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THE HONOURABLE BILL BARISOFF, SPEAKER

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The '50s-and-'60s-themed Spring Fling was truly a fun, refreshing event where we were entertained with a deejay spinning our favourite old-time hits. To add to the entertainment, I found myself selected as a contestant in a rock 'n' roll trivia game versus the mayor of West Vancouver. It looks like my rock 'n' roll days finally paid off when my trivia skills caught everyone off guard and carried me to victory, much to the guests' amusement.

Not only did I have a great time, but I'm honoured to participate in a cause that is near and dear to North Shore residents' hearts, sponsored by a group that works every day for positive change and optimism both at home and abroad.

The Sunrise club really shone recently with their hard work and commitment in assisting to reopen the North Shore Safe House. As one of a number of local community supporters, the Rotary clubs of the North Shore provided capital funding and assisted in rallying both the federal and provincial governments to get on board to fund this great cause to protect our youth at risk and keep them on the North Shore.

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I'd like to thank all the members involved in the organization, including their president, Vicki Haller, for their contributions to the community. I'd also like to make special mention of Val Stephenson, who has undergone surgery recently, and credit her for both the successful Spring Fling as well as her ongoing commitment as the community service director. In her duties she also ensures that the senior shut-ins of West Van have Christmas lunch every year. She personifies the term "volunteer."

The Rotary Club of West Vancouver Sunrise has raised the bar in community standards and certainly lives up to the Rotary motto of "Service above self."

#### KIDNEY HEALTH

**D. Cubberley:** Last year on World Kidney Day I used humour to make a serious point about kidney health. This year, focusing attention on this obscure organ we rely on to detoxify ourselves, the Kidney Foundation of Canada is taking blood pressure readings in our reception hall.

What's the connection? Hypertension is a risk factor for chronic kidney disease and type 2 diabetes, which some 325,000 of us will have by 2010. The end stage of type 2 diabetes is chronic kidney disease and renal failure.

Hypertension doesn't mean that we're doomed, but we should pay attention; 46 percent of women and 38 percent of men over 60 have to go on blood pressure-reducing drugs. Excessively salty foods, the norm for industrial eaters like us, spike blood pressure. The body reacts to it with thirst. That brings liquids, which it uses to dilute and expel the salt. Over time, this assault on the kidneys causes damage.

Consider the current diabetes epidemic and the convergence of three vectors in the United States, now the world's fattest nation. Between 1988 and '94 alone, the prevalence of obesity rose 61 percent amongst men and 52 percent amongst women. Between 1983 and

1998, per-capita salt use rose by 55 percent while the consumption of carbonated soft drinks rose nearly 50 percent.

Salty food — thirst. Energy-dense drinks — weight gain. Exaggeration of the hypertensive effect of salt — spike in chronic kidney disease and type 2 diabetes. It's not a pretty picture. That's why we're trying to bring kidney health out of the closet.

What should be done? I say: let's get serious about our diet — individually, for sure. But how about societally? Kidney care means being salt-aware. It's as simple as that. So let's try something novel, and think like a legislature about how we can raise salt awareness and reduce salt use in restaurant and packaged food.

#### PORT KELLS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

**D. Hayer:** The city of Surrey will soon be the largest city in the province, but there is a real sense of community within it — a sense of community that goes back to the days of our pioneers. Port Kells, in my Surrey-Tynehead riding, has existed for more than 120 years. Despite its image as an industrial and commercial hub, it remains a very strong community association and an agricultural route, which first attracted our pioneers to settle the banks of Fraser River.

Port Kells was established in 1885 by two brothers-in-law, both remarkably having the same name of Henry Kells. That pioneer spirit still lives on today, embodied in Port Kells Community Association — active for more than 80 years. It's working in the best interests of all Port Kells residents.

One of the association's strongest assets is former president Wally Sandvoss, who developed the Port Kells historic walking tour; saved the Baron Von Mackensen heritage house; and designed the Port Kells cenotaph, which since 1998 has paid homage to those brave soldiers from Port Kells and other parts of my Surrey-Tynehead riding who gave their lives in the two world wars and worked as peacekeepers around the world to preserve the freedom we enjoy today.

The Port Kells Community Association is strong, due to the outstanding leadership of previous past presidents, directors and volunteers. That positive influence will continue with the current president Darlene Bowyer, aided by executives and directors Doug Wiebe, Sandy Cattermole, Elsie Preedy and Steve Greenly, and many other great volunteers who are working on many projects including the community benches, art banners, bicycle jumps and Port Kells Park.

Please join me in saluting the outstanding volunteers, both past and present, who work tirelessly to preserve the community spirit.

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#### RYAN STREET GREENWAY PROJECT

**R. Fleming:** I rise today to recognize a wonderful community project underway in my constituency of Victoria-Hillside. I'm referring to the Ryan Street greenway project. The Ryan Street greenway is a project

to enhance an undeveloped road allowance. This neglected area still boasts an impressive stand of large, mature Garry oak trees, some of which are a century old or more.

The new greenway will connect to Ryan Hill park, which is the city's newest neighbourhood park preservation area. This park and the greenway are designed to showcase the unique ecosystem, indigenous to the southern island, of arbutus trees, Garry oak, camas and other wild vegetation. This was the ecosystem that Songhees and Esquimalt people lived off for thousands of years. The vast tree canopy, a natural environment, is one that Captain Cook marvelled at and described in paradise-like terms in his diary.

Though still underway, the Oaklands Community Association's parks committee has made enormous progress with the Ryan greenway project, and it is becoming even more evident with the advent of spring.

The committee's visible accomplishments today are the result of thoughtful planning and fundraising going back almost two years. It's a great collaboration with the city of Victoria's parks department that involves a number of community partners, including St. Alban's Church and students at Oaklands Elementary and the nearby preschool.

To ensure that the Garry oak meadow continues in perpetuity, these kids were involved in planting new trees among existing trees that are the age of their great-grandparents. The upshot of all this hard work is, of course, the beautification it now provides and its interpretive value.

The Oaklands area now has a wonderful, interesting natural place to walk. Volunteers will continue throughout 2008 to reintroduce native plant ecosystems to restore indigenous insects, birds and animal species.

I invite all the members of this House to join me in thanking the Oaklands Community Association parks committee for their extraordinary volunteer work. I'd like to extend special recognition to two of my constituents, Mr. Ludo Birch and Peter Ireland, who were instrumental in getting the Ryan Street greenway project established. These two worked tirelessly with the city of Victoria.

#### BID GROUP IN VANDERHOOF

**J. Rustad:** I rise today to highlight a Vanderhoof success story. The BID Group of Companies is an incredibly innovative corporation that's always been a leader. BID has an enormous amount of expertise to offer its clients, especially in the forest industry. Principals Brian and David Fehr always look for new opportunities, and recent changes in northern B.C. have literally opened up the world to the BID Group.

Over the past few months BID has undertaken a \$4 million contract to supply engineering and equipment for the Russian forest industry. Russia has mandated the halt to most log exports, and this has created a market for our companies to take advantage of. B.C. has some of the top technology and equipment builders in the world, so it's a natural fit to meet the Russian demand.

BID was successful in receiving a contract that has kept 50 people busy for months building and engineering products. They're aggressively going after additional contracts, and with their track record, I'm confident they'll continue to open up new opportunities.

But one of the big reasons the BID Group has been able to expand its global opportunities is because of the new container port in Prince Rupert and subsequent inland container port in Prince George.

BID is able to be successful because of their ability to access containers and load cargo through Prince George. This transportation advantage has played a huge role for BID, as I'm sure it will for many other companies throughout the Highway 16 corridor.

BID's example shows that the commitment to expand the Port of Prince Rupert will pay dividends for northern B.C. as well as the province.

Please join me in thanking manager Keith Spencer, shop manager John Simoes, Ken Yorston and all of the staff at BID for their efforts in making the BID Group successful and in showing B.C.'s leadership on the world stage.

#### FARMWORKER SAFETY

**C. Puchmayr:** This week is Canadian Agricultural Safety Week. It is a theme supported by more than 500 farm safety advocates across Canada.

Every year farming mishaps in Canada lead to over 100 deaths and 1,500 serious injuries. What is truly alarming is that 15 percent of fatalities and injuries are to children under the age of 16. We need to ensure that farmworkers have the necessary protections and safeguards required to allow them to work in the safest possible manner. We also need to implement a zero-tolerance policy when it comes to exposing children to hazards in the farm.

This province has over 19,000 registered farms. Some are small family farms, and some are large, industrious, hothouse operations employing more than hundreds of people.

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I know many farmers, and farming is certainly a noble profession. It can be hard work and long hours. There are many potential hazards on farms, from confined-space oxygen deficiency, machinery rollover, entanglement, chemical exposure and — what I will never forget — transportation of farmworkers to and from work.

These hazards lurk in the wings daily and expose farmworkers. The risks contribute to death and injury of farmworkers every year. We must ensure that we use all preventative measures to eliminate all hazards in the workplace.

I once lived on a farm as a young boy, and I remember playing in the grain silos. Kids, do not do this at home. I also remember the tortuous milk run that we made every day with my brothers, packing that pail of milk up the long driveway, which seems like miles when you're five years old.

Whether working or living on a farm, education and vigilance are key to protecting lives and preventing