26 Gale Wheeler and Percy Wood. Best wishes to everyone.

## Parting Shot



Coach Heather McKinnon, Stephanie Bate, and Camille MacCusprie of the Comox Valley Synchronised Swimming Club were presented with a cheque for \$300 to help the club with travel expenses to attend a National Competition in London Ontario on 2 June. The first national competition for the club!

## Chuckle Corner

### Mind the Speed Limit

One Sunday, sitting on the side of the highway waiting to catch speeding drivers, a Police Officer sees a car pattering along at 22 MPH. He thinks to himself, "This driver is just as dangerous as a speeder!" So he turns on his lights and pulls the driver over. Approaching the car, he notices that there are five old ladies - two in the front seat and three in the back - wide eyed and white as ghosts. The driver, obviously confused, says to him, "Officer, I don't understand, I was doing exactly the speed limit! I always go exactly the speed limit. What seems to be the problem?"

"Ma'am," the officer replies, "you weren't speeding, but you should know that driving slower than the speed limit can also be a danger to other drivers." "Slower than the speed limit? No sir, I was doing the speed limit exactly! Twenty-two miles an hour!" the old woman says a bit proudly. The State Police officer, trying to contain a chuckle explains to her that "22" was the route number, not the speed limit. A bit embarrassed, the woman grinned and thanked the officer for pointing out her error.

"But before I let you go, Ma'am, I have to ask . . . Is everyone in this car OK? These women seem awfully shaken and they haven't muttered a single peep this whole time," the officer asks with concern. "Oh, they'll be all right in a minute officer. We just got off Route 119."