



January is Rotary Awareness Month

TODAY:

NEXT WEEK: Doug Dyer – President, Rotary E Club - How to do Online Make up Meetings

Happy Birthday

Happy Anniversary

Jan 4: Sharon Kyle & Ron Langley

Invocation

Jan. 06	Laurie Anderson
Jan. 13	Terry Becker

CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT 5050 EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
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RI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

JANUARY 2015

At the beginning of this Rotary year, I asked Rotarians everywhere to *Light Up Rotary* by holding a Rotary Day. How you do this is something I'm leaving up to you: It can be a full day or just a few hours. It can be organized by your club, by your district, or even across your entire country. It can be a service project, a festival, or any kind of event you want. As long as it's open to the community, embraces the whole family of Rotary, and is fun, it's a Rotary Day.

The goal of a Rotary Day is to shine a light on Rotary. For many years, we in Rotary felt that it wasn't appropriate to boast about our good work. We felt it was best to serve quietly and let our work speak for itself. But today, in many communities, people aren't even aware that they have a local Rotary club. Not because the clubs aren't strong, or because they aren't serving well. They are. But if Rotarians don't talk about their work, people will never know about it.

It is time for us to *Light Up Rotary* and let people know what we are doing. In the first half of this Rotary year, I've been thrilled to see how many Rotarians have taken up my Rotary Day challenge. I've attended Rotary Days in so many places, including the Philippines, Korea, China, the United States, Turkey, India, Taiwan, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh. Every one has been different, and every one has met the challenge to *Light Up Rotary* in its own way.

If you've organized a Rotary Day in your community, tell us about it: Email details and photos of your event to rotarian@rotary.org, with "Rotary Day" as your subject line.

We'll do our best to feature as many Rotary Days as possible in the coming months.

And if you haven't planned a Rotary Day yet, why not? It's a great way to share your love for Rotary with your community. When we tell others about Rotary and let them know how membership can enrich their lives, we share a gift that was given to us when we were invited to join our clubs. By passing that gift on, we help ensure that Rotary, and its service, will endure for generations to come.

Gary C.K. Huang
RI President 2014-15

LAST WEEK'S MEETING



On December 23rd we had our Christmas luncheon. It was a great social event, where we exchanged presents and thanked the Bella Vita Restaurant staff for the excellent service we received in the past year.

As there is nothing else to report, I'm showing you some recent news articles about our club.

To start off with, very few – if anybody – knew what a gem our club received with the installation of Libby Nelson on Nov. 18, one day before the happening of the next article from the Peace Arch Journal.

Arch. C. Klumph Society recognition to Libby Nelson



November 19, 2014:

During his visit to Rotary Club of Langley Central, Past International President Wilf Wilkinson presented Libby Nelson with the coveted Arch C. Klumph Society Crystal.

With this new addition, we now have four Arch. C. Klumph Society members in District 5050.

The Arch C. Klumph Society recognizes donors who give at least \$250,000 to the Rotary Foundation in support of Rotary's life-changing work around the world.

Therapeutic Equestrian Centre herd given more room to roam in Maple Ridge

A new outdoor riding arena is a key addition to the North Fraser Therapeutic Riding Association's facility in Maple Ridge.

*By Troy Landreville / Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows Times
Dec. 24, 2014*



With 16 year old Buck, a North Fraser Therapeutic Riding Association (NFTRA) horse looking on during a recent ribbon cutting for a new outdoor riding arena, made possible – in part – by a \$13,000 donation from Meadow Ridge Rotary.

Photograph by Troy Landreville

A week before Christmas Day, a Yuletide wish came true at the North Fraser Therapeutic Riding Association (NFTRA) facility.

On Thursday, Dec. 18, NFTRA supporters joined Peter and Ineke Boekhorst from the Meadow Ridge Rotary Club for a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the association's new outdoor riding arena.

The ceremony served as a "thank you" to sponsors who made the arena a reality.

While total costs are still being calculated, the estimated price tag for the project is between \$28,000 and \$30,000.

Title sponsor Meadow Ridge Rotary, though the Sports' Banquet Legacy Fund, donated \$13,000 towards the cost of the new arena.

"Without their support this dream would never have made it to reality so quickly," NFTRA general manager Sharolyn Wandzura said. "The funding was to expire at the end of December, so I really wanted to get the project moving forward, since with Meadow Ridge's Rotary help we were 50 per cent on our way to raising enough funds."

While planning for the outdoor arena took 10 months, construction started in the beginning of December, and the fence was put up in mid December.

Jack Polo and Lafarge Aggregates were also key in bringing this project to completion, Wandzura added.

The NFTRA gathered to "honour all the contributors who came together to bring hope to another generation of horse lovers of all sizes," Wandzura said. "Our therapy herd now has more space to roam, frolic, and move freely when not doing their innate magic with our riders."

The association also celebrated its new pasture fence line with a name plaque, to thank the City of Maple Ridge for its donation in the spring of 2014.

NFTRA is a non-profit organization that provides therapeutic horseback riding lessons to children and adults with varying degrees of disabilities. Thirty per cent of the NFTRA's clients come from Maple Ridge or Pitt Meadows.

Now that NFTRA has a place to call home guaranteed for five years, with hopes of 10 years, it is ramping up therapeutic programming to support people between the ages of three and 73 through connecting with horses, Wandzura said.

NFTRA's main program is therapeutic riding which runs six days a week with more than 95 weekly riders being supported by close to 100 volunteers.

There are nine NFTRA horses ranging in age from nine to 20.

The association is always looking for volunteers and its next training session is Jan. 11, 2015.

SPIRIT OF GIVING IN NICARAGUA



By Maple Ridge News

Published: December 24, 2014 06:00 AM

Cutting a cheque for a charity is a noble deed, and appreciated by those in receipt. But building a new school with your own hands, for a poor village, can be a life-changing experience.

That's what members of the Meadow Ridge Rotary Club – no strangers to donations and community service – found as they took the latter approach in the Nicaraguan village of Jiquillio last year. They can't wait to get back there in early 2015.

Last year, they built two kitchens for two schools in the village of 1,500. The idea is not just to feed hungry kids a big soup lunch every day, but also to get them to attend school, so they can lift themselves out of poverty.

"Most of the kids come to school – if they come to school at all – without any food," said Ineke Boekhorst, Rotarian and executive director of the Downtown Maple Ridge Business Improvement Association. "So food is an enticement."

Simple things, like a measuring tape or a level, were nowhere to be found. They had to guess and improvise.

"But at the end of it, we had two kitchens completely built."

The local people were willing helpers, and the Rotarians were surprised to find that even the kids wanted to get involved. These aren't kids who walk around with headphones on, texting their friends, or playing Clash of the Clans on a device. These kids are more likely to cut down a coconut, and sit and drink from it with a Rotarian.

"The kids are so adorable," said Cindy Boileau, who was also part of the local delegation. "The kids come running to help – wondering what they can do."

Her business, Boileau Christmas tree farms, donated 100 trees, which sold for approximately \$30 apiece, to help fund the Rotary initiative.

Another humanitarian group built a vocational school using improvised building materials – two litre pop bottles filled with sand. It might make Maple Ridge building inspector Stephen CoteRolvink cringe, but Boekhorst said the stacked bottles can be used to create a surprisingly sound structure.

The sand bottles are piled up to create exterior walls, and then cement is applied to the outside. As it dries, it shrinks into the contours in the star shaped bottom of the bottles.

"It works fantastic," said Boekhorst. "You have this whole wall of stars, and it's very, very strong – and it's what they have."

Using this building material, a vocational school with four classrooms has been constructed.

Now interior walls need to be built, shelves put up, and the North Americans will take a trip into a larger city to buy equipment for the school. There are six Rotary clubs partnered in the project. If their funds are matched by Rotary International, they should have \$60,000 to put into the vocational school this year. Eventually it will offer computer training and sewing. As well, a community garden will teach agricultural skills.

"It will teach them skills that they can use, and earn some money with," said Boekhorst. She knows the people of Jiquillio will put it to good use. "They don't have very much, but they're so proud of what they've got."

A small example of that were some colourful elastic bracelets brought by Jana Fuller and her daughter Kira, which soon became the local fashion.

"Everyone was walking around with these bracelets – boys girls, older people – they all thought it was the greatest thing they had ever seen."

The Rotarians got a taste of life in the fishing village. The men go out on the ocean at night in small vessels crowded by a crew of four. The women and children help them launch their small boats.

"In the morning, they come back and the fish they have will feed their families, and the rest they sell in the street."

"It's a completely different life than we're used to," said Boekhorst.

Helping in the way that the Rotary club is, they can see how they are making a difference.

"If you go, hands on, and see what happens with your money, and the kids sit with you and want you to read to them like your own kids ... it tugs at your heart strings," said Boekhorst.

"It sits with you for the rest of your life. I want to go back and help, and to make sure they're alright," she added.

"We had a great time – it was as much fun as it was work," said Boileau. "It was an amazing experience that I'm very grateful for."

The Rotary Club plans to return members to Nicaragua in March.

