



The Four Way Flasher

Meadow Ridge Rotary Club

Vol. 18, Issue 23 Dec. 06, 2011

Website: www.MeadowRidgeRotary.ca

Meetings: Tuesday 12pm, Bella Vita Restaurant

President:	Terry Becker	Phone: 604-465-9993	president@meadowridgerotary.ca
Secretary:	David Riddell	Phone: 604-406-8882	secretary@meadowridgerotary.ca
Editor:	Peter Boekhorst	Phone: 604-465-3392	editor@meadowridgerotary.ca

DECEMBER IS FAMILY MONTH



TODAY: AGM & Election of 2012/13 Officers

NEXT WEEK: No regular meeting

Dec. 20: Christmas Luncheon

Happy Anniversary

Dec 10: Peter & Ineke Boekhorst

Happy Birthday

Dec. 13: Fraser MacRae

Dec. 6:

Invocation

Urma Mollema

Note Taker

Lyndy Buyze-Kerr

Dec. 20:

Patrick O'Brien

Robert Campbell

CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT 5050 EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Dec. 13	noon	No Regular Meeting	
Dec. 14		Joint Christmas Party with Haney	Meadow Gardens
Dec. 20	noon	No Regular Meeting	

RI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

My dear brothers and sisters in Rotary,

In late August, Binota and I were in Ghana, where Rotary Foundation Trustee Vice Chair Sam Okudzeto and enthusiastic local Rotarians took us to the ribbon-cutting for a water project in a little village, Abutia Teti, about 60 miles from Accra.

We arrived at about 11 a.m., and the whole village seemed to be there. Everyone had been waiting since early morning to welcome us. In the past, the women had to walk over 3 miles to carry pails of water from a river. Now they had a supply of safe, clean water from tube wells in the village itself. It was a simple but effective project in which Rotary and USAID had worked together. But what struck us most that day was family: The men, the women, the children were all there together, dancing, singing, and welcoming us. It made me think about how everywhere around the world, people come together in families, and families join together as communities.

And this made me happy that the first of our emphases in this Rotary year is the family, because the family is where everything begins. It is where life begins, it is where our day begins, and it is

where our Rotary service must begin. Because it is the family, and not the individual, that is the building block of the community – and of Rotary.

It is one of my great priorities to encourage the involvement of families in Rotary service. I feel incredibly strongly that Rotary should never, ever come between the Rotarian and the family. Rotary service should be something that brings the family closer together. For myself, if I cannot bring Binota with me to a Rotary event, it's simple – I don't go! Rotary is not just for me; it is for both of us. This is why I encourage districts to welcome families at district conferences, to involve spouses and children in service projects, and to plan meeting times with families in mind. The more that families are involved in Rotary, the more Rotary will thrive – today and tomorrow.

What is Rotary about? It's about so many things, but at its core, Rotary is about these words: *Love your neighbor as yourself*. Rotary is about love, and that love has to start with us – and with those closest to us.

Kalyan Banerjee
President, Rotary International

50 / 50 draw - Jackpot at \$616.50 + 1/2 of today's sales, 30 cards left, Jackpot on "Queen of Hearts" only!

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

Invocation: short and sweet by Eric Mollema

Brian Bekar, our Sergeant at Arms for the day, introduced the guests: Peter Chan, guest of Peter Tam and Janice Elkerton, who has been visiting our club as a guest, awaiting installation as a member into our club.

Happy / Sad dollar:

Adrienne was VERY happy to donate \$10, announcing she submitted her last 8 subjects for admittance into Canada.....not that we would let her go back to South Africa anyway!

Mary Robson was happy to announce that Gord Jr. is now a licensed real estate agent; Real Estate will have to wait for a while, since Gord Jr. just travelled to Dubai. Sad dollar on the other hand: Cara will be moving back to Egypt.....think about all the airmiles, you'll be collecting!

Lynda Lawrence had a great time with her Mom and Dad on Salt Spring Island; Mom will be 91 shortly! Congratulations MOM and Lynda! Take good care of Mom, you're so lucky to still have Mom around.

Robert Campbell shared that his home is now listed, unfortunately no offers yet.....so if you want to see Robert's home (and it is really nice!), you could always come to one of his "house concerts", he has some awesome artists coming!

Our new member Angie was happy to be almost done with all her Christmas shopping (you're way ahead of me, Angie!)

Brian Bekar just came back from his new home in Arizona (gotta get back to the store and sell lots of stuff for Christmas.....to pay for it all!). Big news in the Bekar family: Brian and Sharon are going to be grandparents! Congratulations grandma and grandpa.

Mystery Greeter Robert Campbell, he's way to popular....not too much collected there!

Rotary Moment by Brian Bekar:

Rotarians have planted trees in the name of fellowship, friendship and community service since the early 20th century. These trees, which can be found worldwide, have grown into enduring monuments of Rotary's ideals.

As President emeritus Paul Harris traveled extensively during the 1920s and 1930s, often with his wife Jean. During these trips, the nature loving Harris planted trees to symbolize goodwill and friendship.

In the fall of 1932 Paul Harris took a five week tour of European Rotary Clubs and planted trees along the way.

"I planted my first tree of friendship in European soil in Germany-in its metropolis-Berlin. The planting occurred with a large number of Rotarians, city officials and others in attendance"

Paul Harris also planted trees in Tallinn, Estonia and Gotenburg, Sweden, during this trip.

Planting trees soon became a hallmark of his travels, including in Australia, Brazil, Japan, Mexico and New Zealand

Other RI Presidents also observed the tradition. In 1931-32 RI President Sydney W Pascall planted trees at the sites of Rotary Clubs he visited, reportedly at Paul Harris's suggestion.

Not all trees were planted outside the United States. Often Paul and Jean Harris entertained visiting rotarians and dignitaries in their home, Comely Bank, and planted trees with their guests to mark the occasion. They called the garden their "Friendship Garden"

Today, Rotarians continue to plant trees to symbolize enduring friendships and fellowship, to beautify parks and communities and to contribute to a greener world.

Guest Speaker: Bob Paddon from Translink

Bob was very happy to address our Meadow Ridge Rotary Club, since he has many personal connections with Rotary.



Giving us an overview of what's happening with Translink in our area. Most importantly the area mayors passed in October a package containing approval to increase the fuel tax by 2 cents, for 2 years only. This may be followed by a possible property tax levy, or other alternative, to raise funding for much needed local services.



Following an update on the "Moving Forward Plan":

Evergreen Line Program

- Connects Coquitlam and Vancouver via Port Moody and Burnaby: 11 km line, five stations and 28 new SkyTrain vehicles
- The RFP is expected to be awarded in 2012 with an estimated construction period of four years.
- Commercial-Broadway Stn Phase II
- Community and network integration, and
- Wayfinding upgrades

Station Upgrade Projects

- Main Street Station
- Metrotown Station
- Surrey Central Station
- New Westminster Station
- Lonsdale Quay SeaBus Terminal

- King George Boulevard B-Line
- Highway 1 Bus Rapid Transit
- White Rock to Langley Bus Service
- Bus service hours to increase frequency (e.g. on SeaBus) and address overcrowding
- Bus service hours to accommodate population growth
- Bus service hours on Provincial U-Pass BC program routes
- Represents an **8% increase** to annual bus service hours
- Increase funding for MRN Minor Capital Program by \$10M/year to \$20M/year total
- Increase funding for Bike Capital Program by \$3M/year to \$6M/year total

- Advances mobility needs for the region
- Over 20 Million more annual transit boardings by 2014, and over 40 Million more by 2021
- Per capita Vehicle Kilometers Travelled (VKT) drops through 2015
 - Significant reversal of historic trends
 - Contributes to decline in passenger vehicle greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions
- Improves road efficiency and supports goods movement
- Improves bicycle facilities and increases cycling

Thanks Bob, a very interesting presentation.

Some of the questions raised, concerning "Fare Evasion", what will be done about that? And simply WHEN will Maple Ridge finally have a regular and decent connection with Downtown Vancouver?

Debbie McCrea held the winning 50/50 ticket; she even pulled out the queen.....too bad: the queen of diamonds is the wrong queen....better luck next time, Debbie!

Submitted by Ineke Boekhorst