



Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon

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**OCTOBER IS COMMUNITY ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT MONTH**

**Happy Birthday**

**Happy Anniversary**

**Upcoming Speakers:**

Oct 01: Teri Holland (Toastmasters) 3 Keys to Goal Achievement; Secrets of High Performance	Oct 08: Stephane Doulet Pitt Meadows Fire Chief	Oct 15:
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**RI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**



With World Polio Day on 24 October, I'm proudly rooting for Rotary as we team up around the world to End Polio Now.

I had the honor of attending a Strike Out Polio event in July at PNC Park, home of the Pittsburgh Pirates MLB team. The Rotary Club of Delmont-Salem hosted the event, which raised \$1.3 million for Polio Plus.

Later in the summer, I joined members of our Rotary family in supporting the Más Millas Menos Polio (More Miles Less Polio) bike ride. Felipe Meza Chávez and his team rode all the way from Ciudad Juárez, Mexico, to One Rotary Center in Evanston, Illinois, to raise money and awareness. The ride took 12 days, and Felipe and his team collected more than \$100,000 to support the fight against polio. It was a joy to greet them as they arrived in Evanston.

And I was thrilled to see Team End Polio raise global awareness around the 2024 Paris Olympics. This world-class roster of athletes, global leaders, and polio eradication supporters came together to advocate for a world where no child has to live in fear of being paralyzed by polio. Some of the athletes on Team End Polio are polio survivors themselves, adding weight to their advocacy.

These are just a few examples of the many ways Rotary has teamed up recently to End Polio Now.

It is vital that we continue to seek out and recruit teammates in polio eradication, especially after the challenges our eradication efforts have faced this year.

The Rotary world was heartbroken to learn about the tragic passing in August of Aidan O'Leary, director for polio eradication at the World Health Organization.

I knew Aidan and worked with him directly. He was a tireless advocate in the fight against polio and a kind, genuine man. We will remember him both for his advocacy and his warmth.

But where there is hardship, there is also hope. I feel hopeful whenever I consider the countless ways Rotary supports the fight every day to eradicate polio.

As people of action, we don't have the luxury of giving in to despair, even in the face of tragedy. The best way to honor Aidan's memory is by teaming up and reaching our goal to End Polio Now.

We made a promise to the children of the world and their families. It is incumbent upon us, together with our global partners, to end this threat once and for all.

There are so many ways we can team up to eradicate polio. You can donate to the End Polio Now campaign, join or initiate a PolioPlus Society in your club or district, or take inspiration from the fundraisers I mentioned above.

I encourage Rotary members around the world to continue to seek out new teammates, so that together, we end polio.

**Stephanie A. Urchick**  
RI President 2024-25

## LAST WEEK'S MEETING

President **Laurie Anderson** presided.

Today's meeting was a special joint meeting with the Haney Rotary Club with the following members of the Haney Club in attendance:

<b>President Lurinda Rinehart</b>	<b>Brian Hutton</b>
<b>Peter Tam</b>	<b>Agneta Eikelenboom</b>
<b>Dick Drew</b>	<b>Theo Rathonyi-Reusz</b>
<b>Michelle Broughton</b>	<b>Bonnie Telep</b>
<b>Teresa Peacock</b>	

### Other guests:

**Jim Michals**, a former member of our Rotary Club and currently living in Leduc, Alberta.

### Cheque Presentation

**Mike Davies** presented a cheque in the sum of \$1,500 to **Lyndsay MacAulay**, Development Officer, for the **ACT Arts Centre** (that is managed by the Maple Ridge Pitt Meadows Arts Council through an operation agreement with the City of Maple).



The Donation will be applied to support the **School Access Program**, that offers specially designed school activities for elementary and secondary students, and that brings classes to The ACT to attend performances in the Main Stage Theatre and participate in tours through The Act Art Gallery.

### RACHEL Project in Belize – presentation by Brian Wormald



**Brian Wormald**, a member of the Port Moody Rotary Club, gave us an update on their **Education and Literacy Project in Belize**.

Our own club was one of a number of Rotary Clubs that has previously partnered on this project, and our club secretary Ineke Boekhorst has travelled to Belize with Al Stjernegaard and Brian Wormald in furtherance of this worthy cause.

This project started when a Port Moody Club member met with Rotarians in Belize and learned about the education and literacy needs in that nation, and the commitment of local Rotarians to meet those needs. The project became even more interesting when they learned that Rotarians in Belize are centrally involved in the management of the national prison which is operated by a non-profit society. Both the prison and school's learning environments are limited in terms of internet access and educational resources. In both settings literacy and educational attainment is quite low, with strong evidence of a pervasive and linked cycle of poverty, crime, poor educational achievement and poor employment opportunities. In partnership with a Rotary Club in Belize City, they provided computer resources, hands-on training and support.

Since internet access is limited in many classrooms, and for security reasons in the prison, they looked at alternatives to deliver internet content and computer-based learning. One of the solutions was RACHEL.

RACHEL (Remote Area Community Hotspot for Education and Learning) is a portable, battery-powered, device that contains copies of educational websites in offline format. This means RACHEL can go anywhere in the world and wirelessly deliver free digital educational content to nearby tablets, laptops, or smartphones with no internet or data plans required. RACHEL has been taken to over 53 countries since its creation, serving students in rural villages, townships, and even prisons.

From the Belize Central Prison to primary schools across Belize District, the RACHEL Project, through the Rotary Club of Belize, is impacting the way children and adults learn. After successfully executing the project within the prison walls, with the help of the Ministry of Education, the Rotary Club of Belize identified eleven rural schools to roll out the program. Those schools underwent a series of training courses on how to effectively utilize RACHEL to achieve the best results. Today, all eleven schools received RACHEL devices and a host of other equipment to improve the learning experience in their classrooms.

### 2023-2024 District 50-50 Award Certificate for "Best Fundraiser"

Brian Wormald also delivered to our Club, from last year's District Governor David Lukov and District Awards Chair Carol Tichelman, the 2023-2024 District 5050 Award Certificate for "Best Fundraiser".



## Today's Program: **Amber Chalhoub and Isabelle Harness**

Their trip to Honduras through Rotary's **Youth Engaged in Service (YES)** program.



L to R: Isabelle Harness and Amber Chalhoub

Our guest speakers were introduced by **Ken Holland** as follows:

*I am pleased to introduce two incredible students who embarked on a trip to Honduras thanks to support from the Meadow Ridge Rotary Club and the Haney Rotary Club. Keesha Dorosz (Youth Services Director of the Haney club) was one of 3 leaders on the trip and is truly disappointed she could not be here today as she is in New Brunswick for work.*

*Keesha wanted to say how this trip was pivotal and what an honour it was to work with these two fine young humans, Amber and Isabelle, for 10 months leading up to this trip. The best part was to experience this **Youth Engaged in Service Program (YES)** with the two of them and 7 other students and experience the ripple effect that lasts a lifetime on the communities they impacted through the program. Keesha is also proud of watching these two students lead, grow and develop so much from this program and learned a lot from them along the way.*

*Amber Chalhoub goes to Maple Ridge Secondary School now in grade 12 and is involved in competitive hip hop at Centre Stage Dance. Dance has been one of her many passions since she was only 3 years old. She's been dancing competitively for the past 11 years. She says "I love to sing, and essentially physical art is my way of expressing myself".*

*Isabelle Harness is now in grade 12 at Inquiry Hub Secondary School in Coquitlam. Inquiry Hub is a very small school that gives students the chance to do a lot of self-directed learning and pursue their interests through different inquiry projects. She is part of her school's debate club and she runs the leadership club. Outside of school she rows for the Inlet Rowing Club and works at Kumon tutoring kids. Isabelle is really passionate about music, photography, public speaking, and art.*

*Both of these students volunteered well over 80 hours in community service and also fundraised their own money in addition to the club's generous support on this YES program. Let's turn it over to them to share their experience first hand!*

**YES (Youth Engaged in Service)** is a program which sponsors high school students on an International Service project. Youth are required to perform volunteer hours throughout the school year, earning credit towards the cost of the trip (paid by a sponsoring Rotary club). Students are asked to join or form an Interact club following the service trip.

The mission of the program is: "to provide leadership development opportunities while engaging youth in Rotary's motto, Service Above Self, both locally and internationally."



### **Amber and Isabelle's Presentation:**

Amber and Isabelle told us about their trip to Honduras, and showed us pictures of their adventure. They visited a traditional cemetery, and an orphanage, and assembled some packages of toothpaste and other products to distribute in the village. For several days they visited and helped out at some schools, but in the latter part of the trip also got in some sightseeing, when they visited a coffee plantation, some hot springs and other sites of interest. They had so much of a connection with the children in the schools that they said they wished they had missed the tourism part of the trip and stayed with the kids in the school for a longer period.

They visited with the children in their classrooms and interacted with them on the playground. They also participated in menstrual and health education of the young girls. They helped the children make a mural and some bracelets, and also danced with them. When they left, the children gave them hugs and it was a very sad final day where both they and the children were crying because of their having to leave.

They said they came away from the trip and learned from the children that "we often take things for granted and do not appreciate enough what we have and enjoy" and that "other people and children have a much greater struggle in life...", and that the people they met "all gave so much even though they didn't have much themselves".

They thanked their three leaders, Keesha, Marty and Randy and all of the other students who took part in the trip, as well as Rotary for sponsoring the YES program.

Quote for the Day ("a group of people" like Rotarians)

"Find a group of people who challenge and inspire you, spend a lot of time with them, and it will change your life."

AMY POEHLER, COMEDIAN & ACTOR

Submitted by **Laurie Anderson**