

HISTORY OF BELLINGHAM BAY ROTARY

ORGANIZATION PERIOD

Jan. 14, 1981 to June 27, 1981

Bellingham Bay officially joined Rotary International the evening of June 27, 1981.

Our "charter night" was a festive occasion with many visiting Rotarians joining our own charter members at the Bellingham Holiday Inn. District Governor Chuck Wong of Richmond, B.C., presented us with our official charter from Rotary International, and then Jack Wagner, our charter president, individually recognized each of our charter members.

We were originally 30 in number. It was a night to remember. Much planning and activity went on long before the club's official recognition. The Bellingham Rotary Club, under the leadership of President Jim Caldwell, saw the need for a new club in Bellingham and started the momentum from which our club developed.

President Jim and Bellingham club members Dick Keating, George Graham and Harte Bressler provided us with expertise and encouragement as we began making plans. Originally, seven members were named by Bellingham Rotary to be the nucleus of the new club: Jack Wagner, Bob Swank, Roy Huartson, Bob Auld, Bob Rice, Richard Brumenschenkel and Bob Newell.

The first planning meeting was held Jan, 14, 1981 at the Elks Club. We began to learn about Rotary and to select charter members. Our goal was 30, which we reached before we applied for our charter.

One of our first actions was to add Harte Bressler to our growing nucleus. Harte was secretary of the Bellingham club and gave us some instant expertise in Rotary. Some of our early meetings were devoted to learning more about Rotary from such visiting Rotarians as then District Governor Chuck Wong, Past District Governor John Busted, Past District Governor Bill Keenlyside, Jim Caldwell, Curt Cortelyou, and Bellingham Rotary club incoming President Dave Nichols.

Agreeing on a name for our club took some careful deliberation. We also had, to decide when and where the club should meet. Our first meeting place was the Regency Room at the Leopold Hotel. This proved to be a fine location until Oct. 5, 1982, when, because of circumstances beyond our control, we were forced to move to the Leopold's Crystal Ballroom. This proved to be a short stay as the huge ballroom was not suitable for a club our size. After several "tryouts" in other locations we moved to our present location, Bellingham Towers' Washington Room, on Jan. 4, 1983.

Charter members were:

Robert F. Auld	Fred M. Haskell	Terry W. Olsen	James F. Wells
Myer (Jay) Bornstein	Roy Huartson	Charles R. Olson	Barney Yorkston, Jr.
Robert D Brady	Marcus M. Johnson	Robert N. Plumb Jr.	Frank Zurline, Jr.
Hartwell F. Bressler	John B. (Jack) Keith	Robert B. Rice	
James A Brown	J. Timothy Lann	David H. Rytand	
Richard Brumenschenkel	Larry M. Linville	Curtis F. Smith	
Byron L. Elmendorf	Harold L. Minkler	Richard Stark	
David A. Ennen	Robert M. Moles	Robert Swank	
Don A. Gustafson	Robert C. Newell	John L. (Jack) Wagner	

**HISTORY OF THE FIRST YEAR
FOR BELLINGHAM BAY ROTARY
July, 1981 through June, 1982**

Our first year, under the leadership of Charter President Jack Wagner, Vice-President Bob Swank, Secretary Treasurer Harte Bressler and board members Richard Brumenschenkel, Roy Huartson, Jack Keith, Curt Smith and Chuck Olson, was an outstanding one. Several important traditions were started. An excellent "Soundings" weekly newsletter was written by editor Jack Keith, "Bucks in the Bay," where members donate a dollar or more to honor their accomplishments or favorite sports team, developed into what continues to be a highlight of our meetings. The "rose sale," our major fund-raising event, was begun under the direction of Barney Yorkston and his committee. Our "classic" social events began with a family get together at Snow Water on Aug. 8, 1981, and a wine tasting party at Don Gustafson's on Dec. 2, 1981. The annual Christmas program with our wives and children also was instituted.

Perhaps the highlight of our initial year was the visit of District Governor Jack Hotel!. We definitely showed our "rookie" status: from the district governor swearing in of new member Laury Evans with right hand raised), to our crazy evening banquet at Sarducci's, where no one knew exactly what to do. Those of us who attended won't forget it.

HISTORY OF THE SECOND YEAR FOR BELLINGHAM BAY ROTARY July, 1982 through June, 1983

Our second year under the leadership of President Bob Swank, Vice President Curt Smith, Secretary/Treasurer Harte Bressler and board members Fred Haskell, Roy Huartson, Jack Keith, Don Gustafson and Chuck Olson was a growth year.

The club made an important decision to broaden its membership base. Jim Wells headed a special committee to develop a list of potential members from vocational classifications not represented in the club. The special efforts of the club to bring in new members were successful. Twelve new members joined Bellingham Bay Rotary that year.

Bellingham Rotary Club's Curt Cortelyou was District Governor in 1982-83. Harte Bressler doubled as the district secretary. The district conference was held in Bellingham in April, 1983. Bellingham and Bellingham Bay co-hosted the 500 Rotarians and their spouses who attended the conference. We all worked hard and put on what has been called "the best conference in years." Jack Keith received an award for the district's best club bulletin.

Our "classics" continued at Fred Haskell's (summer) and Canada House at Western (winter).

**HISTORY OF THE THIRD YEAR
FOR BELLINGHAM BAY ROTARY
July, 1983 through June, 1984**

Our third year saw us shift into high gear. President Curt Smith, Vice President Harte Bressler and Secretary/Treasurer Bob Rice, with board members Jim Wells, Dave Ennen, Barney Yorkston, Don Gustafson and Fred Haskell continued to encourage membership growth.

Ten new members joined us as we reached a total of 54 members. President Curt attended the International Rotary Convention in Toronto. (It took us three years to raise the money!). Bucks in the Bay continued to grow . . . the traveling Peace Arch was mailed back to Canada . . . the summer/fall classic was held at Craig Smith's on Lummi Island under somewhat drippy conditions, the winter classic was a big success at Fred and Darcy Haskell's, the Huskies got preferential treatment. District Governor Norm Armstrong made his annual visit. Visitors flocked to our weekly meetings in the Washington Room as our reputation for having the best food and the most fun grew.

**HISTORY OF THE FOURTH YEAR
FOR BELLINGHAM BAY ROTARY
July 1984 through June 1985**

Our fourth year continued to see healthy growth. With President Harte Bressler, Vice President Don Gustafson, Secretary/Treasurer Bob Rice, and Directors Jim Wells, Dave Ennen, Barney Yorkston, Dale Heisinger, and Bob Plumb. The club grew from 54 to 65 members, a rate of 20%.

There was once again great fellowship at the summer classic at the Haskell lake property, and the winter classic with wine tasting held at the Bradys. Bucks in the Bay kept flowing in with the able help of co-sergeants-at-arms Ted Czajkowski and Russ Van Buren.

District Governor Ralph Crawford paid us a very enthusiastic visit and gave our club very high marks for its involvement and effort on our projects. It was a great year for the clubs participation in the Rotary Foundation. A new first began in our club with 20 members each contributing \$50 for a Paul Harris Fellowship drawing. Paul Youssef was the lucky first. Roy Huartson and Harte Bressler were both surprised when they were made Paul Harris Fellows. Roy by his wife Anne and Harte by Metcalf, Hodges & Co. A very special Paul Harris Fellow award was made to Galen Biery at an evening Valentine's Day meeting with the wives at the Country Club. District Governor Ralph was on hand to take part. President Harte attended the International Convention in Birmingham, England while incoming President Don Gustafson prepared to do the same in Kansas City.

The club had the pleasure of hosting Chris Goddard, an exchange student from Australia. President Harte had his share of trouble with a wingless Eagle on the American flag.

The club contributed to the renovation of the local Boy Scout office and continued to sponsor the Galen Biery historical preservation project at Western Washington University in conjunction with the Pacific Northwest Study Center.

**HISTORY OF THE FIFTH YEAR
FOR BELLINGHAM BAY ROTARY
July, 1985 through June, 1986**

The fifth year for Bellingham Bay Rotary Club was a year of firsts under the leadership of President Don Gustafson, Vice-President Chuck Olson, Secretary/ Treasurer Greg DePaul and Directors Laury Evans, Bob Newell, Jim Brown, Dale Heisinger and Bob Plumb and included:

- (a) The first Black Mouth Fishing Derby Fund Raiser;
- (b) Publication of the Roster, with photographs; and
- (c) Another outstanding year of membership growth from 65 to 76, or an increase of 17%.

Co-Sergeant of Arms Jim Wells and Bob Plumb kept fellow Rotarians on their toes on a weekly basis generating tremendous comradery and fellowship.

District Governor Mel Spowart paid us an early visit in October of 1985 and was quite pleased with the club's achievements and growth pattern. As usual we had our evening social event for ourselves and the District Governor, which was a rousing success.

Participation by club members was at an all-time high in the 1985-86 year at our numerous events, including the Summer Classic on the Nooksack River at Dick Metcalf's Summer retreat, the Winter Classic which involved a wine tasting party held at the Bob Plumb residence, new member orientation meeting held at Sarducci's Restaurant for all new members and, of course, our Black Mouth Fishing Derby and Rose Sale.

The Bellingham Bay Rotary Club again participated in the Rotary Foundation with its annual drawing where 20 members each contributed \$50 for the Paul Harris fellowship. Ron Buatte was the second year winner in this event. Chuck Olson attended the Rotary International Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada and treated the Bellingham Bay membership to a glowing report of Rotary International and the convention itself.

The club donated funds to numerous needy causes in the area and performed one of the few hands-on work functions in conjunction with the Young Life Organization, consisting of tree trimming and cleanup along the Boulevard.

The 1985-86 year was concluded with two major events, including the noon meeting excursion tour to the Intalco aluminum plant and the four club joint evening meeting to bring in the incoming officers and directors of the four clubs in Whatcom County as well as inducting Dick Metcalf as the new incoming District Governor.

**HISTORY OF THE SIXTH YEAR
FOR BELLINGHAM BAY ROTARY
July 1, 1986 through June, 1987**

Our officers for the year were: President – Chuck Olson, Vice-President – Dale Heisinger, Secretary/Treasurer – Kevin Bryant. Board members were Don Gustafson, Bob Moles, Jim Brown, Bob Newell, Ted Czajkowski and Lawrence Evans. The club voted to add an additional officer so that the incoming President would not be Program Director the year before being president. Bob Plumb was elected as second Vice-President and Program Director for the 1987-1988 year.

Highlights of the year included a joint banquet of the four Whatcom County Rotary Clubs to install Dick Metcalf as District 504 Chief and to install new officers for each club. International Rotary President M.A.T. Caparas visited Whatcom County and another County wide banquet was enjoyed by all. The 504 District conference was hosted by Whatcom County North with an assist from the other three county Rotary clubs. Next year District 504 will be split into two equal districts.

Charitable funds were raised through our annual Rose Sale, Salmon Derby, Bucks in the Bay and Raffles to allow our club to make financial contributions to Rotary International Polio Plus program, Rotary Foundation, Whatcom County Museum, Operation Santa Claus, Western Center for Early Learning, Whatcom County Boys and Girls Club, Coalition for Child Advocacy, Bellingham District Middle School Leadership Conference, Western Washington Basketball program, and Young Life Leadership Conference.

As a result of contributions to Polio Plus, Bellingham Bay Rotary awarded three Paul Harris Fellowships. Recipients were Jim Caldwell, Jack Wagner and Jim Wells.

Bellingham Bay Rotary hosted exchange student Rikke Peterson and her active attendance at our meetings was appreciated by our club. We sent Amy Wellman to Japan under the exchange program and Hunter Hodge was chosen to go to Brazil next year.

President-Elect, Dale Heisinger, and his wife, Jane, represented our club at the Rotary International Convention at Munich, Germany in June and he was installed as President July 7, 1987.

**HISTORY OF THE SEVENTH YEAR
FOR BELLINGHAM BAY ROTARY Club
July 1, 1987 through June, 1988**

The seventh year of Bellingham Bay Rotary began with a reorganization of the Board of Directors, adding an additional member. The officers were: President, Dale Heisinger; Vice-President, Laury Evans; Program Chair, Bob Plumb; Secretary-Treasurer, Al Knutson; Past President, Chuck Olson.

The Directors were: Club Service, Ted Czajkowski; Community Service, Brent Walker; Vocational Service, Byron Elmendorf; International Service, Bob Moles. Other members who contributed significantly to our weekly meetings were: John Sleeth, accompanist of our National Anthem; Gerald Baron and his Soundings editors; Mike Fournier and his Sergeant-at-Arms brigade; Tim Lann, our spiritual leader.

Thirteen new members were added to our roster including our first woman member, Orphalee Smith bringing our total membership to 84. Our attendance increased from 76% to 80%.

Our Rotary International commitment to eradicate polio worldwide generated a total contribution of \$6,000 with an additional \$3000 pledged through 1989. From these contributions, Paul Harris Fellowships were awarded to Barney Yorkston, Dave Ennen, and Ken Graham for the work they have done on behalf of our club. An additional \$1,000 was raised by the efforts of Roy Pearson (Fund-Raising chairman) and the generous donations of fellow Rotarians and contributed to the Rotary Foundation for which Bob Swank received an additional Paul Harris Fellowship Award.

Rotary's International Student Exchange was well received as we sent Hunter Hodge to Brazil and hosted Paul Therkelsen from Australia. Our commitment to our community continued as we allocated funds to the following:

1. \$140 scholarship to WWU Conference on Attention Deficit Disorder.
2. \$500 donation to Sehome High School in support of their Youth Activities Program with an additional \$500 per year for 2 years pledged.
3. \$200 donation to WWU Athletic Dept. during their Community Service Night.
4. \$350 to the Sheriff's Dept. for Operation Santa Claus.
5. \$500 for WWU Scholarships for graduates of Sehome and Bellingham High Schools.
6. \$250 for Voc-Tech scholarship.
7. \$1,000 to Youth Leadership Conference sponsored by the Bellingham School District.

Our major project, however, was the contribution of \$10,000 and the organization of strategic committees in a Bellingham campaign for a community swimming pool. Chairmen Mike Fournier and Craig MacConnell, Chuck Walter and Harte Bressler along with fellow Bellingham Bay Rotarians accomplished an outstanding campaign. Although the bond issue was defeated, Mayor Tim Douglas and the City of Bellingham, in deep appreciation, acknowledged the service and effective contribution of Bellingham Bay Rotary in the 1988 Swimming Pool Campaign.

President-elect Laury Evans and his wife Mary attended the R.I. Convention in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in preparation for his year as president beginning July 1988.

**HISTORY OF THE EIGHTH YEAR
FOR BELLINGHAM BAY ROTARY
July 1, 1988 through June 30, 1989**

The eighth year of Bellingham Bay Rotary included the following officers:

Laury Evans – President
Bob Plumb – Vice President
Ted Czajkowski – Program Chair
Alan Knutson – Secretary/Treasurer
Dale Heisinger – Past President

The service directors were:

John Templeton – Club Service
Brent Walker – Community Service
Byron Elmendorf – Vocational Service
Duane McNett – International Service

Other members who contributed significantly during the year included John Sleeth – Club Bulletin, Tim Lann – Invocation, Russ VanBuren, Harte Bressler, Bob Newell and Dennis Archer – Sergeants-at-Arms and Roy Huartson – Club Roster.

Membership totalled 85 at June 30, 1989. This included 9 new members taken in during the year. Attendance averaged 81.5% for the year, and 13 members maintained perfect attendance.

A successful Rose Sale, headed up by Bill Fox, increased cash on hand to \$6,954.59 as of June 30, 1989.

The International Student Exchange Program saw Paul Therkelsen return to Australia and the arrival of Fernando Periva from Brazil. The club sponsored Anita Luitweiler, outgoing exchange student to New Zealand.

The Polio-Plus International Campaign concluded, raising \$219 million and exceeded the campaign goal of \$120 million. The club contributed \$3,000 this year, the last installment of our pledge of \$9,000.

Paul Harris Fellowships were awarded to Linda Goodrich (athletic director at WWU), Jack Keith, and Alan Knutson, Byron Elmendorf and Barney Yorkston, Sr.

The Rotary Foundation, with its many ongoing programs, requested additional funds, and with the leadership of Steve Kimberly, combined to raise \$2,050 for the Foundation.

Fred George, the District Governor, visited our club in September and District Governor representative, Bill Dyke also visited several times during the year.

The following segments are not clear ...

Our Group Study Exchange went to Mexico and Rotary Information Day was held in October. New member orientation was held in January. Three applications to RYLA and the Group Study Exchange from Mexico was here and Secretaries Day in April. District Conference in Harrison Hot Springs, British Columbia, in May.

President-elect, Bob Plumb, and his wife, Sue, attended the Rotary International Convention in Seoul, Korea.

The club recognized the passing of second-year president, Bob Swank.

In addition to the Polio-Plus and Foundation donations by the club, the following allocation of funds were made:

Video Classics for the Bellingham Public Library – \$450

Preparatory Music Program, Western Washington University — \$1,000

Community Pool Campaign — \$2,000

Rotary Rose Parade — \$50
Homeless Video Tape — \$500
Middle School Leadership Program — \$956
Rotary Youth Leadership — \$315
District Water Project in India — \$750
Boys and Girls Club Van — \$1,000
Youth Exchange — \$1,429
Bob Swank Memorial — \$213

**HISTORY FOR THE NINTH YEAR
FOR BELLINGHAM BAY ROTARY
July 1, 1989 through June 30, 1990**

The ninth year of Bellingham Bay Rotary included the following officers:

Bob Plumb — President
Ted Czajkowski — Vice President
Don Wolf — Secretary-Treasurer
Brent Walker — Program Chairman

The service directors included:

John Templeton
Mike Fournier
Duane McNett
Steve Kimberley

Year number nine for Bellingham Bay Rotary saw our membership reach 93, which was the maximum number we could accommodate at the Bellingham Towers. Attendance for the year was over 80%.

Our new Membership Roster with snap out pages was completed with much effort from Roy Huartson.

The annual Rose Sale was a financial success due to the hard work of the Rose Sale Committee headed up by Bill Fox and the sales effort of our membership.

For Susan and I the trip to Seoul, Korea and the International Convention was an experience we will never forget. Held at the site of the 1988 Olympics and attended by more than 28,000 Rotarians, it was a wonderful way to begin my year as President, The dedication to Rotary worldwide, and the challenges Rotarians accept is brought to light at the International Convention. I would recommend any Rotarian attend if you have the opportunity.

**HISTORY FOR THE TENTH YEAR
FOR BELLINGHAM BAY ROTARY
July 1, 1990 through June 30, 1991**

The tenth year of Bellingham Bay Rotary had leadership by the following officers:

President, Ted Czajkowski
President-Elect, Brent Walker
Program Chair, Bob Newell
Secretary-Treasurer, Don Wolf
Past President, Bob Plumb

Directors were:

Gary Parr, Club Service;
Mike Fournier, Vocational Service
Steve Kimberley, Community Service
Bob Becker, International Service

Several of our committees made major contributions to our goals and the success of our tenth anniversary year as a club. Chair Jerry Simmons led the Foundation Committee to the best fund raising year in our club's history for the Rotary Foundation. We raised almost \$6,000 with 80 percent of our members contributing and started nine new sustaining members who pledged \$1000 each to the Foundation. Our Community Service Committee led by Dave Harding helped us provide major support for the D.A.R.E. Program by providing D.A.R.E. T-shirts to almost 800 Bellingham students who completed the fifth grade program this year. The Membership Committee led by Dave Ennen developed new procedures for bringing in new members which included and improved understanding by new members of the traditions of Rotary and the expectations of them as Rotary members. In addition, the Membership Committee developed improved procedures for encouraging members to fulfill Rotary attendance requirements, Bob Moles led the World Community Service Committee to find us a quality WCS project and helped the club to commit a decent level of funding to the project—a workshop for the Handicapped Boy Scout Camp in Nigeria, Africa. Jim Olson led the Fund Raising Committee to another successful Rose Sale with excellent support from several top notch committee members and many of our club members who sold lots of beautiful roses.

Our club provided significant financial support to the Children's Museum Northwest "Brainteasers Exhibit," the YMCA Middle School At-Risk Student Program, Project Santa Claus and the downtown Bellingham tree replacement project. We supported the first Eastern European exchange student to come to Bellingham in cooperation with the Bellingham Club — Peter Polak from Czechoslovakia.

Mike Fournier won the jelly bean contest and a trip to Hawaii for his family.

District Governor Mel Hollinger visited in November and encouraged us to pursue our goals. President-elect Brent Walker and his wife Cherie attended the Rotary International Convention in Mexico City. We stabilized our membership at about ninety-five (95) members and had no trouble implementing Governor Mel's theme to have fun while we were getting it done.

**HISTORY OF THE ELEVENTH YEAR
FOR BELLINGHAM BAY ROTARY
July 1, 1991 through June 30, 1992**

The ability of a voluntary organization like our Rotary Club to make progress toward goals requires both the commitment and the effort of many individuals. As your president, I was blessed with a very strong group of officers and directors who were the keys to reaching our goals. The members of that group were:

Officers:

Bob Newell President-elect
Alan Knutson VP - Programs
Allen Pemberton Sec Treas
Ted Czajkowski Past President

Directors:

Bob Becker
Don Pierce
Gerry Simmons
Orphalee Smith

Your board of directors agreed upon and committed to the following set of goals as a means to building a better foundation upon which to improve our club:

1. Increase each member's level of participation in the club's activities — each member to be involved in at least one significant activity during the year.
2. Increase attendance at club meetings by 5%.
3. Heighten each member's awareness of what Rotary is.
4. Conduct 3 new member indoctrination programs during the year.
5. Have better programs than ever before.
6. Increase the club's involvement in those activities which will significantly improve our community.

All of these goals shared one common objective: to move our members from being relatively passive to being an active group. Each member of Bellingham Bay can look with pride at the progress we have made in achieving these goals, We have a stronger commitment by all members to active participation in the affairs of and activities of our club, Our improved attendance is the best of all 42 clubs in our entire district. We have made significant contributions and commitments to bettering our community.

For example:

- \$1,000 and several hundred pounds of food to the food bank in two separate efforts
- \$1,500 in scholarship funds to enable students to attend the Bellingham Technical College
- Lights to decorate the downtown during the holiday season
- \$2,000 to help Mountain Rescue purchase a new rescue van for use in its lifesaving efforts
- Over \$16,000 to help the DARE program prevent drug abuse in our community's children.

Because of the money raised in our jellybean "game of skill", the Rotary Foundation has \$4,000 to spend to aid the needy in the developing world. Even if none of us received one bit of recognition for our efforts, we could still feel good inside knowing that we had helped to make our community and our world better for many people. I am very proud to have served as president of such a distinguished group of terrific people. I am very confident that this club has a firm foundation from which to build a strong force that will have a major impact in improving our community. Thank you all for honoring me with the opportunity to serve as your president.

Brent Walker, President, 1991-92

**HISTORY OF THE TWELFTH YEAR
FOR BELLINGHAM BAY ROTARY
July 1, 1992 through June 30, 1993**

Rotary year of 1992-1993 has been the most successful Rotary year in the history of our club. It started with President-Elect Bob Newell's attendance with his wife at the International Convention in Orlando, Florida. Subsequently, District Governor Jack Frisk, visited our club early in the year to set a high tone for the plans for the year. The Board of Directors has proved to be probably the most outstanding board in the history of our club. We added a new member, in that Treasurer was added, so we had a total of ten members and this proved to be a very excellent combination of people and we accomplished a great deal this year.

Officers & Board included:

Past President Brent Walker
President Bob Newell
President-Elect Alan Knutson
Program Chairman/VP Bob Becker
Secretary Al Pemberton,
Treasurer Orphalee Smith
Director Don Pierce
Director Sue Sharpe
Director Gerry Simmons
Director Dan Vaughan

This year, Vice Chairmen were utilized in all the committees to try to improve and promote continuity and coordination from one year to the next and I think this has proven to be a good move as it appears that this will provide greater continuity in the future.

Two new committees were added this year: (1) Low cost housing and (2) International projects. Low cost housing was chaired by Bill Geyer and International projects was chaired by Dan Wilkerson. They both accomplished a great deal this year and the Low cost housing project is one of those that will be discussed under our financial commitments for the future.

Another goal for the year was to have greater fellowship. Indeed, we had a wonderful Winter/Spring Classic at Fred Haskell's lake home. Another innovative feature this year was the Inaugural Golf Tournament, organized by Skip Manning and the Fellowship Committee, followed by family barbecue attended by over fifty people which proved to be highly successful. In addition, we had a trip via bus and catered meal to a Sonics game which was enjoyed by all.

Another innovative feature this year was a wine tasting party with associated wine auction, both of which proved to be successful. This was done at President Bob Newell's home.

We were very active in the Exchange Student Program in that we had Michi Matsuda from Japan who provided many challenges for her host families to include the Satusheks, Pierces and the Beckers. We were also involved in sending an exchange student, Sonjy Lemmon, to Belgium.

The other significant organizational facets of the club included setting up guidelines for incorporating new members into our club and we did reach our projected number of 100 members. The real success story lies with attendance in that we have hit an all time high for our club of 86%. However, the area that is most encouraging is, after much work by the board and then thorough questionnaire and total membership participation, we have set financial goals for community efforts to include supporting the community swimming pool, the YMCA, the DARE program, transitional housing, Children's Museum, Jr. Achievement and Bosnia Relief. To these efforts we have committed ourselves \$35,000 per year for the next five years which is more than twice what we have contributed in the past and we will be challenged to be able to raise that amount of money for these extremely worthwhile efforts.

The rose sale proved to be our most successful ever, netting approximately \$19,000. Additional fund raising efforts will be completed for the end of the calendar year 1993. In addition, we were able to

supply pictures for the Lighthouse Mission through finances from the club and Skip Manning's efforts. I am pleased to announce that we had five new Paul Harris Fellows from our club to include Kevin Bryant, Curt Smith, Ted Czajkowski, Chuck Olson and Bob Plumb.

With all of these great accomplishments this past year, it is easy to see there was a large contribution made to our club's success by every member of the club and our future looks very bright.

**Bellingham Bay Rotary
Thirteenth Year History
July 1, 1993 through June 30, 1994**

Officers & Board

Alan Knutsen	President
Bob Becker	President-Elect
Don Pierce	VP/Programs
Skip Manning	Secretary
Orphalee Smith	Treasurer
Bob Newell	Past President
Gerald Baron	Director
Sue Sharpe	Director
Dan Vaughn	Director
Dan Wilkerson	Director

The officers and directors of Bellingham Bay Rotary looked to continue the plans and objectives of the Club that had been developed over the prior two years. These include:

- Maintaining a quality membership base, with a high attendance rate, and providing opportunity for everyone to participate in a variety of club activities.
- Continue the five-year major contribution program which included funds for DARE, the community Pool, Whatcom Family YMCA, and continuing to search for a transitional housing project.
- Establish a variety of fund-raising activities that would provide the Club with the ability to raise \$35,000 annually.

With regard to membership, a survey indicated our members wanted to keep the club size between 90 and 125 members. The emphasis was then placed on identifying quality new members and asking their sponsors to assist in getting them assimilated into the Club. The membership hovered around 100 for the entire year, and overall attendance was slightly in excess of 85%.

The club provided its annual financial support to DARE and the Community Pool. A transitional housing project was identified, but the membership voted against participating. However, the fund-raising activities were not to be reduced.

In order to meet the fun-raising goal, three new areas were identified and implemented. A \$50 per member assessment was started in 1994, and the Club's first "County Store" was held and netted approximately \$3,000. A license was obtained to allow the Club to operate a raffle, which was organized but held after the end of the fiscal year.

Bellingham Bay Rotary served as the last Club for the Foundation Dinner in October 1993, hosted an exchange student from Brazil, and was able to ship medical supplies to Russia with the help of Gerry Simmons and Bellingham Cold Storage.

In Summary, the Club continued along its planned course, with some minor variations. The membership base is very solid, and the Club is successful in providing services for a variety of needs. I greatly appreciate the opportunity to have served as President.

Alan Knutson 1993-1994

Bellingham Bay Rotary
Fourteenth Year History
July 1, 1994 through June 30, 1995

The Officers and Board Members of your Rotary Club for this year were dedicated to the continued development and growth of our club in serving our community and spreading Rotary's principles throughout the community. From the beginning of the planning process for the year, through the end of the year when boards tend to slide into the finish of the year, the board continued to plan and carry out the programs that we established for the club.

Officers & Board

Bob Becker	President
Don Pierce	President Elect
Sue Sharpe	Vice President/Director
Alan Knutson	Past President
Orphalee Smith	Treasurer
Dennis Archer	Secretary
Gerald Baron	Director
Dan Vaughn	Director
Dan Wilkerson	Director

We started the year with a number of objectives aimed at offering the club more opportunities to participate in a wider range of activities and to increase our commitment to service in the community. We targeted the following areas.

1. Have at least 4 Social Events.

We had 5.

We had a great time at a Salmon Barbecue at the Templetons' in the Summer.

We had the annual Golf Tournament in the Summer where even us hackers can have fun

We had a cruise to Sucia Island in early Fall.

We had a Hoedown in February

We had our perennial wine tasting party at the Newells' in June

Of all the events, perhaps the most notable was the Hoedown. We scheduled it for mid February and everything looked just great with lots of people signed up. Then, on the day of the event, there came word that we were going to have a Northeaster, with heavy snow, temperatures in the teens and 75 mile an hour winds. To boot, the barn where we were going to have the party was north of Ferndale, right in the face of the winds. To make a long story short, about 20 of us showed up. The winds were much closer to 25 MPH than 75. It was cold and snowy, but everyone had a great time, no one froze and some of us even figured out the difference between our left feet and our "other left" feet.

2. Participate in at least 4 Community Service Events.

We continued our participation in DARE and the Salvation Army Bell Ringing program. For the 1994-1995 year, we also collected food for the Bellingham Food Bank and got an opportunity to join in on the Special Olympics Program. BBRC helped the organizers run and fund the Bellingham meet. We acted as huggers as the athletes finished their events, timed events and did anything else that was needed. It was a great experience for all who participated, and a large majority of the club did come down, many with families, for the event. We also tried to set up a day to work on the Salmon Enhancement Program, but the program was unable to organize a location and a time where they could work with us.

3. We set a fund raising goal for the year of \$35,000.

Our Fund Raising Committee took this task on recognizing that it had been a difficult target for us to reach in past years. This year, we added a raffle of a Caribbean Cruise to our list of fund raisers. By the time we got to the Rose Sale, we were within range of the \$35,000 goal. The club responded to this opportunity and pushed us just over this target for the first time.

Rotary Foundation month was in November, as usual. For the first time in a long time, a good contingent of us went to the Foundation Dinner. Without regard to the fact that I took major static for the fact that the night was marked by an excessive number of good old boy speeches and that the absence of a liquor license precluded us from seeking anesthetization, we all had a good time spending an evening with a number of fellow Rotarians and spouses. Not to be worried about conforming to the Rotary calendar, we held our fund raising drive for the Foundation in the Spring. Our goal was to continue efforts to get 100% of us to participate in the sustaining membership program.

Another significant event in the year was our move from the Bellingham Yacht Club to the Northwood Hall. At the time, there was a predictable lack of consensus among us. In fact, nobody seemed to be without a strong opinion. Some preferred the harbor atmosphere, while others preferred the light and spacious surroundings of Northwood. The final vote was strongly in favor of making the move. Our new digs seemed to quickly overcome most residual concern. I finally knew that everything would be all right when one of the Yacht Club's most ardent supporters walked by the head table and muttered, "The food sure is good."

I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to be your President in the 1994-1995 year, I enjoyed the year, and the years on the board and as an officer of the club, immensely. The potential for this club and its members to carry out the purposes of Rotary has just been scratched and I look forward to working with you and our future officers to ensure that we continue this tradition.

Bob Becker 1994-1995

**Bellingham Bay Rotary
Fifteenth Year History
July 1,1995 through June 30, 1996**

Rotary year 95-96 was a breakthrough year in the fundraising capability of the Bellingham Bay Rotary. Although the effort was made and the foundation was laid in previous years, this was the year that the club came closer to realizing its potential to raise funds for service in our community. All of the members of the club should be proud of this accomplishment. The officers and the Board should be especially proud.

Officers		Board	
Don Pierce	President	Jim McCallum	Director
Sue Sharpe	President Elect	Jim Wells	Director
Bob Becker	Past President	Greg Gudbranson	Director
Greg Cowan	Program Chair	Skip Manning	Director
Orphalee Smith	Treasurer		
Dennis Archer	Secretary		

The Board started the year with a very simple goal: to provide service to the community in which we live (locally and globally) while maintaining a high level of fellowship and fun. To solidify and institutionalize the changes that have taken place in the club during the past several years specifically in the area of fund-raising, community service and membership.

During the year we were able to maintain our club membership at approximately 100. The attendance was good enough for us to always be in the top third in the district. The year had a sad note in that two

longtime and faithful Rotarians passed away. Ralph Leer who had been with the club for years and always reminded us of his roots in the Dakotas and Al Leese who came to us from the Longview Club both passed away within a few months of each other. They both have been missed a great deal.

The Club excelled in fund-raising this past year. The Rose Sale and the Raffle both produced well for the club but this year we undertook a new major fund-raiser. Under the direction of Nels Olds the club held the first Block Party. Immediately after the Ski to Sea parade the downtown core of Bellingham was blocked off for arts, crafts, food, drinks and music. It was enormously successful and raised in excess of \$20,000. The event was a hit and will be continued.

The year was spent in search of a World Community Service Project that the members of the club could feel good about supporting. Several members of the club attended a Peace Forum in Anchorage Alaska and the topic was Russia. As a result, the club moved forward to support and sponsor a Rotary Club in Bellingham's sister city of Nakhodka Russia. President-elect Sue Sharpe attended the chartering ceremony as our representative.

Most significantly of all, the club members had fun during the past year. The meetings had good programs and there was ample time for fun and fellowship. From PETS to the International Conference in Nice to the installation of my successor (our first woman president!) it was a great year that I enjoyed a great deal.

Don Pierce
President 1995-1996

**Bellingham Bay Rotary
Sixteenth Year History
July 1, 1996 - June 30, 1997**

Highlights

- We Raised over \$45,000 for community projects through Block Party 96. This was the second annual Block Party and the event was very successful. The headline act was John Hiatt and there was great public and Club participation. Fun was had by all and the Club successfully raised the most money ever to support a number of worthy causes. Nels Olds and Matt Barnhart were both recognized for their major contribution to the event's success.
- Continued commitment to world community service with an exchange with the Rotary Club of Nakhodka, Bellingham's sister city. The club president and other delegates visited Bellingham and our club to better understand community service and club philanthropy. They were impressed with the work Rotary does in our community and it was a great opportunity to further develop relationships with the club we had helped charter the year before. The club also contributed prenatal vitamins and children's clothing to an orphanage in Nakhodka.
- Our Club membership remained around 100 but we continued to bring in new members with a commitment to the work of Bellingham Bay.

It was an honor and a pleasure to serve as President during this year of significant growth for our club in the area of fund raising and world community service. The entire club was active in furthering our goals for the year but special recognition is due the board members who served during this year of change.

Don Pierce	Past President	Jim Wells	Board Member
Greg Cowan	President Elect	Jim Thompson	Board Member
Jerry Simmons	Program Chair	Jim McCallum	Board Member

Orphalee Smith
Dennis Archer

Treasurer
Secretary

Nels Olds

Board Member

Sue Sharpe,
President 1996 - 1997

Bellingham Bay Rotary
Seventeenth Year History
July 1, 1997 — June 30, 1998

The major areas of emphasis for year seventeen included: a goal to develop and adopt a more long-term philosophy for club funding of local community projects; goals in the area of International Service – Russia Projects and Rotary Foundation support; and a goal to continue the successful fundraising efforts through the annual Block Party. The officers and the Board worked very hard and the club experienced a very good year.

Officers

Greg Cowan, President
Jerry Simmons, President-Elect
Jim McCallum, Program Chairman
Dennis Archer, Secretary
Orphalee Smith, Treasurer
Sue Sharpe, Past President

Board

Jim Thompson, Director
Denise Bosman, Director
Nels Olds, Director
Phil Hageman, Director

The positive aspects for the year were due in no small way to the efforts of the committee chairs. Harte Bressler and the Membership committee effectively processed and brought in seven new members. The Soundings and Sergeant-at-Arms committees, chaired by Dale Heisinger and Dale Brandland respectively, provided weekly recognition, fellowship, and even entertainment. Jim McCallum made sure that the weekly programs were meaningful and enjoyable. Nels Olds and Matt Barnhart, fresh on the heels of their past year's success, again took on the main responsibility for the club's main fundraiser, Block Party '98. Past President Sue Sharpe kept our focus on youth and community, while Tim McEvoy and Bob Yost provided leadership for Rotary International and Rotary Foundation efforts.

The club was also very privileged to have two exchange students during the course of the year. Brigid Watson, from New Zealand, was with us through December, and then Taryn Fraser, from South Africa, arrived in January. Both young ladies were very special people that enjoyed their experiences in this country, and both added to the lives of their host families and other club members that shared in their activities.

The club had a number of significant accomplishments for the year. In terms of community support, the club contributed funds to the YMCA (\$13,000), the Upper Room youth center (\$4,000), D.A.R.E. (\$4,269), Visiting Nurse Foundation (\$1,500), Festival of Music (\$1,000), Whatcom Museum (\$1,300), Junior Achievement (\$1,500), WA Business Week (\$975), Bellingham Mavericks BE (\$750), Special Olympics (\$500), Camp Fire (\$500). Plans were also established to support the new Boys and Girls Club facility out in the Roosevelt neighborhood.

On the international front, the club joined with other area clubs as a participant in the "Children of Russia Projects." Our club's \$2,500 contribution was combined with the Bellingham Club's donation of \$2,500, along with a Foundation matching grant that resulted in a \$20,000 effort to increase new born baby care through the purchase of incubators in concert with our 'sister' club in Nakhodka, Russia.

Thanks to Bob Yost, the club increased its number of Paul Harris Fellows by 18. Using Foundation credits as a matching incentive, sustaining members were able to take advantage of getting a PHF for half the cost. As a result, the club's overall contributions to the Rotary Foundation increased greatly, for which the club received recognition from District 5050,

Block Party '98 was a wonderful event for the community. The headliners were the Doobie Brothers and they put on a great show. Nels Olds and our hired director Steve Woods again facilitated a day-long event with lots of activities for all ages, concluding in the evening with great music. Other bands included Fat James and the ever present Swamp Mama. It was recognized however that the event had become way more than something a few individuals and some hearty volunteers could pull off year after year. The club undertook a process to redefine the event and to bring it back into a more manageable undertaking, with much more direct involvement by more members.

To conclude the year, District 5050 Governor Hardy Staub, on behalf of Rotary International President Glenn Kinross, presented Bellingham Bay Rotary a Presidential Citation. The award was given for "Outstanding club participation in the four avenues of service to show Rotary cares — for your community, for our world, for its people." That, in itself, describes the people of Bellingham Bay Rotary, and I thank each and every one for the honor of representing the club in its seventeenth year.

Greg Cowan
President, 1997-98

**Bellingham Bay Rotary
Eighteenth Year History
July 1, 1998 to June 30, 1999**

Our eighteenth year was very unique. It presented us with major challenges and tested our commitment to Rotary. While not all solutions may have been perfect we proved that Bellingham Bay Rotarians, working together as a team, can achieve virtually any goal they choose.

Our club's officers and directors were:

President Gerry Simmons, Past President: Greg Cowan President Elect: Jim McCallum, Program Director: John Templeton, Secretary: Dennis Archer and Treasurer: Orphalee Smith

Directors: Denise Bosman, Phil Hageman, Ted Mischaikov and Bill Unrein

Our membership grew with a net gain of 8 new Bellingham Bay Rotarians. This group included new Rotarians and a number of "veteran" Rotarians who chose our club as their new Rotary home.

We provided support for D.A.R.E., The Boy's and Girl's Club, The Bellingham Festival of Music, The Whatcom Museum, The Bellingham Mavericks, The Sehome H.S. Electric Car Team, The Whatcom Family Y, The Upper Room and Sib Shops. Our total community support was close to \$18,000.

On the international side we supported a prenatal vitamin international project for our sister club in Nakhodka.

We provided over \$6,000 toward the work of the Rotary Foundation. We honored five people as Paul Harris Fellows. We initiated an Educator of the Quarter award. Through matching grants we were also able to participate in international projects involving land mine eradication and relief for victims of Hurricane Mitch in Guatemala.

Community service projects included our annual bell-ringing project; a food drive and running the hot dog stand at the Special Olympics competition in Lynden.

Fellowship events included another fine golf tournament and, with the hospitality of Denise Bosman, a great wine tasting party.

Our major challenge involved our annual Block Party. After two very successful years (1996 and 1997) the financial results of the 1998 event were well below those anticipated for the risk level the club chose to take. Higher entertainment costs, lower than anticipated ticket sales and lower than anticipated sponsorship levels all contributed. Subsequently, we set out to redefine the event.

Additionally, after three years of making Block Party successful, Matt Barnhart and Nels Olds took a well-earned break. None of us truly realized just how much of their lives had been dedicated to this event and their work is greatly appreciated. Block Party would not have been Block Party without their efforts. Eileen Stankavich stepped up to undertake the leadership of the event with Harry Andrews as her assistant. Unfortunately Eileen could not continue due to health reasons. Other Block Party committees were formed and chairpersons were appointed to deal with each aspect of the event. A procedures and operations manual were developed. The committee chairs were Denise Bosman, Brad Clure, Greg

Cowan, Pete Dawson, Ron Hardesty, Jeff Kocbman, Roger Long, Ted Mischaikov, Tonja Myers, Gordon Plume and Bill Unrein. An additional special "Kudo" goes out to Anna Williams who allowed us to use her meeting room and kept us very well fed throughout the 6 month planning during which this group met every two weeks for the next year. When the dust of Block Party 99 settled there were many successes. We definitely learned how much effort it takes to produce such an event. Groundwork was laid to organize future Block Parties and we were financially successful in relation to the level of risk involved.

Our weekly meetings were well attended at 75+ %. John Templeton and his program committee brought us an excellent variety of high quality programs. Dean Brett and his Sargent at Arms "bandits" did their usual great and entertaining job.

We undertook two in-club research projects. One was to review the past and present of our club and determine ideas for the future. The second project involved researching the establishment of a club endowment fund. Both of these committees laid groundwork for what is hoped will be valuable additions to our club's legacy.

My major regret was that I was not able to utilize the experience of our past-presidents soon, nor often, enough. We were able to gather this august group in March with the temptation of a free breakfast. This meeting proved to be extremely valuable to all us "non-past presidents" who were in attendance. They are a tremendous asset to our club. I hope these valuable meetings will continue at a higher frequency.

It was truly an honor to be allowed the opportunity to serve our club as president. I believe we had a successful year. We grew as a club. We grew as a team. We grew as Rotarians.

Jerry Simmons
President 1998 - 1999

History of the 19th Year
Bellingham Bay Rotary Club
July1, 1999 to June 30, 2000

Officers serving for this Rotary year were:

Jim McCallum, President
Jerry Simmons, Immediate Past President
John Templeton, President Elect
Phil Hageman, Program Chair
Dennis Archer, Secretary
Orphalee Smith, Treasurer

Directors were: Roger Long, Tim McEvoy, Bill Unrein, and Ted Mischaikov

District Governor Dave Robinson came for his official Club Visit.

We enjoyed great social events this year, which included our Lake Padden Golf outing,

Our main fundraising events were the Rose Sale, Downtown Music & Beer Garden on Ski To Sea weekend

We once again participated in the Holiday Bell Ringing campaign benefitting the Salvation Army.

The year was closed out with a "Changing of the Guard" installation at our regular Tuesday meeting inducting John Templeton as our new President.

Jim McCallum, President

NOTE: Sadly, Past President Dr. Jim McCallum passed away in April of 2015. This report is filed on his behalf and in his memory.

History of the 20th Year

Bellingham Bay Rotary Club

July 1, 2000 to June 30, 2001

As the last official day of my year is finally upon us, I would like to reflect upon some of the activities that have taken place.

The year has gone by so quickly that it doesn't seem possible that so much has been accomplished. So many people working on so many projects for the common goal of making Bellingham and the world a better place.

I was constantly amazed at how many individuals stepped forward to assume the roles of responsibility whenever a need arose. I hero is someone who steps forward in a time of need to do some extraordinary deed. I constantly felt of you as the Club of 100 heroes. While some of you had demands in your personal and business lives that did not permit you to take part in all facets of the Club, there was never a doubt in my mind that you would raise up to the task when the accession warranted.

It was just one year ago that I announced, "I am John Templeton," so did several others. It was my goal that we get to know each other better by stating our names when we used the microphone. Now at least we know each other's names. There are a lot less people claiming to be John Templeton now than there were then.

There were highlights this year for me that were mostly centered around the Rotarian growth and spirit that I observed in many of you. People who found an avenue of service in which they felt good about themselves and what they were accomplishing in the name of Rotary. It is difficult and dangerous to single out individuals but I really must.

The main goals for this year were for us to know each other better, to find new ways of raising funds and to have a good time while accomplishing the first two goals. Who could exemplify the fulfillment of those stated goals more than Sarah Rothenbuhler and Katrina Wilson. Our Rotarian dinners were thoroughly enjoyed by all who were able to participate. Everyone seemed to enjoy the camaraderie, the good food and we also raised nearly \$4000 for the benefit of our Rotary causes. Thank you again Sarah, Katrina and all of you who hosted these events and contributed money to attend. A little money here and a little money there. It all added up to a nice amount of cash for us to donate to a variety of causes.

And then there was the fund raising committee who came up with more ideas than we could accomplish. Anna, you are amazing as are Ron Hardesty, Phil Hageman, Gary Barnett, Bill Gorman, Roger Long and all the others from that group who gave freely of their time, their energy and their money. They were the catalyst behind all of our fundraising activities.

(So many people to talk about and so little time).

Thank you Matt Barnhart, Bob Becker and Jim Olson. Your renewed energies in Rotary is deeply appreciated.

Thank you Phil Schwaab. You are indeed Mr. Rose Man. And you pulled off a very successful Rose Sale. As a bonus, the roses were beautiful. You know what the problem is when you do such a great job. It is meant to be a compliment when we ask you to do it again and hopefully again next year.

George Bowen. Didn't his committee do an incredible job with the Student of the Month Club?

Dan Wilkerson and John Sleeth heading up the Interact Club at Squalicum. You have touched the lives of our youth in our community in a positive way.

Lance Calloway. Thank you for stepping up to chair the committee to decide how our community dollars would be spent.

Some people who were always there working behind the scenes were Peggy Kent, Stan Dyer, Bill Unrein, Norm Green Gabrielle Merek.

This year's board of directors included the most wonderful people. Each served our club in their own very special way. We were never close to worrying about having a quorum when important decisions are made. Dennis Archer and Orphalee Smith give so much to our club. Not just on occasion but every week. They have given so much of themselves and deserve all our on-going appreciation for their services. Bob Tull has supplied us with a solid year of inspiring, informative and thought provoking programs. Directors Tim McEvoy and Roger Long will be going off the board this year. They have given much to our club and hopefully will serve again one day in another role. And Ron Hardesty and Tonja Myers will continue on for one more year. All four of these people have headed one of the areas of service. Each has provided me with invaluable help and guidance as they oversaw the committees assigned to them. Our Past President Jim McCallum will finally be able to retreat to the role of Rotarian member without having to participate on the board of directors. Jim is such an incredible class act. He is the kind of person and Rotarian that each of us should strive to emulate. Phil (Tex) Hageman rounded out the board of directors (no pun intended). He is an amazing person and will no doubt add his own flavor to the office of President in a positive manner.

I have to mention Brent Walker who has taken on the role of Chairman of the newly created Bellingham bay Rotary Foundation. He is an outstanding person and Rotarian. It has been an honor to walk in his shadow this year as he has quietly gotten the Foundation off to a wonderful start.

Thank you to the Soundings staff. Your interpretive perspective adds greatly our meetings and to our lives as we enjoy history the way it should have been. Curtis Smith, Bob Rice, Jim McCallum, Norm Green, Mike Werner and Dale Heisinger have continued to serve on this thankless committee where they endure endless abuse – much of it deserved I might add.

The Sergeant at Arms Committee was headed up by one of my choices of super hero of the year Barry Kramer. I think that he must have been on a half dozen committees. Barry recruited the amazing talents of those most able to fleece us. On the committee were Martha Steinborn, Ron Hardesty, Bill Unrein, Dale Brandland, Greg Cowan Cy Lindberg and Frank Chmelik.

Gerald Baron lined up our invocation people and was a great help in reminding me who they were prior to each meeting.

Our new website is just starting to come into its own. Our sincere thanks to Brad Clure for that and Norm Green for assisting in the conversion of the Soundings to the website. Norm Green has also served on several areas of service and is now distributing the wine sale tickets.

My apologies for not naming each and every one of you by name because I do know that without the efforts of all of you this would not have been the successful year that Bellingham Bay Rotary Club has enjoyed.

If you'll bear with me for only a few more minutes, I would like you to reflect on the year through a quick snippets of information.

What we have done as a club, thanks to your participation:

District Conference	Bell Ringing
Food Drive	Barbeque Music
Restaurant Rotario	Fireside
Rose Sale	Wine Tasting
New members	Email Addresses
Click It Boxes	Rotary Foundation – 8500
Student of the Month	Student Scholarships
Bellingham Bay Foundation – 10,000	
Contributions to: Cleaning House Network	

JOHN TEMPLETON, PRESIDENT
2000 - 2001

**History of the 21st Year
Bellingham Bay Rotary Club
July 1, 2001 to June 30, 2002**

The year was 2001 and Bellingham Bay Rotary had just come off of a spectacular year lead by John Templeton. As president I had big shoes to fill. As I recall, at the changing of the guard I mentioned we were transitioning from the sublime to the ridiculous. Little did any of us know that this year was going to be marked by one of our nation's darkest days, September 11, 2001.

For better or worse the thing I remember most about my rotary year was September 11, 2001. Yes it was a Tuesday. As we all watched the events of that day unfold I remember struggling with the thought of what to do. I spoke with several others in club administration and it was decided that we needed to meet anyway. We all needed something familiar to grab on to. We all needed a chance to see friends and associates just to make sure that (to the degree possible) we were okay. We needed a chance to talk. Needless to say this meeting wasn't like any other meeting.

Not only was that meeting different, but the events of that day affected the entire year. Our focus was off, our drive was subdued and our emotions were raw. But our club, just like our great nation survived.

Thankfully, due in no small part to the resilience and spirit of our club, we did manage to have some fun and raise a few dollars. Here are a few of the lighter moments:

- I changed our meetings up a bit by not ringing the bell. Instead I played a brief snippet of music. The music did have some relevance to the meeting; either referring to the weather, connected to current events and occasionally relating to the guest or program. I'm not sure this subtle plan worked well. Regardless I kept it up since in fact the gavel was missing so I had to come up with something different.
- I initiated my ongoing (and cumbersome) practice of introducing myself using various words that start with (or sound like they start with) an X. I am sure many wish this practice would go extinct.
- At our Christmas meeting I lead the meeting dressed in a Santa suit. Unfortunate for me I didn't need a pillow to fully fit the role.
- We had a fundraiser based on winning an instant wine cellar. This preceded Grape & Gourmet and the Wine Wall. At that evenings event I kicked off another fundraiser by offering to cut off my pony tail (which I was growing for Locks of Love) if the club could raise \$1000.00. I seriously thought I would have weeks before the clippers showed up. I was wrong. It took less than ten minutes and off came the tail.

Unfortunately I cannot recall what else happened this year. I'm sure there were some other fundraisers, there were small projects and BBR's support of the community continued. We as Rotarians continued to meet, continued to serve and continued to care. Perhaps the best thing to come from this year, a time of great sorrow and conflict, was that nothing else memorable occurred.

Officers serving for this Rotary year were:

Phil Hageman, President
John Templeton, Immediate Past President
Bob Tull, President Elect
Denise Bosman, Program Chair

Dennis Archer, Secretary

Orphalee Smith, Treasurer

Directors were: Tonja Myers, Gary Barnett, Barry Kramer, Stan Dyer.

District Governor Kathy De Tuerk came for her official Club Visit.

We once again participated in the Holiday Bell Ringing campaign benefitting the Salvation Army.

The year was closed out with a "Changing of the Guard" installation inducting Bob Tull as our new President.

Respectfully,

Phil Hageman, President

History of the 22nd Year
Bellingham Bay Rotary Club
July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2003

President Bob attended and greatly enjoyed the Rotary International Convention in Barcelona, Spain just prior to taking office July 1st.

Officers serving for this Rotary year were:

Bob Tull, President

Phil Hageman, Immediate Past President

Denise Bosman, President Elect

Ron Hardesty, Program Chair

Dennis Archer, Secretary

Orphalee Smith, Treasurer

Directors were: Tonja Myers, Terry Brown, Gary Barnett and Barry Kramer.

RI President for this year was Bhichai Rattakul, who was seen as one of RI's best ever inspirational leaders.

The District 5050 Conference was held at Harrison Hot Springs, and President Elect Denise Bosman attended PETS in February.

Bob Moles – International Service Chair, organized and began raising funds for a two-pronged project to be located along the north Coast of Honduras. One part was in support of a micro-credit non-profit organization called the Adelante Foundation, and the major one was a clean water project done in partnership with the Pure Water for the World Foundation headquartered in Vermont, with planned funding to come from a Rotary Foundation major project grant. The Club contributed \$7500 as seed money for a challenge to raise an additional \$7500, which was accomplished.

The Club also supported the Rotary Wheelchair Project, as well as the Polio Plus Campaign's "Little Cans Filled With Quarters."

Peggy Kent, Rotary Foundation Committee Chair coordinated our participation with the four Bellingham Rotary Clubs in a Polio Eradication Project with an iron lung on display. Nearly \$5000 in pledges for Polio Plus were secured and then matched by Peggy Kent's parents' trust, bringing our total Polio Plus contribution to nearly \$24,000.

Eddie Hansen took over Fellowship Committee Chair from Stan Dyer mid-year (January), and organized social events including the WWU Basketball Night, a successful golf tournament and the Crab Feed. The Rotario Dinner events were started and met with great participation.

Barry Kramer brought forth the idea of holding a wine and food event as a major fundraiser. The Club got behind this and thus was born our most successful "Grape & Gourmet" Festival. Anna Williams headed up a fundraising Wine Raffle/Auction was held in March, 2003, and netted proceeds of \$25,500. She also chaired our annual Rose Sale which was once again a success.

Ambassadorial Scholarship Committee Chair Randy Watts. And Bill Gorman headed up the Group Study Exchange Committee. Terry Brown Chaired the Youth Exchange Committee.

New members coming into the Club this Rotary year were:

Lynn Templeton, Bryant Engebretson, Dale Holt, and Jim Boyle re-joined the Club.

District Governor Kevin Shaughnessy came for his official Club Visit.

We once again participated in the Holiday Bell Ringing campaign benefitting the Salvation Army.

The Club presented a Paul Harris Fellowship Award to Dan Wilkerson for his great work with our Interact Club at Squalicum High School.

The year was closed out with a formal "Changing of the Guard" installation dinner inducting Denise Bosman as our new President.

Respectfully,
Bob Tull, President

History of the 23rd Year
Bellingham Bay Rotary Club
July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004

In-coming President, Denise Bosman, attended the Rotary International Convention in Brisbane, Australia in May, prior to taking office July 1st. The actual Changing of the Guard meeting was during a Rotary Club meeting in June.

Officers serving for this Rotary year were:

Denise Bosman, President
Bob Tull, Immediate Past President
Ron Hardesty, President Elect
Bill Unrein, Program Chair

Dennis Archer, Secretary

Orphalee Smith, Treasurer

Directors were: Barry Kramer, Bill Gorman, Anna Williams, Cy Lindberg

Priorities for the year: Increasing the General Fund; Starting and ending meetings on time; Centennial Project.

New members coming into the Club this Rotary year were: Ed Hanley, Robin Schmidt, Marjorie Brown, Scott Walker

District Governor Rob Martin and wife Joan came for his official Club Visit.

We enjoyed great social events this year, which included many Dinner Rotarios. This was the first year to begin this event.

Our main fundraising event was Grape and Gourmet.

We once again participated in the Holiday Bell Ringing campaign benefitting the Salvation Army.

The large event for this year was the Centennial Project to celebrate 100 years of Rotary. It was decided to create a lasting Rotary addition to the Bellingham Pier project. Gordon Plume worked on the design and construction. This structure was erected in the summer of 2004 and is located at the "Taylor Street" pier entry in Fairhaven.

The year was closed out with the usual "Changing of the Guard" with a lunch meeting. Outgoing President Denise presented in-coming President Ron a "customized" Monte Python – Holy Grail poster with all of his incoming offers featured as knights.

Respectfully,

Denise Bosman, President

**HISTORY OF 24th YEAR
BELLINGHAM BAY ROTARY CLUB
JULY 1, 2004 THROUGH JUNE, 2005**

This past year has been one of the best of my life. My connections to Rotary have played a very large part. The Club sent me to PETS and to the Rotary International Convention in Osaka, Japan where I met Rotarians from around the world. I met members of the international Fellowship of Motorcycling Rotarians in Chicago. I went to other Rotary meetings across this country. But there is no group of persons anywhere who is more generous, more dependable or who are possessed of a better sense of humor than our own Bellingham Bay Rotary. It has been a pleasure to act as president, and I thank the Club for that privilege.

This was our Centennial Year, one that should be remembered as the year we embarked on a new level of commitment to fund raising, to local giving, to International Service, and to the Centennial Project. We raised more money than ever before. We contributed more money to charity than ever before. And we did it with compassion, grace and teamwork.

Important goals that were met this Rotary year were:

- Centennial Project: The Taylor Avenue Gateway. The Club rallied behind the idea, raised the money, got the concept passed through the bureaucracy, lined up the materials. The Project is ready for completion as soon as the city schedules construction.
- Grape & Gourmet: This new fundraiser was a huge success, perhaps our largest ever. And now it may pave the way to greater achievement. Our final auction was a great success.
- The "Give Our Money Away" Committee gave away nearly \$37,000 to local programs. We made use of our first District Simplified Grant.
- A goal to invigorate our International Service was more than met. The Club enthusiastically stepped up. We raised enough money, and got enough Rotary partners (21 other clubs) to put together our first Rotary International Major Grant request for the Trujillo Honduras Pure Water Project. The grant is now awaiting funding.
- This current year we began work on the second grant for a similar water project in Copan, Honduras starting off with a resoundingly successful fundraiser, and strong interest from several other Rotary Clubs already.
- The process was begun to identify and sponsor an Ambassadorial Scholar, and the first application is eminent.
- The Youth and Vocational Service Committees did outstanding work, giving out a record amount of scholarships, working with high school students in the mock interview process.
- We began recognizing weekly program speakers with certificates acknowledging \$50 contributions made in their names to our own Bellingham Bay Rotary Foundation. Club members stepped up to create the certificate.
-

25 "Service Above Self" pins were awarded to members who were examples to us of how our Rotary Motto is put into effect each and every day:

1. Anna Williams for her work at the auction.
2. Frank Chmelik for his auctioneering
3. Jim Olsen for a great deal of printing
4. Tim Jorgenson for a great deal of design for printing
5. Tonja Myers for chairing the "Give Our Money Away" Committee
6. Joel Hile for his work on membership
7. Curtis Dye for chairing the Sgt. @ Arms Committee
8. Gordon Plume for lining up our Centennial Project materials
9. Brad Cornwell for his design and support for the Centennial Project
10. Carol Beecher for set up and operations of Grape & Gourmet
11. Sarah Rothenbuhler for Dinner Rotario
12. George Bowen for the Student of the Month Program
13. Barry Kramer for "his" Grape & Gourmet idea and implementation
14. Stowe Talbot for Soundings and new web page
15. Bill Gorman for Ambassadorial Scholarship application
16. Jack Grant for the restaurant part of Grape & Gourmet
17. Robin Schmidt for the wonderful Centennial Party
18. Todd Ramsey for Golf Tourney idea; Grape & Gourmet help
19. Eddie Hansen for chairing the Fellowship Committee
20. Dan Wilkerson for mentoring the Squalicum students
21. Cy Lindberg for Pure Water Honduras Project
22. Glendine Barley for Pure Water fundraiser help
23. Steve Brummel for WWU Basketball Night
24. Stan Dyer for always begin there to help

- 25. Orphalee Smith for help at auction and most other activities
-

Each officer and director was presented with a Rotary letter opener with their initials engraved in leather with thanks for their service. They were:

Bill Unrein, President Elect, Orphalee Smith, Treasurer, Dennis Archer, Secretary, Barry Kramer, Program Chair, Bill Gorman, Director: Community Service, Cy Lindberg, Director: International Service, Dick Stark, Director: Club Service, Denise Bosman, Immediate Past President.

The President, President Elect and Program Chair initiated an annual award to be given to one member of the Club who has exhibited the highest standards of Service Above Self. Rotary sometimes just reaches in and grabs you, perhaps when you least expect it. This member was touched a couple years ago in a far off place, and found himself both compelled and able to follow his heart, to dedicate his time and assets, and to rally others to the cause, all to the betterment of those far less fortunate than himself. His tireless dedication to this cause, this project, has been an inspiration not only to members of this club, but clubs across the country. It has been my pleasure to get to know this man, and I hope our association with Pure Water for the World extends far into the future. Of course I am speaking of Bob Moles, who is the first recipient of the "Pinnacle Of Service Award."

Respectively,
Ron Hardesty, Centennial President
Bellingham Bay Rotary

**History of the 25th Year
Bellingham Bay Rotary Club
July 1, 2005 through June 31, 2006**

Bellingham Bay Rotary Club year 2005/2006

President	Bill Unrein
Vice President	Barry Kramer
Program Chair	Orphalee Smith
Past President	Ron Hardesty
Secy	Dennis Archer
Treas	Bob Yost
Director	Dick Stark

Director	Todd Ramsey
Director	Sarah Rothenbuhler
Director	Stowe Talbot

05/06 was the second year of collaborative efforts of the boards lead by Ron Hardesty, Bill Unrein and Barry Kramer. It included finishing the 100th Rotary International Tribute by BBRC, the Centennial Project Arch at entrance of Taylor Dock. As a result discussions between the Presidents of Bellingham Bay Rotary Club, Bellingham Rotary Club and Sunrise Rotary Club it was decided to begin what would be a 3 year collaborative project between the clubs to rebuild the Bellingham Food Bank. The budget for BBRC was set at \$100,000 and Bill Geyer stepped in as Chair for the project with a great deal of assistance by Phil Hageman. We also continued our support of Pure Water for the World which was spearheaded by Bob Moles. Bucks in the Bay were donated, and matched by the club (total of \$20,000) for the Red Cross as a result of Hurricane Katrina.

Events for the year included The Tournament for the Children (Golf Tourney), Grape and Gourmet, BBRC Club Golf Tourney and several Rotario Dinners. Tour and lunch at Georgia Pacific as a site visit.

Respectfully submitted

Bill Unrein

**History Of The Twenty-Sixth Year
Bellingham Bay Rotary Club
July 1, 2006 through June 31, 2007**

In-coming President Barry Kramer attended the Rotary International Convention in Copenhagen, Denmark prior to taking office July 1st. As with every large organization the wheels of progress sometimes move rather slowly, so this year our history included finishing two major projects.

The Taylor Street Dock Gateway was spearheaded by Ron Hardesty and Gordon Plume. This Rotary International 2005 Centennial Project took over two years from inception to completion. Since the completion of the project, local residents and tourists to our town can see what Rotary can do when given the opportunity.

The second was the Pure Water for the World Honduras water filter project. Two Rotary International Grant applications had been submitted over the previous two years and it was now time to get it started in Honduras. With leadership from Bob Moles and partnerships with Copan Ruinas and Trujillo Rotary Clubs in Honduras, the proper papers were signed and the projects were started.

With the following board members having a "let's get it done" attitude and the "Lead The Way" theme from RI President William Boyd, Barry Kramer President, Orphalee Smith President Elect/Vice President, G. Dennis Archer Secretary, Bob Yost Treasurer, Tim McEvoy President Nominee, Steve Brummel Club

Service Chair, Terry Brown Community Service Chair, Sarah Rothenbuhler Youth/Vocational Service Chair and Todd Ramsay International Service Chair, all did "Lead The Way," and got a lot of things done.

Grape and Gourmet, BBRC's annual fundraiser brought in most of the funds again this year. Through the club's fund raising and hard work throughout the community, we were able to give back more than \$30,000 to local non-profit groups and \$25,000 to international projects while adding to the Bellingham Bay Rotary Foundation which was at a level of \$69,000 as of June 31, 2007.

The Interact Club at Squalicum High School advised by Dan Wilkerson, was very active and took on seven community projects throughout the year. The most memorable was the baskets put together on Mother's Day for women and their children displaced by domestic violence.

Student of the Month scholarships were given to Squalicum High students that excelled in community services.

District 5050 Governor Rod Thompson made his annual trip to BBRC and inspired us with his Rotary wisdom. Assistant DG Bob Morse made several visits to the Club.

BBRC Rotarians made it to the District Conference held at Harrison Hot Springs and President Elect Orphalee Smith attended the RI Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah
The Club retained it's "Fun Club" status with entertaining meetings and programs, a golf tournament, Rotario Dinners, the annual Crab Feed and well attended Firesides throughout the year, and in July of 2007, Orphalee Smith was officially installed as BBRC President.

Respectfully,
Barry Kramer, President

History of the 27th Year
Bellingham Bay Rotary Club
July1, 2007 to June 30, 2008

In-coming President Orphalee Smith attended the Rotary International Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah just prior to taking office July 1st.

The actual Changing of the Guard evening meeting took place the Bellingham Golf & Country Club.

Officers serving for this Rotary year were:

Orphalee Smith, President
Barry Kramer, Immediate Past President
Tim McEvoy, President Elect
Tonja Myers, Program Chair
Dennis Archer, Secretary
Bob Yost , Treasurer

Directors were: Stephanie Sadler, Youth Service
Stew Ellison, International Service
Steve Brummel, Club Service
Terry Brown, Community Service

New members coming into the Club this Rotary year were: Lesa Boxx, Joe Hoppis, Jim Johnson, Marla Sanger, Joel Hile, Henry Lee, Doug Wight, and John Stewart.

Patti Imhof served as Sgt At Arms.

District Governor John Bosch came for his official Club Visit.

We enjoyed great social events this year, which included Golf Day and meeting at the Lake Padden Golf Course, Rotario Dinners including one hosted by Lesa Boxx and one with a Russian Theme at Stowe Talbot's home, WWU Basketball Social,

Our main fundraising events were Grape & Gourmet which generated \$58,000, and Brewers By The Bay with Ron Hardesty and his band providing entertainment.

We once again participated in the Holiday Bell Ringing campaign benefitting the Salvation Army.

\$39,000 was allocated to be given to a variety of local organizations designated by the Giving Committee.

A "Hands-On" work project at St. Francis was successfully completed.

An international service highlight was a Rotary International Foundation grant-supported clean water project in Trujillo, Honduras. \$14,000 was contributed and qualified us to make every club member a Paul Harris Fellow as of 12/31/07.

Respectfully,

Orphalee Smith, President

**History of the 28th Year
Bellingham Bay Rotary
July 1, 2008-June 30, 2009**

The 2008-9 Rotary Year started out with an unprecedented event for our club. Thanks to the hard work of Orphalee Smith (2007-8 President) and Stan Dyer our club was able to open the Rotary Year with a celebration that was highlighted by all of our members becoming Paul Harris Fellows. What a great way to start the year.

The Officers and Board were as follows:

Officers

Tim McEvoy	President
Tonja Myers	President Elect
Orphalee Smith	Past President
Bill Gorman	Program Chair
Orphalee Smith	Treasurer

Board

Christine Palmerton
Stephanie Sadler
Matt Rose
Stew Ellison

It was a big year for our club. We were able to raise over \$80,000.00 that went to support our projects. Our big fundraisers were the Grape and Gourmet Event that was held once again at the Lakeway Inn, the Brewers by the Bay event which was held at the Farmer's Market and the various Dinners Rotario which were graciously hosted by several of our members.

Those funds went for many deserving projects. We made a \$100,000.00 financial commitment to support the Hospice House. This was to be funded over three years. We made our \$33,333.33 commitment to the pledge this year. We also contributed over \$10,000.00 to finish up a clean water project that we have been involved with in Trujillo and Copan, Honduras. Bob Moles deserves recognition for his long standing commitment to these projects.

In addition we funded many smaller requests. Brad Cornwell led a team that recommended funding for the Seattle Youth Symphony, Brigadoon Assistance Dogs, GRADS Teen Parent Program, Childcare at St. Francis, Whatcom Sports Commission, Boys and Girls Club of Whatcom County, Clearview High School and Whatcom Center for Early Learning.

We were also involved in our community in other ways. We continued to support the Interact Club at Squalicum, provided scholarships for some Squalicum seniors, continued our Student of the Month program and awarded scholarships to four young people to attend RYLA.

For our "hands on" project we painted the Northwest Soccer Park Office and the Northwest Soccer Park Concession Stand.

Jim McCallum was the Membership Committee Chair and Jim and his committee did a great job in bringing in 7 new members during the year. We had 117 members as we finished the year.

In addition to all of these accomplishments we had a lot of great weekly programs and a lot of fun during our weekly meetings. The Sergeant of Arms committee continued to keep us entertained. From our International Conference in Los Angeles to our opening meeting at the Bellingham Country Club (Paul Harris Celebration) to our last meeting at Boxx Berry Farm it was a wonderful year.

Tim McEvoy, President

History of the 29th Year
Bellingham Bay Rotary Club
July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010

President Tonja attended the Rotary International Convention in Birmingham, England just prior to taking office July 1st. The actual Changing of the Guard meeting was a picnic dinner at Boxx Berry Farm that included live music by Ron Hardesty and his band.

Officers serving for this Rotary year were:

Tonja Myers, President
Tim McEvoy, Immediate Past President
Bill Gorman, President Elect
Anna Williams, Vice President/Program Chair
Dennis Archer, Secretary
Orphalee Smith, Treasurer

Directors were:

Lance Calloway, Youth and Vocational
Christine Palmerton, Club Service
Zachary Jones, International Service
Matt Rose, Community Service

New members coming into the Club this Rotary year were: Leena Kirschman, Steve Swann, Glen Groenig, Lisa Shork, Donnie Rubenack, Tony Carter, Ellen Sheen and Allen Stockbridge.

District Governor Larry Jubie came for his official Club Visit.

We enjoyed great social events this year, which included the annual Crab Feed organized by Eddie Hansen and held in front of the Bellingham Yacht Club on Eddie's boat, a dinner at Nona Rose Restaurant followed by the show "Caberet" at the Mount Baker Theater, the WWU Basketball Game Night compliments of Steve Brummel, Rotary Golf Day and meeting/lunch at the Lake Padden Golf Course, and Rotario Dinners hosted by Lance and Heather Calloway and Tim and Marsha McEvoy at their respective homes.

Our main fundraising events were again the Brewers by the Bay and Grape & Gourmet. The Brewers event saw 32 brewers participating and held at the Depot Market Square. The event raised a net amount of \$23,000. Tickets were \$25 each and all members were responsible for 10 tickets each. The Grape & Gourmet event was again held at the Lakeway Best Western Hotel and netted \$53,000.

We also participated in two hands-on projects where members helped with painting at the Pickford Theater facility, and painted, cleaned and landscaped at the Hospice House Administration Building.

We once again participated in the Holiday Bell Ringing campaign benefitting the Salvation Army.

We sponsored Heather Lewis to participate in the Group Study Exchange trip to Curitiba, Brazil, and we sent four young people to attend the RYLA weekend program.

Some of the organizations we donated funds to were Domestic Violence Sexual Abuse Services, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Camp Kirby, Pure Water for the World, Teen Grads Program and St. Francis of Bellingham.

President Tonja passed on to in-coming President Bill Gorman a "Club Vision Plan," which the Club endorsed, to help guide club activities and expenditures over the coming few years.

The year was closed out with the usual "Changing of the Guard" meeting with a picnic dinner again at the Boxx Berry Farm.

Respectfully,
Tonja Myers, President

History of the 30th Year
Bellingham Bay Rotary Club
July1, 2010 to June 30, 2011

In-coming President Bill Gorman attended the Rotary International Convention in Montreal, Canada just prior to taking office July 1st.

The actual Changing of the Guard meeting was a BBQ dinner meeting at Boxx Berry Farm.

Officers serving for this Rotary year were:
Bill Gorman, President
Tonja Myers, Immediate Past President

Anna Williams, President Elect

Dennis Archer, Program Chair

Stowe Talbot, Secretary

Orphalee Smith , Treasurer

Directors were: Lance Calloway, Lesa Boxx, Eddie Hansen, and Zach Jones. Mid year Zach was unable to continue and was replaced by Mary Humphries.

During Tim McEvoy's year as club president (2008-09) with a project started by Orphalee Smith, BBRC used our accumulated RF points to award a Paul Harris to all of our members in an effort to become a 100% Paul Harris Club. In Rotary Year 2009-10, then President Tonja Meyers expected to receive this recognition on behalf of the club at the District 5050 Foundation Dinner. We did not. In my year as President I undertook to discover why BBRC had not been awarded the Paul Harris club designation. Researching our club records I discovered that there existed a significant discrepancy between the active member record for BBRC with Rotary International and the BBRC active member record with the Rotary Foundation. Both official member lists did not indeed match our actual membership; particularly the membership list held by the RF. It proved impossible to reconcile the two lists and as such prevented our club from becoming a 100% Paul Harris club. The point became moot as the Paul Harris Club designation was replaced by the RF Board of directors later.

In the Spring of 2011, District 5050 hosted a Group Study Exchange group from Northern Ireland. Rotarian, David Falkingham was the group leader. David was a past president of the Rotary Club of Cookstown, Ireland and Assistant Governor for his District. The group focus was Law Enforcement. David was a retired Operational Police Officer for Northern Ireland. Team members were; Janet Millar from the Cookstown and Dungannon Woman's Aid where she worked as a counselor and advocate. Julie McKee, Northern Ireland Civil Service seconded to

the Department of Justice in the Parades Commission of Northern Ireland, Patricia Campbell, Teacher and PE Coordinator in the School of the coastal town of Warrenpoint, and Tracy Rosborough a Chartered Accountant from Eglinton, a small town just outside of Londonerry. I hosted David in my home for part of his visit to the US and Orphalee hosted the young woman while they stayed in Bellingham. Orphalee and I took the group to the Mount Baker Rotary Club annual auction and then out on the town to the Main Street Bar and Grill in Ferndale. It was a Grand night

District Governor Wayne Wiebe came for his official Club Visit.

We enjoyed great social events this year, which included; Dinner Rotarios to socialize and raise money for our scholarship fund, Eddie Hansen's Crab Feed, a BBRC table at Viking Night and a Club outing to a WWU Mens basketball game. Golfers also enjoyed a Club tournament at the Lake Padden Golf.

2011 was also the year BBRC Celebrated our 30th Anniversary with a Dinner at the Bellingham Golf and Country Club. We invited all of the past club presidents and almost all were in attendance. We enjoyed a wonderful evening of fellowship.

Our main fundraising events were Grape & Gourmet and Brewers By The Bay, and a Ciao Thyme Dinner with funds designated specifically to International Service projects.

We once again participated in the Holiday Bell Ringing campaign benefitting the Salvation Army.

Some of the organizations we donated funds to were BBRC's final \$34,000 installment for our \$100,000 pledge to Hospice House. We also initiated the Banyos Project in Copan, Honduras.

The year was closed out with the usual "Changing of the Guard" meeting with a dinner at the Boxx Berry Farm.

Respectfully,
Bill Gorman, President

**History of the 31st Year
Bellingham Bay Rotary Club
July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012**

The actual Changing of the Guard meeting was a special Club 30th Anniversary Dinner held at the Bellingham Golf & Country Club, chaired by Lesa Boxx.

Officers serving for this Rotary year were:

Anna Williams, President
Bill Gorman, Immediate Past President
Dennis Archer, President Elect
Christine Palmerton, Program Chair
Stowe Talbot, Secretary
Orphalee Smith, Treasurer

Directors were: Bill Geyer, Youth Service
Mary Humphries, International Service
Eddie Hansen, Club Service
Lesla Boxx, Community Service

District Governor Jane Helten came for her official Club Visit.

We enjoyed great social events this year, which included the annual Crab Feed, Rotario Dinners, Golf Day and meeting at the Lake Padden Golf Course, and a WWU Basketball Social.

We once again participated in the Holiday Bell Ringing campaign benefitting the Salvation Army.

Our finances were stable with a beginning balance of \$32,000, distributions of \$85,000 and an ending balance of \$38,000. Our two major fundraisers, Grape and Gourmet and Brewers by the Bay were both very successful. The Ciao Thyme Dinner to benefit The International

Committee was also very successful.

Rotary International is suggesting a new Organization Structure that would reorganize our committee structure and in order to do that, we would need to rewrite our By Laws. Bob Moles has agreed to chair this Project.

Some of our contributions to Non Profits:

We disbursed \$10,000 to International Projects moving forward, Trojes Honduras water project, Childhood slavery project in India. McElvoy project in Africa and Mike Hammes' Copan School project.

We disbursed 26,000 to local Non Projects.

We disbursed \$1500 to our Interact Club at Squalicum.

We gave \$6000 to Boys and Girls Club for Football Helmets.

The Bellingham Bay Rotary Foundation voted a \$4000 contribution to the General Fund for the first time.

Sorry that my report is so short. My husband was very sick during my year and passed in April of 2012.

So God Bless America and God Bless everything Rotary Does

Respectfully,
Anna Williams, President

**History of the 32nd Year
Bellingham Bay Rotary Club
July 1, 2012-June 30, 2013**

The 2012-13 Rotary year was preceded by President Elect Dennis Archer attending the Rotary International Convention in Bangkok, Thailand.

The Officers and Board were as follows:

Officers :

Board of Directors:

Dennis Archer	President	Dannon Traxler
Christine Palmerton	President Elect	Mike Werner
Anna Williams	Past President	Henry Lee
Bob Moles	Program Chair	Eddie Hansen
Orphalee Smith	Treasurer	Jim Johnson
Stowe Talbot	Secretary	

The decision was made to reduce membership by eliminating 22 members who were no longer active, leaving the current membership at 105. Strong effort was made to recruit and integrate new members into the life of the Club as soon as possible.

New members for the year were Paul Twedt, Skip Sailors, Margarita Vartanyan, Kendall Pickerill and Tyler Byrd.

Our main fundraisers were the Grape and Gourmet Event that was held once again at the Lakeway Inn, which raised \$43,800 and Brewers by the Bay held at Depot Market Square.

A Food Bank Thanksgiving Turkey Drive raised \$8000 at a single Tuesday Rotary meeting, led by Mike Hammes. 4200 people in need enjoyed a holiday turkey as a result.

\$7000 was also raised at a Tuesday meeting for Northwest Youth Services.

Holiday Bell Ringing for the Salvation Army was led by Henry Lee.

Fellowship events included Rotario Dinners hosted by members, WWU Basketball Game Night, Bellingham Blazers Hockey night, June Golf Lunch, Mount Baker Theater Night with "Nitty Gritty Dirt Band," preceded by dinner together at The Table Restaurant and the annual Crab Feed.

We were also involved in our community in other ways. We continued to support the Interact Club at Squalicum, provided scholarships for some Squalicum seniors, and awarded scholarships to six young people to attend RYLA.

We also continued our tradition of presenting monthly "Student of the Month" awards to Squalicum High School students, led by Chairman Harold Scott.

Sgt at Arms Frank Chmelik led us through another spirited year of fun at our Tuesday meetings.

President Dennis officiated at our Changing of the Guard meeting/picnic held at Boxx Berry Farm Picnic Grounds and member Flo Simon provided an expert barbeque.

Dennis Archer, President

NOTE: Sadly, Immediate Past President Dennis Archer passed away during the following Rotary year. This report is filed on his behalf and in his memory.

History of the 33rd Year
Bellingham Bay Rotary Club
July1, 2013 to June 30, 2014

President Christine attended the Rotary International Convention in Lisbon, Portugal just prior to taking office July 1st. She reported that it was a very valuable and inspirational experience. The year's theme for Rotary was "Engage Rotarians.....Change lives."

Officers serving for this Rotary year were:

Christine Palmerton, President
Dennis Archer, Immediate Past President
Bob Moles, President Elect
Bill Geyer, Vice President/Program Chair
Stowe Talbot, Secretary
Mike Werner, Treasurer

Directors were Tresha Dutton (Vocational Service), Dannon Traxler (Youth Service), Eddie Hansen (Club Service), Henry Lee (Community Service), Jim Johnson (International Service). In January, Jim Johnson could no longer complete his term due to residing out of state for the winter. Mike Hammes was elected by the Board to replace Jim as Director for International Service.

Our Membership Committee had a very active year, bringing 13 new members to the Club. Four of them, previous members who were re-joining the Club were John Stewart, Bob Yost, George Bowen, and Matt Groenig. New members were Andrea Clay, Jill Reid, Celeste Mergens, Patricia Leach, Ralph Black, Pete Charron, Eric Dyrland, Jim Haupt and Teresa Flinn.

Emphasis was also placed on membership retention. Membership committee tasks were categorized and organized into subcommittees.

President Christine placed strong emphasis on fellowship, both at Tuesday meetings as well as special events. Four of our fundraising events also served as great fellowship opportunities as well; Grape & Gourmet, Brewers By The Bay, Ciao Thyme and a Rotario Dinner. Others were our annual Crab Feed held for the first time at member Margarita Vartanyan's Winery, Mount Baker Theater Night preceded by a group dinner at The Table Restaurant, and Bellingham Bells Baseball Night, a joint event shared with the other county Rotary Clubs.

Once again, our premier fundraiser, the Grape & Gourmet wine and food event did not disappoint. It was held for the first time at the Silver Reef Events Center and was both fun and successful raising close to \$50,000.

Brewers By The Bay, held at the Depot Market Square, was again chaired by Steve Brummel and was also a fun and profitable event.

Members Mike Hammes and Eddie Hansen again led our effort to raise funds for our Thanksgiving Turkey Drive.

Patti Imhof and husband Frank hosted a fun Rotario Dinner at their home raising funds for club projects in the process, and Steve Kimberley again organized our Ciao Thyme dinner which raised funds specially designated to support our International Service Projects.

Members were pleased and proud to be able to contribute funds to a number of important charitable causes. That was preceded by our Board establishing a list of criteria for evaluating major gift proposals.

Our Charitable Giving Committee, chaired by Brad Cornwell, awarded gifts of \$2500 or less to eight community organizations.

Major Community Service contributions were given to the Interfaith Health Clinic (\$15,000), DVSA (\$10,000) and Bellingham Food Bank (\$25,000).

Youth Service Chair Dannon Traxler and her committee awarded \$1000 scholarships to six Squaticum High School students.

“Students Of The Month,” also from Squaticum received a \$100 honorarium, plus an additional \$100 to donate to the charity of their designation.

President Christine allocated \$2500 of the “President’s Discretionary Funds” to our own Bellingham Bay Rotary Foundation.

\$10,000 was allocated to our “International Service Fund” to support international projects currently being organized in Honduras, Africa and Thailand.

One of our regular Tuesday meetings was held at the Bellingham Technical College where we were treated to a box lunch and tour of the College led by the College President. Thanks went to organizers Tresha Dutton and Bill Geyer.

District Governor Dennis Boyd, during his official visit, presented a “Heart of the Club Award” to Stan Dyer, and Club Service Awards to Harold Scott and unsung hero Stowe Talbot.

All Whatcom County Rotary Club Presidents initiated a regular joint meeting to exchange ideas and support each other’s activities.

We closed out the year with an evening banquet and “Changing Of The Guard” ceremony at Northwood Hall.

Respectfully,
Christine Palmerton, President

**HISTORY OF THE 34th YEAR
FOR BELLINGHAM BAY ROTARY
July 1, 2014 through June, 2015**

The 34th year for Bellingham Bay Rotary Club was productive and fun. Charter member Bob Moles served as President and returned to begin the year after attending the International Convention in Sydney, Australia, full of ideas and inspiration.

Officers were:

Bob Moles – President

Bill Geyer - President Elect

Dannon Traxler - Vice President and Program Chair

Stowe Talbot – Secretary

Mike Werner - Treasurer

Christine Palmerton - Immediate Past President

Five Board Directors were:

Tresha Dutton, Glen Groenig, Mike Hammes, Terry Brown and Jill Reid. Sgt. At Arms Flo Simon made weekly fines a painless and hilarious exercise. Bill Gorman served our District #5050 as Assistant District Governor.

Special emphasis was placed on development of strong committees and dependence on their work. The Club enjoyed an impressive list of accomplishments as a result. A few of the highlights included:

- Youth Service Chair Tresha Dutton and her committee established guidelines for our Interact Club Faculty Facilitator, sent a young person to RYLA, awarded five scholarships, honored nine Students of the Month from Squaticum H.S. under the leadership of Mike Bates, sponsored a Rotary Student Exchange candidate who will travel to Bolivia next year, and chartered a Rotaract Club under the leadership of Pete Charron, naming Kendall Olson as the Club's first President. Additionally Bill Gorman organized the "Youth Engaged in Service" (Y.E.S.) Program and led a group of young people on a work trip to build a school in Copan, Honduras.
- A Past Presidents Advisory Council" was formed, led by its first Chair Tonja Myers.
- Charitable Giving Grants totaling \$17,500 were awarded to thirteen organizations; Brad Cornwell Chair.
- Under the leadership of Vocational Service Chair Glen Groenig, a "Business Promo Minute" was initiated and offered weekly for a \$20 donation, giving a member the opportunity to inform the membership of their business or profession, raising \$751 designated to support scholarships to Whatcom Community College or Bellingham Technical College.
- Terry Brown's Community Projects Committee's recommendation to reserve this year's funding for a greater impact on a future year's project was accepted, and \$55,000 was set aside for that purpose.
- International Projects Chair Mike Hammes and his large committee identified five projects to pursue which included a clean water project in Trojes, Honduras, an AIDS prevention project in Lesotho, Africa, two school projects in Copan, Honduras and an anti-slavery support project championed by Jim Johnson. \$66,329, which included \$12,900 of club funds, was raised to support those projects.
- A "Short Program" was initiated and included at each Tuesday meeting providing Rotary related information.
- Bellingham Bay Rotary Club Foundation reached a funds level of over \$300,000 and expanded the Foundation's use for funding international projects.
- Successful primary fundraising events included the annual Grape and Gourmet night at the Silver Reef Events Center and Brewers By The Bay at the Depot Market Square. Additionally, the Ciao Thyme dinner for International Projects and our annual Food Bank Holiday Turkey Drive led by Mike Hammes each surpassed all previous year's funds raised.
- Eddie Hansen's Fellowship Committee organized great events including a Bellwether dinner followed by a Mount Baker Theater Beatles Tribute, a Bellingham Bells Baseball Night and the annual Crab Feed held for a second time at Margarita Vartanyan's Estate Winery. Additionally, Sarah Rothenbuhler continued her excellent job of organizing three Rotario Dinners held at the homes of Bryant Engebretson, Andy Clay and Terry Brown.
- Jill Reid became the Club's first "Social Media Manager," establishing and keeping a Club Facebook page current and informing both members and the general public of club programs and activities.

- Glendine Barley became the Chair of the Club's first "Rotary Grants Committee," preparing us to apply for and manage future grants from The Rotary Foundation.
- \$2500 was contributed to Rotary's Polio Plus Campaign, and \$10,350 went to the Rotary Foundation Permanent Annual Fund, exceeding the R.I. goal of \$100 per capita.

The Club also mourned the passing of Past President Dr. Jim McCallum, and elected to create a memorial fund within the Club Foundation, to accept contributions in Jim's memory to support the Dental Program at Bellingham Technical College, where Jim served as a Board Director.

Bob Moles,
President, 2014-2015

REPORT for BELLINGHAM BAY ROTARY

July 1, 2018 through June 2019

President Tresha attended the Rotary International Convention in Toronto, Canada just prior to taking office July 1st.

Officers:

Tresha Dutton-President

Brad Cornwell -President elect

Mike Bates -Vice president/program chair)

Curtis Dye (past president)

Tony Freeland (Secretary)

Mike Werner (Treasurer)

Tim Krell, Sean Stimac, Anna Williams, Carlye Gillespie & Jeff Clement (directors)

The following is a chronological report of the year, including photos of various activities.

Summer 2018

We kicked off the new Rotary year with a fabulous **Annual Party/Changing of the Guard celebration on the lake.**



Held our annual **Brewers by the Bay, July 2018**



Sadly, we **lost our dear member Bob Becker (see above in the fun tie-dye shirt)** over the summer, followed by past member **Todd Ramsay**.

Fall 2018

Viking Night at WWU –fellowship in support of Western athletics

SeaFeast community service organized by Tim Krell and Tony Freeland

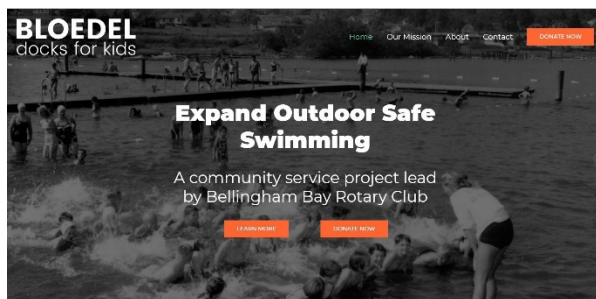
Thanksgiving turkey drive headed by Mike Hammes. 2,000 turkeys purchased for the food bank. Great work, gang!

Uptown Art fellowship event -organized by Inga Drechsel and Christine Palmerton



Superbowl Rotario event hosted by Sarah Rothenbuler (thanks, Sarah!)

Docks for Kids - Headed by **Eddie Hansen & Bill Geyer** ,work to get docks back in Bloedel Donovan park begins!



Tuesday fun-days begin with...

September "Back to school days" (I wish I would have gotten pics of us in our college attire!!)

October "Its 5:00 somewhere" at the Local Pub

November "Behind the curtains" lunch tour at Mt. Baker Theater

December "Ugly sweater contests"-I DID get pics of this!!



Winter 2019

St. Patrick's Day Rotario dinner hosted by Tim McEvoy (Thanks, Tim!)

Charitable giving awards given to.... Blue Skies for Children, Bellingham Public Schools Foundation, Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services of Whatcom County (DVSAS), Family Promise of Whatcom County/Interfaith, Faces Northwest, Habitat for Humanity, Max Higbee Center (MHC), Mt. Baker Theatre, Northwest Youth Services, Sunnyland Elementary PTA, Whatcom Literacy Council



Mt Baker Ski fellowship-Thanks, Inga!

La Zonita School Project in Honduras-Thanks Bob Moles & Mike Hammes for your leadership

Tuesday fun-days continued with "Are you ready for some football?!" Al Guido, President of San Francisco 49er's

Spring 2019

Brewers by the Bay- Thanks to the Brewers committee for all the work planning this super Saturday event!



Tuesday fun-days continued with....

April "Its 5:00 somewhere" at Twin Sisters Brewery/Bellingham Beer Garden

May "Book 'em Danno" lunch tour at Bellingham Police Department

Annual Party/Changing of the Guard: June 26th 2019

What an awesome year we had!

Cheers, Tresha

HISTORY OF THE 40TH YEAR
FOR BELLINGHAM BAY ROTARY

July 1, 2020 through June 2021

Officers were:

Mike Bates – President

Lance Calloway – President Elect

Lesa Ferguson – Vice President and Program Chair

Tresha Dutton – Secretary

Carlye Gillespie – Treasurer

Brad Cornwell – Immediate Past President

Five Board Directors were:

Tony Freeland, Erika Buse, Ian McCurdy, Steve Berringer, and

Sean Stimac Christine Palmerton served as our District 5050

Assistant District Governor

Dear members

It is hard to believe that our Rotary year is coming to a close. I have to admit when I became your President, I expected a totally different Rotary year than we have experienced. When it became apparent that we were going to evolve into a zoom meeting only concept I said to myself “yikes” or words to that effect. So, what

did we do as a membership: we adapted, we evolved and we accomplished more things than I thought was possible. Some of the things that we were able to accomplish as a club are:

- In order to make the meetings as interesting as possible, we established a solid zoom meeting schedule adding things like the mystery guest, business spotlights, quotes, some good news, and the wheel of fun raffle.
- We established the “care and compassion” component to our existing fellowship committee and engaged in member outreach to check on our members during Covid.
- We improved our internal controls for the club.
- As members we wrote cards to the residents of long-term care facilities that were on lockdown.
- You volunteered to mentor students from Western Washington University and agreed to expand that program further to include the Whatcom Community College next year.
- As members we supported the annual turkey drive, Toys for Tots and hurricane relief efforts for Copan Honduras.
- Some of us volunteered at the large-scale vaccination site in order to get community members vaccinated.
- We donated to Jeff Hills GoFundMe page and helped out with his meal train.
- We established a Stan Dyer Day of Service program to honor a beloved member of the club
- We supported the Stove Team project and purchased cookstoves for residences of Latin American countries.

- We donated to our Rotaractors Clean Water Project on the Western's Give Day.
- We granted \$15,000 to local not-for-profits to support their engagement within the community, and donated monies to Communities in Schools to purchase backpacks for Shuksan Middle School students.
- We provided seven scholarships to Squalicum High School, Bellingham Technical College, and Whatcom Community College students
- We supported our multiyear major project Docks for Kids, spearheaded by Eddie Hansen and Bill Geyer.
- Our activities were twice recognized by articles in the Peace Arch Journal once in the Bellingham Alive Magazine, as well as in the Bellingham Herald
- We gained three new members during the Rotary year and said our final goodbyes to Stan Dyer, Jeff Hill and Past President Jerry Simons.
- Members Heather Flaherty and Ian McCurdy welcomed new family members into their homes.

There were personal accomplishments by members as well:

- Heather Flaherty was named Young Professional of the Year for Whatcom County
- Guy Occhiogrosso received the Young Professionals award Top 40 Under 40 for the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives.
- Flo Simmons was named interim Chief of Police for the Bellingham Police Department

- Christine Palmerton was named as the Area G Assistant Governor
- Sue Sharp received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Bellingham Chamber of Commerce.

So, as it turns out, this wasn't the year I thought it would be, it was much more.

It has been my honor to be your President this year and I am grateful for your support.

Mike Bates

President

Bellingham Bay Rotary Club

HISTORY OF THE 41st YEAR

July 1, 2021 through June 2021



2021/22 Officers were:

Lance Calloway – President:

Lesa Ferguson – President Elect

Tim Krell – Vice President and Program Chair

Inga Drechsel – Secretary

Carlye Gillespie – Treasurer

Mike Bates – Immediate Past President

Board Members: Tony Freeland, Erika Buse, Mark Turner, John Bosh, and Sean Stimac

Christine Palmerton served as our District 5050 Assistant District Governor

When I was approached back in the early Spring of 2019 to step into the ascension to become the President of Bellingham Bay Rotary Club I was honored and excited to be considered. The President-Elect at the time told me I would have the opportunity to attend Presidents Elect Training (PETS) with the District's other presidents elect to learn more about how Rotary operates in our District and how to operate our Club but the opportunity to get the full meal deal was to attend the RI convention in Taipei, Taiwan in June of 2021. Little did we know what was around the corner in 2020.... COVID!

As with everyone, every aspect of our lives, including our Rotary lives changed. For all of the Rotary year before I became President, I had a great opportunity to learn how to make virtual Rotary meetings work from then President Mike Bates who mastered our meetings like a host of the Hollywood Squares. The PETS experience was different too, it was a few hours weekly on Zoom with other PE's for about 3 months learning a ton about what Rotary was about. There was no trip to Taipei for the RI Convention either so I didn't get the full meal deal about Rotary as the RI Convention was also cancelled.

While this was a different pathway than past BBRC Presidents, I look back on the past twelve months and am proud how our board worked together through this challenging year, shared thoughts and opinions on when and how our club is to get back to "normal" Rotary meetings. The key aspect I knew, everyone was working with the fourth point of the Four Way Test in mind... *Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?* but I had an incredible support from the board and numerous club members as we managed as a Club to make it a great year regardless of what was going on.

- The 2021/22 Rotary year basically kicked off the very last of June 2021, on the hottest day ever in Bellingham, with the dedication of the Docks for Kids at Bloedel Donovan Park. This culminated a total of nearly five years of work by our members in raising the funding and working with the City of Bellingham spearheaded by Dr. Eddie Hansen and Bill Geyer. Mayor Seth Fleetwood along with Chief of Police Flo Simon, and Councilmember Pinky Vargas all joining in the dedication with club members



- In mid- August BBRC embarked on the first Stan Dyer Day of Service. Tony Freeland led a group of courageous Rotarians to dig, cut, pull and eradicate a massive number of wild blackberries at Memorial Park. This endeavor did require as second day of service where we were joined by our Rotaract Club in finalizing the project.



- BBRC and Rotaract members in the early Fall as we began writing cards and notes expressing our gratitude and to thank our PeaceHealth care providers who are on the front lines of the pandemic caring for sick community members.
- October we were able to resume our Student of the Month program where we recognize some of the incredible students who are already setting an example of service above self. I sense all of us love the second Tuesday of the month when we get to meet and hear from the Squalicum HS student identified by the counselors.
- Whatcom County experienced record flooding in November and our Club stepped forward to help. At one meeting we donated the Bucks in the Bay for Flood Relief efforts which generated \$2000 and our BBRC Foundation approved a pledge of \$5,000. Bellingham Rotaract also contributed by hosting a bake sale up at WWU as they raised money for flood relief.
- BBRC member Mike Hammes led our Club in the **Turkey Drive 2021: Rotarians Feeding Their Hungry Neighbors** which generated more than \$32,000 for 2,000 turkeys for distribution by Bellingham Food Bank for those in need for Thanksgiving,
- In late November, BBRC held it's first gathering since the pandemic with a member social at the Bellwether Hotel. We had a good showing of members as it was so great to see one another, some folks not in person since prior to the pandemic. We were all surprised as member Mike Hammes graciously and inconspicuously picked up the tab for the Club's social.
- After 672 days of not meeting as a club we were able to host an in-person meeting on January 11th with a great turnout, mainly because Chief Flo Simon was our program. This was short lived as the COVID rates increased and we returned to Zoom land two weeks later.
- In conjunction with neighboring Rotary Clubs, BBRC provided mentors for the Whatcom CC Bachelors in Business Administration's Organizational Leadership Program. This was an ongoing project working over the winter quarter with students.
- BBRC's Community Grants Committee originally had \$15,000 budget for distribution, however our Club was the beneficiary of two generous gifts, one of \$10,000 from John Bosche and \$1550 from Martin Meade allowing for our Community Grants Committee to provide 19 grants ranging from \$1000-\$2500. These grants made an substantial impact for the local program recipients.
- In February BBRC received District 5050 Award for Community Service Project for our Docks for Kids project. BBRC also earned a Rotary Citation for achieving goals that strengthen our club. Goals include increasing Club membership, developing sustainable service projects, giving to The

Rotary Foundation, and building awareness of Rotary in your community, the credit really goes to past president Mike Bates.

- Following a great presentation from BBRC Rotaract President Reece Carpenter on the Clean Stove's Project, BBRC members working with the BBRF provided \$1,000 in funding for their project.
- March saw COVID infections decline to a level to allow us to resume weekly meetings, and it was so great to get to see one another, shake hands, and share the fellowship we had missed for the nearly past two years.
- Late March saw our club stepping up to help the Ukrainian war humanitarian efforts dedicating \$1240 from Bucks in the Bay.
- In early April we had a great visit from District Governor Bev Harrington and pressed upon us to be patient as we recover from the pandemic and highlighted the Days of Service District 5050 grants.
- The highlight meeting of the year was held and organized by Mark Turner in mid-April as 17 of our small grant recipients attended our meeting and discussed their programs and how our grant assisted them in their endeavors. Amazing to hear the impact these groups make with limited resources.
- District 5050 Days of Service- WeGrow Project is our identified project that all the Whatcom County Clubs along our Rotaract members to be involved in the project. This project will be preparing the WeGrow gardens with installation of a drip irrigation system for their beds, connect shed gutter to rain water catchment, build a new portable shed ,build a washing station and assemble two fruit boxes and build 4 benches. This is a sustainable garden that students from Options HS learn basics of horticulture, team work and how to market their produce, as well as donate fresh produce to the Food Bank.



- BBRC had its first Corporate Membership with the Port of Bellingham becoming our only new member during a challenging year. We also had two former BBRC members, John Sleeth and Dr. Ed Zech who passed on during this Rotary year.

I have to be honest, I was wondering if we were ever going to get back to “normal” Rotary meetings but as we move into the 2022-23 Rotary Year I am more than optimistic BBRC will persevere and continue to make an impact on our community. I have greatly appreciated all the kind words of encouragement and support during this more than challenging year. Thank you for this opportunity to work with such a great group of people.

Lance Calloway

HISTORY OF THE 42nd YEAR –Lesa Year

July 1, 2022 through June 2023

2022-23 Officers were:

President: Lesa Ferguson

President Elect: Tim Krell

Vice President and Program Chair: Bill Gorman

Secretary: Inga Drechsel

Treasurer: Guy Occhiogrosso

Immediate Past President: Lance Calloway

Board Members: Tony Freeland, Erika Buse, Mark Turner, John Bosche, and Josh Hungerford

Christine Palmerton served as our District 5050 Assistant District Governor



The year started off with an in person Changing of the Guards at the Bellingham Golf & Country Club. It was nice to be back together and celebrate all that is Rotary. We had about 40 members and families join us, with music by Tom Sandblom to kick off the year. It was a beautiful evening!

Our Tuesday lunch meetings began at Lombardi's. We are very thankful for all they did for us, and enjoyed the food! As meeting attendance picked up, we moved our Tuesday meetings to the Bellingham Golf & Country Club as of January 2023.

In July our first '22 – '23 new member was approved by the Board and presented to the membership in August. We also began emailing membership packets to potential members and created Rotary Cards to give out to interested individuals. As a result we had 2 additional new members this year.

Josh Hungerford, John Templeton, Tim Krell & Lance Calloway represented BBRC in the Rotary District 5050 Golf Tournament. Secrets were told and fun was had!

Service projects included gathering lap blankets for the residents of Christian Health Care Center, raising \$20,000 for the Food Bank Thanksgiving Turkey Fundraiser and participating in the April Meal Packing Day

In December we were able to resume our Squalicum Choir holiday lunch concert!



Our 2023 major project was the Lydia Place Playground. We took a trip to Lydia place in January to observe their need and plans.





And were able to award them with \$25,000 to use towards their playground reconstruction project.



Fellowship events included a potluck/social event at Mark Turner's home, a Mt Baker Ski, Los Lobos Concert & preshow dinner at Hearthfire.

We were also able to attend the David Wights Glass Studio as an off-site Tuesday Lunch meeting. It was fascinating to watch David's glassblowing techniques.

This year, the small grants committee, lead by Mark Turner, awarded \$15,000 to various recipients.

We rebranded the Wine by the Water event (now Grape and Gourmet again), and held it at the Bellwether on March 18th.

Mike Bates named as BBRC Foundation President for '23-'24

HISTORY OF THE 43rd YEAR –Tim’s Year

July 1, 2023 through June 2024

2023-24 Officers were:

President: Tim Krell

President Elect: n/a

Vice President and Program Chair: John Purdie

Secretary: Tony Freeland

Treasurer: Guy Occhiogrosso

Immediate Past President: Lesa Ferguson

Board Members: Erika Buse, John Bosche, Carlye Gillespie, Charles Walter and Josh Hungerford

I want to start by thanking all who have supported me this year. First and foremost, to the Board of Directors for putting in the time, and providing the input, to move us forward in our mission. That mission, of course, is a continuing effort to raise funds, serve the community and enjoy each other’s company in doing so. I am pleased to report that we made progress in the following areas:

- Welcoming two new members to the club and consolidated our membership list;
- Enjoyed fellowship at Christmas Holiday Rotario event that raised funds for the club;
- Volunteered as holiday Bell Ringers for The Salvation Army;
- Meal Packing Service Project with Rotary Club of Bellingham (Monday Club);
- Joined the International Project Alliance;
- Continued the international service in Copan, Honduras and raised significant funds for that effort;
- Provided food and donations to the Whatcom Community College Food Pantry;



- Provided monetary gifts to Small Grant Recipients here in Whatcom County;
- Put on a successful Grapes & Gourmet fundraiser;



- Walked with local Rotarians in the Memorial Day Parade;
- Raising funds toward the relief from the fires in Lahaina, Hawaii;
- Volunteered at the Future Bellingham Symposium at Whatcom Community College;
- Enjoyed fellowship During the 5th Tuesday event in April;

And last, but not least, Successfully hosted two international students through the Youth Exchange Program;



Thanks to all of the club members who participated in the listed events. If I were to try to identify you individually it would be the opportunity for me to miss someone and I don't want to end on that note. The appropriate ending for me is to express my excitement as to what the coming year has in store for our group. It has been my experience that we have a dedicated group of people who want to continue making a difference in our community and beyond. With an incoming

President who is a great guy with a tremendous sense of humor I look forward to assisting in pursuit of the goal of Service Above Self and having fun at the same time.

Tim