



Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon

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## JUNE IS ROTARY FELLOWSHIP MONTH

### Happy Birthday

June 4: : Susan Pynn

### Happy Anniversary

June 4: Brian & Sharon Bekar

### Upcoming Speakers:

June 3: Marjolein Lloyd - Shelter Box

June 10:

June 17: Laura Ribeiro  
RM Child Development Centre

### RI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I have had so many wonderful experiences over the past year, but as comforting as it might be to dwell on the past, we must look toward the future.

We are closer than ever to ending polio, but that does not mean we can relax. We still have a promise to keep to the children of the world and their families,

and we will only fulfill that promise through fundraising, advocacy, and the power of our collective action.

I was amazed at the capability and commitment of the peacebuilders at the Presidential Peace Conference earlier this year. Our Peace Fellowship program and our many other peace initiatives bring healing to a divided world, but they need our support to remain effective and relevant.

Amid a worldwide loneliness epidemic, Rotary offers friendship, purpose, and belonging. If we hold true to our ideals — to The Four-Way Test and our spirit of inclusivity — we will remain a beacon of light even in the darkest times.

The Action Plan can serve as a guide to make our clubs and districts simply irresistible, but it is up to us to take that advice and put it to use.

Family of Rotary, there is nothing we cannot achieve when we come together and work toward a common goal.

You are *The Magic of Rotary*, and I can't wait to see the lasting change you bring to the world.

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

### LAST WEEK'S MEETING

President **Laurie Anderson** presided.

Guests:

**Chantal Despot**  
**Yvonne and Andy Berrisford**

Program (via Zoom): Katelyn Bissat - Nature Kids BC



**NatureKids BC** is a registered charity (CRA # 84961 1926 RR0001) and its legal name is **Young Naturalists' Club of BC Society**. Its address is 1620 Mt. Seymour Rd., North Vancouver, BC V7G 2R9 - 604-985-3059

[info@naturekidsbc.ca](mailto:info@naturekidsbc.ca). It is a provincial non-profit organization that connects families to nature through various events, resources, and volunteer opportunities. The organization offers educational materials and programs for families, partnering with the Outdoor Learning Store and providing both free and paid resources on their website. While the Maple Ridge club is currently largely inactive due to a lack of volunteers, Nature Kids is seeking new leaders to restart the club and continues to operate year-round with flexible scheduling based on weather and volunteer availability.

**Nature Canada** (a federal organization) is "one of the oldest national nature conservation charities in Canada, that for 80 years has helped protect over 110 million acres of parks and wildlife areas in Canada and countless species. Today, Nature Canada represents a network of over 130,000 members and supporters and more than 1,000 nature organizations." It has a program called "NatureHood", and **NatureKids BC** is a provincial partner of this program.

NatureKids BC runs a province-wide network of 25+ volunteer-led family nature clubs in communities all over British Columbia, where children aged 5-12 and their families “explore nature on their doorstep, learn about BC’s wildlife, plants and wild spaces, and take action for nature”, and “discover the wonders of the natural world as they explore outdoors on Explorer day field trips, read about nature in NatureWILD magazine and take action for the environment with stewardship projects and citizen science initiatives.”



### **About Katelyn Bissat**

**Katelyn Bissat** is the Provincial Network Manager for NatureKids BC, and is responsible for recruiting and coordinating volunteers for its nature clubs in BC, and for ensuring the best possible experience for its volunteers. Katelyn has a diploma in Recreation, Fish and Wildlife Technology, and has been working in the environmental education volunteer management industry for over 13 years. Katelyn is passionate about engaging individuals of all ages to become environmental stewards and volunteers in their communities.



**Katelyn Bissat**

**Katelyn’s message** (as summarized on the website) is that “There has never been a greater need for organizations like ours. It is important that we actively help this generation of children get outdoors and connected with nature because so much is at stake if we don’t. Along with the many health benefits – including stress reduction, better sleep and improved mental and physical health – spending time outside also helps families develop stronger bonds and, very importantly, it teaches children about environmental stewardship and inspires them to protect our environment.... Personal connections with the natural world are powerful. These connections are critical to our health and social well-being, and time in nature has been shown to make children happier, healthier and smarter. Despite all the positive evidence, we live in a time where kids spend less and less time in nature.... We are passionate about making nature accessible to as many children and families in British Columbia as possible. With the help of our volunteers, nature mentors and donors, we introduce kids and their families to the great outdoors through our network of nature clubs as well as our Passport to Nature flick off to bed.... At NatureKids BC, we address the need to build a healthy and sustainable future for our world by engaging BC children and their families in the diversity, complexity, and wonder of the natural world.”

### **NatureKids BC - Volunteer Recruitment**

Katelyn highlighted their mission to get children and families outside, sharing success stories and the organization's history since 2000. Katelyn requested help finding one or two volunteers to lead the Maple Ridge club, offering flexibility and training for the role.

### **NatureKids BC - Educational Programs Overview**

Katelyn explained that Nature Kids offers educational resources and programs for families, but does not provide school-based programming. She described their partnership with the Outdoor Learning Store and various free and paid resources available on their website. As noted above, Katelyn mentioned that the Maple Ridge club is currently inactive due to a lack of volunteers, but they hope to restart it with a staffed event in the summer. She clarified that Nature Kids operates year-round, but is flexible with event scheduling based on weather and volunteer availability.

### **Club Announcements and Reminders**

**Club Fun Clean up Event:** Sunday, June 1, 9:00 AM, at Kanaka Creek Park located on the south side of the Lougheed Highway across the tracks just past the exit from the Haney bypass heading East - as a civic hands-on project. Meet in the parking lot. We will take a leisurely walk along the path beside the Fraser River and pick up any litter along the way, followed by Breakfast at Ronny’s Bistro. Bring your gloves and “litter-picker-upper”.

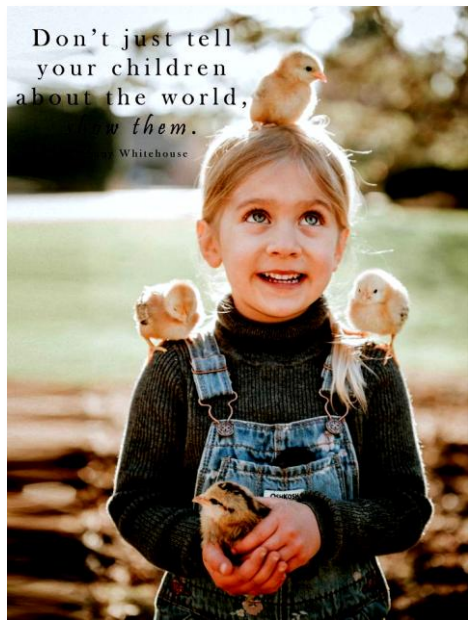
**June 3, 2025** regular Club noon meeting:

**Special Speaker – Marjolein Lloyd** – Shelter Box

### **2025/2026 Board of Directors Installation Lunch:**

Saturday, June 14, 2025 11:00 AM at Meadow Gardens Golf Club. Tickets \$50 (most members already paid with their annual dues). Be sure to sign up with Adrienne and pay for any additional guests through Walter.

Today's Quote for the Day



*Don't just tell your children about the world,  
show them.*

**Submitted by Laurie Anderson**