

Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon

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APRIL IS ENVIRONMENTAL MONTH

Happy Birthday		Happy Anniversary	
Apr 05:	Ken Holland		

UPCOMING SPEAKERS:

Apr 02:	Magda Romanow Katie's Place	Apr 09:	Susan Pynn Who's Who	Apr 16:	Sayed Atthari Empowering Young Kurdish Girls in Iran
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RI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



These are times that cry out for peace. The Middle East is in its most volatile condition in years. The war in Ukraine is the largest in Europe since World War II, and there are armed conflicts in Sudan and parts of Central Africa. Nearly every continent is experiencing a major armed conflict.

Rotary has a vital role to play in advancing the cause of peace — I often say Rotary needs to work toward peace as aggressively as those who wish to wage war. It's the spirit found in our vision statement: "Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change — across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves." We must never lose track of that last call — that to bring about change in the world, we need to foster change within.

It is up to us to model peacebuilding behavior among each other. We can do better than questioning the motives of one another and jumping to the harshest possible explanation. After hearing words that might strain or offend us, we have an opportunity to ask, with compassion and curiosity, the intent of those offending words. And then we have another opportunity to repair the breach.

If we wish to be a beacon to the world, let us start by being so to one another. Let's help each other find greater understanding and productive alternatives to words that cause hurt and distrust. And let's stick to our principles, but never doubt the sincerity of each other to end conflicts, not inflame them.

I'm reminded of a speech that U.S. Senator Robert Kennedy made on 4 April 1968, that dreadful day when the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated. Kennedy was in Indianapolis speaking to

an audience in a predominantly African American neighborhood where people had yet to learn that Dr. King had been killed.

He shared the terrible news. He honored Dr. King for all he had done for the cause of justice and peace. And then he connected with the fuming, grieving crowd by saying: "For those of you who are Black and are tempted to be filled with hatred and distrust at the injustice of such an act, against all white people, I can only say that I feel in my own heart the same kind of feeling. I had a member of my family killed." It was the first time he had spoken publicly about President John F. Kennedy's assassination. And while many American cities exploded in violence that night, Indianapolis did not.

It is in times of crisis and despair that we need empathy most of all. Empathy is the most powerful tool of peace, and it is vital if we are to take the first brave, humble steps to *Create Hope in the World*.

R. Gordon R. McNally
President 2023-24

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

Brenda Jenkins presided.

Guests:

- Keesha Dorosz** (from the Haney Club)
- Amber Chalhoub** (YES Program)
- Shelly Shmidov** and **Sharon Pathipati** (YAIL)
- Warren Dale**

Happy and Sad Dollars:

Lynda Lawrence was sad that her ID was stolen, which caused her "mucho headaches".



Several happy dollars were raised because “The Matt Came Back”



Matt's better half had troubles of her own
She had a husband that wouldn't leave his home
She tried and she tried to lure him away
He finally gave up and they went far away
But the Matt came back just the other day
We thought he was a goner, but he couldn't stay away
(With apologies to Matt's Lynda, and once again
to songwriter Laurie Berkner - for the plagiarism)

Eric Mollema's den in their new home is coming along, where he can go down and listen to his LPs.



Fines:
All about “50” today!

Ineke and Peter's son would have celebrates his 50th birthday today – anybody with kids in their 50's is off the hook; everybody else pay \$1

P&I will also celebrate their 53rd wedding anniversary this year – any members married 50 or more years, are off the hook.....all others pay \$1

Anybody, who has \$50 cash in their wallet today, is off the hook..... all others pay \$1

Those who have \$50 in their wallet today..... can buy a WineFest ticket NOW!!! \$50 each; Ineke has them!
(Thanks Laurie for purchasing one today!)

Hippo Rollers: Ineke -Video

In honour of **World Water Day** (which is an annual United Nations observance day held on of **March 22** each year to advocate for the sustainable management of freshwater resources) Ineke showed a video about Hippo Rollers, the water transporters that our Club has contributed to.



This innovation has the capability of carrying five times more water than the traditional bucket. It is easier to transport because the weight of the barrel is on the ground instead of someone's (almost always a woman's) head. Designed in Africa for Africa, the Hippo Roller is a reimagined wheelbarrow that enables women, children and the elderly to collect five times more water than a single bucket by simply rolling along the ground.



The Hippo Water Roller Project is set to reduce the suffering associated with water scarcity and lack of sanitation, while making positive strides to improve lives across Africa – especially in the rural areas and informal settlements. In these communities many people carry water to their homes often over long distances, pay heavy fees for the transportation and this has proved to be time consuming especially to the girl child. The innovation frees up more time for education, household tasks and food production.

Program:
YAIL (Youth Adventures in Leadership)

YAIL is open to participants ages 15 to 17 and is held annually. Participants are sponsored by their local Rotary club in District 5050. YAIL gives participants insight into some of the basic of what it means to and takes to be a leader. This program works to help participants become well-rounded individuals with increased perspective and enthusiasm for growth, and who can make informed decisions through their leadership journey. The event was held March 1-3, 2024.



Shelly Shmidov and Sharon Pathipati, students at Garibaldi Secondary School in Maple Ridge, participated in YAIL and spoke to us about their experiences.



Shelley said she is goal-oriented, and wishes to be of service to her community. She has been a competitive dancer, and is looking to make changes in her life following her high school challenges. Similarly, **Sharon** (who is a grade 11 student) is also goal-oriented and is focusing on post-graduation life. Her main sport has been figure skating, but she also likes reading and going to the gym.

Shelley advised that before being introduced to YAIL, she didn't know anything about the program or about Rotary. The three-day program included various speakers whom she found inspiring. She also enjoyed learning about the other participants. Sharon also was impressed with the speakers, who were very personable and taught them to develop their own viewpoints about things. One three-hour project they mentioned required them to think of a project, present it to the group, and discuss the issues that arose from the project. Learning to work with people that you have never met before was a good experience. The main topics or themes were leadership, and how to better yourself. They found the most inspiring speakers to be three graduates of the program who talked about friendships, business, and how different perspectives are important. They commented that the speakers were very interactive with the students that attended.

Shelley and Sharon are thinking of starting and Interact Club at their school. They also advised that if we got the word out about YAIL to the leadership students at the schools, they could, in turn, get the word out about the program and inspire more student participation in the future.

YES (Youth Engaged in Service)

Students throughout Rotary District 5050 are being offered the opportunity to experience the joy of serving others by volunteering in their local community and participating in an international humanitarian service project through the YES program. Students attend monthly leadership training meetings and contribute 80 hours of local volunteer service during their Junior Year—Grade 11—of high school. Each student is responsible for \$1,500 of the program cost.

Keesha Dorosz introduced **Amber Chalhoub**, a student who is involved in the YES Program. On June 22, 2024, Amber will be going to Honduras with Keesha, Rod Hughes, and Ken Holland, in collaboration with **IPA (the International Project Alliance)**.

Amber is excited to be going to Honduras, where they will work on a playground project and the painting of a school. She will also be involved in menstrual education to the local school population. Amber has volunteered through the Chartwell Senior Centre, among other activities.



The IPA is a large collaborative group of Rotary Clubs in northwest Washington State, who made a long-term commitment to helping the people of the Copan Region of western Honduras. It was founded in 2014, and its projects cover most areas of international aid, including education, health, food and agriculture. Honduras is the poorest mainland nation in Central America. Most of the indigenous Mayan people of Copan live in mountain villages under conditions of extreme poverty and deprivation. They survive on one to two dollars per day per capita, much of it earned during the coffee harvest. IPA have built or repaired many classrooms, and have ensured that every very school has working toilets in the water supply.

Club Announcements and Business

Mike Davies, chair of our Paul Harris Committee, advised that one of the five categories of recipients of the **Paul Harris Recognition**, is non-Rotarians in Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows who have been helping the community “in a Rotarian way for multiple years”. If anyone knows of a worthy recipient, please contact Mike.

President **Brenda** advised that the club will be contributing **\$10,000** to the new **Community Garden** in Maple Ridge, located immediately to the west of the Royal Canadian Legion building that is located on the corner of 224 Street and Brown Avenue. We will also be contributing **\$10,000** to the **Alouette River Management Society (ARMS)** whose fish-hatchery facility our club recently visited.

Adrienne advised that starting in April, for a four- or five-week trial period at our regular club meetings, instead of everyone ordering the food and paying individually, a buffet will be served consisting of soup, salad, and sandwiches for an all-inclusive cost of \$25 including tax and gratuity (tea, coffee, pop, and wine may be purchased separately). Those eating will pay our Sergeant at arms, with the club then paying for the buffet with one cheque. We must pay for a minimum of 15 persons - so all members are encouraged to attend and participate, and give their feedback (not the feedback ☹️) at the end of the trial run.

Lynda advised that the Wine Festival tickets are now available, and all members are urged to purchase a ticket (\$50) online or from Lynda or Ineke or other members of the committee.

Presidents Quote for the Day

Why be old and boring
when you can be young and wild like a teenager?

Submitted by Laurie Anderson