



Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon

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AUGUST IS MEMBERSHIP AND NEW CLUB DEVELOPMENT MONTH

Happy Birthday

Happy Anniversary

Upcoming Speakers:

Aug. 5:

Aug. 12:

Aug. 19:

RI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



August is Membership Month, but our commitment to growth and connection is year-round. When we focus on growing Rotary, we grow our ability to serve, to lead, and to bring lasting change.

Membership growth isn't just about numbers. It's about opening doors. It's about inviting more people who are ready to give their time, talents, and hearts to a cause greater than

themselves. When we welcome new members, we bring in fresh ideas and new energy. We expand our impact, strengthen our clubs, and ensure that Rotary continues to evolve with the world around us.

Remember, there is now great flexibility in fashioning nontraditional club models. I'm inspired when I see these innovative clubs thrive by offering new and prospective members more ways to connect and serve.

In Korea, the growth of satellite clubs has created opportunities for nearly 1,000 new members to find their place in Rotary. In Romania, the close collaboration between Rotarians, Rotaractors, and Interactors has built a pipeline of future leaders. In India, some Rotarians gather around a shared interest — whether it's professional development or a passion for service — and those connections deepen their commitment and their joy in being part of Rotary. And we've seen cause-based clubs thrive in regions as diverse as Southeast Asia, Africa, and Europe.

There's a common thread: Where clubs are growing, membership is a priority and there is a willingness to try something new. Rotary is not limited to one structure or tradition. We are a global network of people of action, and that means there is room for many kinds of clubs, many ways to serve, and many paths into our organization.

This spirit of innovation is also guiding our efforts to reach new communities. In places where there has never been a Rotary club — or where a club once existed and faded — Rotarians are finding ways to grow Rotary. They are identifying areas of potential and building clubs that reflect the character and needs of their communities.

Every member plays a part in this journey. Whether you introduce a friend to your club, support a new meeting format, reconnect with program alumni, or simply share your Rotary story, you are helping our organization grow stronger and more vibrant.

No one owns a Rotary club. It is a gift we pass on to the next generation. When we nurture that gift, when we invite others to share in it, we ensure that Rotary continues to be a force for good.

Let's prioritize membership growth — not just in August but every month of the year. Together, through friendship, creativity, and shared purpose, we will grow Rotary and *Unite for Good*.

Francesco Arezzo - President 2025-26

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

President **Alex Pope** presided.

Guests

Jaun Penarrieta — from the Rotary Club of Pachacamac in Peru. He has a son who lives in Maple Ridge and is a Canadian citizen, and he has three grandchildren.

Cheque presentations

Community Services Chair Mike Davies presented a cheque in the amount of **\$1,000** to **Ruth Lee** of the **Pathfinder Youth Centre Society**, who said that the much-needed funds would support their program for youth to help them train for employment and find their way in life.



Mary Robson and Aimee Robson from the Friends in Need Food Bank Society accepted a cheque in the amount of **\$51,906.62**.



Mary said that she was “astounded” by the cheque, which will go to help fund food programs for school children, noting that the needs of the food bank always exceed the demand. Ineke Boekhorst noted that the funds were generated from money left

over from the Starfish Program operated by our Rotary club for several years, and thanked the Food Bank for their help in sustaining that program and the use of their facility as a place to prepare the food packages that were delivered weekly by our Rotary club and volunteers. [Ineke was the engine behind that program, without whose help, dedication and inspiration the program would not have been developed and sustained.]

Program: Who's Who - our new member - Yvonne Berrisford

Yvonne was born in South Africa, and grew up in Durban. Two days before her fifth birthday, she was struck by a police vehicle and critically injured. She was unconscious for 52 days and remained in the hospital for five months. The doctor called her mother and advised her that, if she survived, she would be ‘a vegetable’.



Well, she did survive, but when Yvonne was old enough to go to school, she was put in a “special class” where she never learned to read nor was given the opportunity to obtain an education above a very elementary level.

When Yvonne was 19 years old in 1981, she met Andy while attending the same church. Yvonne was attending in the morning and Andy in the evening. When Yvonne failed to attend for a few weeks, Andy and two girls were sent by the church to her mother’s apartment so see if Yvonne was okay. Because her mother was entertaining guests, Yvonne went with the three of them to visit another person. Later, when they took Yvonne home and Andy had left, she told her mother that he was the man that she was going to marry. Her mother replied, “You can’t get married after going out for one night”.

They needed parental consent to get married because of Yvonne’s age. One day when her father drove Andy and Yvonne to Durban (where her sister lived), they got her father drunk so he would sign the necessary consent form. They got married on February 20, 1982 after knowing each other for only four months, and have now been together for 43 years. They have had three children, boys Henry and Byron, and a daughter Talitha.



In 1993, they decided to emigrate to the UK. Andy applied for a job



with a Company in England, and the Company flew him over there for an interview; and Andy got the job. In anticipation of the move, they sold their lovely four-bedroom house that had a Jacuzzi and a swimming pool.

Yvonne was sad to see their home go. Andy resigned from his job in South Africa and cashed out his pension.

They shipped their furniture to England, and lived in a friends lounge out of a suitcase for three months. The day Andy was going to buy their air tickets, he was told by the English Company that they were going to advertise the job again; and they would have to wait 3 to 6 months for the job he was promised. As they could no longer trust the UK Company to keep its word, they decided to stay in South Africa.

After Nelson Mandela retired from leadership of the country, the new leaders who took over power corrupted the government, leading to increased violence and anti-White discrimination. Andy and Yvonne decided to emigrate again, this time to Canada, arriving in Toronto in April, 2000. After a couple of months, they moved to Guelph, Ontario.

Yvonne noted some differences between South Africa and Canada in the use of common names in English for everyday items, which caused some confusion in communication. For example, in South Africa, a “tickey box” is slang for a public payphone (specifically, one that used to accept a South African coin called a “tickey”). A “geyser” in south Africa is called a hot water tank in Canada. In South Africa, the slang name for both a stop sign and a traffic light is a “robot”.

In 2004, Yvonne and Andy moved to Vancouver. Their daughter, Talitha, who was married and lived in Ontario, came to visit them and they learned they were about to have a grandchild. Yvonne, who had never learned to knit or crochet, immediately got to work to learn the craft so that she could make for the baby a blanket as well as some woollen slippers.



Happy occasions also occurred when Andy and Yvonne became Canadian citizens in 2015; and in 2019, Andy’s brother (who had emigrated to New Zealand) ended up moving to Canada and marrying a lady who had been Yvonne’s best friend in Burnaby for 14 years. But on a sad note, on December 10, 2019, one of their sons died of cancer. In 2020, Yvonne was diagnosed with breast cancer, but has now been declared cancer free.



Following the devastating vehicle accident which Yvonne suffered as a child (as note above), she was never taught how to read; but with the help of Andy she learned to read, and then obtained a graduation certificate from high school through Adult Ed in Guelph after four years of study. Yvonne joined the Rotary Club of Port Moody, and was followed by Andy, and by Andy’s brother and his wife (Yvonne’s best friend). They moved from Port Moody to Maple Ridge about 10 months ago, and they are happy to be welcomed into our Club [and the feeling is mutual].

Guest Jaun Penarrieta

Jaun, from Peru, spoke to us about the possibility of our club working with his club in Pachacamac, Peru:

"First of all, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to share our vision and explore ways we can collaborate. While we don't yet have a fully prepared project, there are several impactful initiatives we're considering that could greatly benefit the community in Pachacamac:

- **Technology Classrooms:** We'd love to implement two computer classrooms in local schools in the central area of Pachacamac. This would open the door to digital learning for hundreds of children, helping bridge the technological gap and preparing them for the future.
- **Healthcare Support:** The local health post urgently needs an ultrasound machine to better serve pregnant women and enhance early diagnosis for residents.
- **Support for Firefighters:** The fire department in Pachacamac faces challenges with basic infrastructure and lacks essential equipment such as fire pumps, which are crucial for emergency response and public safety.
- **Healthy Ovens Project:** Together with the grassroots network of community kitchens in Pachacamac, we're developing a project to build "nutritious clay ovens". These ovens, reinforced with iron and specially designed to bake iron- and vitamin-enriched bread, help combat childhood anemia and support pregnant women. Each oven costs around 2,000 soles, and we aim to install 10 in total. The plan also includes creating a central hub for dough preparation and distribution.

These initiatives are just the beginning. We're open to ideas, resources, and expertise that could help us shape a project with long-term impact. If there's interest, we'd be honored to work side by side with the Rotary Club in bringing tangible change to Pachacamac. Thank you once again for your time and consideration. I look forward to your thoughts."

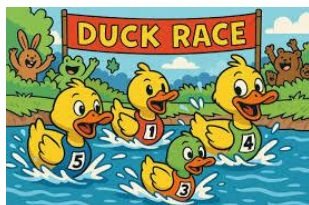
Happy and Sad Dollars

Mark Forster was happy to welcome Yvonne as a member into our club, and Juan as today's visitor. He was, however, saddened to hear in the news of the recent death of Bruce Richards and Roxanne Davidson, a happy couple who were allegedly killed by a neighbour on Wednesday, July 23, at their house in Maple Ridge. Mark said that he had dealt with Roxanne in her capacity as a banker here in the city.



Mary Robson, who obviously has a green thumb, is happy that she had no problem selling out all the veggies she grew on her garden.

Libby and Yvonne managed to sell out 50 tickets for the Duck Race in one sitting at a local mall.



Laurie Anderson, the youngest member of a family of six, was saddened to have attended the funeral of his older 88-year-old brother yesterday, but happy that his brother had a life well-lived (and, along with his last surviving sibling, not unhappy that all of his four deceased siblings have so far passed away in the order of their age).

Club Announcements and Reminders

On August 8, at Claire's house, we will number the ducks for the Duck Race to be held on August 10 – volunteers, please mark it on your calendars.

Langley Rotary Club's 50-50 fundraiser has surpassed \$200,000 in sales, and therefore a guaranteed prize in excess of \$100,000 (with the deadline to buy tickets of August 17).

Port Moody's Club's 50-50 Ribfest will raise at least \$70,000 (with the deadline of July 31).

And last but not least, Delta Club's 50-50 is at \$7,000 (deadline October 16).

Alex's Closing Thought for the Day - "dolphins with legs spark controversy"

Scientists have used CRISPR gene editing to create a dolphin with legs. Animal rights groups are protesting and want the legs removed. But scientists argue that would defeat the porpoise.

Submitted by Laurie Anderson