

Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon



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JANUARY IS VOCATIONAL SERVICE MONTH

Happy Birthday	Happy Anniversary
	Jan. 22 Gordy & Mary Robson

Upcoming Speakers:

Jan. 20 Andy Berrisford Who's Who	Jan. 27 Aida Tajbakhsh & Anna Sanzhak Fraser Valley Addictions & Recovery Hub	Feb. 3 Rachel Tan Big Brothers and Sisters of the Fraser Valley
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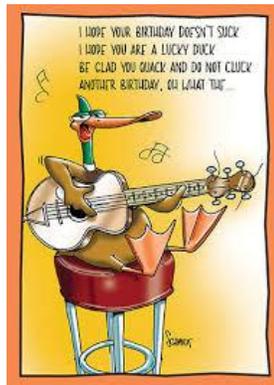
LAST WEEK'S MEETING

President **Alex Pope** presided.

Invocation/Inspirational Thought - was given by **Ray Peterson**:
 "Let's take a brief moment to pause and be grateful for the chance to be together today—for the conversations, the laughter, and the ideas that will come from this room. May we keep an open mind, a sense of humour, and a bit of patience with one another. And may whatever we accomplish today be positive, purposeful, and maybe even a little fun."

A Fond Birthday Wish

Today, Jan. 13th is Matt DeBruyn's birthday –
 HAPPY BIRTHDAY MATT!!!



Cheque Presentation – School District 42 Food Program



Mike Davies presented a cheque in the amount of **\$10,000** to **Jeannie Harnett**, to support the food security "in school programs" in School District 42.

This ensures that all students have consistent access to healthy meals and snacks in the Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows area.

This donation represents a continuation of our Club's long-running **Starfish Program**, which was chaired by Ineke Boekhorst, and which many members of our club supported for years. We were pleased that the remaining funds could now be directed to support food security for students across the District. Jeannie thanked the club for its long-standing support and explained the significant impact the Starfish Program had on families—particularly on weekends, holidays, and school breaks, when students did not have access to school meals.

Jeannie is the "Program Manager for Community Connections, Healthy Living, and Food Security for SD42", who oversees SD42's initiatives to boost student nutrition through diverse programs like breakfast/lunch programs, community fridges, snack carts, and partnerships with non-profits, and also utilizing provincial funding. The \$10,000 donation will go directly toward **elementary school breakfast programs**, serving 21 schools. These programs are open to all students without registration, helping reduce stigma and ensuring no child starts the day hungry. Jeannie emphasized that breakfast programs serve not only nutritional needs, but also emotional and social ones—providing connection, routine, and comfort, particularly for anxious students. Menus include both traditional and culturally diverse foods, reinforcing the message that *any food can be breakfast food* and that cultural differences are something to celebrate.

[President Alex was glad to hear that *any food can be breakfast food* – because he has some chocolate left over from Christmas!!!]



In essence, Jeannie Harnett is a central figure in ensuring that students in School District 42 have reliable access to nutritious food through innovative, community-focused programs, including the following:

Premium Lunch Program: This program supports (twice a week across the district) elementary school children who are in need of lunch support on a regular basis. Each school can request the number of lunches they require. Children's names are not shared with the program manager who orders the lunches from a third-party service provider. These lunches are primarily hot in nature and provide a well-balanced, delicious meal. There is no cost for these lunches.

Bagged Lunch Program: The Salvation Army provides free bagged lunches for students up to three times a week, who are identified as requiring support with lunches.

Universal Lunch Programs: Six elementary schools are currently offering a Universal Lunch Program. Any family may order lunch at a reasonable cost up to twice weekly. All lunches are partially subsidized, making it an affordable option for families. Families who require assistance may request a full subsidy that covers the cost of the meals.

School Based Breakfast and Snack Programs: Every elementary and secondary school in the district offers support to students who need breakfast. Every school also has a snack program.

School Based Lunch Programs: All elementary schools are supported by district-based lunch programs. High schools that are better equipped to create healthy and delicious lunches provide lunch programs internally. All high schools have the capacity to provide a free lunch for any student in need.

Jeannie noted the growing number of families accessing the program—not only those traditionally struggling, but also working families impacted by rising housing and food costs. Donations are used almost entirely for food, never salaries, and the District works hard to source locally and stretch every dollar. Jeannie concluded by thanking Rotary for helping ensure programs continue five days a week without cuts, noting that support like this consistently bridges the gap through to June. These programs reach a significant portion of students (around 33%) with food support, and provide essential food security, especially during challenging times, as noted by positive feedback from families.

Program – Rod Thomson – Rotary Foundation Donations



Meet **Rod**, Past District Governor

Rod began his Rotary experience with the Rotary Club of Coquitlam in 1984. After two years away from Rotary for business reasons, he rejoined as a Charter Member of the Coquitlam Sunrise (Centre) Rotary Club in 1989. He transferred to the Rotary Club of Abbotsford in 1991 and served as a director for several years and president for the 1997-98

year. In 2009 Rod joined the Semiahmoo (White Rock) Rotary club.

Rod's District activity included working with Youth Exchange, GSE, Public Relations and District Conference committees. Rod also produced district directories for two District Governors and presented at several District Assemblies. In 2002 Rod represented District 5050 and District Governor Kathy De Tuerk as team leader of a Group Study Exchange to D1730 in the south of France.

In 2006-2007, Rod served as District 5050 Governor, after which he served Rotary as an International Assembly training leader for

two years, Rotary Public Image Coordinator (RPIC) for Zone 24 West, RPIC training leader, and as trainer for partners of Governors Nominee Partners at the Rotary Zone Institute in Winnipeg. Rod is an active musician performing with both the Moonlighters Dance Band and the Abbotsford Concert Band. Rod and his wife Cathy are Major Donors and Level 3 Bequest Society Members of the Rotary Foundation.

First a "Paul Harris" Recognition



A Paul Harris+1 was presented to **Club President Alex**, earned through monthly giving. Members were reminded that each Paul Harris Fellowship represents US\$1,000 donated to The Rotary Foundation and that additional recognitions generate recognition points that can be transferred to individuals or donated to the club.

Presentation: Using *My Rotary* and Donating Online

Rod Thompson led a workshop-style presentation on using My Rotary, Rotary International's member-only portal.

Key points:

- Members are encouraged to create a My Rotary account to access donation records, recognition status, tax receipts, reports, and learning resources.
- Donations can be made directly online using the Donate button.
- Contributions default to the Annual Fund – SHARE, which returns 50% to the district after three years to support district and global grants.
- Other giving options include the Endowment Fund, PolioPlus, and disaster relief.

Overview of *My Rotary*

Rod Thompson explained that My Rotary is Rotary International's member-only portal, separate from the public rotary.org website, and we were all encouraged to create an account. It provides access to:

- Donation and recognition history
- Tax receipts
- Club and district reports
- Grant information
- Rotary Learning Center resources
- Membership and Foundation tools

Understanding Rotary Foundation Funds

Rod reviewed the main Foundation giving options:

- Annual Fund – SHARE (default option):
 - Donations are invested for three years.
 - 50% returns to the district for district and global grants.
 - Funds projects such as grants, scholarships, and humanitarian work.
- Endowment Fund:
 - Rotary's "savings account."
 - Funds are invested in perpetuity; only earnings are spent.
 - Helps keep Foundation operating costs very low (about 7–8%).
- PolioPlus:
 - Donations are matched 2:1 by the Gates Foundation, tripling impact.
- Disaster Response & World Fund:
 - Supports emergency relief and global priorities as needs arise.

Giving Online and Recurring Donations

Members were shown how to donate online through the Donate button in My Rotary. Key features:

- One-time or recurring donations (monthly, quarterly, annually)
- Choice of fund designation
- Automatic conversion to US dollars
- Monthly donations are processed during the first week of each month

Recurring donations were strongly encouraged as an easy way to build toward Paul Harris recognition. At current exchange rates, approximately \$125 CAD per month results in a Paul Harris Fellowship each year.

Reports, Records, and Tax Receipts

Members were shown how to access:

- Donor History Reports (summary and detailed views)
- Charts showing how donations are allocated
- Recognition status and available points
- Club-wide recognition reports (for presidents and Foundation chairs)

Tax receipts for Canadian donors are issued by The Rotary Foundation (Canada) and are now accessed online, with an annual summary replacing monthly mailed receipts.

Closing Message

Rod closed by reminding members that Rotary's global impact is delivered through the Foundation.

While no one is obligated to give, members were encouraged to give **as generously as they are able**, knowing their contributions help improve lives around the world.

Happy & Sad:

Yvonne Berrisford was happy and thankful for everyone who helped her move into her new condo.

Laurie Anderson was happy and surprised when he finally received back (in the mail) a \$1,000 security deposit from the City of PM which he had to put up post 9 and ½ years ago in order to get municipal approval to put in a new concrete driveway at his home – money that he had given up on ever getting back again!

Sharon Kyle found herself with a piece of glass in her foot.... but her fireman son came to the rescue and took it out safely.... all is good!

Mystery Greeter:

Chantal Despot was so pleased to be, for the first time, the "Mystery Greeter" thatshe went around and shook everyone's hand!!!!

Club Business and Announcements

Tuesday January 20 – 4:00 pm - Executive Meeting at Centra Lawyers office

Thursday January 29 – Pub Hub 5:30 pm Location TBD

Thursday February 5 – 6:30 pm - visitation to Haney Rotary Club's first evening meeting back at Meadow Gardens Golf Club

President's Quote for the Day

I WAS
GOING TO QUIT
ALL MY BAD HABITS
FOR THE NEW YEAR
BUT THEN I
REMEMBERED THAT
NOBODY LIKES A
QUITTER!

Who's Who

New Rotarians are expected to give a talk to their fellow Rotarians about themselves, their early life, their training and the job that they do (or did). This is called a "Job Talk" by some Clubs and a "Who's Who" by others. Later in Rotary life, the Rotarian is often expected to fill the speaker diary by giving a talk which is NOT connected with his work. A hobby such as raising birds or scuba diving would be a good example. This story recounts the time when "Fred" arrived at the meeting of his Rotary club to be reminded that he was the speaker for the evening and this was not a "Job Talk" or a "who's Who". He had forgotten, and was not prepared. He sat at the head table, beside the Club President for the evening, and thought about a subject during the meal. When he was announced he spoke about sex. The meeting listened to every word and asked many questions. It was a success.

When he arrived home, Mary his wife, asked "How was Rotary?".

"It was a good meeting" he said.

"Who was the speaker?" she continued.

"I was" he replied.

"What did you speak about?"

Now Fred could see trouble looming! "Sailing", he lied.

The next morning Mary was shopping in the town and visited their accountant who was also a Rotarian.

"Fred gave an interesting talk last night." he said.

"Yes" said Mary, "but I don't understand why he chose the subject. The first time he did it he was sick and the second time his hat blew off".

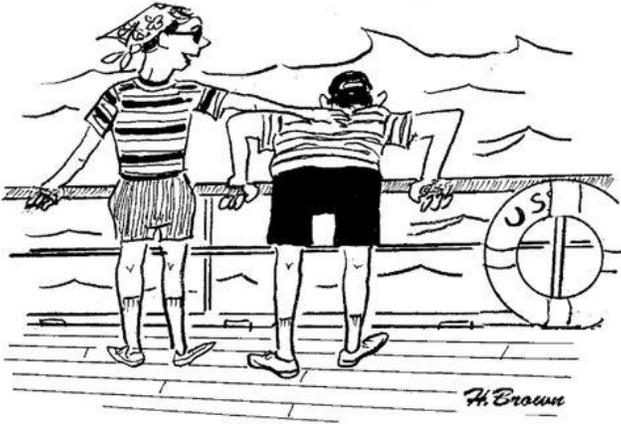


WANTED

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.



"SEASICK ALREADY? WHY, WE HAVEN'T UNTIED FROM THE DOCK YET."

Submitted by Laurie Anderson