



The Miner's Lamp

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

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CV HEAD INJURY SOCIETY

March is Literacy Month

Rotary's literacy programs provide the gift of reading to people everywhere.

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Karae White was our speaker last week. She represented the Comox Valley Head Injury Society and told us about the work she does and the Team Terrific project that the society has developed to help others learn about how to prevent brain injury and about the life-long effects that brain injuries have on the lives of those who suffer them. She has developed a Powerpoint presentation that will be offered for sale to organizations across Canada to help them teach others about brain injuries and accident prevention and raise funds to continue the work of the society.

The program operates out of the Comox Valley Head Injury Society.

A non profit organization that received funding from the Rick Hansen Foundation to build and deliver this powerful educational program.

How Well Does it Work?

1. Anecdotal evidence from teachers, parents, and students
2. Average increase of 27% in knowledge about the brain and brain injuries
3. Average increase of 24% in SMARTRISK knowledge
4. Average increase in self reported helmet use
 - Bike Helmets 11%
 - Skateboard Helmets 14%
 - Ski Helmets 22%



Our goal is to become self sustaining. We believe we can sell this powerpoint program to other communities throughout the country. We have targeted two events to showcase our product.

EVERY ROTARIAN EVERY YEAR

Announcements

Jill Cornwell continues to be interested in suggestions for speakers: jcornwell@shaw.ca

The **Youthact** club is spearheading a **fundraiser** to hire a teacher for an orphanage (Chip's project) in India by collecting refundable drink containers. Please see if you can help.

Mt Washington Rotary Ski Day on Friday, 2 March. Check-in starts at 8 AM, lunch at noon. There will be a fun ski race with team and individual prizes. Dinner at 5:30 PM. Contact Alan Hampshire at: 338-5495 or ahampshire@mcelhanney.com

President Dave reminded us that our **2007 Extravaganza Italiana** need to occupy our thoughts. Find sponsors, services and articles for the auction, etc. The hall will be booked for **13 October**.

President Dave announced that **March** will be polio awareness month in the district and every Rotarian is asked to pay the equivalent of an **extra breakfast (\$6.00) toward the cost of eradicating polio**

Lantern sale on Saturday was successful. The income so far has totaled \$1254.00.

Jon Toogood reported on something he discovered at the DLTA in Victoria involving connecting less advantaged children with Rotarians to help them grow as individuals. Jon has connections with children in Habitat for Humanity families that would benefit from our involvement. More to follow.

Our own John Jones was been elected as the President of the Cumberland Chamber of Commerce!

District Conference 1-3 June Tacoma Sheraton.

The Club Board of Directors met on Thursday, 1 March at the Miner's Café.

Saturday, 3 March is the date of **Strathcona Sunrise Dinner Theatre** at Courtenay Fish and Game Club on Comox Lake. Theme is roaring twenties. Costumes are encouraged. \$45 or \$89 per couple.

President Dave announced that **defibrillators** will be presented at a special media event on Saturday, 10 March at 1:00 PM at the Cumberland Masonic Hall. The media and the public have been invited to attend. Laurie Baird will demonstrate the device.

Gale reminded us of the Emergency Social Services need for volunteers to act as evacuees for 2 hours at the Comox Presbyterian Church on Saturday between 9:30 AM and 1 PM.

Sam Dube and Heidi Pridy explained their plans to hold a fundraising dinner at Highland on Friday 9 March at 6 PM in the multi-purpose room. Tickets are \$25.00. Proceeds will go to help provide education for girls in Malawi. President Dave praised the young people for their humanitarianism and for making the world a better place. President Dave offered to purchase two tickets for the event.

March Greeters: Rob Neal and Kurt Nielsen

Rotary Moment

Rotary's Commitment to Improving Literacy



Literacy is the foundation for virtually all forms of education and an essential component of poverty reduction, social inclusion, and economic development. Despite the importance of literacy, more than 800 million people are unable to read or write in the world today, and 64 percent of these people are women and girls.

Literacy empowers people. RI President Bill Boyd's Literacy Resource Group encouraged the participation of Rotarians in International Literacy Day on 8 September 2006 (sponsored by the International Reading Association, with whom RI has a Board-approved cooperative relationship) and in Rotary Literacy Month in March 2007. In addition, members of the resource group sought opportunities for alliances with other organizations to help identify major Rotary literacy projects around the world.

One example of a Rotary initiative is called: **Live and learn:**

For the last seven years, the Rotary Club of Aurora, Ontario has hosted reading parties on Saturday mornings. Rotarians gather used children's books for the event, which also includes snacks and entertainment. Children select a book to have read to them and are able to take it home for future reading. Rotarians insert a personalized Rotary bookplate for the children. Local Interact Clubs regularly participate by gathering and distributing books and reading to the children.

The importance of literacy cannot be overstated. Through programs such as these, Rotarians are able to reduce poverty and improve the life quality for individuals and communities worldwide.

Attendance

Treasurer John reported that 19 of 25 Cumberland Rotarians were present on 27 February. Visiting Rotarians: Chip Ross and Alan Hampshire from the RC of Strathcona Sunrise and Paul Witt from the RC of Comox. Other guests: Highland Interactors Heidi Pridy and Sam Dube, Bayne Mann, guest of his mom, Deb Nolan and our guest speaker, Karae White of the Comox Valley Head Injury Society.

Birthday and Anniversary

President Dave presented a birthday card from all of us to Ann and then we sang Happy Birthday to her. He also presented an anniversary card to Stefan as he and Annemarie celebrate their wedding anniversary. Congratulations to all!

March is Literacy Month

Grade one and two students at Cumberland Elementary School examine books as Ann presents a cheque for \$3264.89 to help pay for all the materials for the *Literacy Place* reading enhancement program. Jon, Gale, Ann and Debbie joined for the presentation. The students and teachers were “over the moon” according to President Dave. Cumberland Rotary's literacy program in action!