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Arrowsmith Chronicle

The Rotary Club of Port Alberni-Arrowsmith
Chartered June 9, 1998
District 5020 RI Club Number 26488

Club Executive

President –
Joe Lamoureux

President-Elect –
Pat Kermeen

Vice-President
Claude Lavertu

Secretary –
Siedo Tzogoef

Treasurer –
Jim Creighton

Past-President –
Pam Craig

Directors:
Cheryl Hamilton
Lori Kerr
Neil Malbon

Sergeant-at-Arms –
Gord Wellar

Next Chairperson:

February 13th
Board of Directors

February 18th
Joe Lamoureux

February 25th
Marek Rozwadowski

March 4th
Anna Berry

March 11th
Theresa Kingston

March 13th
Board of Directors

Feb 11, 2014

- Attendance: 13
- Visiting Rotarians:
- Guests: Gord Johns
- Chair: Pat Kermeen

** Card draw: rebuilding



- Feb 15: Rotary Club of Port Alberni Dinner and Dance. Tickets at Bank of Nova Scotia
- March 22, 2014: Hops Festival
- March 29-30, 2014: District Leadership Training Seminar in Victoria

Guest Speaker: Gord Johns



When Gord Johns, the Executive Director of Tofino Long Beach Chamber of Commerce, visited Guyana in 2013, little did he know that he would end up visiting the community of Buxton, population 10,000. Guyana is the second poorest country in the world, after Haiti. The community of Buxton, close to the capital Georgetown, is renowned for its turmoil and drug-related gangs. Crime is rampant due to lack of policing and its proximity to Georgetown, which is a seagoing port and major drug port of exit.

In 2007 a local teacher, Robin Phillips, decided to do something about the problems in Buxton. With megaphone in hand, he cruised the streets of Buxton announcing that kids could play sports for free, provided they went to school. Lenny Shuffler, a Guinean volleyball champion heard about Robin's efforts and offered to bring a program to help out. The program offers schooling and after school sports activities to about 200 kids. From those beginnings emerged the

Buxton Youth Developers in 2007, a group that has managed to raise funds to build a school, purchase computers and develop sports fields.

Gord decided that he could do something to raise funds towards the \$6M annual operating costs of West Coast Developers. Back on the West Coast and within a short while he was able to raise over \$1000.

Gord's partner, a Canadian Consular Officer working in Georgetown, and a diehard Rotarian, suggested that he partner with local Rotary clubs to help the Buxton Youth Developers reach their goals. The Rotary Club of Stabroek, Georgetown (RCOSG) has provided critical management support for the BYD. The Mission Statement of the group is "Regaining the glory of Buxton through Sports, Education and Culture" and the Motto is "Promoting Friendship – Influencing Change".

Here is the link to their "FacebookPage"

(<https://www.facebook.com/tofinointernationalfundraising?ref=hl>) and to the video link they created (<http://tofinointernationalfundraising.wordpress.com/2013/11/05/new-video/>).



Kudos to: all who club members for making a huge effort to find great speakers.

COMING EVENTS

Joint District 5020 and 5050 Conference
Whistler, BC
May 2-4, 2014
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The Rotary Foundation

Donation info: Donations by mail;
Send donations (in Canadian or U.S. dollars)
to:

The Rotary Foundation (Canada)
c/o 911600
P.O. Box 4090
Postal Station A
Toronto, ON M5W 0E9 Or: The Rotary
Foundation (Canada)
www.rotary.org/contribute

Rotary Club of Port Alberni Arrowsmith

Meets
Tuesdays
7:00 a.m.
Hospitality Inn
Redford St.

Club mailing address:
PO Box 351
Port Alberni, BC
V9Y 7M8

FEBRUARY IS WORLD UNDERSTANDING MONTH

As we share the Olympics and watch athletes from around the world compete, here are some events that are celebrated in various countries. It is interesting to note that February is laden with countries declaring independence.

Feb 3: Japan: Setsubun-sai is known as Bean Throwing Night. Beans are thrown to protect against demons with shouts of 'Devil out, Good Fortune in'.

Feb 4: India: Basant Panchami in Northern India heralds the approach of spring and yellow coloured clothes are symbolically worn. Even the food is coloured yellow by using saffron. This festival honours Saraswati, the Goddess of Learning, Wisdom and the Creative arts.

Feb 4: Sri Lanka: National Day: Observes independence from Great Britain in 1948. The country was known as Ceylon until 1972.

Feb 6: New Zealand: Waitangi Day: This day commemorates the signing of a treaty at Waitangi on 6th February 1840 by a group of Maori chiefs and the British Government. It honours the rights of the British Crown and that of the Maori people which is now in the process of being reclaimed.

Feb 8: Canada: Boy Scout Day: William Boyce, a Chicago publisher, founded the Boy Scouts of American on Feb 10, 1910. The purpose was to promote, through organization, and cooperation with other agencies, the ability of boys to do things for themselves and others, to train them in Scoutcraft, and to teach them patriotism, courage, self-reliance, and kindred virtues, using the methods which are in common use by Boy Scouts.

Feb 9: International: Kindness Awareness Week: Established in 1995, the movement inspires people to share kindness with one another as they discover for themselves what power it has to effect positive change as healthy relationships are created and community connections are nourished.

Feb 11: Japan: National Foundation Day: Commemorates the accession to the throne of the Emperor Jimmu Tenno in 660 BCE and the founding of the nation.

Feb 14: Canada, UK, USA, and England: Valentine's Day: One version states that a priest named Valentine was martyred on February 14, 269 A.D. in Rome for secretly marrying couples against the orders of the Roman Emperor, Claudius II. This was the night before a festival called Lupercalia associated with fertility. Probably both customs became associated with this day.

Feb 15: Canada: National Flag Day: Twenty-year-old Joan O'Malley sewed Canada's first flag in 1964. The flag was raised for the first time on Parliament Hill in Ottawa at the stroke of noon on February 15, 1965.

Feb 17: USA: Presidents Day: A US Federal holiday that celebrates the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln, born February 12, 1809, and George Washington, born February 22, 1732.

Feb 18: Gambia: Independence Day: Celebrates the anniversary of independence from Britain in 1965. A public vote in 1970 made the country a republic within the Commonwealth.

Feb 24: Estonia: Independence Day: Estonia gained Independence from the Russian Empire in 1918

Feb 25: Philippines: People Power Day: Commemorates the bloodless revolution in 1986 in which President Ferdinand Marcos was toppled from power.

Feb 27: Dominican Republic: Independence Day: Commemorates independence from Haiti in 1844

Have a Great Week!!