

Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon, Bella Vita Restaurant

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OCTOBER IS ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MONTH

Today (Oct 24):

Next Week (Oct 31):

Happy Birthday	Happy Anniversary
Oct. 29: Libby Nelson	

CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT EVENTS:

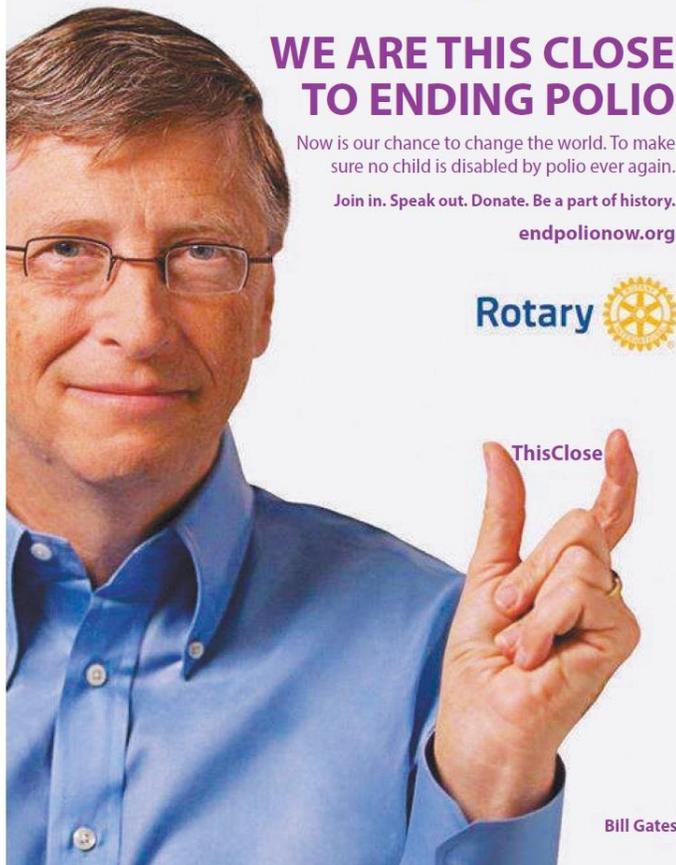
Date	Time	Event	Venue
Feb. 9-11		Presidential Peace Building Conference, 2018 https://environmentandpeace.com	Hyatt Regency Vancouver

A18 Friday, October 20, 2017

The Maple Ridge Pitt Meadows News

www.mapleridgenews.com

OCTOBER 24, 2017 IS WORLD POLIO DAY



WE ARE THIS CLOSE TO ENDING POLIO

Now is our chance to change the world. To make sure no child is disabled by polio ever again.

Join in. Speak out. Donate. Be a part of history.
endpolionow.org



ThisClose

Bill Gates

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is partnering with Rotary to eliminate the dreaded disease of polio from the world (in the same way that smallpox was completely eradicated). To completely eradicate this disease, funds are required to vaccinate more than 400 million children annually. Until it is completely eradicated, this disease can again spread quickly among the populations of the world.

Rotary International, with the help of local Rotary Clubs, has committed to raise another \$50 million a year over the next three years, and the Gates Foundation will again match Rotary's commitment, two-to-one.

We are "THIS CLOSE" to eradicating polio, but we need your help to protect children against polio forever. Until it is completely eradicated, "polio is just an airplane ride away". To donate, contact Meadow Ridge Rotary Club treasurer Walter Volpatti at waltvol@telus.net or phone Walter at (business) 604-467-5528 or (home) 604-467-2069. Because of the Gates commitment, that means for every \$1.00 you donate, \$3.00 will go to saving children from this dreaded disease (and you will get a tax deductible receipt). Thank you to our corporate partners for funding this advertisement.

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

ShelterBox

President Libby Nelson advised that we have approximately \$750 donated by club members to purchase a shelter box, but we need a total of \$1200. Libby advised of various cost as follows: Full ShelterBox and contents (tent, cooking supplies, water purification equipment, solar lights, children activity pack, groundsheets and blankets) is \$1,200 CAD. The prices for other aid items include the SchoolBox (with enough supplies for up to 50 students) which is \$1,200, ShelterKits (containing the tools and materials to repair and rebuild damaged homes and buildings) are \$150, and the standard relief tents are \$500. All of these prices include the materials, shipping, and Shelter Boxes' team working with the beneficiaries to get them all set up.

Happy and Sad

Ineke Boekhorst threw in five happy bucks for the fantastic cruise to and from Hawaii with Holland America Line. She and Peter just got back this morning. While there, they spent two days in Honolulu and visited other islands also. They met Don and Iola Boyce on the boat, and enjoyed not only relaxing by the swimming pool on the ship but also visiting with other travellers.

President Libby also threw in five happy dollars (just because she could).

Walter Volpatti said what a great social event it was at Adrienne and Warren Dale's home on October 15, where many Rotarians and other guests were privileged to hear the duo of "Campbell and Green" (former club president **Robert Campbell and Cailin Green**) who now are working full-time in writing, recording and singing their great music.

David Rempel was just happy to be a Rotarian where he has the opportunity to meet so many great people.

Sharon Kyle had two loonies, one for each of her grandchildren. Her grandson was accepted into the Maple Ridge Fire Department Youth Academy, and her granddaughter was accepted into the Pitt Meadows Youth Academy.

Our Fine Master for the day was **Deborah Hyslop** who fined everyone a dollar who admitted to being grumpy [or thinking grumpy thoughts] when they saw the rain pour down this morning, because it turned out to be a pretty good day.

Our mystery greeter, **Betty Levens**, wasn't able to snatch a loonie off anyone, because all members present shook her hand.

Program:

President Libby asked **Dave Rempel** on short notice to talk to the club about "what ever he wanted" to talk about.

We all know that **Dave and his wife Sharon** are very passionate about their involvement in the adoption of orphans from Russia.



The following is a very short summary of Dave's presentation.

Dave arrived in Canada through Halifax on December 9, 1949 with his family, who travelled from Russia through Poland and then Germany on their journey to Canada. Russia is therefore in Dave's family blood. 1988 Dave took his mother to the USSR to see her sister and other family members whom she had not seen for 50 years. Dave had not been back during that period either. While in Russia, Dave visited a few schools and got to meet certain school officials.

In May 1989 David arranged a trip to Russia with 15 students and a few parents along with **Mike McCardell of BCTV**. (He also led school exchanges in 1992, 1994, 1996, and 2005) It was during these exchange programs that he learned about the need for good homes for Russia's orphans, and the need of local people here who wished to adopt children and who may not be able to have children otherwise. Over the next couple of decades, Dave and Sharon were instrumental in bringing together approximate 300 orphans from Russia and Kazakhstan and their Canadian families. In 1996, David and Sharon adopted their own daughter Julia from Russia.

In the early 1990s, there were no clear laws or procedures for adoption in Russia or in British Columbia, so they had to be innovative. They started the adoption process in Novosibirsk, and then expanded it to Vladivostok, Yekaterinburg and Karaganda Kazakhstan. They got the cooperation of one police officer to sign adoption papers by arranging to get him an RCMP uniform which he wanted badly. Nowadays, one half of all of the options are done within Russia by Russian adoptive parents, and the government has very restrictive policies on orphans being adopted in Canada and elsewhere.

Over the years David and Sharon have had many fundraisers, donating approximate one half million dollars to orphanages and adoptions. They try to keep in touch with the families and children they have helped. The adoption process was been a high mountain for David and Sharon to climb, but Dave says that he is "still high up on the mountain".

50-50

Due to renovations at our meeting place, there was no 50-50 draw.

Presidents closing quote:

"I asked a North Korean friend how it was in North Korea. He said he couldn't complain".

Submitted by Laurie Anderson