



Rattler roundup for Aug. 10-31. Contributors: **Paul**, **Larry**, **Jack F.** and **Pauline**

AUGUST 10, President **Rick** presiding:

Longtime member **Bruce Ferguson** gave a very well received, updated ID talk for the benefit of recently recruited Rotarians.

Bruce was born in Port Arthur, Ont., in 1955. He was adopted shortly thereafter and his adoptive family moved to Surrey in 1957. Bruce struggled in his relationship with a disciplinarian father and rebelled as a teenager. He left school at 17 and worked at a variety of low-paid jobs until joining the crew of a vessel that shipped equipment to Alaska.

The seafaring life soon lost its appeal, so he joined McGavin's Bakery, first in shipping and receiving, then as a driver.

He then spent some time in the beautiful Queen Charlottes, but by then he had met the beautiful Maureen back in the Lower Mainland and so returned to marry her in 1982. They have two girls and three grandchildren.

He went back to McGavin's, but also became a volunteer firefighter. In 1998, he became a full-time member of the Township Fire Department and is now its deputy chief. He describes being a firefighter as the best job ever.

Bruce loves camping and fishing and owned a boat until he realized boating was not one of Maureen's passions.



Terry, Gord, Gus, Paul and Pauline gear up for business at the wristband ID booth on Day 1 of RibFest.

RibFest 2018 hits a lot of high notes

The take is still being tallied, but applause is already ringing loudly for our very first Langley RibFest August 17-19 at McLeod Park. Volunteers from our Aldergrove club more than pulled their weight with the three Langley clubs as (by guesstimates) around 30,000 people converged on the green space over the event's three jam-packed days. Analysis and follow-up surveys are already in motion: what worked well, which areas need a rethink? (Perhaps some of the signage could use a bit of, ahem, recycling?)



Reports:

Rick is requesting input on a strategic plan for the club.

Public relations (Pauline): A write-up on our new president was heading to our website and being circulated to media.

RibFest: Still a serious shortage of volunteers. Our Aldergrove club committed to operate the two beer gardens, predicted to be the main source of funds, and the kidzone also needs more help.

AUGUST 17, Rick presiding:

No speakers, 21 members in attendance, as RibFest gets under way. Gates open at 11, volunteers still needed before then. All hands on deck!

Reports:

District Governor will visit Friday, Sept. 7 [now changed to Sept. 21 — Ed.]. Rick would like to see as many members as possible in attendance.

Finance: Gus absent but Doug H. reminded everyone dues are due!

Community events: Terry Fox Foundation Fundraiser BBQ Sat. Sept. 8 at JD Farms. Volunteers needed.

AUGUST 24, Pauline presiding:

Guests: Doreen White, a former member of our club and Angie's guest, and Charlie's grandson, Austin (see photo on next page). Howie tried to recruit Austin for Rotary...perhaps in a few years.

No speaker. Pauline led a discussion regarding the future of our club. President Rick has asked each Rotarian to submit thoughts by email.

Ideas put forward during the meeting included: **Charlie** suggested that we fund a room at the new ACUCC with a suggested amount of \$15,000, paid over three years. **Paul** suggested more PR on what

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Rotary is and why it's good to belong. **Angie** thought we needed a better balance between fundraising events and purely social activities, such as progressive dinners and firesides.

RibFest was then discussed. A survey was said to be coming to all members.

Overall, everyone thought it was a great event for the community. People enjoyed working with other volunteers, non-Rotarians as well as those from the other Langley clubs.

Reports:

Finance: Gus had a thank-you for our club bursary from the UFV student who received it. Golf tickets for the Kathmandu Klassik, Sept. 14 at Fraser Glen, will be available next meeting. Shotgun start at 1 pm., \$110 per golfer, \$150 for a hole sponsor. This is our major international fundraiser, with proceeds going to water and sanitation projects in Nepal.

PR: **Pauline** attended the Sumas/Abbotsford Rotary meeting and came away with a few ideas, one of which was to sing happy birthday. So, we

sang happy birthday to Ian and Angie and realized why we don't normally do it.

Starfish: **Charlie** reported that 7,500 backpacks had been distributed since the beginning of our backpack program. Packing starts again on Sept. 13. **Charlie** would like us to consider new fundraising strategies to give more stability to the program.

Upcoming: Langley Care Foundation (Langley Lodge) garden party is **Sept 15**. Please RSVP with Terry.

The **pasta dinner** is set for Nov. 24 at St. Dunstan's.

Sunshine: **Bev** handed out numerous anniversary and birthday cards. Scribe **Jack F.** couldn't keep up with all the sunshine but writes: "Congratulations and Happy Birthday. You know who you are."

AUGUST 31, Rick presiding:

Guests: Dr. **Mike** and Mrs.

Monica Towns from BC

Thanksgiving Food Drive;

Lana Hart from the Langley

Arts Council (and Langley

Rotary Club); **Brian Law**,

Langley Central.

Lana said the arts council has been approved by Township council to move into the Kinsmen Community Centre (now that the new ACUCC has opened) and is looking for \$5,000 to upgrade the building and improve facilities.

Mike was looking for volunteers to support the Sept. 15 Food Drive by delivering flyers and donation (non-perishable) food bags to area homes and then collecting the bags for local food banks.

Executive meeting summary:

District Governor **Linda**

Murray's visit has been put back to **Sept. 21**.

Brian Thomasson was appointed to fill the club's vice-presidency vacancy. **Finances:** We have \$40,000. in unstructured funds, plus \$58,000 allocated to Starfish.

Former member **Maureen Robinson** is to receive a Paul Harris award. **Jeff** and **Kellie Morfitt** are to receive a \$200 Keg gift certificate in appreciation of the great work they did for RibFest. Vice-Chair **Travis Strain** will be given a \$100. gift certificate.

A **Sept. 13** special executive meeting will focus on strategic planning. Members are encouraged to email George with their ideas, thoughts, etc. The club's **Sept. 28** breakfast will feature a full discussion of the plan.

The ACUCC is to name a community room after our club. Cost will be \$17,000 over five years, with the first instalment being \$5,000, followed by \$3,000 each subsequent year.

Reports:

Finance: Only 70 tickets out of 100 for the Sept. 14 Kathmandu Klassik have been sold.

Community: The murals are up on the outside wall of Kitchen Korner and they're fabulous. We have a new banner pole for signage over the Fraser Highway in Aldergrove.

Gus announced that one of the horses in the RCMP Musical Ride is named Dave after his brother, who died too young.

Membership: Howie is asking new members how to make the new-member process better.



Happy and sad



A random roundup:

August 10: Sadly, **Ian** has been diagnosed with sleep apnea and possibly diabetes. Happy **George** had spent a good week in the Okanagan, although it was smoky. **Scott** had to endure a great deal of travel time in order to officiate at a football game in Nanaimo. **Charlie** had a great time with his four grandsons, including adventures negotiating the U.S. border crossing. **Glen** found it too hot to go to bed, so he actually managed to watch the second half of a BC Lions game. But the dog was back! **Larry** was looking forward to RibFest. His nephew was returning to Ontario on his 650 Suzuki. **Paul's** White Rock house-sitting was coming to an end. **Doug H.** was happy his granddaughter was off to Seton Hall University. **Bruce** was reconnecting with his old garage band. **Brian** was also caring for a dog, his daughter's. He had his tickets for a North

Atlantic cruise. **Doug W.** had secured his Serving It Right certificate, in partnership with Gail. **Bev** was going to Kananaskis for a niece's wedding. **Russ** was proud of his daughter's and son's sporting prowess. **Angie** reported that the Co-op Blueberry Social had raised \$900 for the Kidney Foundation. **Gord** seemed somewhat relieved that there were too many fires to permit hiking. **Wes** was marshalling at the Abbotsford Air Show. **Janet's** leg was still bad but on the mend. She was very impressed after viewing the equipment we provided for the LMH maternity and neonatal wings. **Karen** was heading away for two weeks after finishing the RibFest roster: Timothy Lake, followed by Nashville! **Pauline** was delighted that her car had been cleaned by professionals and there was no legacy of her pup's indiscretion. **Terry** was back from the north, having dipped his toes in the Arctic Ocean.

Rick was happy the Lions had won and was devoting his weekend to Sandi's birthday.

August 17: **Gord** survived the first two weeks of Jean's retirement with lots of hiking and an introduction to camping and dehydrated food. **Brian** was looking forward to RibFest and the return of his daughter to collect her dog. **Paul** was looking forward to an extended trip.

Celia announced to everyone's shock that her mom had recently been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and in only five weeks had slipped into a serious condition. **Janet** to Celia: "We are your family and we are grieving with you." Janet said her leg had recovered enough for her to volunteer at RibFest, although she wouldn't be eating any ribs. (What, no steamed broccoli?) **Angie** suggested we develop a mantra for RibFest: "This will be fun ... and this too shall pass!"

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On Aug. 24, Austin Fox made the first of what membership director Howie hopes will eventually be many visits to the Rotary Club of Aldergrove. Meanwhile, Gus is rumoured to be contemplating extra breakfast babysitting charges.

Doug W. was going to hide out at RibFest all weekend, having spent too much on his boat. **Scott** had decided to give up football officiating, a job and his longtime passion for many years, to free up weekends for family. **Charlie**, after adding his sympathy for Cecelia, announced that it was his 44th wedding anniversary and he planned to take Diane out for dinner . . . RibFest ribs and beer! **Colin** was officiating as a linesman at the women's international hockey tournament (China vs. Canada). **George** too was sad to hear about Cecelia's mother. **Gus** was just back from a two-week holiday and looking forward to playing slow pitch in Chilliwack over the weekend.

August 24: Everyone loved RibFest!
Doug H. -went to Winnipeg but forgot his bat to fight off the very large bugs. **Bev** said her niece's Kananaskis wedding photos were spoiled by all the wildfire smoke, and then the honeymooners headed off to Hawaii, straight into a storm! **Brian** and Laurie were off on their cruise, returning Sept 21. **Angie** was taking her oldest grandson to Disneyland



For his recent birthday, staff at President Rick's law office gave him a fancy desk sign to match his new email moniker, Rotary Rick. It's nicely portable.

and then her daughter to Germany. **Paul** was sad that his kids were moving away because they couldn't afford Vancouver housing. **Colin** was sad he didn't win the RibFest 50-50 jackpot. China won the hockey game 1-0. **Kevin** appreciated the work everyone did to make his RibFest dream a reality. His diabetes was coming under control and he was down to just one pill a day. **Larry**

(aka RibFest "King of Corn") was happy to get to know everyone better at the event. **Marilyn** was happy her son, Ethan, had his first job at JD Farms. **Ian's** daughter, Robin, had secured a part time job at Topham Elementary before heading back to school for her teaching certificate. **Jack** was happy that the Township had stepped up to support RibFest and that its location was such a success. He was also

happy that a Surrey team had gone as far as it did in the Little League World Series. **August 31: Rick** was off to Whistler for the weekend. **Marilyn** was off to Galiano for the weekend. **Terry** had a Langley Care Foundation shed to give away. **Janet** had re-injured her leg and was out of action (especially hiking) for three more weeks. **Gord** survived another trek with Jean and wanted to know how he too could hurt his leg like Janet. **Doug W.** -was generally happy but off to the dentist to have his wallet drilled out. **Jack N.** was off to Kelowna for the weekend. **Glen** was off to Pemberton to visit his granddaughter and was also looking forward to his annual Co-op Refund Cheque Dinner. **Karen** was back from a great vacation down south, including visiting the Grand Ole Opry. Guest **Lana** was happy to be visiting such a young club with so many women! **Gus** was heading off to golf. **Cecilia's** mom was now in hospice and her family was gathering to say goodbye. And, as if her load wasn't already heavy enough, her dad was also now in hospital, in Kitimat.



Our \$7,500 at work

This is the biliblanket device our club recently donated, along with a portable radiometer, to Langley Memorial Hospital's maternity and pediatric units.
The baby in this photo isn't real — the machine was set up for display when Rotarian Janet I-J was given a tour by Erin McDonald of the LMH Foundation.