

Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon, Virtual Meeting

President: Patrick Dobbyn
Secretary: Lynda Lawrence
Editor: Peter Boekhorst

Phone: 604-356-0923
Phone: 604-868-4674
Phone: 604-462-0377

[E-mail the President](#)
[E-mail the Secretary](#)
[E-mail the Editor](#)



NOVEMBER IS ROTARY FOUNDATION MONTH

Happy Birthday	Happy Anniversary
Nov 23: Lynda Lawrence	Nov 26: Matt & Lynda DeBruyn

UPCOMING SPEAKERS:

Nov 23:	Nov 30: Malcolm Kennedy Foundation Month Presentation	Dec 7: Bev Harrington District Governor's Visit
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OUR CLUB LAST WEEK'S MEETING:

President **Patrick Dobbyn** presided.

Guests: **Warren Dale**

Program: the Fraser Valley Bandits Professional Basketball Club



Our Speakers:



Andrew Rocha
sales manager



Ricky Souza
Sr. Account Executive

The Fraser Valley Bandits are British Columbia's professional basketball team. They are the westernmost club in the Canadian Elite Basketball League (CEBL), and the first professional basketball league in BC since the Grizzlies. The Bandits have now chosen Langley Events Centre as its new home. Its upcoming CEBL season begins May, 2022.

Abbotsford Centre previously served as the team's home since July 2018 when the Bandits were launched ahead of the CEBL's

inaugural 2019 season. There are now 9 Teams Located in Langley, Edmonton, Saskatoon, Guelph, Hamilton, Niagara, Ottawa, Scarborough, and Montréal. The successful inaugural campaign saw the Bandits finish among the league's best in average attendance in 2019.

With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, basketball took a backseat to life's more pressing issues and the CEBL's second season was delayed until July when the CEBL hosted the 2020 CEBL Summer Series. The condensed season saw the CEBL become the first Canadian professional sports league to return to play following the start of the pandemic. In conjunction with the CEBL's multi-year partnership with CBC, the Bandits played in three nationally televised games. All regular season and postseason games were available for domestic and international audiences stemming from around the globe on CBC Gem, cbcports.ca and Twitch.

The arrival of the Bandits at Langley Events Centre cements the notion that Langley is the capital of basketball in B.C. through its status as the home of competitive youth basketball. It hosts the provincial high school championships, university sports, and now the Bandits. The CEBL has the highest percentage of Canadian players of any professional league in the country, with 75 percent of its current rosters being Canadians. And 400 Canadian passport-holders are playing for professional basketball teams in other countries.

Andrew and Ricky stated that the Fraser Valley Bandits pride themselves in involving the community. They are visiting all Rotary clubs from Vancouver to the Fraser Valley, are ready to act as volunteers to help out with Rotary events if called upon to do so. They are also looking for sponsors to pay for tickets to their games which they can give out to community members who have made a great contribution – for example, 2,000 healthcare workers were recently given tickets to show the community's appreciation for their work during the pandemic.

Basketball is the fastest growing sport in Canada, with 10,000 Youth registered for basketball in Surrey alone. To play basketball, equipment needs are at a minimum.

Besides a couple of hoops, all that it takes for a youngster to play is the desire and some balls [i.e., basketballs – just to make it clear - in the interest of gender equality].

Happy and Sad:

Matt and Warren reported on the fantastic project of supplying vaccination cards to senior citizens. As of November 16, they had made cards for 393 seniors (and because they give two cards to each senior, that is almost 800 cards that have been made and delivered). And that is almost 400 seniors who now have had a personal contact with, and know about, Rotary, in addition to all of those who have read about it in the two articles that were published in the newspaper. After payment of expenses, they still have enough money to pay for one Starfish Backpack which costs \$575 for the year.

Warren also had a happy but unusual story about a young lady “paying it forward”. Warren went shopping for some dog food and the bill came to \$157. He forgot his wallet, but decided he had no problem because all his credit cards were on his fancy new watch, but he couldn't get it to work. A young lady said she knew how to do it and offered to help, but she couldn't get it to work either. Warren then asked the store clerk to put the dog food aside so Adrienne would come by later to pick it up and pay for it, but was told by the clerk that the young lady had paid for it.

Warren caught up with the young lady outside and asked for her name or contact information so he could repay her but she flatly refused, saying that she did not want to give her name or contact information and that she had not donated to the Salvation Army yet this year, so this was her charitable donation. Warren said he will now donate the \$157 plus and extra \$157 to the Salvation Army in honour of the unidentified young good Samaritan.

☒ (Eric's explanation of the young lady's actions: she saw a poor old man who could apparently only afford to buy dog food, and must have taken pity on him). ☒



Report: International Committee

Ineke reported that we have already supported Shelter Box with 2 Shelter Boxes (\$2,400) this year from donations by Club members, and had \$300 “leftover” from member donations. So, the International Committee has recommended the following (our club having heard recent programs for the first three of these projects at our meetings):

- \$300 towards ShelterBox for the smaller “**Shelter Kits**”.
- \$750 to purchase five **Hippo Rollers**, at a cost of \$150 each.
- \$1,000 towards the **South Africa Water Project**: this is a Global Grant Project and many clubs will be supporting this.
- \$600 to sponsor a replacement sewing machine for **Mamma Lilly** in Uganda, a single mom of three who has been making machine embroidered pillow cases and to do tailoring work. Her sewing machine needs replacement, as it is her only means of income to keep the children in her large family in school.

Report: Starfish finances and fundraiser:

Ineke reported that funds to support the Starfish Pack program amounted to \$33,588 at the present time. A further \$25,000 will be needed to fund the program to the end of the school year.

A fundraiser will be held this Saturday, November 20, at FreshCo and volunteers are required – please contact Ineke if you can help.



Today's Quote from our President:



Submitted by Laurie Anderson