



Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon



President: Alex Pope	Phone: 604-465-1535	E-mail the President
Secretary: Debbie MacRae	Phone: 604-649-8962	E-mail the Secretary
Editor: Peter Boekhorst	Phone: 604-476-0010	E-mail the Editor

JANUARY IS VOCATIONAL SERVICE MONTH

Happy Birthday		Happy Anniversary
Jan. 13	Matt DeBruyn	

Upcoming Speakers:

Jan. 13	Alex Pope Club Runner demo. / Rotary Foundation	Jan. 20	Andy Berrisford Who's Who	Jan. 27	Aida Tajbakhsh & Anna Sanzhak Fraser Valley Addictions & Recovery Hub
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LAST WEEK'S MEETING

President **Alex Pope** presided.

The invocation (by **Debbie MacRae**) expressed gratitude for the opportunity to gather as friends and fellow Rotarians, to learn from one another, and to work together to improve the community, with a reminder to listen with open hearts and act with integrity.

Alex noted that **Matt's birthday** is coming up on January 13th (and, in the absence of any contrary information, he had to assume that it was his 29th birthday).

Ad Hoc Program

As the scheduled presentation was postponed, the meeting shifted to an informal activity to help members get to know one another better. Five volunteers were invited to the front to answer a short series of questions. The first question was: what was your first job was when growing up? One member said it was insulating an apartment building at age 15 to save for university, working without protective equipment and coming home covered in insulation. Another said it was delivering newspapers door to door in Grade 4. Another shared that at age 12 she worked in her stepfather's insurance office, answering phones and doing basic office work. Another described being recruited in high school as a keypunch operator, where students were picked up after school, transported to work, and driven home after entering data. A final story (by our newest member) went something like this:

"I was the first of seven kids, so money was tight. Like most kids in that situation, my first job was whatever I could get. Mine was at an old-style corner store—the kind with a trap door in the floor leading down into a dirt basement, basically a root cellar. The storekeeper kept all his empties down there: pop bottles, completely mixed together. My job, at about eight or nine years old, was to crawl down into that hole and sort them—Coke with Coke, the rest with the rest.

It was filthy: dirt, spiders, and things best not described. I didn't get paid in money. I got paid in candy. Remember when you could get three little black balls for a penny? After three or four hours of work, I might earn five cents' worth. Eventually I caught on. Every time I tried to pick my candy, the storekeeper would say, "No, not that—only two of those." Finally, I realized no other kid was dumb enough to go into his dungeon. So, I started setting my own wage: I'd come up, grab what I wanted, and called it fair compensation."

The next question was about a favourite or memorable vacation. For our newest member, it was Iceland. *"My family roots go back there to the year 1982, and just three years ago I finally got to visit. I saw the original family farm, which still exists and is still occupied by a distant cousin. Seeing where my grandmother's family lived before many emigrated to Canada made it unforgettable."*

Others shared their own memorable trips. One member talked about finally taking their kids to Disneyland after never going as a child—breaking down in the van, and loving every minute of it. Another described a dream trip to Europe, highlighted by a private art-history tour of the Louvre focused on the Renaissance, and a visit to Pompeii, amazed by how advanced the city was with running water, plumbing, and heated spas. There were stories of African safaris through Kenya and Tanzania, traveling between camps and seeing wildlife up close. And another, about a first European trip at age 21—30 days, 30 cities, and one unforgettable moment involving a tuba player following a very shy sister through a small town.

Different trips, different stories - but all the same result: memories that lasted far longer than the journey itself.

Happy-Sad Dollars included:

Walter shared happy news: the club received the 2026 Community Gaming Grant of \$45,000 again this year, the same amount as last year.

Adrienne was happy to finally find the time to clean out her office over the holidays, and rediscovering several old Rotary badges, including one from a 1998 trip to Australia. (She won't have to pay a fine anymore, for not having a badge!!!)

Sharon had 7 people over for New Years dinner. After loading the dishwasher, their dishwasher went on strike. Sharon & Ron were not enjoying "hand washing" the dishes!!! (The following day was spent shopping for a new dishwasher.)

Ineke and Peter drove to Kelowna for New Years. The roads were pretty good....no worries there. Marjolein taught Ineke how to play Canasta.....and she REALLY like the game!

Alex and Barbara's son had a kidney stone. Thankfully, the pain only lasted about an hour and he passed it quickly, reminding one of the wisdom of King Soloman of ancient times:



Reference to her son's painful passing of "kidney" stones, must have reminded **Barbara** of the 'fun' of the passing of her "kiddles" during pregnancy (except in the latter case it didn't last for just one hour). Barbara noted her experiences with pregnancy complications, early labor caused by kidney infections, emergency C-sections, and the fear surrounding premature births. (During one delivery, there was a placental abruption, but thankfully it happened while already in the hospital. A nurse came in to check, and things escalated incredibly quickly. The check happened at 6:45 in the evening, and the baby was born just minutes later, showing how fast the medical team responded.)

Club Business

January 15 – Duck Race meeting

January 16 – wine for this meeting

January 20 – executive meeting

President's Closing Quote

For my New Year's resolution, I am adopting a healthier lifestyle. So now I park and walk inside Tim Hortons to buy donuts instead of using the drive-through.



Thoughts for the New Year

"Mr. Clark, I have reviewed this case very carefully," the divorce judge said, "And I've decided to give your wife \$775 a week."

"That's very fair, Your Honor." the husband said "And every now and then I'll try to send her a few bucks myself!"



"No, we're not stopping. There's no rest for the wicked!"



"How could I have been doing 70 miles an hour when I've only been driving for ten minutes?"

Submitted by Laurie Anderson



WANTED

We are looking for students aged 15-17 years old, to attend the YAIL (Youth Adventures In Leadership) program, fully sponsored by our club for the weekend of February 6-8th at the Timberline Range in Maple Ridge.

This weekend gives participants insight into some of the basics of what it means and what it takes to be a leader. It works to help participants become well rounded individuals with perspective and enthusiasm for growth who can make informed decisions through their leadership journey.

Please contact Sharon Kyle, who is the Young Generations Chair, for further information.