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Programme: - FRIDAY – May 30, 2008

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Total Knee Replacement

Guest Speaker : Dr. Sanjay Saluja, M.S. (Ortho)

Venue: President Hotel , Sector 26, Chandigarh

Time: 7.00 PM

Canada is Fascinating

President Sandeep Sandhu welcomed the guest speaker of the evening, Mr. Baleshwar Singh Virk from Calgary, Canada and all the Midtowners, particularly PP Rtn Anil Mehan who in spite of his present state of health has come to attend the meeting accompanied by Ann Rekha Mehan.

The President also requested the Midtowners to give their latest photographs and that of their spouses to the club secretary, Mr. VP Sharma or to PP Rtn BL Ramsisaria for publishing the new club roster. Any changes in the personal details may also be intimated.

PP Rtn Pallav Mukherjee introduced the guest speaker. He explained how he met Mr. Virk at a 300 years old fort which belongs to the Virk's family and gave other details of the area around the village of Kandola in District Ropar.

Mr. Baleshwar Singh Virk had his schooling from St. John High School Chandigarh and Dagshai Public School Dagshai, his BA from DAV College Chandigarh in Commerce and Post Graduate Diploma in

Marketing and Sales Management from DAV College Chandigarh. After completing his studies, he worked as Area Sales Manager with Telerec Communications covering the areas of Punjab, Chandigarh, HP & J&K.

Virk migrated to Canada in 1993.

He worked in various jobs for sometime and then in April 1995, which he calls as his big day, he had his own convenience store, MGL's convenience store, part of a chain of stores across the region. He, then went on to own a chain of Petro-Canada Gas Stores and Car Washes.



Virk described Canada as a fascinating country. The first immigrants to Canada came through Greenland. Then came the Europeans followed by Chinese, Indians and others. The immigrants that came through Greenland are now called Indians. He said that he was surprised to learn this identity of Indians on those aborigines. People who migrated from India are called East Indians and their first attempt to come to Canada was the Kama Gatamaru episode when they were refused to land on the Canadian shores. (The Canadian



The Happy Cakes

Parliament and the British Columbia Assembly has now expressed regrets on the refusal.). People from India are now called Brownies.

Virk said that Canada has a vast reservoir of oil, timber, diamonds and other minerals, which have made its economy a booming economy. There is a great scope and opportunity for people seeking business activity and for those with technical skills and medical expertise for well paying jobs in Canada. He added that Canada, currently, needs immigrants with skills or with investment potential.

Persons having adequate skills may approach the Canadian Embassy in India for guidance and information. He added that the Embassy is keen that people from this region with adequate skills come to Canada. Punjabis were called Paakis and looked down upon in the early nineties and there was a bit of racist attitudes at that time. But all that has changed now and Punjabis, particularly Sikhs, are doing very well in all spheres of life, business, politics and professions. The

third generation Punjabis have done well all around and are a respected class in the country. The only bad mark is on the youngsters in British Columbia, who have got into drug use and drug pedaling.

He further informed that Punjabis have made deep roots in the Canadian political arena and that there are 18 Members of Parliament out of a total strength of 304 Members of the Canadian Parliament. He added that there are more Punjabis in the Canadian Parliament than there are in the Indian Parliament. He said that a Punjabi has been the Chief Minister of the state of British Columbia.

He defined life in Canada as competitive as in any other developed country. Hard work, skills, honesty and sincerity pay large dividends in Canada. The governance is effective minus the corruption.

He said that he loves to come to Chandigarh now and then and he finds that Chandigarh has changed a lot with more cars and more restaurants and more people.

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Gift for the Happy Anniversary Couple



Gift for the Happy Anniversary Couple

The talk generated much interest. Responding to a question about comparative opportunities, he responded that USA has more opportunities but the growth is faster in Canada than it is in USA.

Rtn Arjan Singh proposed the vote of thanks and, on behalf of the Club, presented a memento to the Guest Speaker.

Focus on Children

Keeping Rotary's promise to eradicate Polio and working to reduce child mortality will be the focus of incoming District Governors during the Rotary year 2008-09. The 532 Governors Elect learned about those goals while in San Diego in January for the 2008 International Assembly. To help them in these tasks, RI President-elect Dong Kurn Lee told the incoming leaders that Rotary International will continue its service emphases of recent years of water, health and

hunger, and literacy. Lee also announced the 2008-09 RI Theme, Make Dreams Real, at the annual weeklong training event. We will give children hope and a chance at a future, said Lee. We will bring clean water to their communities and create sanitation projects that keep children healthy. The Governors-elect were inspired by Lee's vision. There was a general consensus and inspiration that they were talking about children as people outside Rotary can easily identify with this noble cause, giving us a greater chance to help children in our communities, as well as around the world.

There was also a Polio pledge to meet the Melinda Gates Foundation Challenge of matching their contribution of 100 million US Dollars. RI Leaders also stressed the importance of supporting the priorities of RI's Strategic Plan at the Assembly proceedings.

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Gift for the Happy Birthday Boy



Memento for the Guest Speaker

Tapping Clean Water for the World

About 1.2 billion people around the world lack clean drinking water. The issue is one of critical importance to the Rotarians of the world, who are working to find solutions.

The Water and Sanitation Rotarian Action Group will hold its first water summit on 12 June 2008, just before the 2008 RI Convention in Los Angeles. The daylong event will feature panel discussions on creating and funding sustainable water projects. Breakout sessions will provide a chance to the participants to talk about specific regional issues in detail. Clean drinking water is a means to an end, improving the health of the children, the world's future.

The Rotarian

India in a Mess

Some figures, may be correct, may be fictitious to highlight the ills of our country - India.

Population 100 Crore

Retired 9 Crore

State Govt. 30 Crore

Central Govt. 17 Crore

} They do not work

Indians in MNCs 1 Crore

Schools 25 Crore

Children under five 1 Crore

Unemployed 15 Crore

Sick 1.2 Crore

Jail 7,99,998

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