

Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon, Bella Vita Restaurant

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MAY IS YOUTH SERVICE MONTH

Today (May 16): **Val Patenaude** - Historical society - follow-up on the archaeological digs

Next Week (May 23): **Brian Bekar** - Who's Who

Happy Birthday	Happy Anniversary
May 22: Ineke Boekhorst	

CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
June 10-14		Rotary International Convention	Atlanta
June 27		Club Executive Installation	Chances Casino, Maple Ridge
Aug. 13		Rotary Duck Race	Maple Ridge Park – Alouette River

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

May is Youth Service Month

Rotary helps create the next generation of peacemakers

In just over 10 years, the Rotary Peace Centers have trained more than 1000 young people for careers in peace building. Many of them have gone on to serve as leaders at international organizations like the United Nations and World Bank or to form their own foundations.

President's Opening Quote of the Day

By Mark Russell: "The scientific theory I like best is that the rings of Saturn are composed entirely of lost airline luggage"



Walter Volpatti celebrated his Birthday.



Cheque Presentations



Lorraine Bates accepted our cheque in the amount of \$500 for the **Maple Ridge Pitt Meadows Agricultural Association**. In accepting the donation, Lorraine stated that Rotary has always been a service club that they rely on to support the Agricultural Fair.

This year, being Canada's 150th birthday, they are setting up a special "150 Village" in which there will be numerous multicultural acts, artisan's displays, and community groups showing their activities. It will also showcase agriculture and educate our youth about it ("some kids don't know the difference between sheep and goats").

The fair will take place from July 29 to July 30. Admission is free (the same as last year). The only thing not free is parking. There are food vendors on site but there is also a facility where families can bring their own food to eat if they wish to save money. The idea is to make it accessible to everyone.

Kieffer Johnson and Taryn MacPherson also received a cheque of \$500 on behalf of the **Maple Ridge Canoe and Kayak Club**, which they advise is a the family-based program, which also offers school programs, and a summer camp in July and August. Taryn is a UBC student taking electrical engineering,



and has been in races for many years, earning eight gold and also silver medals in the BC Summer games and other competitions. Kieffer has also competed for 14 years both in Canada and internationally with many wins to his credit.

Guests

In addition to those persons referred to above, **Karen Riddell** graced our presence. (Karen's better half, David, claimed that he went to Rotary in the hopes of finding a safe haven from the responsibilities of family, but that Karen had somehow invaded this inner sanctum).

Happy and Sad

Eric Mollema made the greatest ever contribution to the kitty by throwing in \$100! He was very happy to have met close friends at the District Conference in Seattle but very sad that the weekend cuisine was not up to his liking ("fish lovers unite!" is not Eric's favourite slogan).

Brian Bekar is happy to be back (and we were happy to see him, as we can now hear his "Who's Who" at an upcoming Rotary meeting).

Matt DeBruyn disclosed that Eric's son is going to be going to Cambridge University.

President Ineke and Peter had a great time at the District Conference, and didn't mind the food a bit.

Laurie Anderson complained that he has had 5 family doctors since 1970, and that he is again on the hunt for another one because his current doc is moving to greener fields. Laurie says that doctors should not be allowed to retire or move until they have worked in one location for 50 years (Why can't a doctor be like a lawyer? Lawyers never retire they just lose their appeal).

Program



At the District Conference in Seattle nine members of our club attended (for which our club was awarded a prize for the highest percentage of attendees at the event). As our program, some of those nine members told us about some of the highlights of the conference:

Mark Forster said he enjoyed the conference because he got to meet people from different clubs and to hear excellent speakers. He was particularly impressed and touched by one young man who spoke to the conference. While his mother was pregnant with him, she died in a car accident but he was saved through medical intervention. Since childhood he had cerebral palsy and is blind. He also has lost the use of one arm. With the help of a man who took an interest in him upon a chance meeting when the young man was only nine years old, he got through all of his trials and tribulations and is now an inspirational public speaker.

Libby Nelson was impressed with a speaker by the name of Richard Peters, a US Navy Seal who was imprisoned in Libya for a long period of time where he underwent terrible conditions and torture, and related his experiences including his miraculous escape from prison. (Another prisoner in adjacent cell turned out to be a journalist who was later beheaded by ISIS.)

Libby caused some excitement at our member's table at the Seattle conference when she bid on, and won, an auction items, and thereby made the Rotary polio plus campaign \$4,000 richer. Well done Libby and thank you for your generosity!!!

President Ineke thought "Make It Happen" District 5050 Conference in Seattle was a fantastic event! Speakers were unbelievable and I'm not quite sure who I was most amazed by.....it's a toss up between retired Navy SEAL Richard Peters, who was imprisoned and tortured in Libya under long-time dictator Muammar Gaddafi....his story of his incredible escape was amazing.....or was it Rotarian Nischal Pandey, from India, who completed his medical studies on a Rotary scholarship and is now a surgeon, who has performed over 3500 surgeries under the "gift of life program" in the last 7 years.....and many other accomplishments.

Maybe it was Jermaine EE who was bullied in his highschool years, had terrible grades and nearly dropped out twice, his academic counsellor doubted if he would ever graduate! Rotary inspired him to shape up...today he empowers others, to do great things! Currently serves as a general secretary of Big West Rotaract and member of LA5, the 5th oldest Rotary Club in the world.....he was very inspiring.....But then there also was Maness Samuel from Malawi; Anil Srivatsa speaking about his dream: the million donor project, all about organ donation awareness. Bob Scott, always a very inspirational speaker, about his passion for the Polio Plus Committee. George Lewis: the Water Man, who played professional baseball for the Boston Red Sox and was a stockbroker with Merrill Lynch and VERY passionate about the ideals of Rotary; he had some pretty creative fundraising facts!

Then there was Tony Sharma, District 1130 London England, currently District Polio Chair; most recently working with education of children in a leper colony in New Delhi India. Tony is passionate about ending Polio and working in conflict resolution. Scott Dudley spoke about his life and also the touching story of his kidney donation, which is closely linked to Keesha and the Haney Rotary Club as you may all be aware.

Much was said about organ donations and how important it is to consider adding yourself to the national donor list. There was a blood donor station set up and well over 100 Rotarians donated the gift of life (including myself).

50-50

Libby Nelson may have left \$4,000 in Seattle in aid of our Rotary Foundation, but in our club meeting she took home a diamonds (the Ace of Diamonds, that is).

Closing Quote for the day

Ronald Reagan: "It's true hard work never killed anybody, but I figure, why take the chance?"

Submitted by Laurie Anderson

