

ShelterBox is distributing disaster relief tents and life-saving supplies for up to 10,000 earthquake survivors in Chile. Around 1,000 ShelterBoxes are arriving in the capital Santiago this weekend where they will be met by two ShelterBox Response Teams (SRT) and delivered to those who lost their homes in the devastating 8.8 magnitude quake.

With strong aftershocks still a regular occurrence nearly a fortnight after the disaster, ShelterBox workers on the ground have been assessing areas of greatest need in the Talca region, north of the worst-affected city, Concepcion. ‘The Chilean government and other agencies have been providing emergency shelter in Concepcion, the city closest to the quake’s epicentre, and to areas along the coast which were hit by a tsunami.

‘But we’re hearing reports that more inland, rural communities near Talca are not getting any support despite people’s homes being destroyed by the earthquake. We’re looking to put tents up close to people’s homesteads so they can stay where they are under cover while starting to rebuild their lives and homes.’

The 1,000 ShelterBoxes – providing enough aid for up to 10,000 people - have come from prepositioned stock in Melbourne, Singapore and Dubai as well as from ShelterBox HQ in Cornwall, UK. ShelterBox has a network of strategic locations around the globe where boxes are stored to allow a speedy response to disasters wherever they strike. On arrival in Santiago the boxes will be transported by road to Talca with help from shipping company DHL.

SRT member Tom Lay said: ‘There is massive damage in the region of Talca and a lot of buildings are just gone. We’ve identified rural communities in the towns of Curepto, Villa Prat and Curico which were hit by the quake and suffered devastation, but are at the bottom of the list in terms of getting aid, so we’re making sure these communities get emergency shelter as quickly as possible.

‘The aftershocks we’ve felt have been really strong and we had to evacuate the building we were in. We can’t wait for the boxes to arrive and as soon as they do we’ll be distributing them.’

Thousands of people left homeless by the devastating Haiti earthquake are due to start moving into a camp with hundreds of ShelterBox tents this week. Situated near to the US Embassy in Port au Prince, the encampment named Congress Camp will house thousands of refugees from the centre of the city allowing them to stay close to their communities and carry on with their daily lives.

ShelterBox’s Response Team (SRT) in Port au Prince has been working around the clock to help set up the camp with hundreds of disaster relief tents, each of which can house an extended family of up to 10 people. The team has worked closely with the French aid agency ACTED and IOM (International Organisation for Migration) to create the tent village which is also equipped with showers and latrines. John Leach, ShelterBox’s Head of Operations, said: ‘This is an urban camp which means people can carry on with their daily lives and won’t be forced to locations outside of Port au Prince.

‘We have a huge number of tents here which will provide shelter to thousands of people and give them a chance to start rebuilding their lives. But we also have tent encampments set up in several other locations in and around Port au Prince and thousands more ShelterBoxes on their way to the city.’

In another camp in Delmas, a suburb of Port au Prince, work is continuing to provide emergency shelter to families with newborn babies and pregnant women.

Meanwhile the aid operation from the UK continues. Another 1,800 ShelterBoxes are set to be flown from Stansted Airport to Santa Domingo, the Dominican Republic, on Friday, where they will be transported overland to Port au Prince. It will bring the total number of ShelterBoxes deployed in Haiti to more than 7,000 boxes, providing emergency shelter to more than 70,000 people.



The Four Way Flasher

Rotary Club of MeadowRidge Newsletter

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March is Literacy Month



INVOCATION

Mar. 16	David Riddell	Mar. 23	Gord Robson
Mar. 30	Mary Robson	April 6	James Rogers

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

March 21: Debbie MacRae

TODAY’S PROGRAM: Rhian Pipprell - Guatemala Mobile Library Update

NEXT WEEK’S PROGRAM: Robert Campbell & Alphonse Seward - Navigating Rotary Web Sites

CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT 5050 EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
April 10	7:00 pm	Wine Festival	Rotunda – Thomas Haney S.S.
April 20		New Members Meeting	
May 14-16		District 5050 Conference	Tulalip Resort Casino, USA
June 20-23		Rotary International Convention	Montreal

50 / 50 draw - Jackpot at \$708.00 + 1/2 of today’s sales, 27 cards left, Jackpot on “Queen of Hearts” only!

TWO WEEKS AGO MEETING

Marco spoke about his recent trip to Mexico and his visit to the Cabo San Lucas Rotary Club.

Patrick was our Fine Master and quizzed us on some Olympic questions.

Mary informed us that we now have 2 RYLA candidates and was hopeful for one more before the deadline. She was hoping the Club could also send the 3rd candidate, but was positive that she could find a sponsor if it wasn't in our budget.

This meeting's speaker - Walter Volpatti doing a "Who's Who". Walter said this was his second one and this time would tell us where he grew up.

Walter comes from Trail, B.C. His father was killed in an industrial accident when Walter was young. His mother was tasked with raising the kids, working and looking after the household. He is the oldest of 3 kids. He says his mother showed him a great work ethic and he admires her greatly for this. He started working as a teenager and missed out on a lot of youth sports. His mom looked after his money for him - and he thanks her for doing that today! - to ensure Walter was given the opportunity to attend University.

He came to Vancouver and got his Degree in Commerce. He thought of going back to Trail to article, but instead chose a downtown Vancouver firm. He said everyone told him he would learn more. In 1989 he met with Ken Paterson in Maple Ridge and Ken offered him a job. He's never looked back and is still with the firm that now includes his name - Paterson Schulz Volpatti & Colley.

Walter's brother came for a visit in the mid '90's to look for work after the smelter in Trail downsized. He needed a place to stay while looking for work down here in the lower mainland - he's still living with Walter to this day!

Walter enjoys golfing in the summer and says he still wants to take up skiing, however his current work schedule won't permit it.

Jim announced that if anyone has seen the flags to please let him know. They have gone missing from the locker at the Gourmet Hideaway.

Laura asked everyone if they could each sell some tickets on behalf of the Wine Festival they would appreciate it. A brief Wine Festival Committee meeting was to follow lunch.

And folks if you get to the bottom of this report and think it a little sparse - I apologize, I "misplaced" my notes (that's what happens when I forget the laptop). I know the 50/50 was drawn, but the Queen was not - and I forget who it was!!!! So I will fine myself \$20.00 if everyone in attendance today says something quietly to me about this - no notifying your lunch neighbour - let's see who reads these to the bottom!!!!

Submitted by Terry Becker



PARALYMPIC TORCH RELAY

Wednesday March 10, 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm was the Paralympic Torch Relay celebration in Memorial Peace Park.

We gathered in the foyer of the ACT for a short "Wine & Cheese" social with the Haney Club, followed by O Canada and Invocation; Kiwanis Club was providing dinner (hamburgers) in the Park, after which we joined the festivities in the Park.

