



# The Four Way Flasher

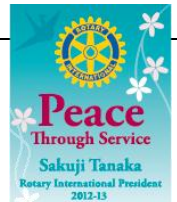
**Meadow Ridge Rotary Club**

**Vol. 19, Issue 24 Dec. 11, 2012**

Website: [www.MeadowRidgeRotary.ca](http://www.MeadowRidgeRotary.ca)

Meetings: Tuesday 12pm, Bella Vita Restaurant

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## December is Family Month

**TODAY:** Club AGM and election of Executive 2013/14

**NEXT WEEK:** Christmas Lunch

### Happy Birthday

### Happy Anniversary

### Invocation

<b>Dec. 11</b>	David Riddell
<b>Dec. 18</b>	Gord Robson

## CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT 5050 EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
<b>Dec.18</b>	<b>noon</b>	Christmas Lunch	Bella Vita Restaurant
<b>Dec. 18</b>	<b>7pm</b>	CP Holiday Train – Donations to FIN Food Bank	Haney Station

### LAST WEEK'S MEETING

President Lindsay Hendy did double duty, and gave the invocation.

Mark Forster presented a cheque in the amount of \$4,000 on behalf of the Sports Banquet to Brian and Denise Fewtrell of the Ridge Meadows Minor Softball Association. Brian thanked the club for the great support of our Rotary Club to his organization through not only the Sports Banquet but also the participation of the Minor Softball Association members in the Duck Race. The Association now has an indoor training facility with a dedicated batting section which allows the children to practice in all kinds of weather and improve their game and the fun of it.



Lynda Lawrence advised that Marco Terwiel had been in intensive care at the hospital for about a week and just recently returned home. Although he was not here at the meeting in person, Marco certainly was in spirit. Linda stated Marco was up to accepting visitors, but that we should, of course, call him first to make sure he is feeling well enough and not otherwise occupied at the time of the visit.

Lynda also advised that Angie, Gordy, Mary, Ineke and Peter (and of course Lynda) attended the Santa Claus Parade and raised \$1,200 plus donated food for the Friends in Need Foodbank. (The weather that evening was quite cold, wet and windy, and we have to admire these dedicated Rotarians for their fortitude as well as their community spirit.)

Lastly, Lynda (a director of the Food Bank) advised that Brian Bekar and son Jeremy and the good folks at Mark's Work Warehouse were again allowing the Food Bank to raise money by selling hotdogs outside of the store on Saturday, December 8. (Did you know that Mark's Work Warehouse supplies the barbecue, the hot dogs and buns, and all the condiments, and all we have to do is show up and cook the hotdogs?) Lynda requested volunteer hot-dog cooks to come for a shift of a couple of hours, make some money for the Food Bank and have a good time.

Ineke (who is also a director of the Food Bank) announced that the Boileau family is donating 100 freshly cut Christmas trees to the Food Bank, but because the Food Bank does not have the personnel or the ability to sell them on site, Ineke has arranged to team up with the Ridge Meadows Education Foundation (Ineke, Dave Rempel and Laurie Anderson are directors) to sell Christmas trees at the Canadian Tire parking lot on Saturday, December 8. (We are fortunate in having a member of the Haney Rotary Club as the owner of that establishment). Buy a hot dog at the Work Warehouse and get a free \$5-off coupon to buy a Christmas tree for only \$20. The money will be split between those two organisations (regular price - \$25).

**50 / 50 draw - Jackpot at \$698.00 + 1/2 of today's sales, 24 cards left, Jackpot on "Queen of Hearts" only!**



Ineke also announced that the club would again this year have a Festive Christmas Fund Raising Event for polio eradication - "Christmas Plants for Polio Plus". Beautiful greenhouse-grown 6" "Kassetas" are on sale for \$20 each or 5 plants for \$90. These fabulous plants are a combination of white Kalanchoe with a red Poinsettia in the centre. They

are locally grown by Amsterdam Greenhouses (who gives them to the club at a discounted price) and come with a handmade Christmas card for easy gift giving. Plants will be available at the Rotary Christmas luncheon on December 18 (or earlier, if you require). To purchase plants call (467-2420) or fax (467-2421) or email Ineke at [inekeb@downtownmapleridge.ca](mailto:inekeb@downtownmapleridge.ca)

An order form is attached to the end of this Flasher.

Lastly, Ineke announced we are again going to have an outgoing exchange student who has now been selected, so we will also be having an incoming one. This year the student exchange program is in cooperation with the Haney Rotary club. We need a family from our club to house the incoming exchange student for three months. The student will be coming at the end of July 2013 and leaving at the end of June 2014 and will be going to Maple Ridge Secondary School during the stay here.

In addition to Brian and Denise Fewrell and our speaker for the day, our guests included Betty Johansen, Warren Dale (of the Haney club) and Andrew Ives, assistant to our guest speaker.

Happy and sad dollars were the following:

- Bob Shantz announced that Irena's father is sick and fading fast.
- Eric Mollema said Peter Davies (despite being unable to continue as a member of our club due to work commitments) was working hard and spending a lot of his time to install our media system at the restaurant.
- Gordon Robson announced that Mary's mother had just passed away.
- Mark Forster announced that his wife's parents just celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.
- Patrick O'Brien stated that he had seen Marco, and was glad that he was looking better.
- Lynda gave to happy dollars to thank those who helped with the Santa Parade, and because she was able to visit her parents recently.
- Ken Paterson gave 20 happy and sad dollars - happy that in a few days he was going to Hawaii for three months, but sad that he would miss the local Christmas festivities. He was also happy to announce that while in Hawaii he was going to attend as our club's representative, on January 25 - 27th, the Rotary International's World Peace Forum.

Adrienne Dale, as fine master, fined all of us who were not attending the joint Meadow Ridge/Haney Rotary Christmas party.

Adrienne Dale introduced our guest speaker John Yap, our Provincial Minister of Multiculturalism. Adrienne first met Minister John Yap when, as a Rotarian, he visited her home in South Africa to participate in a Rotary project. John started his

community service and volunteer work with the North Delta Rotary club it is now a member of the Richmond Rotary club. His full title is Minister of Advanced Education, Innovation and Technology and Minister Responsible for Multiculturalism, having been appointed to those positions on September 5, 2012.

John was first elected in the riding of Richmond-Steveston in 2005 and was re-elected on May 12, 2009. Previous government service included Minister of State for Climate Action, chair of the Government Caucus, member of the Treasury Board, the Legislative Review Cabinet Committee, .....and the list goes on. John attended UBC and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in genetics, and also obtained his Masters of Business Administration.



Minister Yap stated that we have 25 post-secondary institutions in BC, at 130 locations throughout the Province. Each year the government gives out \$2 billion in operating grants to these education institutions, and has budgeted one-half billion dollars in capital projects for them. His Ministry's priority, in conjunction with the British Columbia Jobs Action Program, is to make sure that young people are trained to meet the expected jobs coming within British Columbia. It is estimated that 1 million workers are going to be needed in the next 10 years, and 43% of those jobs need educated, trained personnel, and 35% of them will require a university education. As there are not enough young people in British Columbia to fill the estimated requirements, there is a gap of 350,000 people who will be needed to fill those jobs - and that is where immigration comes in. Even though immigration is a federal and not provincial responsibility, the province has input and influence. 84% of those jobs will be in the "soft economy", that is to say, in the innovation and technology sector. The government is sponsoring a Commercialization Voucher Program under which the government will provide \$7 million for this program. A maximum of \$15,000 will be given out per project, which will take the idea of an applicant for review by graduate students, who will determine if it has value to go forward.

As Minister Responsible for Multiculturalism, promoting a harmonious population to stand against racism in our multicultural society is close to his heart. 1.1 million people who live in British Columbia (including Minister John) were not born in British Columbia. BC has 180 different cultures. Provincial government has a Multi-Culturalism Grant Program, providing grants up to \$5,000 to build the capacity to embrace multiculturalism.

In conclusion, Minister Yap referred us to an article in the recent Rotarian Magazine entitled "Lives in Ruin", about Greece, a once proud nation who allowed their eyes to go off of the ball and did not concentrate on a strong economy. John stated we are all blessed to be in British Columbia, and his government strongly believes a strong economy is necessary to support the public and social programs which make BC a great place in which to live.

Adrienne Dale, a lawyer herself, observed that there were not enough placements in British Columbia law schools to take in all the applicants which resulted in many law students looking to other provinces or countries in which to get their education. To much loud groaning and snickering from the club members (but, of course, not from Laurie or Bob or Dale or Eric) Minister Yap said that our economy will, in fact, need more lawyers in the Province, and that British Columbia recently opened a new law school in Kamloops, being the first new law school opened up in the whole of Canada in the last 30 years.

Peter Boekhorst drew a blank on the 50-50 draw.

Ineke noted that those going to the Rotary International Convention in Portugal next year could save \$75 if they registered on or before December 15, 2012.

**Submitted by Laurie Anderson**