

The Rotary Club of Port Hope

News Bulletin for the Week of February 14, 2011

Thomas Lang – Youth Exchange Student

CALL TO ORDER



President John opened the meeting at 6 pm and told the assembled multitude of Rotarians and their guests that he had been “centred out” in the Beacon last week for not awarding the little blue “critter” commonly known as the “stress ball”. Then he showed us the new stress creature – an inukshuk.

At the head table with President John were: Rotarian Joe, Rotarian Dick and our speaker, returned Youth Exchange Student Thomas Lang.

GUESTS & VISITING ROTARIANS

President John asked for those with guests to introduce them: Past President Sylvia introduced her guest Denise Westcott who was visiting for the third time. Past President Ron introduced our returned Youth Exchange Student Thomas Lang who was there with a group of family members including: his dad, Scott, his mom, Lisa, his sister, Cindy and his grandmother, Marie. Of course Uncle Bill was also in attendance.



Sargeant-at-Arms Bruce introduced Gord Sherwin from the Rotary Club of Cobourg.



Rotarian Bree introduced our next Outbound Youth Exchange Student, her son, Kanen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Past President Ken O'Neill reminded us of the Foundation Paul Harris Evening to be held April 11th and the Northumberland Sunrise Dinner and Auction on Feb. 26th.

Although we have filled our quota, there are still tickets available at \$75 each.

President John then announced the buffet parade order, which was something like: left hand inside row, then outside row and doe see doe. At any rate, all present eventually made it to the buffet which featured roast beast and a plethora of tasty desserts including chocolate dipped strawberries.

PROGRAM



After our sumptuous repast, President John introduced Rotarian Joe who was to introduce the night's speaker. Rotarian Joe stood and revealed an interesting culinary fashion statement but with a few deft adjustments was able to tell us that Thomas Lang had spent 2009/10 as an exchange student in Chile through the Rotary Youth Exchange Student program. He has now returned to Port Hope High School where he is the Co-Chair of the Athletic Council and hopes to go on to study biology at the University of Ottawa.

With that, Joe turned the floor over to Thomas who was resplendent in his red Youth Exchange blazer that was literally covered with buttons,

badges, crests, ribbons, flags and all manner of other things presumably collected in Chile.



To begin, Thomas passed around a booklet, some travel folders and photos of Chile and Easter Island while he warmed up his slide presentation. Indeed, one of the first pictures was of Thomas in the red blazer before any decorations were added. He told us the Rotary blazer had the effect of making people want to come up and talk to him. But as he added more and more buttons and pins, his chances of getting stabbed by the pins went up exponentially. Thomas first stayed in Santiago where he arrived in February 2010. He showed us where Santiago is on a map. Chile is a very long and skinny country and Santiago seems to be in the middle. Summers there are around 30° and it never snows (except in the mountains).

The family he stayed with lived in a military compound as the father is a Colonel in the army. They, as well as every one else in Chile it seems, are BIG soccer fans and Thomas soon gained an enthusiasm for the

sport also. He was enrolled in a “nice” private school, as most schools in Chile are private ones.



One of his first trips was to a zoo where he began to learn Spanish by reading the signs. He learned that PELIGROSO means “dangerous” – there was a picture of a hand with a finger bitten off.

Thomas observed that people tend to get very patriotic about their homeland while away — if a song came on the radio by a Canadian artist, he was sure to let someone know!

At a stadium parade event, he sat very close to where the President of Chile was walking by — a woman. “She seemed pretty good.” said Thomas.

On a national holiday, he learned to dance the national dance which is called “quaka” and later he was taken on a few camping trips to the San Jose area, but he noted that the Chileans, and he, were never far from a TV screen where they could watch the soccer games and eat BBQ.

A special memory was celebrating Hallowe'en with his exchange student friends. He won the prize for the most ridiculous costume (scribe note: don't ask me what it was).

Another trip was to the coast where he ate crab for the first

time. “They have nice beaches in Chile.”

At Thanksgiving, he introduced his Chilean hosts to butter tarts he had made. “Later I used them to save my life as I had gotten into trouble with my host mom.”

Santiago is a huge city of 6,000,000 with a big hill in the middle of it. Thomas showed us some panoramas taken from the summit. It looked a lot larger than Port Hope.

Other highlights of the visit were:

A visit to a salt flat where part of a James Bond movie was filmed;

Sand boarding in the Valley of Death;

A trip to Easter Island;

Visiting the Rotary Bicentennial Conference where there were 50 exchange students on hand;

A visit to a volcano where they farm right inside the crater.

Unfortunately, while Thomas was in Chile, there was a huge earthquake on February 27th which was 8.8 on the Richter scale. Thomas said it was a “catastrophic and life-changing event with many lives and homes lost”. The walls of his room were apparently moving what seemed several feet in each direction. It is said to be the 5th most violent earthquake shock in recorded history — a thousand times more forceful than the one which shook Haiti. Being the person he is, Thomas immediately joined forces with the local Rotarians, the military and others to begin rebuilding ruined shelters. He was also involved with rebuilding a firehall that was severely damaged, a local Rotary project

that received funds from Rotary groups in Canada.



Thomas’s presentation was ultra interesting and constantly infused with his clever wit. We learned a lot about our current exchange student, Fabiola’s, home country and we’re certain that Thomas Lang was a worthy choice to send to Chile to represent us. Uncle Bill, you have a nephew to be proud of!



Thomas was thanked by our Chilean exchange student, Fabiola who quipped, “Thomas knows more about Chile than I do!”

Thomas was then re-thanked by President John, who then remembered that he had forgotten the Happy Bucks part of the meeting. (He also forgot the Secretary’s Report but no one seemed to notice except Secretary Cleve who looked relieved)

HAPPY BUCKS

Sargeant-at-Arms Bruce told the club that Rotarian Joe was to have a birthday the following day.

Rotarian Joe threw in a buck saying “Drugs are now free.” (We presume he means the prescription kind.)



President John was happy for Joe (and his free drugs), and is leaving on a vacation to downtown Cobourg, a prize he won at the Best Western.



Rotarian (Uncle) Bill was happy that so many members of the Lang family were there. He told Thomas that he had done a good job of boosting the Lang name with his excellent command of the English language.



District Governor Elect Bob had a couple of bucks in honour of the Chinese New Year which he and Kathy celebrated with the York Rotary Club.



Rotarian Will held a big dinner for the Hospital Gala organizers and Selena Forsythe got proposed to there.



Rotarian Roger threw in two happy bucks.



Guest Kanan went to the Rotary District Youth Exchange Orientation at the Ganaraska Forest Centre and was knocked out by all the “cool” food and the heated floors. “Met a lotta cool people.”



Sargeant-at-Arms Bruce spent a weekend with his family and Fabiola on skates on the Ottawa River where she ate a beaver tail.





Past President Ron said it was nice to see three exchange students here.



Rotarian Joyce added that, "students are wonderful".



Past President Sylvia and her husband Paul were in Florida

for a "once every 25 years" trip to Disneyworld.



Past President Ken told us of his curling bonspiel success on the weekend. He and his daughter-in-law won the tourney and are considering going pro.

OTHER BUSINESS

President John called on President-Elect Bruce to say a few words about Bruce's uncle, Bob Coleman.



Bruce told us his uncle Robert Coleman was a Rotary member

who had a perfect attendance record over 50 years in the Port Hope club.

"He was a quiet, hardworking man who was manager of Port Hope Hydro. When he passed away, about 15 years ago, he left the club \$5000 and an award for grade 8 students was created."

Every year, \$100 and a plaque are awarded to an outstanding student. The principal amount of \$5000 is still intact and in the bank.

At this point, President John called District Governor Elect Bob to the front saying, "The club, with the full approval of the membership and the board, has decided to present District Governor Elect Bob Wallace and his wife Kathy, with \$5000 to help cover his various expenses during his upcoming year as District Governor."



After Kathy was presented with a flower bouquet by PP Ken, DGE Bob thanked the club saying, "When I took on the job of District Governor, I knew there would be surprises (and expenses) and this will really help out. Thank You."

President John encouraged club members to plan to attend the 2011 Rotary District Conference at Blue Mountain from October

21- 23. Ron Tuttle is looking after registrations for the conference, so see Ron to get a registration form. They are also available on-line at the Rotary District 7070 website: <http://www.rotary7070.org/> and click on the DARE TO DREAM logo.

50- 50 DRAW

Won by one of the Lang clan.
(not sure which one)



CLOSING

The meeting ended with the singing of *O Canada*.

WEB SITE

Please take a moment to visit the Port Hope Rotary web site.
www.porthoperotary.com


Scribes Please Note:

There are changes, noted as follows, to the editor of the Beacon. Please be sure to send your notes to the editors as indicated:

Feb 28, Bree Nixon; Mar 7 and thereafter, Ted Rafuse

FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE

Date	Speaker	Location	Door Duty	Scribe
February 21	Family Day Holiday – No meeting			
February 28	Avril Ewing - Classification	KofC	Ron	Sylvia
March 7	Richard Onley	KofC	Ben, Bree	Jim H.
March 14	Dave Sheffield – Greenwood Tower	KofC	Bree, Avril	Bud
March 21	Rob Day – Business Success Program	KofC	Ken B, Cleve	Ken

<p>ROTARY CLUB OF PORT HOPE</p>		<p>P.O. Box 191 Port Hope, Ontario, L1A 3W3</p>
<p>Officers</p>	<p>President: John Mowat Secretary: Cleve Pendock</p>	<p>President- Elect: Bruce Coleman Treasurer: Paul Tait</p>
<p>Directors</p>	<p>Club Service: Dick O'Toole Community Service: Roger Ingram</p>	<p>World Service: Ken O'Neill Fund Raising: Jamieson Ross</p>