



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.

Olympic Spirit



Susan Kelsey and Marilyn spoke to us about the work they have been doing for the past five years to promote the 2010 Winter Olympics. Susan highlighted the presence of a number of national teams that have been training and plan to train at Mount Washington in the lead up to the actual games. She spoke of the great success of the recent International Paralympic Committee Biathlon World Cup held at Mount Washington from 8 to 15 March and the staging of the opening ceremonies of that event held in Cumberland. Marilyn talked to us about the opportunity being offered to British Columbians to participate in the Olympic Torch Relay. The torch will be in the Comox Valley in November of 2009. Marilyn suggested that anyone interested—no special qualifications are required—should visit www.icoke.co or www.rbc.com/carrythetorch. Successful applicants will receive a unique uniform as a keepsake and will also have the opportunity to purchase a torch as a family heirloom. The relay will consist of 300 metre stages in many communities in BC and across Canada.

Announcements

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has. - Margaret Mead

- 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:** Saturday, 28 March is the Lantern Festival at 8 PM. 12 people volunteered to help with crowd control. Meet at Fire Hall at 7:30 PM that evening. Our club has decided to place an ad in a monthly newsletter called "Currently Cumberland" at a cost of \$45 per issue to raise our profile with Cumberland residents. Catherine Chung, who publishes the newsletter, is sponsoring an Easter egg hunt on Saturday, 11 April, for children 5 and under at No. 6 Mine Park. Catherine is seeking donations to purchase eggs. Our club decided to donate \$100 to support this event.
- **Program 31 March: Club Assembly**
- **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



Bill Gates Made Honourary Member of Seattle Club



William Gates Sr., centre, helps fasten a Rotary pin to his son's lapel during the Rotary Club of Seattle's centennial celebration. Also pictured is Seattle club president Nancy Sclater. The club made the younger Gates an honorary member, joining his dad, who is already an honorary member. Photo courtesy of Mike Urban Bill Gates, co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, was made an honorary member of the Rotary Club of Seattle during the club's centennial celebration 5 March. More than 1,000 Rotarians and community leaders attended the event, held at the Washington State Convention and Trade Center, to pay tribute to the club's 100 years of service. Gates, Microsoft cofounder and chair, delivered the keynote address.

"As Rotary spread across the globe, so did the principle of Service Above Self," he said. "Rotary provides the infrastructure for scaling up one of the best ideas that human beings ever had: that helping others is not just a duty -- it's fun and rewarding."

William Gates Sr., also an honorary member of the Seattle club and Gates Foundation co chair, attended the event and helped fasten a Rotary pin to his son's lapel. Earlier this year, Bill Gates attended Rotary's International Assembly in San Diego, California, to announce a new grant of \$255 million

<http://www.rotary.org/en/MediaAndNews/News/Pages/090121_news_gates255milliongrant2009ia.aspx> from the Gates Foundation to support Rotary's efforts to eradicate polio. That amount came in addition to the \$100 million Gates Foundation challenge grant awarded to Rotary in 2007. The total matching effort in response is called Rotary's US\$200 Million Challenge, which must be completed by 30 June 2012. Together, Rotary and the Gates Foundation have committed \$555 million in the fight to end polio.

Seattle club president Nancy Sclater said the club has fully embraced Rotary's efforts to eradicate the disease. "We absolutely must finish ensuring that polio never affects anyone again," she said. Sclater also looked ahead to the club's second century of service. Its centennial project will create a support center for homeless families at a cost of \$4.2 million.

The Seattle club is Rotary's fourth oldest and one of its largest, with nearly 700 members. During its 100 years, the club has raised millions of dollars to help support the visual and performing arts, enhance educational opportunities for youth, improve outdoor and recreational environments, provide food for the underprivileged, and distribute aid

to the homeless and people with disabilities. Source: Rotary International News / Courtesy: eFlash_Rotary

Attendance

21 Cumberland Rotarians attended our meeting on 24 March. Visiting Rotarians: Marilyn Tevington, Bent harder, Bob Theisburger and George Smyth of the RC of Courtenay, Guest Speakers: Susan Kelsey, Chair Comox Valley 2010 Olympic Spirit Committee Marilyn Tevington, Chair of the Comox Valley Olympic Torch Committee.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

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

Parting Shot



This Sturgeon was caught on the [Ottawa River](#) just below [Schyan point](#) (a short distance south of [Ft-William, Qc](#)) three weeks ago. It weighed over 1,000 lbs and measured out at 11'1". It was 56" around the girth and took over 6 and a half hours, and 4 dozen beers, for the 4 guys taking turns at the reeling it in. Any Sturgeon OVER about five feet has to be released unharmed and cannot be removed from the water. They are brood / breeding stock and probably older than most of us.

Chuckle Corner

Sensitive Story

An old country farmer had a wife who nagged him unmercifully. From morning till night she was always complaining about something.

The only time he got any relief was when he was out ploughing with his old mule. He tried to plow a lot. One day, when he was out ploughing, his wife brought him lunch in the field. He drove the old mule into the shade, sat down on a stump, and began to eat his lunch. Immediately, his wife began nagging him again. Complain, nag, complain, nag - it just went on and on. All of a sudden, the old mule lashed out with both hind feet, caught her smack in the back of the head. Killed her dead on the spot.

At the funeral several days later, the minister noticed something rather odd. When a woman mourner would approach the old farmer, he would listen for a minute, then nod his head in agreement; but when a man mourner approached him, he would listen for a minute, then shake his head in disagreement.

This was so consistent, the minister decided to ask the old farmer about it. So after the funeral, the minister spoke to the old farmer, and asked him why he nodded his head and agreed with the women, but always shook his head and disagreed with all the men.

The old farmer said, 'Well, the women would come up and say something about how nice my wife looked, or how pretty her dress was, so I'd nod my head in agreement.'

'And what about the men?' the minister asked. 'They wanted to know if the mule were for sale.'