



The Four Way Flasher

Meadow Ridge Rotary Club

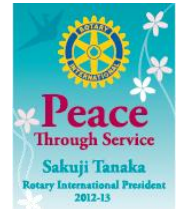
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Website: www.MeadowRidgeRotary.ca

Meetings: Tuesday 12pm, Bella Vita Restaurant

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February is World Understanding Month



TODAY: Darrin Froese - BC Housing
NEXT WEEK: Malcom Kennedy - Coquitlam Sunrise Rotary Club Project

Happy Birthday

Happy Anniversary

Invocation

Feb. 12	Brian Bekar
Feb. 19	Laura Cherrille

CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT 5050 EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue

ROTARIANS IN GERMANY FIGHT POLIO ONE STAMP AT A TIME

For more than 80 years, countries around the world have honored the work of Rotary with commemorative stamps. The first appeared in 1931, when Austria created an overprint – a later printing over an officially issued stamp – in honor of the RI Convention in Vienna.

For Rotary’s 50th anniversary in 1955, 27 nations issued stamps. The stamp issued by Monaco in honor of Rotary’s 50th anniversary appeared in the 1963 movie *Charade*, starring Audrey Hepburn and Cary Grant.

In 2011, members of the Rotary Club of Essen, Germany developed the idea to support the PolioPlus campaign with a commemorative postal stamp.

"We wanted to do something for the Polio campaign," says Frank Schmid, the project initiator and a member of the Rotary Club of Essen. "Of course, the first purpose is to collect money. At the same time, we wanted to create something memorable, and something people would like as a collector’s item."



Top: The commemorative stamp designed for the Rotary Club of Essen.

Bottom: A commemorative stamp in honor of the 1931 RI Convention in Vienna.

After a test phase in which 10,000 charity stamps were issued (and sold quickly among Rotarians and friends), a new issue of 100,000 stamps was planned. Approvals from Rotary’s licensing department and the German postal service were obtained in 2012, and the club is now ready to distribute the stamps. With each stamp sale of €1.10 (US\$1.49), at least 37 cents (US\$0.50) will go towards PolioPlus – enough to pay for one dose of the polio vaccine.

Anyone interested in purchasing the stamps can contact the RC of Essen at Info@poliobriefmarke.de. The minimum order is 1,000 stamps per club or 100 stamps per person (five sheets).

This initiative fulfills two purposes for Rotary: financial support for the fight against polio and creating awareness for Rotary’s ongoing campaign against the disease. This project also serves as yet another piece of Rotary history.

LAST WEEK’S MEETING

Our guests for the day were: Marc Dalton, our local MLA; Pat Bell, a Provincial cabinet minister; Cam Ehl, Pat Bell’s ministerial assistant; and last but not least, Mark Vosper who is the executive director of Hospice and hopefully a soon-to-be new member of our Club.

To start off the meeting, Mary Robson was awarded a special Foundation pin in recognition of her having earned three Paul Harris awards.



Mary, who is the acting executive director of Friends in Need Food Bank, then advised that the Food Bank was partnering with the Salvation Army to put on the Brown Bag Lunch Program which will provide each day a lunch to 110 elementary school students who might otherwise go without a proper meal. Money will be raised to support this program by a lunch presentation to be held on Monday, February 25, 2013 at the ACT where the attendees will hear from Great Canadian Gaming VP Howard Blank and BCLC vice president Jim Lightbody about what the new Maple Ridge Gaming Centre facility will mean for our community. A \$10 registration fee includes lunch with all proceeds going to the Maple Ridge Pitt Meadows Community Services who will in turn funnel the funds to the Food Bank to support the Brown Bag Lunch Program.

Happies (no Sads today):

- Our Pres. Lindsay Hendy had a warm dollar despite bringing it back from Fort McMurray where it was cold, 44 below zero cold.
- Laurie Anderson and Lynda Lawrence said that they had been in touch with Marco Terwiel, who was now home again and looking and feeling much improved. Laurie said Marco even did a few "table push ups" to show that his strength is returning. (For those of you who read Marco's newspaper articles, you will know that he thinks a lot of people should try pushing away the table a little more often.)
- Adrienne Dale announced that there will be a Valentines dance in conjunction with the Haney Rotary club on February ??, with a ticket price of only \$30. Those of you who feel like saying "won't you be mine?" should talk to Adrienne who can direct you to a love-ly evening.
- Ineke and Peter Boekhorst are off to Mardi Gras where they will do wild and crazy things.
- Past President Lynda Lawrence said that by looking on the Club's Website she was reminded that this month will be her ninth year as a member of our Rotary Club.
- Eric Mollema was happy that his wife Urma had somehow managed to put up with him long enough to celebrate their 22nd wedding anniversary which will be coming up shortly (that is to say, in the near future - not that the celebration will be coming up short).

Lawyer Robert Shantz gave us a few **Rotary Moments** which urged us all to embrace life, and not to shun it. He had this free advice (for which he quoted well documented authority):

- (1) Not taking risks in life is the biggest risk of all. Life is a short journey, so get off your butt and don't be complacent.
- (2) The greatest threat to happiness is to do nothing.
- (3) Always confront things you are afraid of.
- (4) Focus on the positive and not the negative.

Which just goes to prove:

- (1) You should get off your butt and go see a lawyer.
- (2) If you don't, you will be unhappy.
- (3) If you do, the experience will give you strength of character.
- (4) And besides, it might be an uplifting experience.

Pres. Lindsay introduced our guest speaker who was Pat Bell, the Provincial Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training, and the Minister Responsible for Labour. His is in his third term as the MLA for the riding of Prince George-McKenzie. He has previously served in five other Ministerial positions, as well as several Committees and other responsible positions in the government.



A former owner of a trucking company and logging company, he currently has a one-half interest in three children (with his wife Brenda as the other co-owner), and currently operates two Wendy's Restaurants in the city of Prince George.

Mr. Bell stated that something was going on globally that hadn't been seen in our generation and probably for a few hundred years prior to that. That "something" is a dramatic shift of capital from the West (Europe and the Americas) to the East (primarily China and India). Japan had its financial crisis starting in 1991-92. The United States is currently \$15 trillion in debt and rising, and threatening to jump of the fiscal cliff (but in the hope that with its bungee cord it will bounce back up). If one compares a country's debt to its GDP, it will see that China and India have a much better ratio (of about 17%) than does the USA.

Mr. Bell says he and his Government believe that in order to compete in today's world we have to develop those sectors of our economy that will meet the needs of these developing nations, and select the types of commercial ventures that have a competitive advantage. But there will be competition. Australia, for example, is leading the pack in making its presence known in China, and is working hard to have a good trade relationship with that country. Some key industries that will bring dollars into our economy include "first dollar" industries, natural resources, marine and aerospace, tourism, and international education.

As far as such projects within Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows are concerned, these include the Tim Horton's Camp for disabled children, and the Pitt Meadows Airport (which will be an international training centre for pilots and others in the aerospace industry). "Our province is in a unique time and opportunity. We have what other countries need. To develop this potential and encourage long-term investment in our Province, we must have certainty and stability in our tax regime and tax rates".

To Adrienne Dale who drew the ticket but lost the cut:



You paid your money,
But sorry, honey,
The deck is thinner,
And you're no winner.

Submitted by Laurie Anderson