

Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon

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MARCH IS WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE MONTH

Happy Birthday	Happy Anniversary
Mar 21: Debbie MacRae	

UPCOMING SPEAKERS:

Mar 19: Tara Brandolini Sunwood Retirement Community	Mar 26: Shelly Shmidov & Sharon Pathipati YAIL Students	Apr 02: Magda Romanow Katie's Place
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LAST WEEK'S MEETING

President **Brenda Jenkins** presided.

Guests:

- Rick Howard**, member of the Haney Rotary Club
- Bonnie Telep**, membership chair of the Haney Rotary Club
- Terri Peacock**, member of the Haney Rotary Club
- Wayne Morrison** – was an acquaintance of Deb Hyslop. Wayne's granddaughter may be interested in a Rotary exchange.

Haney Rotary Club - Pub Night

Rick, Bonnie and Terri, our Rotary friends from the **Haney Club**, invited us all to join with them to have some fun and help raise some money to help their club help our community.

It will be held on **April 17, at the Witchcraft Pub** (at "the Witch") located at 22648 Dewdney Trunk Road, Maple Ridge. Rick noted that their Lady's Night was cancelled this year (although there may be plans to bring it back), so they are hoping for this to be a successful fundraiser. In return, they will encourage their club to support our Wine Fest. The cost is \$50 per person.

THE ROTARY CLUB OF HANEY PRESENTS ***PUB NIGHT*** & PIZZA BUFFET. THE WITCHCRAFT PUB, 22648 DEWDNEY TRUNK ROAD. 17 APRIL 2024: 6-10PM. \$50. HELP US RAISE MONEY FOR OUR COMMUNITY ROTARY PROGRAMS!

Program: Glenn Laughlin: "Everything Irish"



About Glenn

In February, 2024, **Glenn Laughlin** joined Centra Lawyers LLP, the law firm of our club members Eric Mollema and Adrienne Dale, as a certified family law mediator, family arbitrator, and parenting coordinator. He has practised in other fields including business and corporate law, estate litigation and residential real estate. He obtained his BA in 1990 at the University of Saskatchewan, and a Master of Science Degree (M.Sc.) at the London School of economics in London, England. (He then embarked on a spiritual journey that eventually led him to become a law student.) He obtained his LL.B. in 1994 at UBC. He was admitted to the bar in Saskatchewan in 1995 and in British Columbia in 1996. Before joining Centra Lawyers, Glenn practiced at his own law firm, Laughlin & Co., in Port Coquitlam.

Glenn's Irish Journey

With St. Patrick's Day around the corner on March 17, Glenn told us about "Everything Irish", and his trip to Ireland where he spent several weeks getting to know the country and its people (and even learning a few words in the traditional Irish language). The Greek and Irish languages are two of the oldest languages still spoken in Europe. ("Irish has the earliest attested vernacular European literature outside the classical world of Greece and Rome".)

The Irish language, known as Gaelic, is indigenous to the island of Ireland, and was the population's first language until the 19th century, when English gradually became dominant. Today, Irish is still commonly spoken as a first language only in a couple places, in which only 2% of Ireland's population lives. There are only about 100,000 people who still speak the language.

The Irish do love their beer (and "drink like fish"). Glenn found the Irish people to be incredibly friendly but they are also reserved; "They won't tell you their personal secrets unless you get to know them well over a few pints".



Glen further says, "If you go to a pub with seven people, you will drink seven pints because each person is expected to buy a round, and after a half dozen friendly pints, they will finally let you in on their secret thoughts".

Neither Glenn nor Saint Patrick was not originally from Ireland. Patrick was born in Britain around the year 385 A.D. and at the age of 16 was captured by Irish raiders and taken to Ireland as a slave. During his captivity, he worked tending sheep. He escaped back to England, and then embarked on a spiritual journey that eventually led him to become a cleric. After becoming a priest and later a bishop, he returned to Ireland.

Like Glenn, Saint Patrick was never actually canonized as a saint by the Catholic Church. During the first millennium, there was no formal canonization process in the Catholic Church. After becoming a priest and helping to spread Christianity throughout Ireland, Patrick was likely just called a saint by popular acclaim.

(Although Glenn is a venerable lawyer and has earned his B.A., his M.Sc., and his LL.B by dint of his hard work, he has so far not been blessed with his St. or his Bl. from the Catholic Church or by popular demand).

An Irish Joke:

Catholics: Why should we make you a saint?
 Patrick: I got rid of all the snakes in Ireland.
 Catholics: Ireland doesn't have snakes.
 Patrick: You're welcome.

St. Patrick's Day is actually a bigger deal in North America and other places than it is in Ireland. In the United States and Canada people are very proud of their heritage, and emphasize their ethnicity. Says Glenn, "In Ireland, they don't wear nationalism on their sleeve (or head or feet). They just celebrate Irishness. They just want to have fun with it." "In Ireland, everyone living there is considered Irish no matter where you come from. If an Irishman moves to France, then he is considered French." Most people of Irish descent actually live outside of Ireland. In the mid-1800s with the potato blight and the Irish potato famine, nearly 2 million refugees from Ireland came to the United States.

More than just pestilence was responsible for the famine. The political system ruled by London and economic system dominated by Britain absentee landlords were co-conspirators. For centuries, British laws had deprived the Ireland's Catholics of the rights to worship, vote, speak their language and own land, horses and guns. Under armed guards, food convoys continued to export wheat, oats and barley to England while Ireland starved. Today, in terms of GDP per capita, Ireland is ranked as one of the wealthiest

countries in the OECD and the EU-27. Ireland is liberal in its thinking and its policies. For example, in a Republic once dominated by the Catholic Church, it became the first country to legalize gay marriage by popular vote, and has an openly gay head of government.

Happy and Sad Dollars and Club Business

Walter is still accepting money for a Club donation to Katie's Place in memory of Deborah Hyslop.

Debbie reminded us that we need sponsors for Wine Fest. Tickets for that event (which are being sold for \$50 each) are now available for purchase. Silent auction items are also needed. Each club member is asked to donate a bottle of wine for the Club's silent auction item (or \$20 in lieu thereof, so that the club can purchase one for you). Our guest Rick Howard donated \$20 for the purchase of a bottle of wine for the event.

Eric just got back from Belize last week, **Ineke** is going there in April on a Rotary project, and **Debbie** is going to Ireland in September.

Yousef (whose son just turned 12) will be our MC at the Wine Fest.

April 6 will be the Rotary District Assembly. Those wishing to go should immediately give their names to our Secretary Libby so that she can register everybody "in one fell swoop".

Leslie's joke for the day

"I accidentally handed my wife a glue stick instead of her Chapstick. She still isn't talking to me."



"That's a glue stick in my purse Dear, not lip balm."

(That will teach him not to rifle through his wife's purse!)

President's quote for the Day:



Leslie Michael contributed the following "Animal School Fable" for our reading enjoyment:

"The Animal School" Fable: An adaptation of George Reavis' fable. The Animal School was originally written in 1940, when he was superintendent of the Cincinnati Public Schools.

The animals organized a school to help their children deal with the problems of the new world. And to make it easier to administer the curriculum of running, climbing, swimming and flying, they decided that all their children would take all the subjects. This produced some interesting issues.

The duck was excellent in swimming but relatively poor in running, so he devoted himself to improving his running through extra practice. Eventually, his webbed feet got so badly worn that he dropped to only average in swimming. But average was acceptable in this school so nobody worried about that, except the duck.

The rabbit had a nervous breakdown because the other animals said she looked like a rat when she jumped in the water for swimming class and all her hair got matted down. In the climbing class, the eagle beat all the others to the top of the tree, but kept insisting on using his own method of getting there. This was unacceptable, so the eagle was severely disciplined.

And then the fish came home from school and said, "Mom, Dad, I hate school. Swimming is great. Flying is fun if they let me start in the water. But running and climbing? I don't have any legs; and I can't breathe out of the water."

The fish's parents made an appointment for her with the principal who took one look at her progress reports and decreed, "You are so far ahead of the rest of the class in swimming that we're going to let you skip swimming classes and give you private tutoring in running and climbing."

The fish was last seen heading for Canada to request political asylum. The moral of this story is:

Let the fish swim. Let the rabbits run. Let the eagles fly. We don't want a school of average ducks..

Submitted by Laurie Anderson