



Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon, Bella Vita Restaurant

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FEBRUARY IS PEACE AND CONFLICT PREVENTION/RESOLUTION MONTH

Today (Feb 27): **Induction of Gregory Lane**

Next Week (Mar 6):

Happy Birthday	Happy Anniversary

CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
May 8-12		District Conference	MS Eurodam
June 23-27		Rotary International Convention	Toronto, On

RI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



This month marks 50 years since the first Rotaract club was chartered in 1968. In the [special Rotaract issue of The Rotarian](#), you'll meet some impressive Rotaractors from around the world and see some of the incredible ways they are Making a Difference.

In the half-century since Rotaract began, the world has seen profound changes, and young people have felt the greatest impact of those changes: the rise of technology and the information economy, the spread of education, and the tremendous influence of the internet. When Rotaract was founded, it would have been almost unthinkable for a teen or 20-something to have been an entrepreneur or a CEO. Today, young people have an unprecedented capacity to achieve – and Rotary needs their ideas and enthusiasm as never before.

For many years, Rotary has done Rotaract a disservice by looking at our youth and young adult programs as mere precursors to Rotary membership, and not as valuable and productive programs in their own right. But Rotaractors are truly partners in Rotary service.

Today, an estimated quarter of a million Rotaractors serve in over 10,000 clubs, in nearly every country where Rotary clubs exist. The impact of their service is particularly impressive when contrasted with their resources. Rotaractors achieve an

amazing amount with far less money at their disposal than the average Rotary club. Their energy and vision bring something wonderful to our Rotary family and to our communities, and we value it very much.

Yet only 27 percent of Rotary clubs sponsor a Rotaract club, a figure that has remained fairly stable over time. And far too few Rotaractors ultimately do move on to Rotary membership. As we celebrate this anniversary with Rotaract, I encourage all Rotary clubs to consider sponsoring a Rotaract club or to strengthen their ties with the clubs they already sponsor. Schedule regular joint meetings, run joint service projects, and reach out to Rotaractors – not only to ask if you can help, but to find out how you can work together. Know your Rotaract clubs and their members – and make sure that every Rotaractor knows that a Rotary club is waiting to welcome them.

For half a century, Rotaract has given young people a way to find the same connections with their communities, and the same value in service, that Rotarians find in Rotary. Rotaractors are connecting us to the Rotary of our future, while helping us build the Rotary of today.



Ian H.S. Riseley
President 2017-18

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

Guests:

Sonja Mollema and Greg Lane

President's quote for the day:

Did you know that dolphins are so smart that within a few weeks of captivity, they can train people to stand on the very edge of the pool and throw them fish?

Happy and Sad Dollars

Lynda Lawrence - received a call that the police were on the way to meet with her 90-year-old father, who was assaulted when arriving at the airport; it turns out that some woman assaulted him, but fortunately dad was okay.

David Rempel - said his brother John (who has dementia) still remembered that their mother raised "meow cats".

Ineke Boekhorst - had a good laugh when she went to a drag show.



(I didn't think drag shows were that funny)

She is also very proud of her daughter, Marjolein, who was sent to Chicago by Rotary (at Rotary's expense) where she got training as a Zone 32 PR Assistant.



Sharon Kyle - broke her perfect life-long driving record by getting a parking ticket.

Program - Lena Azeez - with [Watershed Watch Salmon Society](#)

About our guest: was born in Sri Lanka, raised in the UAE, and now lives on Canada's West Coast. She works with Watershed Watch Salmon Society, which is a science-based charity that advocates for BC's wild salmon and the waters in which they live (or in some cases, try to). Her goal is to encourage shared appreciation for the waters around us and encourage us to try to make a change. Her latest campaign is to ensure we are pushing for fish friendly flood infrastructure in the lower mainland to ensure salmon access to spawning and rearing habitats as our climate changes and the waters rise.



The following is a summary of her presentation:

[Connected Waters](#) is a campaign to systemically address the unspoken issue of fish habitat impacted by diking infrastructure (dikes, pump stations, flood boxes and flood gates). We've mapped the problem and identified over 1480 km of side channels, sloughs and tributaries of the lower Fraser River. In Pitt Meadows alone 252 km of waterways are impacted. This all used to be prime salmon spawning, rearing or over-wintering habitat. Not having access to such waters is detrimental to salmon, who's populations have been steadily declining year after year. Downstream impacts include the state of the southern resident killer whales who's primary food is the chinook salmon. With only 4% of all dike infrastructure in the lower Fraser capable of handling a large flood event, now is the time to strategically begin upgrading our flood infrastructure.

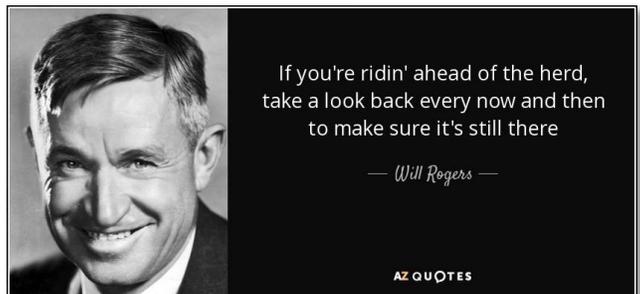
That is why we are asking government to support "green flood infrastructure" options and improve pump stations and flood gates to fish-friendly versions that can both move water and protect fish. The The Katzie Slough has been our flagship waterway due to plenty of community interest and a dedicated group, the Friends of Katzie Slough. With the Friends, Watershed Watch have hosted numerous outreach and engagement events as well as clean-ups, riparian restoration work and advocacy at the local government. We've been working with the Katzie First Nation from the beginning and have some projects lined up for this year such as creation of interpretive signage along the Katzie Slough (funding pending).

The Katzie Slough struggles with many issues: poor water quality, low summer flows, insufficient fish passage to and from the slough in to the Alouette, Pitt or Fraser Rivers and invasive aquatic plants and fish that outcompete native varieties. We are working with BCIT/SFU Masters students doing their research on ecological restoration. The valuable data collected show some serious concerns for this important, historical waterway. Last year we hosted a very valuable Farmer – to – Farmer forum that allowed for an initial conversation about habitat protection and land/water stewardship. From that we met a few farmers keen to support restoration works on their land, a big win in and of itself! We also planted over 200 plants at a local farm along the Slough to begin the process of enhancing the waterway and improving water quality. It brought out many volunteers!

Watershed Watch is advocating at the Federal and Provincial levels for strong leadership in the application of current legislation and regulations, long term sustainable funding to support cash-strapped municipalities upgrade their flood infrastructure beyond the status-quo and to work with municipalities to create a comprehensive strategy to protect our communities and the natural environment from flooding and flood infrastructure. We've also met and engaged on numerous occasions with MP Dan Ruimy and MLA Lisa Beare. There are so many benefits to improving flood infrastructure with climate change considerations in mind – an improved environment, waterways that we can recreate on again, injection of money into the local economy, safer communities and an agricultural community that could access clean irrigation water.

To learn more: check out their recent blog post and sign their petition to help the Salmon Watch Society grow support for this work and bring much needed funds to municipalities like the City of Pitt Meadows.

President's Closing Wit and Wisdom:



Submitted by Laurie Anderson

