

September, New Generations Month

Rotarians harbour hope for at-risk youths

Michael Myles, executive director of the Bonaventure Boys Home on Grand Cayman in the Cayman Islands, smiles when he talks about Kenneth Bryan, the facility's biggest success story. Bryan, a top fashion model known locally as "Mr. Cayman," did not always set the example he does today. As a boy, he used alcohol and marijuana. If it hadn't been for the Bonaventure Home and the Rotary Club of Grand Cayman, he might be sporting a prison uniform instead of the latest styles.

Bonaventure, founded in 1974, was the first major service project of the 40-year-old Grand Cayman club. Members raised US\$200,000 for Bonaventure's construction and an additional \$300,000 for its sister facility, the Frances Bodden Girls Home. In 1977, the Rotarians handed the home over to the government, forming a lasting partnership that has made a difference in hundreds of young lives. The club continues to contribute about \$40,000 a year to programs targeting at-risk youths.

"We give both financial and hands-on support," explains past president Nick Freeland. He says the club's most important contribution is its close relationship with Children and Youth Services (CAYS), the foundation that oversees Bonaventure and Frances Bodden. Four members of the 12-person CAYS board are Rotarians.

Typically, the court system refers troubled young people to Bonaventure or Frances Bodden as a last resort before prison. Many are substance abusers and victims of family violence. The program aims to reach such children early because by age 15 or 16, it may be too late to help, says Myles.

"We must intervene before behaviour is out of control," he explains, adding that the program emphasizes positive reinforcement. Before their arrival, he says, many of the youths are accustomed to receiving attention only when they behave badly. "No one listens to them if they do good, so they are bad," he says. "I tell them that they can do good, and I will reward them for that."

The Bonaventure Home, which can accommodate 15 boys, consists of two buildings. One houses residents with more serious behavioural problems, and the other is used for those showing improvement. Both have sleeping, dining, and lounge facilities, and the building for boys with less severe problems is equipped with a computer lab.

Bonaventure also provides much-needed social structure. The program emphasizes responsibility while encouraging creativity. Signs designed on a computer by one resident hang throughout the building. Outside, resident Nick Conner has constructed a cage for several iguanas he captured.

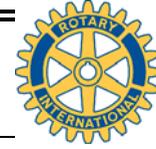
"Bonaventure allows me to build things that other programs would not allow me to do," he says. "They have also supplied me with materials and trust me with tools. I would like to become a carpenter one day, and this is a good start for me."

Myles hopes that positive reinforcement will help to change the paths of boys like Nick, and so do Grand Cayman Rotarians. "Our club is committed to these programs," says Freeland. "They offer real hope for the reintegration of at-risk youth into society."

— ROBERTA SOTONOFF



The Bonaventure Boys Home is a haven for at-risk youths.



The Four Way Flasher

Rotary Club of
MeadowRidge Newsletter

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Web-site: www3.telus.net/MeadowRidge_Rotary

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INVOCATION Sept. 9: Bob Shantz Sept. 23: Marco Terwiel

BINGO SCHEDULE

	6:15-8:15	8:00-10:00
Sept. 11	Brian Bekar	Lindsay Hendy
Oct. 9	Irena Shantz	Chad Reed

Call Peter at 604-465-3392 for assistance or e-mail peter.boekhorst@telus.net

TODAY'S PROGRAM: Marco Terwiel - Health Care in the Far North

NEXT WEEK'S PROGRAM: Vladimir's Bee Farm



Lend a Hand

CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT 5050 EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Sept. 16	6:00pm	Meeting / Family Social	Vladimir's Bee Farm, 129 th Ave. PM
Sept. 20	7:00pm	Evening of Improv	ACT
Sept. 21		Golf Tournament	Meadow Gardens Golf Club
Sept. 23		Membership drive	LaTrattoria
Oct. 7	6:30pm	Sports Banquet	Meadow Gardens Golf Club

☞ Next week we will NOT have a regular meeting, ☞
☞ instead we will meet 6pm at Vladimir's Bee Farm ☞

50 / 50 draw - Jackpot at \$695 + 1/2 of today's sales, 20 cards, Jackpot on "Queen of Hearts" only!

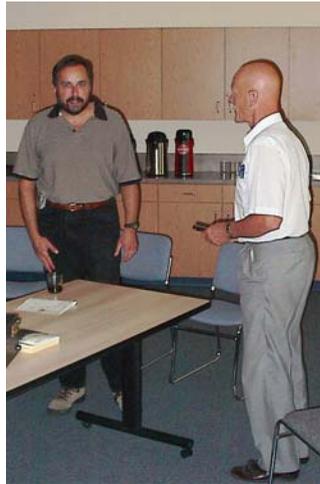
LAST WEEKS MEETING

It was announced today that we are STILL about 18 sponsors short for the Hospice Calendar and our deadline is NOW! If anyone knows of anybody who may be interested in supporting this project by way of a spot advertisement in the calendar, NOW is the time to make that connection.

Mary also announced that Cathy Kruger is the assistant re the Sports Banquet, which by the way is only one month away. We need to get on the job and participate in this event so we can continue the history of success. If you have not already been assigned a duty and wish to help out speak to Mary, Gord or Cathy and they will get you participating in short order. The tickets remain the same price as last year \$125 and we need to sell 200 tickets so talk to your sport minded friends and lets fill the house!

Our guest speaker was Paul Lawson from the UBC Research Forest. He gave us several interesting facts, some of which are listed below.

- 1) the UBC Research forest was started in 1949
- 2) In 1868 there was a forest fire that ranged from Coquitlam to Hope
- 3) In 1931 there was another large forest fire in what is now the UBC Research Forest and what you see now is actually naturally re-generated forest, ie no planting. It came in very thick and the UBC team work at thinning it for two reasons a) to encourage growth of different species of plants and b) to add more resistance to wild fire damage.
- 4) The main tasks of the UBC Forest team is to:
 - a) support Research and Education
 - b) be financially self supporting
 - c) practice forest management
- 5) Due to the disaster in other parts of BC, they expect a lot of research will be done this year re firefighting skills and techniques and how to best restore forests after this damage or after intense logging efforts.
- 6) While clear-cutting is not aesthetically pleasing it is really the most environmental way to forest, however due to public outcry new ways are being developed where some of the forest is left standing to help reforestation and to be better for the public view.
- 7) The last 3 publications of the Maple Ridge phone book have featured shots within the Research forest.
- 8) Sometimes the best technology is the “old ways”, when used as they were meant to be used. One example is the wooden culverts as opposed to the steel ones widely used today.
- 9) Another research project is how wildlife (birds) use the trees of the forest and also how best to build logging roads for the least impact on the forest or lands above or below the road.
- 10) The local UBC team is on full alert for forest fires and has suspended all research except for two members.



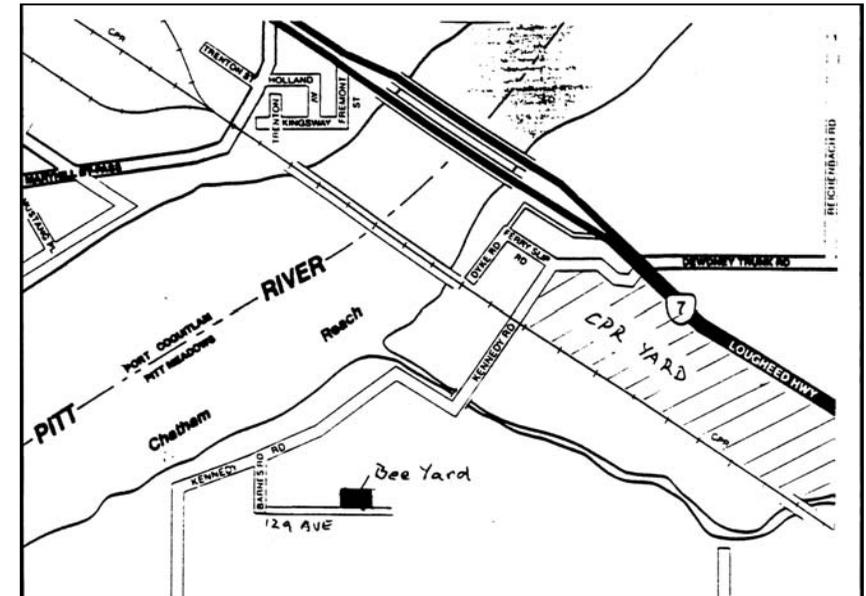
Submitted by Debi Pearce

SOCIAL AT VLADIMIR'S BEE FARM

As you all know, next week we have a social/meeting at Vladimir's Bee Farm. The farm is located in Pitt Meadows, close to the Pitt River bridge. Off Kennedy Rd., off Barnes Rd., onto 129th Avenue.

And as one picture is more than a thousand words, here is the map again.

You can bring your spouse or better half and/or your (grand)kids.



EVENING OF IMPROV, SEPTEMBER 20 7:00PM

Every weekend for almost 20 years the Vancouver Theatre Sports League has entertained audiences with their incredible improvisational talents. The Stars of TV's "Whose Line is it Anyway?" Colin Mocherie and Ryan Styles are both alumni of the VTSL. The Haney Rotary Club in conjunction with The Times Newspaper proudly present the First Annual Evening of Improv in Maple Ridge's incredible ACT Theatre. Four of the finest improvisers in the Lower Mainland will work 'scriptless' and leave you laughing during this great entertainment evening. All proceeds go to the Ridge Meadows Arena Society. Tickets are \$22/\$18 In Advance, or \$25 at the Door.

