



Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon

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NOVEMBER IS ROTARY FOUNDATION MONTH

Happy Birthday

Nov. 10 Brenda Jenkins
Nov. 17 Wendy Whitter

Nov. 15 Ken Paterson

Happy Anniversary

Upcoming Speakers:

Nov. 4 John vander Elst

Nov. 11 **NO MEETING**

Nov. 18

RI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



This November, as we celebrate The Rotary Foundation, I invite you to consider not only what we give but why we give. The Foundation is more than a fund for projects. It is the beating heart of our promise that service, rooted in trust and friendship, can create lasting change.

Our Action Plan calls us to increase our impact, and the Foundation is how we make this vision real. Since 1988, Rotary and our partners have immunized nearly 3 billion children against polio. We have committed more than \$2.6 billion to this cause, and last year alone we directed \$146 million toward the final push for eradication. These numbers are significant, but the true impact is not in statistics — it is in the lives of children who will never again fear polio. It is in the hope restored to families and the peace built in communities once defined by disease.

But polio is only one story among many. Each year, Rotary Peace Centers train new generations of leaders who will transform conflict into dialogue and division into understanding. In 2023-24, nearly 100 new fellows began their studies, continuing a legacy of more than 1,800 peace builders from over 140 countries. When we invest in them, we are planting seeds of peace that will bear fruit for decades to come.

The Foundation also touches lives through district and global grants, supporting projects large and small. A clean water well for a rural community, scholarships for young professionals, medical care in the wake of disaster — these are not temporary gestures,

but steps toward dignity, resilience, and opportunity. This is how Rotary service becomes lasting impact. And when natural disasters strike, our Foundation allows Rotary to act quickly with disaster response grants.

Our Foundation is not about what we can do alone but what we can do together. Each contribution, no matter its size, joins with others to create a collective act of faith in humanity and in the future.

The last mile of any great journey is always the hardest. We see this in our final steps toward ending polio, in our work for peace, and in every project that seeks to lift people out of despair. Yet every time we give, we declare that our work will continue regardless of the challenge.

This November, let us give with gratitude, with joy, and with hope. Through our Foundation, we *Unite for Good*, and in doing so, we leave behind not only projects but a legacy of peace, trust, and Service Above Self.

Francesco Arezzo
President 2025-26

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

President **Alex Pope** presided.

Guests:

Al Stjernegaard, from the Port Moody Rotary Club

Malcolm Kennedy, from the Coquitlam Sunrise Rotary Club

Ray Peterson, soon to be from the Meadow Ridge Rotary Club

Christian (Chris) Zempoaltecatl, and **Carlos Morante**, from EMA Renovation Ltd.

Cheque Presentation - Port Moody Belize International Service Project

Al Stjernegaard received a cheque from our club in the amount of **\$5,000 CD** to support their international service initiative focused on improving **education and literacy in Belize**, primarily within the national prison and local schools.



Key aspects of the project include supplying computer resources, specifically RACHEL (Remote Area Community Hotspot for Education and Learning) servers, Chromebooks, and related equipment. Al Stjernegaard and other Rotarians (including our own Ineke Boekhorst) have made multiple trips to Belize to deliver equipment, conduct training, and implement the project on the ground.

Program: Malcolm Kennedy, Coquitlam Sunrise Rotary Club – Ecuador Project

Malcolm Kennedy talked to us about their 2025 international project and visit to Baños, Ecuador, as well as their 2026 project that is now into the planning stage, both of which he summarized as follows:



- “The 2026 project is a repeat of our 2025 project except that **in 2025** we installed water filtration in 8 schools in the town, giving safe water to 4,933 student and 380 teachers. Students were encouraged to take water from the schools to their homes. We utilized a Global Grant, and the total cost of the project and grant was \$64,400 USD.”

[Google: *The Rotary Club of Baños de Agua Santa experienced a momentous occasion during the official installation of its new board of directors for the 2025–2026 term, held in the iconic City Hall on Wednesday, July 16. The ceremony was graced by the presence of Rotary, civil, and religious authorities, as well as the special participation of principals and parents from the schools that benefited from the Safe Water Project, reaffirming the Club's commitment to health, education, and community well-being.*]



City of Baños, Ecuador

[Google: *Baños is the second most populous city in Tungurahua Province, Ecuador, and is a major tourist center. Baños is known as the "Gateway to the Amazon" as it is the last city still located in the mountain region before reaching the jungle and other towns that are located in the Amazon river Basin. It is located at an elevation of 1,820 metres (5,971 feet) on the northern foothills of the Tungurahua volcano, whose activity has been characterized by frequent powerful ash explosions and lava flows that can be seen from Baños.*]

- “A \$3,200 US District grant was also obtained in 2025 to do hands on work at the 8 schools, plus we did work at Casa Tao (a home for unwed mothers). Most of the mothers were 14 or 15 years old whose children were 2 or 3 years old, and who had been victims of rape by members of their step families. We had 36 Rotary members and family join us in Baños where they did hands-on work (such as painting), as we could not do the installation of the water filters because they need to meet government standards.”

[Google: *"Casa Tao" is a home for unwed teenage mothers. It provides support, encouragement, and counselling to young women and their children. The facility is primarily supported by organizations like Missionary Ventures International and local volunteer efforts, including projects by Rotary clubs. Activities at the home include shared meals, yoga sessions, and trips for the mothers and their babies.*]

- “In 2026 we are going back to put safe water into the 6 outlying schools which will help about 3,000 students and parents, and to undertake painting and playground repairs; and also to return again to Casa Tao to purchase and install kitchen equipment to enable job training to unwed mothers. The total cost will be about \$58,000 USD, of which Rotary Clubs will directly contribute about \$21,000 have to. We have raised the funds needed and the grant application is now in the submitted stage and will be reviewed by The Rotary Foundation in the next 2 weeks. As the grant is almost a duplicate of last years grant, we expect it should be approved with few questions.”
- “In 2026 we have already obtained a \$12,000 USD District Grant. This will be used to purchase paint and supplies to do hands-on work. Plus, we will purchase and install commercial kitchen equipment to enable job training for unwed mothers at Casa Tao.”
- “This is where we are looking for financial support to meet the \$6,000 USD we need to match the District Designated Funds (DDF). We are currently short around \$3,500 CDN. I have spoken to other clubs and have some tentative offers.”
- “The good news is we do have a private donor that has already contributed funds and would like to see those funds matched by Rotary clubs. The net result is that whatever you donate will be matched \$1 for \$1 with DDF plus every \$1 from your club will be matched by the provide donor. In simple terms a \$1,000 donor from your clubs gets \$1,000 from DDF plus \$1,000 from the private donor = \$3,000 to the project. Good bang for your buck.”
- “We would also like to see members of your club join us in Ecuador!”
- “So bottom line is: anything your club could offer would be greatly appreciated.”



Happy and Sad to Dollars included:

Mike Davies recently travelled to Toronto where he went to a baseball game with his grandson. (Nothing like bonding with your youngest offspring.)

Walter Volpatti went golfing, hit a tree, and sprained his ankle. (Nothing like a fun afternoon playing your favourite sport.)



(And nothing like an 18-inning World Series baseball game.) **Libby Nelson** was probably not the only Rotarian who (having invested most of the evening watching a tied game) couldn't give up until somebody made it across home plate. (Or was that a cricket game?)



Club Business and Announcements

November 4 –

Our regular Tuesday Rotary Club meeting will be held at the Royal Canadian Legion (not at Meadow Gardens Golf Club).

November 6 - Dancing in the Ridge at The ACT Arts Centre – Brave members of our Club, having taken a one-year hiatus from the competition, have again formed a team (now known as the “Meadow Ridge Rotary Mighty Ducks”) to perform at the ACT in the Dancing in the Ridge fundraiser to raise money for the Maple Ridge Community Foundation's Community Chest Program.

BE SURE TO MAKE A DONATION IN THE NAME OF
OUR CLUB'S ENTRY INTO THE COMPETITION !!!!!.



November 26 - 8 AM - the annual Dignity Breakfast put on by the Salvation Army will be held again, and our club has made a donation which will cover the cost of 8 or 10 members to attend the event. There may be one or more vacancies still left for those members wishing to attend.

November 27 -

Our Club's Pub Hub for November – at Eric's home.

President Alex's Quip for the Week

I got sick at a tiny hotel in Madrid. The front desk said they had a staff doctor. After he helped me, I told him I was amazed that such a small place had a doctor. He nodded and said, “No one expects the Spanish inn physician”.



More Puns



A sign on the lawn at a Drug Rehab Center:



The midget fortune-teller who escaped from prison was a small medium at large.

The soldier who survived mustard gas and pepper spray is now a seasoned veteran.

Submitted by Laurie Anderson