

Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon

President: Brenda Jenkins
Secretary: Libby Nelson
Editor: Peter Boekhorst

Phone: 604-816-6961
Phone: 604-868-4674
Phone: 604-462-0377

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



JANUARY IS VOCATIONAL SERVICE MONTH

Happy Birthday		Happy Anniversary	
Jan 27:	Sharon Kyle	Jan 30:	Clint & Cheryl Callison
Jan 28:	Mike Davies	Feb 02:	Eric & Urma Mollema

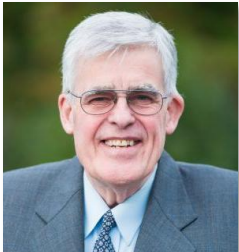
UPCOMING SPEAKERS:

Jan 30:	Isobel MacKenzie, Seniors' Advocate	Feb 06:		Feb 13:	
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LAST WEEK'S MEETING

Brenda Jenkins presided.

Program: ShelterBox Canada – **Chris Loat**:



About Our Speaker

Chris established L&L Maritime Corporation which provides Drug and Alcohol Testing for the maritime industry, and is an offshore distributor of various instruments. He joined the Rotary Club of West Vancouver in 2001, and was its president in 2004 – 2005 during Rotary's

Centennial year, celebrating the 100th anniversary of the formation of Rotary. He has served two three-year stints as District Interact Chair. Chris has been a member of the Rotary District Peace Fellowship committee since 2005. He transferred to the Rotary Club of West Vancouver Sunrise in 2011, and has served as that Club's project Chair from 2021 to date. He was a board member of ShelterBox Canada from 2010 and 2014, and has been a ShelterBox Canada Ambassador since 2009. Ambassadors are the face of ShelterBox Canada in their community and aim to raise awareness and funds about the work of ShelterBox, and provide the link between people who need support and those who want to give it.

About ShelterBox

ShelterBox has been Rotary's Project Partner in Disaster Relief since 2012, but the relationship has been long-standing, going back to the birth of the charity. ShelterBox was founded in the small town of Helston, Cornwall UK, by the Rotary Club of Helston-Lizard in the year 2000. With global Rotary support, it has developed into an independent, international disaster relief organization, providing emergency shelter, tools and other essentials to families around the world who have been made homeless by natural disaster and conflict. Rotarians and Rotary

groups across the world support ShelterBox in a variety of ways, from raising funds to providing support on the ground during its response to a disaster.

Chris's Presentation



ShelterBox believes that shelter is a human right, and works on the goal of having a world where no one is left without shelter. Shelter offers a safe and secure place that provides dignity to all persons. It has responded to 300,000 disasters in over 100 countries, helping 2.5 million people. ShelterBox has provided shelter in the following countries: Morocco, Pakistan, Ethiopia, Yemen, Chad, Libya, Somalia, Burkina Faso, Mozambique, Cameroon, Syria, and others. For its efforts, ShelterBox has been nominated twice for a Nobel Peace Prize. It is currently trying to get access into Gaza to provide disaster relief. In doing so, it does not get involved in politics but remains neutral.

ShelterBox has procurement and storage hubs in various locations, including Panama, Dubai, the Philippines, and Malaysia and other places. This makes it faster and cheaper to provide the tents and other equipment to any part of the world. Because there is no one-size-fits-all approach to disaster, they are flexible with the aid that they offer. They listen to what is needed most and adapt their response every time. They put people and their needs at the heart of what is done. A big part of that involves building local partnerships. It helps them to understand the local

contexts, and access local networks and supplies (which also helps the local economies).

They try to reduce their impact on the planet by sending fewer items by air. Working with partners allows them to offer the aid that is needed when it is needed. Every community is different, so ShelterBox assesses the needs in each location where the relief is provided. Some locations do not need a shelter box, and the type of equipment provided is therefore tailored to the particular location. That might mean providing tents, tarpaulins, blankets, mosquito nets, water filters and solar lights. It might mean supporting people with access to cash or vouchers. With this, they can choose the items they need most or pay for repairs on their homes. This respects their wishes and supports the dignity of those affected by the disaster. It also helps kick start local economies. And it might offer more durable shelters where communities are likely to be displaced for a long time. ShelterBox always goes back to the location after providing the relief to assesses how they did, which enables them to be as efficient as possible.

What is in a shelter box?

ShelterBox kits usually include tarpaulins which can be used to secure roofs and other shelters, and this encourages self-sufficiency. Tents are now usually made out of white material (they were originally green) and this helps them to stand up longer in various heat and other environmental conditions. In addition to water purification devices, and pots and pans, etc., the lanterns or other lighting devices now come equipped with a recharging device that allows cell phones and other electrical devices to be recharged as necessary.

However, shelter is much more than just a roof. It is the foundation for family and community life. It is a place to feel safe and, in addition to providing protection from harsh weather, helps to preserve dignity. Emergency shelters can also prevent communities from scattering. This means people stay connected. When you don't have to worry about where to sleep at night, you can think about tomorrow. Recovery doesn't happen overnight, but a dry and warm place to sleep, prepare meals and be with your family, is a vital first step.



Gold Shelter Box Hero for 2022-2023

Our Ridge Meadows Rotary Club received recognition as a Gold Shelter Box Hero for 2022-2023. Clubs are recognized based on the total annual giving throughout the year. There are three ShelterBox Hero levels: bronze (\$1200 plus), Silver (\$3600) and Gold (\$6000).



Meadow Ridge Rotary Club Shelter Box Encampment

Ineke told us of our Club's involvement in 2009 just after the Haiti disaster, in a ShelterBox awareness and fundraising campaign, and showed us pictures of that event.



We set up ShelterBox tents in the Maple Ridge Town Square, and members of the local Boy Scouts slept in them overnight. Rotarian Patrick O'Brien also slept there overnight with his children. Donations were made by local businesses and community members. As a result, over \$50,000 was raised for ShelterBox.

Starfish Program Donations



Ineke advised that we received for our Starfish Program \$5,000 from Prospera Credit Union and \$6,000 from Sysco (through their Annual "Nourishing Neighbours Campaign"), that will be presented to the club Tuesday Feb. 6th.

Submitted by Laurie Anderson

CLUB CALENDAR:

Mar 2, 2024 - Grants Management Seminar
Silver Reef Casino Resort

Apr 13, 2024 - District Assembly - Kwantlen Polytechnic
Langley Campus - new location!