

Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon

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OCTOBER IS COMMUNITY ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT MONTH

Happy Birthday	Happy Anniversary
Oct 29: Libby Nelson	

Upcoming Speakers:

Oct 29: Matthew Schwartzman POD Casts	Nov 5: Simon Matthews KEEPS (Kanaka Salmon Hatchery)	Nov 12: Dave Duskin District Governor's Visit
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LAST WEEK'S MEETING

President **Laurie Anderson** presided.

Happy Wedding Anniversary to **Leslie and Ivana Michael** – October 23

Happy and Sad Dollars

Clint Callison is very happy, and proud, that his daughter Peyton has won a first place in a recent dancing competition. When **Peyton** achieves two more first-place successes, she will be able to compete internationally wherever the dance competitions are held.

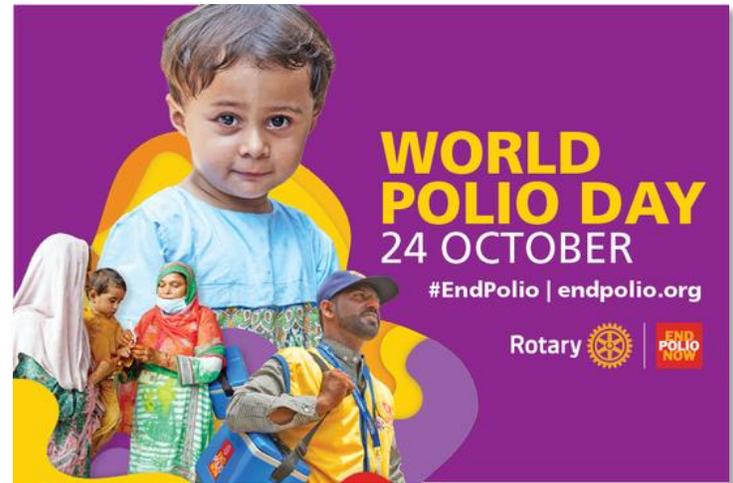
Ineke Boekhorst (who is one of three of our club members who are directors of the Ridge Meadows Hospice Society) happily attended the recent Society's Oktoberfest. Ineke reported that the event had a full house with 250 people in attendance.



Laurie Anderson was also happy not to have missed the event that was complete with fun and good food. He reported that, in addition to Ineke, several of several other members of our club attended, including: **Adrienne Dale** (and **Warren**), **Eric Mollema** (and **Urma**), **Mark Vosper** (and **Linda**) and "the spirit" of **Alex Pope** (**Barbara and her mom** - Alex couldn't attend "in body" due to a bout of Covid).

And, oh yes, last but by no means the least among us, and sitting directly across the table from Laurie (whose brain did not retain and report what his eyes did behold): **Matt DeBruyn** (and **Lynda**).

Program: Rotary's Role in Polio Eradication



This Thursday, **October 24 is World Polio Day** – and Rotarians we can be proud of what role Rotary has had in eliminating polio. In recognition of this day, we showed a couple of short videos on the subject of polio, and President Laurie then talked about this disease and Rotary's role in its eradication.

Poliomyelitis (polio) is a highly infectious viral disease that largely affects children under 5 years of age. The polio virus is transmitted by person-to-person spread mainly through the fecal or oral route or, less frequently, by a common vehicle (e.g. contaminated water or food) and multiplies in the intestine, from where it can invade the nervous system and cause paralysis. Antibiotics won't work for viral infections. Polio epidemics hit parts of Canada in waves from the 1920s to the 1950s, peaking with a particularly bad year in 1953 with 9,000 cases and 500 deaths nationally.

Gloria Stephens, now 94, was a nursing student in the early 1950s at the polio clinic next to the Victoria General Hospital. Starting early each morning, Gloria would slowly make her way through the ward of young polio patients, wrapping their limbs in hot towels to loosen muscles and stave off paralysis. In the background was the headache-inducing swoosh of enormous breathing machines – the “iron lungs” that helped the kids breathe by pulling air into and out of their lungs by changing the pressure in an airtight metal boxes in which they laid. Gloria’s day would end 12 hours later by carefully removing the awkward gown, gloves and mask she wore, ensuring as she did that none of her clothes became contaminated. She would return to the former army barracks where she and other nursing students lived in isolation, their food delivered from the hospital cafeteria. “It’s one of the things in your life, in your nursing career, that stays in your mind. It’s hard to say, but we did lose some children. And that was very, very tough. It affects me to this day.”



How did Rotary spark the creation of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative?

On 29 September 1979 in the Philippines, volunteers administered drops of oral polio vaccine to children at a health center in Philippines. The event in metropolitan Manila was arranged by Rotarians and attended by Rotarians and delegates from the Philippine Ministry of Health. The RI President at that time was James Bomar, who put the first drops of vaccine into a child’s mouth, and thereby ceremonially launched the Philippine polio immunization effort. Rotary’s first Health, Hunger and Humanity (3-H) Grant project was underway. Shortly before this event, an agreement was signed committing Rotary International and the government of the Philippines to a joint multi-year effort to immunize about 6 million children in the Philippines against polio, at a cost of about \$760,000.

The project’s success led Rotary to make polio eradication a top priority. Rotary launched **Polio Plus in 1985** (almost 40 years ago) and Rotary was a founding member of the **Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI)** in 1988.

Partners in this initiative were:

- Rotary,
- U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention,
- United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF),
- World Health Organization, and
- later joined by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Wild poliovirus cases have decreased by over 99% since 1988, from an estimated 350,000 cases per year in more than 125 endemic countries to six reported cases in 2021. As at 2022, endemic wild poliovirus remains in two countries: Pakistan and Afghanistan. Through decades of commitment and work by Rotary and our partners, more than 2.5 billion children have received the oral polio vaccine. Rotary has contributed more than \$2.6 billion to fight polio, including matching funds from the Gates Foundation, and countless volunteer hours since launching its polio eradication program, Polio Plus, in 1985. Over US\$ 18 billion has been invested through WHO and UNICEF alone in support of polio eradication activities carried out in over 70 countries.

The Rotary Foundation says that “efforts to end polio are facing some challenges, including conflict, political instability, climate disasters, and anti-vaccine sentiment in some of the areas most at risk. This is even more reason to emphasize the progress we’ve made and show how many clubs are reaffirming their commitment to eradication and inspiring others to help us finish the job.”

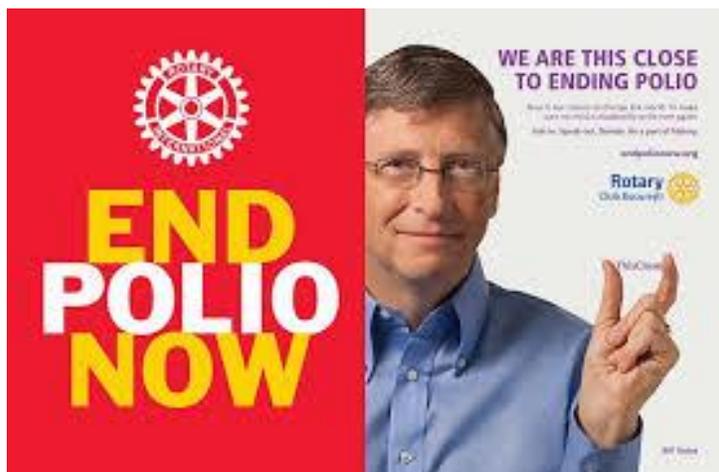
President Laurie said that October 24 is World Polio Day, and is an annual day when Rotary members are urged to raise awareness, and raise funds, and support polio. Polio is a vaccine preventable disease that still threatens children in certain parts of the world today and could be a risk where we live by transmission from international travellers. For the last few years, individual members of our Meadow Ridge Rotary Club have donated money to raise this awareness by putting an ad in our local newspaper at a cost in excess of \$500. This year, however, instead of putting the \$500 towards an ad in the paper, our Board of Directors are asking that we give the money directly to the Rotary Foundation to be used for the eradication of polio. For every dollar which we donate (which is tax deductible), the Bill Gates Foundation will donate two dollars, so our \$500 would, of course, translate into \$1500.

Our Rotary District 5050 leaders, who are asking each of us to do our part in eradicating polio, say: “We cannot express how important it is to keep funding the polio eradication program. It has been a long battle, but we need to finish the job. In 1985 we promised the children of the world that we would eradicate this devastating disease of Polio from the face of the earth. Rotarians are people of integrity and we keep our promises.”

President Laurie started off asking our club members’ donations to help eradicate polio by offering to match dollar for dollar, up to a total of \$500, donations made by our club members, and Libby Nelson did the same for the next \$500 donated over and above that first amount. If our individual club members donate a total of \$1,000, that of course would then translate to \$2,000, and taking into account the 2 to 1 match by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, would mean a total \$4,000 towards Polio eradication.

All members who have stated their willingness to donate or wish to do so, should e-Transfer the funds to our treasurer Walter at wvolpatti@telus.net.

How close are we to eliminating polio?



The use of polio vaccines has nearly eradicated the disease worldwide, with polio cases having decreased by more than 99% since 1985. There are now only two endemic countries – Pakistan and Afghanistan. (A disease is endemic when it continues to be present at a baseline level in a particular area without external factors, such as cases contracted through travel.) Polio eradication is possible – but challenges remain. Polio infections have resurfaced due to a mix of reasons, analysts say – from vaccine hesitancy to reduced immunisation campaigns due to conflict or global health crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. Often, parents refuse vaccines being administered to their children out of mistrust. There is also a prevalence of conspiracy theories that vaccines are a guise for substances that reduce the African population or introduce satanic controls in the world. The idea that polio vaccines are part of a Western plot was further fuelled in Pakistan when reports surfaced that the US intelligence agency CIA organised a fake hepatitis vaccination drive aimed at identifying and eventually killing al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden. Increased global mobility, particularly from countries with ongoing polio transmission, has also continued the spread of the virus.

Club Announcements:

Remember to donate to Polio – and e-Transfer your donation to Walter!

All **club committee chairs** are urged to hold at least one committee meeting before Christmas, and to notify President Laurie (who under our bylaws is an ex officio member of all club committees) when your meeting will be held, whether in person or by Zoom, so that he can attend if possible.

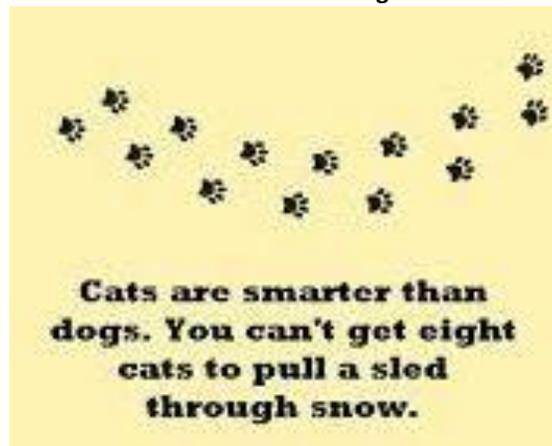
Peter Boekhorst has made a new **Club Roster/Member Directory** - so if you haven't already received one, then contact Peter.

October 26 - International long table/club **Thanksgiving dinner** at Adrienne and Warren Dale's home.

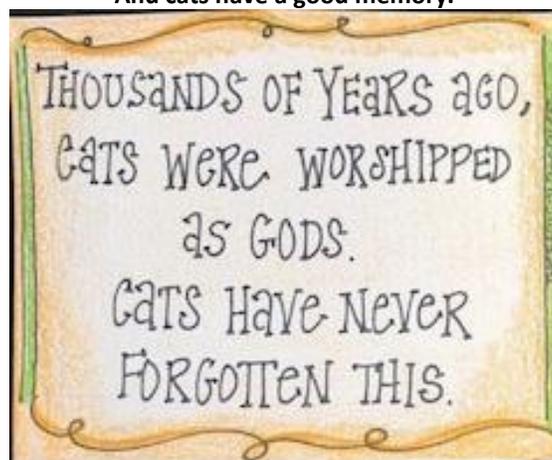
December 6 - **Christmas party** at the home of Clint Callison.

Today's Quotes:

About Cats and Dogs



And cats have a good memory.



Submitted by Laurie Anderson