

Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon

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FEBRUARY IS PEACE BUILDING AND CONFLICT PREVENTION MONTH

Happy Birthday	Happy Anniversary
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UPCOMING SPEAKERS:

Feb 27: Induction of Susan Pynn	Mar 05: Chad Neufeld Community Garden donation	Mar 12: Glenn Laughlin
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LAST WEEK'S MEETING

President **Brenda Jenkins** presided.

Guests:

Sophie Mira, granddaughter of Debbie MacRae.

Morris and Lou Henderson, Rotarians from the Camrose Alberta Rotary Club, visiting their family in Pitt Meadows. They visited with us for a second time, and after the meeting went again to help assemble the Starfish food packs. Morris is the treasurer of the Camrose Daybreak Club that meets Tuesdays at 8:00 a.m., and Lou is the treasurer of the Rotary Club of Camrose which meets at 11:45 am every Monday. **Lou's Club will be celebrating its 100-year anniversary at a Gala to be held on April 27, 2024.**

[The Rotary Club of Camrose was chartered on March 24, 1924 with eighteen members – it was the smallest community in the district to have a club. At the time, Camrose had a population of 2,000 with many other service, religious, ethnic, and profession-related clubs. In spite of its small population, the town was considered because it was such an important railway centre with considerable jobbing and it had a reputation for progressive, alert businessmen.]

Cheque Presentations

Community Services Chair **Mike Davies** presented a cheque in the amount of **\$500 to Jodi Callaghan in support of Pitt Meadows Day**, which will be held as usual on the first Saturday in June. Jodi is the Special Event and Volunteer Coordinator for the City of Pitt Meadows. This year the celebrations of Pitt Meadows Day will relocate to a new event location (at the Pitt Meadows Athletic Park on S. Bonson Rd., which will offer more event space and



parking), an updated parade route, and the introduction of a drone light show at the end of the event in lieu of the traditional fireworks display that has been cancelled due to firework bans in recent years. Approximate 7,700 people attended last year, and they hope to increase the number of attendees to celebrate this community tradition which is celebrating 83 years in 2024. The parade route will now start on Harris Road at the Civic Centre near City Hall and will end at the Pitt Meadows Athletic Park.



Ineke Boekhorst, chair of the Starfish Committee, received a cheque in the amount of **\$1,725 from Neerje Harvey**, President of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Local 622, **and Anji Rutquist**, **CUPE-622** Recording Secretary, Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows Municipal Workers Union. Members of Local -622 took on the Starfish Program as a recipient of their charitable donations. CUPE 622 represents approximately 650 CUPE members, working in Pitt Meadows and Maple Ridge. City workers fix roads, provide emergency care, test drinking water, connect us with library resources, run ice rinks, lead community workshops, and much more, and Ineke thanked the CUPE members for their generous contribution.

Happy and Sad Dollars included:

Ken Holland, Assistant Governor of our Area M (who attended PETS with President-Elect **Laurie Anderson**, and **Lurinda Rinehart**, President-Elect of the Haney Club) was happy to go to the training seminar at the Sea Tac Airport south of Seattle on February 16, 17 and 18. Ken said that even though this was his third time at PETS, he was happy to have learned something new again.



Laurie Anderson also enjoyed the PETS experience (for his second time around) and thanked the Club for making this opportunity possible and paying for the approximate \$1,250 cost of the three-day training seminar for Presidents-Elect. He also thanked Ken for doing all the driving in his car as they carpooled to the event.



He was especially impressed with the talk given by **Past Rotary International President Jennifer Jones**. She told us of her experiences during her term as President of RI, including her visit to a slum in Afghanistan with volunteers to administer the polio vaccine to young child who lived with his family in abject poverty in a "house" with no roof and only a dirt floor.

Laurie hoped that a video of her talk would be available to show at one of our Rotary club meetings.

Lynda Lawrence was happy to have recovered somewhat and is now able to walk better.

Our love and thoughts go out to our Club member **Deborah Hyslop**, who passed away last Friday.

Program: Rotary Friendship Exchange

Friendship Exchange is an international exchange program for Rotary members and friends that allows participants to take turns hosting one another in their homes and clubs.

Our guest speakers today were Danielle Mullen and Sean Hogan.



Danielle Mullen is a member of the **Rotary Club of La Conner**, Washington, and is the **District 50-50 Rotary Friendship Exchange Chair**. Danielle explained to us about Rotary Friendship Exchange and how we can participate, travel, discover different cultures and communities in a unique way, make lifelong friends, and enjoy Rotary fellowship while sharing projects and ideas.



Sean Hogan is the Treasurer of the **Pacific Northwest Passport Rotary Club**, and Past District Governor (among other numerous positions that he is held since he joined Rotary at the age of 27).

He talked about his 2014 friendship exchange to New Zealand and showed us slides of his trip that he and his wife enjoyed together.

He stayed with four different families, visited a horse farm and a sheep farm where they witnessed sheep shearing, attended cultural performances such as those put on by the Maoris, visited the spot where the outdoor scenes of the Hobbit movie was filmed, and visited Opossum World in the city of Napier.



Rotary International has a handbook that explains the Friendship Exchange program. Each Rotary District does it a little differently, but we can call upon our District Chair who will communicate with us about potential districts to travel to. Once the District is chosen to partner with, word is distributed via the clubs that are seeking participants. Each participant funds his or her own way. Both couples and singles are welcome. A Rotary Fellowship Exchange (RFE) generally lasts about two weeks. Around 8 to 12 Rotarians form a team, which includes a team leader. The team lands at the predetermined date in the host country, and is hosted by local Rotarians. The team is home stayed, usually changing host homes every few days. Several communities are visited. The host Rotarians show their guests local sites of interest, parks, museums, things they are proud of. The host generally cover lodging and home meals. Transport, admissions or extraordinary costs such as restaurant meals are covered by the guests. The visit is then reversed with the foreign district visiting ours (of course, the foreign district could visit here first). RFE participants are expected to host for a few nights and participate when they visit here.



President's Quote for the Week:

Submitted by Laurie Anderson

Note: the following is part of a touching blog written by Sean Hogan, and found at <https://blog.rotary.org/2023/02/06/gratitude-over-grief>



Rotary Voices

Gratitude over grief

Feb 6, 2023 - By **Sean Hogan**, past governor of **District 5050** (British Columbia, Canada; Washington, USA) and member of the **Rotary Club of Pacific Northwest**.

I lost my wife, Carol, to cancer last June. It was unexpected and quick – two weeks from diagnosis to when she passed, the day before her 61st birthday. We had 42 wonderful years together and three children who grew into amazing adults. Rotary has been a big part of our lives since I joined at age 27. It's given us friends and opportunities that we would never have had otherwise, including when I (we) served as District Governor in 2012-13 (Peace Through Service). One of those opportunities was to be part of Rotary service projects in Kenya starting in 2009. Each of our children joined us on separate trips, and it was life changing for all of us.



The project we've been doing in Kenya is called ARES (the African Ruggedized Education System), and our philosophy is that if you truly want to change the world, you begin by educating the children. Remote rural schools often have limited access to books, paper, and writing materials, as well as intermittent power and no internet access.....

An ARES server is installed in each school along with laptops, a projector, and speakers. The server contains thousands of video tutorials and books. We install an ARES server in a school along with 20 laptops, a projector, speakers, earplugs, and mesh network units to share the wireless access throughout. Everything runs on rechargeable batteries, so if the school loses power, the system still operates. The project also provides training and support for teachers through local teams to ensure sustainability. ARES has concentrated efforts in the Laikipia region of central Kenya. With the completion of a district grant in January, it is now in 40 of 120 secondary schools in the region, with the next phase to target 100 more schools.

In January 2023, I returned to Kenya with our sons (our daughter was unable to join us). Until this year, we had only installed ARES computer labs in secondary schools, but we had been asked to install one in the local community library. Carol and I were on the team that worked on the library when it was opened in 2011. She was part of the library team that provided shelving and 8,000 books. When I heard of the request, I agreed to donate the cost of an ARES system to the library in Carol's name.

On 16 January of this year, the ARES computer lab was officially opened with a dedication ceremony, a plaque to Carol and the planting of 10 trees. I returned to the library a few days later, and the computer stations were filled with young students eagerly using and enjoying the laptops.

It was both a good and a difficult day for me, but it strengthened my appreciation for the opportunities and the life that Rotary has given to us. As anyone who participates in a Rotary project will know, we get back as much or more as we give to the people and communities we help.

Before she passed, Carol asked me to focus on gratitude over grief. Rotary, our ARES project, and our family and friends have been helping me to do just that. To use a common Swahili saying – Asante Sana. Thank you.

Celebrate Rotary's 119th anniversary

on February 23, 1905, four men – Paul Harris, Gustavus Loehr, Silvester Schiele, and Hiram Shorey – gathered at Loehr's office, Room 711 of the Unity Building in downtown Chicago, for what would later be known as the first Rotary club meeting.

Rotary Becomes Intercontinental

On 1 August 1912, the Rotary Club of London, Greater London, England, became the first Rotary club in Europe. Although Rotary had already become international in April of that year with the chartering of the Rotary Club of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, the club in the United Kingdom earned Rotary the distinction of being an intercontinental organization.

After the London members organized the club, it took a year to receive its charter. Correspondence between General Secretary Chesley Perry and charter member Arthur P. Bigelow reveals some of the club members' questions about joining and paying dues to what was then the National Association of Rotary Clubs, made up of only U.S. clubs.

Perry encouraged them to "forget that the word 'national' is in the name," noting that if Winnipeg, London, and others were to join, the association would "simply have to change its name to the Inter-National Association."

The London club, along with four U.S. clubs chartered on the same day, increased the worldwide club total to 50. Within a short time, Rotary grew to have eight clubs in England, Ireland (including what is now Northern Ireland), and Scotland. The seven clubs after London and their RI charter dates were:

- Glasgow, Strathclyde, Scotland: 1 April 1913
- Belfast, Antrim, Northern Ireland: 1 May 1913
- Dublin, Dublin, Ireland: 1 May 1913
- Edinburgh, Lothian, Scotland: 1 May 1913
- Manchester, Greater Manchester, England: 1 May 1913
- City of Liverpool, Merseyside, England: 1 August 1913
- Birmingham, West Midlands, England: 1 April 1914

Rotary's presence didn't extend to mainland Europe until the Rotary Club of Madrid, Spain, received its charter in January 1921.