



Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon, Virtual Meeting

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FEBRUARY IS PEACE AND CONFLICT PREVENTION/RESOLUTION MONTH

Happy Birthday

Happy Anniversary

Feb 2: Eric & Urma Mollema

UPCOMING SPEAKERS:

Feb 01: Cauvery Cariappa
Effects of COVID on Vulnerable Woman

Feb 08: Sean Hogan
Membership

Feb 15: Naa Shaka
Humanitarian Project in Ghana

RI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



At the start of the Rotary year, I challenged every club to plan and host at least one practical and action-oriented Rotary Day of Service. The event should address a challenge your community is facing that fits into one or more of Rotary's areas of focus and should bring together volunteers from within and outside of Rotary.

Rotary Days of Service can motivate Rotary, Rotaract, and Interact clubs to plan innovative and impactful projects. They can showcase your work as people of action and introduce prospective members to your club.

I've been inspired by your response so far, and I want to share with you just one project that has captured my imagination.

India is home to an estimated 74 million people with diabetes, a disease that is a leading cause of death. Furthermore, about 50 percent of those people remain undiagnosed.

Rotary, together with the Research Society for the Study of Diabetes in India, saw the urgent need to diagnose, track, and treat people who have diabetes. Working together and with other organizations, we hosted a nationwide blood glucose testing camp on 29 September, which is World Heart Day.

The camp was spread across more than 10,000 sites in India, with more than 2,000 Rotary and Rotaract clubs participating in the effort. More than 1 million blood-sugar tests were conducted in a day, an accomplishment recognized by the Asia Book of Records. But more important than breaking a record is the fact that tens of thousands of people learned that they may be living with diabetes. They can now be treated for the condition, and they also have been

made aware that they should take extra measures to shield themselves from COVID-19 and scores of other diseases that are caused or worsened by diabetes.

This month, on 23 February, the anniversary of Rotary, let us celebrate with more service days, showcasing Rotary's work in our areas of focus. I look forward to hearing about your Rotary Days of Service. Please share your projects on Rotary Showcase, or browse that webpage to find inspiration and project partners. In particular, I encourage you to execute projects that focus on empowering girls, as they have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic. The Empowering Girls initiative is resonating very well with members of Rotary as well as with non-Rotarians. The governments and NGOs in various countries are appreciating this meaningful effort. Let us keep focusing on it.

I am also happy that the Each One, Bring One ethos is bringing fruitful results. Let us ensure that all club members introduce at least one person to Rotary, and that we then all work to engage new members and keep them in our clubs.

In whatever we do, remember that we must push ourselves to *grow more, do more* as we *Serve to Change Lives*.

Shekhar Mehta
President 2021-22

OUR CLUB LAST WEEK'S MEETING

President-Elect Chili Yalamanchili presided.

Program: **Clint Callison** - Insurance and Natural Disasters



Our past president Clint is the owner of **Callison Financial Services Ltd.** He and his staff are financial advisors and mutual fund investment specialists. His team of Insurance professionals can assist its clients with all of their insurance needs, including Mortgage Guard Insurance, Life Insurance, Critical Illness, Investments, Group, Commercial, Travel, Home & ICBC Auto.

Clint's Presentation

How are property insurance premiums calculated?

Each insurance company, whether it is Cooperators or whatever, is only allowed to pay out per claim a certain maximum amount (probably around \$360 million). If an insurance company had to pay more than that out on a claim, then there would be likelihood of bankruptcy. Therefore, the insurance company has to buy "reinsurance" to cover the excess. There are probably only about four reinsurance companies in the world. Reinsurance is also known as insurance for insurers. Reinsurance is the practice whereby insurers transfer portions of the risk portfolios to other insurance companies by an agreement to reduce the likelihood of paying a large obligation resulting from insurance claims, and thus is protection from large or multiple losses caused by major catastrophes such as floods, hurricanes, or major fires. Reinsurance allows insurers to remain solvent by recovering some or all amounts paid to claimants. The insurer pays part of the premium that it collects to the reinsurer, and thus the risk is spread among all the companies. As a result of this, if there are major claims anywhere in the world that are paid out by insurance companies, everyone's premiums can be increased as the risk is spread worldwide.

Another factor affecting insurance premiums is the cost of rebuilding or reconstruction. We are experiencing major supply shortages, and cost of building supplies, tools, are increasing. And the more natural disasters there are more premiums have to be paid out, and we will see premiums continuing to increase in the future. We need to change our thinking about where we build and what we build with (stop building near rivers and low lands, and don't use vinyl siding (change to cement board) and avoids cedar roofs. Years down the road it may not be possible to get insurance in areas that are situated in high-risk places, and we should keep this in mind when deciding where we should live.

It is a good idea to prepare for the possibility that your home will be burned, or if you are in an area with the risk of flood or forest fires, that your home and possessions will be destroyed; be proactive and consider putting your most cherished items in a place where they can all be retrieved quickly (such as photographs, important papers - whether physical or digital - passports, medications, cameras, etc.) and make a checklist that you can refer to so you won't forget things when you are in a time of stress.

Governments do not buy insurance, but rather self insure.

As a general rule, if you can purchase flood insurance or earthquake insurance but choose not to do so, the government will not come to your rescue as far as the damages concern caused by those natural

disasters, because you have made a conscious choice to live without it. Some insurance companies don't offer coverage for those natural disasters (Cooperators does but the fee can be very expensive).

If there are large insurance claims in one area (for example, like recently happened in Abbotsford) the insurance premiums will not go up only locally in those areas to compensate for the claims. There may be some increase, but (as noted above) insurance premiums are spread out among all those who are insured.

The fact that our homes have recently increased in value according to the BC assessment notices does not cause insurance premiums to increase nor necessarily require an adjustment to the amount of coverage that we hold, because most of the increase in assessments is for the land which is not covered by insurance. However, rebuild costs are increasing and it is important that the coverage for that expense be reviewed on a regular basis. Cooperators insurance requires that issue be reviewed every three years, and if it is reviewed and the information supplied is correct, then if the cost to replace or rebuild exceeds the amount shown in the policy, the insurance company will still cover the excess (although not all insurance companies may follow that practice).

Many homes were built at a time when the municipal bylaws did not require new homes to have sprinkler systems. However, if your home has to be rebuilt, then the municipal bylaws will require the installation of sprinklers to comply with the current regulations. It is therefore important to make sure that your policy covers that off.

It is also possible to purchase deductible insurance – that is to say, you pay an additional premium so that the deductible portion of the rebuild is also covered. This is particularly important in condominiums where part of the damage is insured the strata corporation and the deductible portion may be very high and is passed on to the individual strata owners. If the strata owner's individual policy does not cover this deductible, then they will be stuck with it (and the amount of the deductible could be as high as \$100,000).

If a tree on your own property falls on your own home it would be covered by your policy. But after the first claim your insurer would probably require you to make sure that all other trees are safe, and if you fail to do so you would not be covered for a subsequent claim. If a tree on your property falls on your neighbour's home, then it is their insurance policy that will cover it, and as a general rule you would not be liable unless you knew or should have known that your trees were diseased or otherwise in danger of falling. If a tree falls on a car, then it is ICBC that covers it and not your insurance policy.

Happy and Sad

Several members donated happy dollars for Clint's excellent and informative presentation, and in honour of Betty Leven's birthday on January 20.

Fine master

Almost everyone was fined \$2 because they couldn't say for sure that they had in the past three years checked with their insurance agent to make sure that the replacement cost of their home had been reviewed on their insurance policy.

In case you missed it, the following article about our vaccination card project for seniors was published in the January, 2022 edition of the **Peace Arch Journal. Meadow Ridge**

One night in late October, Matt DeBruyn, a long-time member of the Meadow Ridge Rotary Club, received a call from Warren Dale whom Matt calls “the best non-member-Rotarian he knows”.

During the day, they had been talking about how happy two elderly friends of Matt had been with the laminated, wallet sized BC proof of vaccine cards that Warren had made for them. So much better than the big pieces of paper, and easier for them to use than downloading the proof on their cell phones! When Matt answered the phone that night, Warren said: “I have an idea for a great Rotary project: how about offering wallet sized laminated proof of vaccination cards for all the seniors in Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows, at no charge?” Matt loved the idea and sent out emails and contacted the local newspaper that ran an article about it.



The demand was overwhelming, and during the next three weeks they made, and mostly hand delivered, laminated cards for more than 400 seniors! Warren printed and laminated the cards, Matt took care of taking information from, and delivering the cards to, the delighted seniors, and a former Rotarian Kevin Nosworthy loaned some of the equipment needed for the project. People were so thankful that many donated to the cause. Eventually, the donations outstripped the expenses to such an extent that the project resulted in a special unexpected donation to the Meadow Ridge Club’s Starfish Backpack Program of almost \$1,100.



Kevin Nosworthy, Warren Dale and Matt DeBruyn