



Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon

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MARCH IS WATER AND SANITATION MONTH

Happy Birthday

Mar 11: Patrick O'Brien

Happy Anniversary

UPCOMING SPEAKERS:

Mar 07:

Mar 14:

Mar 21:

RI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As we planned for this Rotary year, I could have never "imagined" the breadth of stories we would encounter nor the scope of the people we would meet.

I find oxygen in sharing time with our members — hearing their truths and learning about their personal journeys and their deepest desires for goodness.

And so it was that I encountered two very different men with very similar stories.

One-hundred-year-old Genshitsu Sen is a remarkable human being and a joyful soul. We greeted each other in Kyoto, during my trip to Japan in November, with a hug and an instant connection.

Not only is Sen a former grand master of the Urasenke Tea tradition but he is also an active member of the Rotary Club of Kyoto, where he has served as club president. He assisted in the charter of the Rotary Club of Kyoto-South. And he has also served as governor of District 2650 and held leadership roles in Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation.

During that same week, I had the great pleasure to record a birthday video for a 100-year-old World War II naval hero who is an exemplary leader and who served two terms as governor of District 5810 in Texas.

Both men are decorated World War II heroes in their respective countries and share unthinkable history. And although they served on opposing sides of the war, their stories are remarkably similar — and they are both honorable men who chose Rotary to carry on lives of peacemaking.

I have been reflecting so much lately that we are all on this planet simply trying to do our best, and we are much more similar than we are different.

I feel incredibly fortunate to share in these stories and to meet such incredible people.

Jennifer Jones
RI President 2022-23

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

President **Chili** presided.

Guest: **Marilyn Sullivan** (from California)- sister of Debbie McRae

There was no program at today's meeting.

Cheque Presentation:

Mike Davies presented a cheque in the amount of \$500 to **Jodi Callaghan**, who is the Special Event Coordinator for the City of Pitt Meadows. This donation is given to support **Pitt Meadows Day**.





Pitt Meadows Day success relies on continued community support and contributions from local businesses and organizations. 2023 will mark the 82nd year of this free family event which is held on the first Saturday in June of each year (this year, being June 3).

The event kicks off with the Lions Club pancake breakfast which is held in the Heritage Hall between 8 AM and 10 AM. Between 11 AM and 7 PM activities include Kids Zone, artisans, exhibitors, entertainment, family friendly beverage garden, food trucks and more (at the Harris Rd. Park). The Pitt Meadows Day parade starts at 11 AM. Between 5 PM and 7 PM is the salmon and chicken barbecue where the food is served at the Heritage Hall (eat in or take your dinner back to the beverage garden), and enjoy live music until 7 PM. Last, but not least, is great fireworks display at 10 PM at the Pitt Meadows Athletic Park on S. Bronson Rd.

Club Business

At last week's meeting, guests Atania Kharma and her sister Judy Kharma-Morale spoke to us and were seeking advice and guidance in setting up, or getting into contact with, some group or organization that can collect and distribute resources for those that need it so badly in Syria. They have been in touch with an organization in new Westminster called "Social Forum Hope", and are wondering whether our club (through our Club's registered charity) could collect donations and give tax receipts, and then send those donations to this organization (similar for what we did with the Ukrainian refugees). Following some discussion, our club decided that we would not become involved, as we do not know what kind of an organization Social Forum Hope is (is it registered as a society? registered with revenue Canada? does it have a Board of Directors?). These things are not clear from anything on the website (which claims that it is collecting money for Afghanistan, and that "Hope is an indigenous, government registered NGO... headquartered in Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan).

The Duck Race is being organized - tickets will be sold for \$10 each by various local groups in need of funds, and they will receive \$8 for each ticket they sell. In addition, there will be a 50-50 draw which can be purchased only online. We cannot sell at a booth in any of the local malls, but we could sell at the Haney and Pitt Meadows Farm Markets. Sale of the Duck Race tickets will be available starting on March 18, and 18 groups are already signed up to sell tickets. The Duck Race will be held on Sunday, August 13, 2023.



Installation of New Executive for 2023 – 2024 and 30 + Year Celebration of our clubs Charter.

Mike gave a brief outline of tentative plans for this combined event. The meeting will be held starting at 5:30 PM on Tuesday, June 27, (in lieu of our regular Tuesday noon meeting) at Meadow Gardens Golf Club. Adrienne will chair the organization of the evenings event, and invitations will be sent out not only to club members and spouses, but also to former members of our club, and the other 2 Clubs in Maple/Pitt Meadows, as well as to district personnel. Tickets will cost about \$60 per person and the history book of our club (which is being published) will sell for about \$30. Mark Vosper has graciously been "voluntold" to MC the event, which will include the installation of our new executive followed by the celebration of our club's charter night.

Laurie will try to find as many addresses/contact numbers of former members as possible, will be circulating a list asking all current member to assist in this regard.

Happy and Sad dollars included:

Walter (while attending at the Surrey Hospital with his father who is undergoing chemotherapy) met **Lindsay Hendy**, who was president of our Club in 2012 – 2013, and is an accountant at MNP. Lindsay is also suffering from cancer, and also undergoing chemotherapy treatment.

Fine Master

Eric carried out his fine master duties in his usual innovative and fun way, by fining anyone at the meeting \$1 (up to a maximum total of \$5) who answered yes to any of the following (among various other such) questions:

- Do you own an Apple product?
- Are you a person who does not own an Apple Product?
- Are you not on our Club's WhatsApp?
- If you were inducted as a new member last week, is this your first Rotary meeting since that time?
- Are you married?
- Are you a divorced person?
- Are you neither of the above?
- Are you not here at this meeting?

Submitted by Laurie Anderson