



The Four Way Flasher

Meadow Ridge Rotary Club

Vol. 19, Issue 23 Dec. 4, 2012

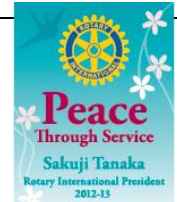
Website: www.MeadowRidgeRotary.ca

Meetings: Tuesday 12pm, Bella Vita Restaurant

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December is Family Month

TODAY: MLA John Yap – Minister of Multiculturalism
NEXT WEEK: Club AGM and election of Executive 2013/14



Happy Birthday

Happy Anniversary

Dec. 10: Peter & Ineke Boekhorst

Invocation

Dec. 4

David Rempel

Dec. 11

David Riddell

CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT 5050 EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Dec. 5	6pm	Joint Christmas party with the Haney Club	Pitt Meadows Golf Club
Dec. 11	noon	Club AGM and election of Executive 2013/14	Bella Vita Restaurant
Dec. 18	noon	Christmas Lunch	Bella Vita Restaurant
Dec. 18	7pm	CP Holiday Train – Donations to FIN Food Bank	Haney Station

RI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear fellow Rotarians,

The year 2012 is nearly gone, and we have reached the midpoint of this Rotary year. It is time to take stock of the goals we have set for ourselves, and the progress we have made toward them. Are we on track to achieve what we set out to accomplish?

I am a great believer in the importance of setting goals that are high but realistic. A worthwhile goal should be within your reach but still require you to stretch. Opening yourself to a new challenge helps you find out what you are really capable of – which may well be more than you think.

On 1 July, we will embark on our newest challenge as an organization: the full rollout of the Future Vision Plan, the new grant model for our Rotary Foundation. We in Rotary have set for ourselves a simple and vital goal: to do the most good we can with all the resources we have. To do this, we will be working to reduce overhead; to improve accountability, transparency, and local control; and to focus our service more intensely in the areas where we know we can have the most impact.

With Future Vision, we will implement a simplified grant structure that will encourage Rotarians to serve in our six areas of focus: peace and conflict prevention/resolution, disease prevention and treatment, water and sanitation, maternal and

child health, basic education and literacy, and economic and community development. These are areas in which Rotarians around the world have already been working for many years, and in which we have experience and a track record of project sustainability.

Sustainability will be a major focus under Future Vision, as we shift our emphasis to long-term, high-impact projects. Simply put, a sustainable project is one that will continue to benefit the world even after Rotary funding ends. The ultimate example of a sustainable project, of course, is polio eradication: When polio is gone, the good that we have done will continue forever, centuries after the last polio vaccine is given. And the lessons we have learned from PolioPlus are universal. A truly sustainable project requires an emphasis on planning and cooperation, a long-term perspective, and an approach that considers community members as partners in our service, not passive recipients.

Embracing Future Vision means embracing a more ambitious view of Rotary – one in which we work to address major issues in a serious, lasting way. It is a new way of thinking about our service, and an approach that I believe will lead to a Foundation more capable than ever of Doing Good in the World.

Sakuji Tanaka
President, Rotary International

50 / 50 draw - Jackpot at \$669.50 + 1/2 of today's sales, 25 cards left, Jackpot on "Queen of Hearts" only!

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

There was quite an influx of excited, talkative and happy people just before noon and acting chair Terry Becker needed to resort to hit the bell quite hard to call the meeting to order. She volunteered Marco to do the invocation.

Acting Sergeant-at-Arms Laura Cherrille introduced a long list of visitors. Some were well known and did not need the introduction, however there were quite a few who came and went without the others present having any idea who they were and why. Their names: Livia Mior, Ann Gordon, Kim Day, Bill Elder, Betty Johansen and Todd Oliver and Manjit Gill

The well Known visitors: Mike Murray, complete with his Movember moustache, MLA Marc Dalton, Sharon Kincaid (David Rempel's wife) and their daughter Jacqueline.

Announcements:

Angie mentioned that with our club sponsorship of the Maple Ridge Pitt Meadows Community Services Meals on Wheels, we have been given 6 complimentary tickets to their upcoming Country Christmas Benefit Concert. It is being held at the ACT Sunday December 2nd from 1:30 - 4:00pm.

Also, with our table sponsorship for the Salvation Army Caring Place Dignity Breakfast, we have 8 tickets for the event at the ACT Wednesday November 28th from 7:30-9:00am. There are currently 6 remaining seats. Keynote speaker is Dr. Peter Legge.

Linda reminded us that the Santa Parade place this coming Saturday. This is a fun event for Rotarians to take part in collecting money from onlookers for the food bank. When you participate shaking a collection can in front of people's noses it is heart-warming to experience the generosity of people.

Terry Becker presented Laurie Anderson as the recipient of the rule of 85. He has now joined the exclusive club of Rotarians who are no longer subject to the obligation of regular attendance.



MLA Mark Dalton then presented the Queens Diamond Jubilee medal to David Rempel with a nice citation how David has served both the local and international community for many years with a special focus on the well-being of children. Special mention was made of the 200

orphans from Russia who are now thriving as fellow Canadian citizens thanks to his efforts. David predictably exceeded the allotted two minutes of saying a few words, but his deep-felt emotions came through loud and clear.

MLA Mark Dalton then introduced the Hon. Stephanie Cadieux, Minister of children and family development, as our keynote speaker. She has served in a variety of ministries since being elected in 2009. As an 18-year-old she was involved in a car crash in ended up being a paraplegic. Being confined to a wheelchair has not held her back to embark on the amazing career. Moreover she is a fellow Rotarian currently on leave on account of her governmental responsibilities.

She gave a spirited address straight from the heart rather than sticking to the script she had brought with her. We do live in a time of major changes and this offers great opportunities to think outside the box and how to best use the limited resources available to fulfill her mandate. The only way to expand the

resources is through a growing economy. She mentioned specifically that healthcare is gobbling up the majority of the resources available to the provincial government. She recognized that taxation of the population is at its tolerable maximum and that's the current economic circumstances make it very difficult for families to juggle their financial resources and meet their obligations. She mentioned that both she and her own family and their relatives are families dealing with the same issues. She struggles on a daily basis how to best provide assistance for families with young children that are in need of support. She makes a point to meet face to face with as many stakeholders as possible. She mentioned that nobody is ever come to her and said: "Minister we can save you money", everybody asks for more.

She mentioned what has been done so far. The most significant move was to raise the minimum wage to \$10.25 in three stages to minimize the inevitable conflict between employers and employees when such a measure is instituted.

The ministry is working on providing a balanced income assistance approach and allowing recipients on government assistance to earn extra income on a yearly instead of a monthly basis without clawing back on benefits. She was happy to report that BC has a declining child poverty rate even though the levels are still unacceptable. To help solve the problem the government would have to raise an extra billion dollars which is not possible in the current circumstances.

On the subject of poverty she emphasized that poverty in Surrey is very different than in Stewart with very different needs for the local populations.

Her portfolio deals with youth justice, child protection, adoption special needs children, early childhood development and coordinating community agencies and the ministry.

She acknowledged that the handling of the Maple Ridge recycling social development program was a bureaucratic mix-up and gave assurances that this would not happen again. She then opened the floor to questions. Gordy asked about our youth being brought to the emergency department in a psychotic state on account of drug abuse. These young people are treated and temporarily stabilized and then turned back out onto the street without any follow-up care only to assure a recurrence of the same problem time and again. The Minister responded that the province spends \$1.3 billion for mental health and addictions and 90 million of that is assigned to the care of children. One of the problems is that many of the agencies working silos and children fall between the cracks. Marco was wondering why we do not pay much more attention on preventing many social problems that are a result of the large number of children being raised by totally unprepared, unskilled and uneducated parents guaranteeing a perpetuation of people depending on government assistance instead of being raised to become contributing citizens.

50/50 draw: it was not Debbie's lucky day in spite of having the right ticket.

Submitted by Marco Terwiel

