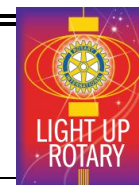


Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon, Bella Vita Restaurant

President: Eric Mollema Phone: 778-242-5549 [E-mail the President](#)
 Secretary: David Riddell Phone: 604-406-8882 [E-mail the Secretary](#)
 Editor: Peter Boekhorst Phone: 604-465-3392 [E-mail the Editor](#)



April is Magazine Month

Today: Membership Meeting

PLEASE BRING TOONIES FOR A FRISBEE FUN(D) RAISER

Next Week: Jim Coulter – Who’s Who

Happy Birthday	Happy Anniversary	Invocation
	Apr. 24: Kim & Russ Roberts	Apr. 21: Sharon Kyle Apr. 28: Betty Levens

CALENDAR OF CLUB EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
June 12		Installation Dinner	Pitt Meadows Golf Club
July 19	11am	Rotary Duck Race – Race at 1pm	Maple Ridge Park – Alouette River

LAST WEEK’S MEETING

Cheque Presentation



Ineke Boekhorst presented a cheque in the amount of **\$14,000 to the Glenwood Elementary School PAC** for the purchase of playground equipment which was installed at the school in January 2015. Accepting the cheque on behalf of the PAC was **Stephanie Raposo** and **Stefanie Volpe** (two of the prime movers and shakers who got the program off the ground - or in this case on the grounds) together with the school principal **Jovo Bikic**.



Glenwood elementary school is located at 21410 Glenwood Avenue, in Maple Ridge. The total cost of the project was \$30,000, and Stephanie stated that it probably would have taken at least three more years if no funding had come forward from our Rotary Clubs Sports Banquet Legacy Fund. Principal Bikic noted what a positive impact the new playground had on the children in the school which is located in one of the most vulnerable parts of our community.

Ineke noted that not only the children attending the school but also children living in the neighbourhood get the benefit of the equipment.

Happy and Sad - (“goings on” in the lives of our members)

Adrienne Dale visited two Rotary clubs in her recent trip to South Africa, one of which was the club that she previously attended while living there.

Graeme Ross recently lost his job when his employer downsized by cutting the number of their staff, but was happy at the number of job offers which he has received. Graham was also happy to advise that he attended and enjoyed the District Training Seminar.

Ineke advised that tickets for the Duck Race are being sold every Friday and Saturday at the ValleyFair Mall, with our Duck Mascot on hand.

Mark Forster advised that he, **Deborah Hyslop**, **Graeme Ross** and **Jim Michals** all attended on April 11 at the **District Training Seminar**, which was a good turnout from our club. Jim was so dedicated that he even rode his bicycle to get there when his four-wheeled transportation let him down.

Rotary Exchange Program

Ineke presented our exchange student **Amber Widman** and her mother **Stephanie** a cheque in the amount of \$3,131 to help Amber with her transportation and insurance costs needed for her student exchange trip to Sweden. **Ineke** stated that she and her committee members **Dave Rempel** and **Mike Murray** (of the Haney Club) found Amber an easy and excellent choice as our exchange student for the coming year.



Amber spoke to us and thanked the club for their efforts on her behalf. She stated that she has bought language books and is already trying to learn the Swedish language (which is apparently a difficult one). Amber is planning to start a blog to keep our club and family and friends advised of her adventure, and upon her return will come back to the club and speak to us about what will be a life-changing experience for her.

Her mother Stephanie said that Amber (who is 16 years of age) found out in January that she had been chosen, and has been working hard to raise money herself, including doing yard work and other jobs. Anyone who has odd jobs for Amber to do should telephone Ineke.

Guest Speaker - Jennifer Stack - topic: the SPCA



Jennifer is the Branch Manager of the Maple Ridge SPCA. She gave us a little history of the organization, advising that the first anti animal cruelty legislation in British Columbia was passed in 1895. The BC SPCA is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to protecting and enhancing the quality of life for domestic, farm and wild animals in British Columbia. The SPCA is authorized to investigate animal abuse and enforce laws against the abuse of animals. There are many branches in British Columbia.

The SPCA animal shelters are running overcapacity with the result that the animals become stressed, and when they become stressed it depresses their immune system, making them prone to illnesses and disease which can spread throughout the shelter. To get at the core problem - over population - the SPCA has programs to educate the public about responsible pet ownership as well as the SPCA's free program for the neutering and spaying of cats. Not only is the public encouraged to be kind to animals, but to research about pets they obtain before they buy them, to realize that they are a long term commitment, and that animals aren't simply to be purchased and then disposed of.

The various branches of the SPCA do not get funding from the provincial or municipal governments to pay for their day-to-day operating expenses, but must get the money from donations and their own fundraising events.

An interesting statistic is that approximately 90% of dogs which come into the pound are retrieved by their owners, where the percentage for cats is only 10%. One reason for the difference is that dogs are more commonly tagged with identifying markers, but public attitude towards the animals is probably the main reason.

Post Script:



The SPCA in England was founded in a London coffee shop in 1824. Royal patronage followed in 1837 and Queen Victoria gave permission to add the royal R in 1840, making us the RSPCA. When it was founded, its focus was working animals, such as 'pit ponies', who were worked down the coal mines. During the early years, the primary concern of the SPCA was improving the treatment of work horses. Beatings, overloading, starvation, lameness, and harness sores were common cruelties inflicted upon work horses in those days.

*It was not long before the SPCA focused its attention on other issues such as humane dog control, cock-fighting, and the killing of wild birds. **It is a telling comment on the western world that legislation for the prevention of cruelty to animals predated protection of children in most areas. A century ago in England, eight- and nine-year-old children were forced to work longer hours in the coal mines than the pit mules, which were protected by law.** In 1884, John Colam, Secretary of the RSPCA, helped to form the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.*

50/50

Libby Nelson got the winning ticket (two meeting in a row), but drew the 5 of clubs thereby leaving over \$200 in the pot for next week's lucky winner.

Submitted by Laurie Anderson