



Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon

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JANUARY IS VOCATIONAL SERVICE MONTH

Happy Birthday	Happy Anniversary
Jan 27: Sharon Kyle	

Upcoming Speakers:

Jan 21: Wendy Mehat RCMP Superintendent	Jan 28: Leslie Norman Curator at the Pitt Meadows Museum	Feb 04: Andy Berrisford Disabled Children - International project
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Note: Next two meetings on Jan 21st and 28th are to be held at La Trattoria Restaurant – 22214 Dewdney TR

LAST WEEK’S MEETING

Laurie Anderson presided.

Guests: **Warren Dale**

Program: BC Transplant: **Elaine Yong**



About our speaker:

Elaine Yong is, first and foremost, mother to son Charlie and daughter Addison. Addison was only three weeks old when she became the first infant to receive a heart transplant at BC Children’s Hospital in 2011, so Elaine knows first-hand the unique issues that sick children and their families face. Elaine and her family are dedicated supporters of transplant research, and launched the [Addison Fund](#) for Pediatric Transplant Research in 2013. Their goal is to make transplant a cure so kids like Addison have long and healthy lives.

Elaine graduated from the Journalism program at Ryerson Polytechnic Institute 30 year ago, and began a career in broadcast journalism in Ottawa and then in Regina. She joined the Global BC news team in 2006 and she was an award-winning reporter, producer, and anchor in television for more than two decades. Her husband Aaron McArthur joined Global in 2001 where he still works as a reporter and news anchor. They are both supporters of the BC children’s hospital and organ donation, volunteering their time for numerous charity functions.

She is now a healthcare communications professional, currently the Manager of Communications and Community Relations at BC Transplant, the organization that manages the BC Organ Donor Registry and oversees all aspects of organ donation and transplant across BC. In her spare time, Elaine enjoys traveling around the world and has now hit all seven continents.

Elaine’s presentation

Elaine said she was pregnant with Addison In 2010, when she did a story about a family that she met at Grace Hospital; they had a family member who needed a kidney transplant. Little did she know at that time that her own family would soon become deeply involved with BC Transplant. Addison was born on April 12, 2011 with no apparent signs of any medical issues. For about 20 days, Addison was home with her parents and doing all regular newborn baby stuff.

On Monday, May 2, her mom and dad noticed that their new baby was acting strange and was very cool to the touch, she looked extremely pale, and she had a sharp cry they hadn't heard before. They took her temperature a few times, but it kept coming back low - well below normal. When they finally arrived at the Children’s Hospital that evening, they learned from the doctors that Addison’s heart was abnormally large, although they weren't sure why. Within a couple of hours, Addison was being

rushed into ICU because her heart was failing. Around midnight, a cardiologist and ICU doctor came out to tell them that their little baby girl might not make it.

The next morning, they finally got to see their new baby. She was surrounded by nurses, doctors and hooked up to a specialized heart-lung life support machine and other medical equipment. They received the news that the heart condition could not be fixed.

They put Addison on the transplant list. The hospital could not predict if or when a heart would become available for transplant. It could be soon, or it could be a year but they knew that Addison could not wait that long. They asked about the use of an artificial heart, but that procedure had never been successfully done on infant before.

Elaine said that on Saturday, they got the news that a heart was available. Very early next morning on Mother's Day, May 8, 2011, Addison got her new heart. While the surgery went perfectly, the new heart did not work properly so Addison had to go back on the life support machine. That Sunday was an extremely difficult day for Elaine and her husband. They had been so ecstatic about the second chance at life, and cruelly disappointed when the heart slowed down, and they learned that there was a "single digit chance" of Addison surviving. But the next day, her new heart started beating again. It just kept getting stronger and stronger, and they got to take their baby girl home 4 weeks after they had arrived at BC Children's Hospital. Addison will have to take medication for the rest of her life to prevent her heart from being rejected by her body.

Addison and her family are actively involved in spreading the word about heart transplants and raising money for this charitable cause. When only 4 years old, Addison first participated in the World Transplant Games, and has done so many times since. This last August 2024, she attended the transplant games in Germany, and is involved in a lot of charitable activities.

Elaine said she feels very sorry for the family who lost their baby (who was the transplant donor 13 years ago), but she got to meet the donor's parents. "It was a gift they were able to give" to Addison, which gives those parents some reason for contentment.

Facts About Organ Donation (as referred to by Elaine, but copied from the BC Transplant Website)

Only about 1% of deaths in BC occur in a way that would enable someone to become an organ donor. In order to be a deceased organ donor in BC, a person needs to be in an intensive care unit (ICU) and on a ventilator (breathing machine). Donation is only considered after all life-saving methods to save a patient's life have been tried.

Who makes this decision – the family or the doctor? First and foremost, the duty of health care providers is to save lives. Donation is only considered after all life-saving efforts have been exhausted and it is certain a patient will not survive. Your donor registration record is confidential, and only accessible by the donation team at BC Transplant. In addition, BC's Human Tissue Gift Act states that the death of a potential organ donor must be declared by two doctors, independent of transplant.

If nothing more can be done for the patient, the ICU physician will contact BC Transplant. Our team will look up if the patient has registered in the Organ Donor Registry. If they have, we will print out their form to show to the family during the organ donation conversation. If the patient has not registered a decision, their loved ones make the decision on their behalf. Organs from deceased donors are then allocated without prejudice following a comprehensive review and assessment process.

To become a deceased organ donor in BC a person must be on life support in a critical care unit, with no hope of recovery. Only 1% of deaths in BC occur in a way that would enable someone to become an organ donor. BC Transplant will only retrieve organs from a donor if there is a suitable match recipient. There is no age limit to register your decision on organ donation. The oldest organ donor in Canada was 92 years old. A parent can register their minor children, but when the child reaches the age of 19 he or she must confirm the registration.



Elaine urges all of us to be part of a ripple, and spread the word about Organ Donation.

And to register your decision to be an organ donor in the Organ Donor Registry.

**** See below for pictures of, and article about, Addison Yong McArthur ****

Urgent Club Announcements:

YAIL: **Sharon Kyle**, our New Generations Chair, advised us about the YAIL weekend-long leadership program that is coming up on February 28 - March 2, 2025. YAIL stands for Youth Adventures In Leadership, and this program is designed to get youth inspired by not only community leaders, but also by each other. This event is held every year with the support of Rotary clubs all over District 5050 for youth ages 15-17 years. Youth are sponsored by local Rotary clubs to attend this weekend full of leadership development for free! If any members know of anyone who they can recommend for this program for youth who are aspiring leaders, youth who are far along on their journeys of leadership and advocacy, or even youth who may need that extra bit of motivation to get more involved in their communities, **let Sharon know right away**. Please note that the registration deadline for YAIL is **January 31, 2025**

TRIAL CHANGE OF VENUE: Remember that our next two meetings to be held on January 21st and 28th are to be held at La Trattoria Restaurant as a trial run to see if it would be advantageous for the club to meet in a more central location. January 21 meeting features former RCMP Superintendent Wendy Mehat, and the January 28 meeting will have the speaker Leslie Norman from the Pitt Meadows Museum, who will speak about the history of Pitt Meadows.

GLOBAL GRANT PROGRAM IN BELIZE: **Ineke Boekhorst** will be joining members of the Rotary Club of Port Moody and other clubs in our District in going to Belize on April 1, 2025. This Rotary project includes shipping a container filled with computers, medical supplies, and essential educational materials to this Central American Country. If anyone has, or knows the source of obtaining donations of, school supplies (pencils, notebooks, crayons, back packs, etc.) please contact Ineke immediately, as these and other items are needed **by February 1, 2025** to be packed in a container and sent down to this Central America country that needs our help.

Today's Quote:

“He who has a thousand friends has not a friend to spare; and he who has one enemy will meet him everywhere.”

Submitted by Laurie Anderson

(Article and pictures taken from the BC Transplant Website prior to her 2024 trip)

Thirteen-year-old Addison McArthur will be the only paediatric transplant recipient from B.C. heading to the Canadian Transplant Games taking place from August 3 to 9, 2024.



She will be attending with 13 other athletes representing B.C. to compete in the Games — an athletic celebration of sport for the transplant community. Transplant recipients, living donors and donor family members from across the country will be gathering in Ottawa in a few days for the biennial Canadian Transplant Games.

The 2024 Games will mark Addison's sixth time competing in the Canadian and World Transplant Games. She wants to encourage others in the community to attend their first time, adding, “You get to meet other people who have gone through similar things as you, you get to share your story and connect with other transplant recipients; plus, it's awesome and the food is not bad.”



Picture of Addison and her donor's mom

Said Maddison:

“I am very lucky because I have actually met the mother of my donor Audrey. Auntie Felicia, that's what I call her, came from Reno to Vancouver to the Canadian Transplant Games in 2018 to see me compete. I got to meet her two younger daughters too. For every Games, I choose a medal to send to Auntie Felicia. I think of it as me and Audrey competing together and winning these medals together. I would say to Auntie Felicia thank you for giving me this incredible gift that has allowed me to do so many things that I love, including going to the Games. I hope that I can win more medals to send to you.”