



Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon

President: Laurie Anderson
Secretary: Ineke Boekhorst
Editor: Peter Boekhorst

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

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



JULY IS MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH MONTH

Happy Birthday

July 30: Brian Bekar

Happy Anniversary

Upcoming Speakers:

July 30: Stephane Doulet
Pitt Meadows Fire Chief

Aug 06: Sean Hogan
2025 Rotary Convention in Calgary

Aug 13: Debbie Conover
RV Friendship of Rotarians

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

President **Laurie Anderson** presided.

Guests:

Bruce Pitt-Payne – (last week's speaker).

Cheque Presentation



Joanne Leginus and **Sandi Temple** accepted a cheque in the amount of \$2,000 on behalf of Community Services in support of seniors.

Joanne gave some examples of the help that these funds support, such as one person who had to leave their apartment temporarily because of bedbugs and needed short-term accommodation. Other seniors needed help to pay for prescription, eye glasses, etc.

Happy and Sad dollars included:

Ineke Boekhorst was very busy this last week working as a volunteer for the BC Summer Games that were held from July 17 to July 21. The BC Games are the largest multi-sport events in the province, and create development opportunities for BC athletes, coaches, and officials, while showcasing the sport infrastructure and spirit of each community. Over 3000 athletes attended and 19 sports events were held.

This year was the 33rd anniversary of the BC Summer Games. But an anniversary of more direct importance to our club: **Ineke** and **Peter** immigrated to Canada from Holland 45 years ago with their 4 children!

Leslie Michael (whom we all know to be a man of few words), gave a sad dollar or two with the simple explanation, "I am broke".

Not to be out done, our visiting guest **Bruce** contributed with the same number of words, "What he said".

Program: Leslie Michael's Who's Who

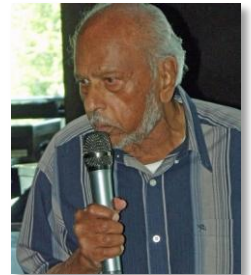
– by, of course, Leslie, in the following words (or close to it):

When I met Ivana, she said, "Tell me something about yourself". So, I told her and concluded by saying, "See, My life is an open book!". She said, "Yes. But there is only one page!".

In the next 20 minutes or so, I hope to fill in the blanks.

I came from a very poor family. Dad was a locomotive engineer. Unfortunately, he had a serious heart condition and was not given the usual promotions and often stationed in small towns with no proper healthcare. He died when he was just 40. I was five years and 10 months old. I had an older sister and brother. I was the youngest – and a twin! My twin brother passed away a few months later from complications and no medical care. I do not mention this to excite your sympathy. Our story is no different from the millions of poor people in Third World countries.

It was a constant struggle just to survive. However, it was my mom's incredible faith in God and the Blessed Virgin Mary that kept us alive. You would never see my mother without a rosary. I always loved her and still do. I could write volumes about her. It was her unshaken faith that kept us alive. It was nothing but a miracle my brother and I got an education.



One factor that confuses people is my name. Leslie Michael is my real name. It is easily explained when one considers the British were in India for more than 300 years. With their womenfolk, some 5000 miles away, they naturally fraternize with Indian women and the Anglo-Indian race was born. Children born of these unions were either Anglicans or Catholics. I am proud of my heritage. I have the best of two worlds – Great Britain and India. By 1834, Britain had conquered about two thirds of the world. From Australia to Canada, the sun never sets on the British Empire. Britannia ruled the waves! However, they needed help to maintain that huge empire. It was the Anglo-Indians they turned to. We were educated in English. We ran the railways, held high positions in the Police Force, Post and Telegraph, Schools and colleges and the British Indian Army. We complemented the British garrisons in Hong Kong and Singapore. The famed Bengal Lancers under the Queen's Gurkha Regiment were second to none. Most people are unaware we fought under the British in both World Wars. In World War II, we not only fought the Nazis in Europe and North Africa, but also the Imperial Japan. That infamous Bridge on the River Kwai brought the Japanese into Burma and they were soon threatening India. Along with Canadians, British, and Australians, we push them out of Burma and Southeast Asia.

In all fairness, it must be said that even though the British kept India under the heel of the conquerors, they did not brutalize the population as id did the Nazis in Europe, the Spanish in the New World or the French in Algiers. The British instituted political and social reforms, chief among them the introduction of parliamentary government. Today, India is the largest democracy in the world. Among the major social reforms was the abolishment of "SATI". It is the ritual where a widow throws herself on the funeral pyre of her husband. It was considered the ultimate fidelity to her late husband.

After graduating from high school, I got a job with a large printing company. I was trained on the Heidelberg printing presses while I attended night school at the Bombay School of Printing Technology. I am an avid reader spending hours in the local public library. It was common knowledge, after World War II, Germany was short on manpower. I began studying the German language as I saw the opportunity to go abroad. More than a year later, I went to the German consulate in Bombay (now called Mumbai). I explained I was trained on those German printing machines and have a good knowledge of their language. They were very kind and gave me a list of German printing companies. I dashed off umpteen resumes. Lo and behold, I received an offer from a large Printing Press company in Munich that specialized in the printing of globes, maps and atlases.

Arriving in Munich in 1964, I found the people very kind, helpful welcoming, hospitable, friendly and with a good sense of humour. However, I soon discovered that nobody was more confused by my name than the Germans. When they came to know that I hailed from India, had an English name, knew the German language well and was Catholic, they looked me up and down and said I was a funny Indian. That was not an insult. They only had one question to ask and that was, "Why are the cows holy?" I said I did not know as I am a Catholic. They just about killed themselves laughing and said, "Yes, you are indeed a funny Indian!"

I spent 3 Years in Germany, and saw a good deal of Western Europe. I would be terribly amiss if I did not mention the Dachau Concentration Camp. It is roughly 30 miles from Munich. I remember that day as if it were only yesterday. For on that day, I came face to face with evil. I saw the places where the inmates were gassed, where they were tortured, where they were hanged, where inhumane experiments were conducted, where they were shot, and those ghastly crematoriums. One cannot walk through the camp without getting emotional. Your brain is just refusing to comprehend what the eyes were seeing. Just refusing to believe that such unspeakable crimes against humanity could be committed by people, who profess to be followers of Christ. I mention this because today some people are so convinced that God saved Trump from being assassinated. I wonder if these people are aware that Hitler had at least six assassination attempts.

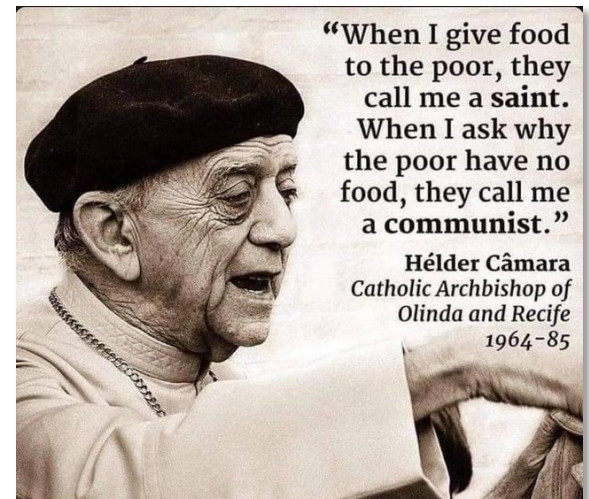
What also bothers me is Napoleon. Across Christian Europe, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, he fought 41 battles. Millions died; all for glory, territorial and strategic regions. Many other European emperors did the same. Napoleon died peacefully on the island of St. Helena.



The Battle of Waterloo

Who am I? I am just an angry old man who is saddened when he sees the hate, bigotry, racism, and the discrimination all around us. In particular the situation in the Holy Land and Ukraine. Billions of dollars in financial and military aid keep pouring in. The conflicts continue and thousands of innocent men and women are slaughtered. I also mentioned this because we no longer have the luxury of time. The **Doomsday Clock** has been moved to 90 seconds to midnight. All it would take is for one nervous soldier or an overzealous commander to make a mistake and a beautiful planet will be reduced to atomic ash in a heartbeat.

Finally, I would like to leave this thought with you:



President's Closing Quote for the Day:



Club (and other) Announcements and Events

- Jul. 27 - 10:00 a.m. Deb Hyslop Memorial Service and lunch at Vancouver Unitarian Church, in memory of Deborah Hyslop.
- Aug. 09 - 4:00 p.m. Race Duck Numbering at Brenda's home.
- Aug. 11 - 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Rotary Duck Race - Maple Ridge Park.
- Aug. 17 - 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Car Boot Sale behind Ridge Meadows Hospice Thrift Store
- Aug. 18 - 3:00 p.m. – whatever p.m.
Alex and Barbara's drop-in barbeque for family and friends (including but not limited to those of the Rotarian variety).
- Aug. 29 - 5:30 p.m. Pub Hub location TBD
- Sep. 06 – 08, 2024 - Annual Meadow Ridge Rotary Camping Weekend at Fort Langley Campground – ask Matt for details

Submitted by Laurie Anderson