

Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon

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**UNITE
FOR
GOOD**

SEPTEMBER IS BASIC EDUCATION AND LITERACY MONTH

Happy Birthday

Happy Anniversary

Upcoming Speakers:

Sep. 9: Kaitlyn Herbst My life as a Global BC TV Anchor	Sep. 16: Paul Evered The Valley Walker - Dealing with men's grief	Sep. 23: Duck Race Cheques Presentation
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RI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



When I stepped into the role of Rotary International president, the moment came swiftly and unexpectedly. It got me thinking how the world can change in an instant, and how Rotary has the power to be a steady force for good in that change. This month, Rotary's Basic Education and Literacy Month, we have a clear call to action: to strengthen the foundation of learning in every community we serve.

Millions of people worldwide remain unable to read. Millions of children lack access to basic education. And yet, we know the solution: sustainable, inclusive, and equitable education, especially for girls and marginalized youths. Literacy is more than the ability to read and write. It is the key to human dignity, economic mobility, and peace. Every book opened, every classroom supported, and every teacher trained becomes a building block of peace.

This year, our message is *Unite for Good*. "Unite" speaks to the strength we find in each other. When we unite our talents and resources — not only among our clubs but across partners, organizations, and communities — we expand our reach. And when we do so consistently over time, we create lasting change. Rotary service cannot be measured only in annual goals. Our work in education must extend beyond a single year. Literacy projects take time to take root, grow, and bear fruit.

Now is the time to think boldly and creatively. New types of clubs can help us engage educators, students, and advocates in new ways. Let us use this month to welcome new members with a passion for education and empower existing ones to lead service projects that reflect local needs. Whether you're building libraries, distributing textbooks, or mentoring students, your actions matter.

Education is also peace building. Every scholarship we provide, every early childhood program we support, every adult literacy class we fund is an act of peace. And Rotary has been building peace in this way for more than a century.

Let us not forget that the fight for literacy is not only about access, it's about equity. It is about ensuring every learner, regardless of background, has the opportunity to reach their potential. And it is about standing together - across borders, languages, and generations — to say that education is a right, not a privilege.

Let's *Unite for Good* by committing to literacy that lasts. Let's dream of a world where every child learns to read. And then, as people of action, let's work together to make that dream a reality.

Together, we can change lives, starting with the power of education. Together, we *Unite for Good*.

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

President **Alex Pope** presided.

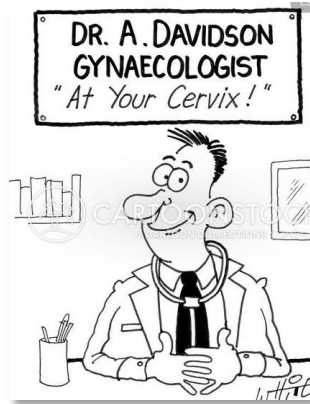
Happy anniversary today, Sep. 2, 2025, to **Debbie and Fraser MacRae**, and a **happy birthday** to **Dave Rempel** who will turn "another day older" on Sep. 3, 2025.

"You load
and what do you get?"





Kathy was born in New Westminster in 1960 (which will make her 65 years young in October of this year - if anyone is counting). She lived in Burnaby until age 8, when she moved to Coquitlam (fortunately, her family decided to go with her).



Her Dad was a gynecologist. (Kathy said that when her dad was studying to become a doctor, his older brother, who was an obstetrician (or pediatrician), jokingly told him to become a gynecologist so that when babies were born, he could then refer their mothers to him as his patients.

Kathy was raised in a blended family. Her father and mother had children (in addition to Kathy), but then her father married a lady who also had children from a prior relationship; and then they also had children together.

Kathy's sister was a nurse and, although at first Kathy was not planning to enter the health-care field as a profession, she also signed up to become a nurse. She worked on the surgical floor and also in the emergency department, moving from the Royal Columbian Hospital to Surrey Memorial, and lastly to the Ridge Meadows Hospital, where she ended up in administration, and headed up two departments. She worked for the Fraser Health Authority for 30 plus years and is now retired.

She has two "kids" (Ryan and Alisa, ages 40 and 38), and four grandchildren ages 14, 10, 8 and 6. She is delighted to be a grandmother, and loves babysitting her grandchildren. She is also divorced.

She likes to get involved in volunteering, and wants to help people, and to advocate for the underprivileged. Her interests include wellness and health, travel, social events, fashion, gardening and history.

When asked about her favourite travel experience, Kathy said that although she is not of Jewish heritage, she has always had an interest in Jewish culture. She went on a trip of almost 3 weeks in duration, and visited Czechoslovakia and Poland (with a group of five women who were all in their 50s). They visited Auschwitz, and found the trip to be very educational. Two other great trips that she has enjoyed included French Polynesia (that comprises more than 100 islands in the South Pacific), and Japan.

When asked how she got into Rotary, she said that one of her friends (Debbie Kennedy, who was a former administrative assistant in Maple Ridge and who also worked for the Fraser health Authority) suggested to Kathy that she join Rotary. (Kathy was installed as a member of our Club on July 22, 2025.)

Mark Forster (wearing a brightly coloured, festive shirt with the words "I'm not waiting for 5 PM" emblazoned across the front and back), was happy to say that he and Pauline are looking forward to their trip to Europe where they will be gone for 1 ½ months, starting in Barcelona, and including a 14 day cruise, a visit to Greece, and ending up with a two-day stay in the United Kingdom.

Alex and Barbara have already settled in at the Fort Langley campsite – ready to withstand the harsh elements (i.e., bravely snuggled into his new trailer) – for the Rotary Club's annual week of glamour camping (more correctly referred to as "glamping"). He is looking forward to seeing those of us less-hardy souls dropping for a visit to the glampsite on Saturday afternoon, September 6, for food, fellowship and socializing.

Clint's daughter is entering her last year of high school (and is already shopping for her graduation dress?). Clint donated \$12, one buck for each year of public schooling.

Chantal's daughter, Mila, is now 13 months old, and can walk at least a dozen paces on her own.

Ineke and Peter travelled to Kelowna for the weekend to celebrate their daughter's birthday, and enjoyed Marjolein's great garden of fresh vegetable delights.

Club Announcements and Activities

September 6 - a celebration of life for Pat Bond (Rotarian, Registrar, Assistant Governor, District Governor's Aide and much more) will be held at Sean Hogan's home in Surrey. The tentative schedule is that from around 1pm until about 3 pm, there will be some presenters share their experiences with Pat.

September 6 – join the campers at around 3:00 pm for socializing, games and food at Fort Langley. On Saturday morning, Alex and Barbara are in charge of preparing a pancake breakfast. On Friday and Saturday (September 5 and 6), Ineke, Ginni Duncan (Dave) and Renate (Theo) will be teaching card making and weaving to those that are interesting in giving it a try.

September 16 – Cops for Cancer at the Patch Brewery - to thank our club for its donation to their program.

September 21 – sign up for frisbee, fun, food and fellowship a Dave Rempel's property - frisbee at 3:30, food at about 5:30/6:00 pm.

November 26 – the Salvation Army's Dignity Breakfast – 8 am at the South Bonson Community Centre. The club's donation pays for breakfast with a table of eight, and there are still a couple of seats left for those who wish to attend. There is always a great speaker. Talk to Mike Davies if you wish to join the group of Rotarians from our club who are attending.

President's Closing Quote

At the campsite yesterday, a minivan pulled in and four kids jumped out. They unloaded their gear, set up the tent, gathered firewood, and established the camp kitchen area. I commented to the father that I was impressed with their teamwork and speed. The Father replied, "I have a system to it; no one goes to the bathroom before the camp is set up."

Submitted by Laurie Anderson