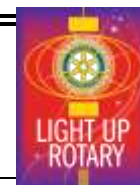


Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon, Bella Vita Restaurant

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](#)



Today: Business Meeting

Next Week: Laurie Anderson – Who’s Who

Happy Birthday	Happy Anniversary	Invocation
		May 26: Dave Rempel June 2: David Riddell

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

WE MUST END GLOBAL DISPARITIES FOR MOTHERS AND CHILDREN

DAGFINN HØYBRÅTEN May 18, 2015



Where a child is born – the mere fact of geography – plays an important role in determining his or her future success, most critically whether or not that child lives to see his or her fifth birthday.

This harsh reality is something I have encountered time and again through my travels for [Gavi](#), the [Vaccine Alliance](#). I was reminded of it when reading the results of the annual [State of the World’s Mothers](#) report published this month by [Save the Children](#). As the report emphasizes, a child’s Zip Code (postal code) should not determine the child’s fate.

Yet it does. The report notes that the “best” places to be a mom is in five Nordic countries: Finland, Iceland, Denmark, Sweden and my home nation, Norway. The so-called “worst countries” for mothers are five of the poorest places in Africa: Somalia, DR-Congo, Central African Republic, Mali and Niger.

Yet as informative as these results are, we must not draw the wrong conclusion. As the Chair of Gavi, I have had the chance to travel to some of these African countries, meet parents and

cradle their children in my arms. I have seen with my own eyes the commitment of parents to the health and well-being of their children – no more and no less than those of us in northern Europe.

One of the strongest examples of geographic disparity is in vaccine availability, a key topic at the [World Health Assembly](#) gathering of nations in Geneva on 18-26 May. In order to achieve the same protection for their children against deadly diseases as mothers in wealthier countries, those who live in the poorer parts of Africa often must expend significantly greater effort to get their children vaccinated.

In remote areas, often parents must travel very long distances on foot, over rough terrain, sometimes in the dark of night, to reach their nearest clinic. I have seen some of these vaccine clinics, set up under a tree or in a field, with mothers arriving from all directions, babies strapped to their bodies. I have seen clinics in urban slums, where it can be difficult to reach parents to let them know that life-saving vaccines are available and free. These mothers and their children – in places like the African countries already mentioned – are the uncared, the unreached, the “hidden.”

In these parts of the world infant mortality is often very high, but this doesn’t mean that mothers in poor parts of the world love their children any less or any more than those in wealthy countries. It just means that some parents have the advantage of geography in protecting their children in the life-saving blanket of vaccines.

We are determined to give children and their moms – no matter where they live – the same chance at a full, healthy life.

Read the full story at [Twitter.com/rotary](https://twitter.com/rotary)

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

Guest

Apart from our speakers, our only guest was **Amber Widman**, our outgoing exchange student.



Amber spoke to us briefly and advised that she will be off to Sweden on July 28, 2015. She has been working hard to learn the Swedish language. She will be going to a small fishing town in Sweden and will be hosted by a family consisting of a mother, father and two sisters.

Amber and her parents and others are putting on another Pub Night to be held on June 12, 2015 to raise

money for her trip. Tickets are \$20 which will include a dinner and beverage, a live band, and a 50/50 draw. Unfortunately, the Pub Night has been scheduled for the same night as our Club's Rotary installation dinner. However, anyone wishing to provide further support to Amber may purchase a ticket even if they cannot attend the event.

Happy and Sad

Jim Coulter (as we now all know as result of Jim giving his Who's Who a few weeks ago) is a grandfather for the first time, and for the first time in his life he attended a baby shower, for his first grandchild.

Mark Forster was happy to back from a very successful and interesting trip to Paris (where they stayed for six days) and to Croatia (where they stayed for approximately 10 days). Mark was very impressed with Croatia where he saw buildings and an arena that were a couple of thousand years old.

Announcements

In August (exact date TBA) our Club will be attending (soon-to-be past) club **President Eric's** home for a barbecue, where, apparently, President Eric and President-elect Mark Forster will compete for the title of world's best barbeque cook. Eric reminded us that it will be a BYOS event (for the uninitiated, in South Africa where they are big meat eaters, that means Bring Your Own Salad).

Angie Edmonds stated that the Agricultural Fair will be held July 25 – 26, and the Association is in need of volunteers who can help out for a couple of hours at a time. Anyone in need of something to do (or more likely, with a volunteer spirit) may help out.

Program

Our guest speakers were **Teesha Sharma** and **Bev Schmahmann** from a new community organization known as **The Blue Door**, that is dedicated to opening a long-term group home for homeless youth (initially, for homeless young girls). Their vision is to provide a safe and stable living environment for youth that

have nowhere else to go. In addition to offering long-term housing, they want to focus on building strong relationships with the youth that stay with them. After their housing needs have been met, they will then hope to provide easy access to valuable community resources and programs, as well as opportunities to get involved in sports/arts programs.



As a young teenager, Teesha was like one of the young girls that they are hoping to help. She came from an abusive home, and ended up living on the street, and with no place to go. This has inspired Teesha, as well as Bev, to do what they can to put their dream into a reality. Teesha and Bev pointed out to us that one of the problems with what little facilities are currently available for young people in that predicament is that even if they have a place to stay overnight, they are put out into the street during the daytime to fend for themselves. As well, the government appears to be putting its emphasis on homeless adults, but they wish to direct their attentions to youth. Their hope is to have a house for youth which will be open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Their estimate is that it will cost \$175,000 a year to run and staff the home, which they will have to rent. They estimated it would take five staff members to run the organization and initially it would be a home for girls only. Currently, from Abbotsford to North Vancouver, there is no place for youth to go. They are canvassing many community organizations and others to try to raise the needed money to accomplish what certainly appears to be a Herculean task. Although they do not yet have a website, they can be reached by email at tee_sha@ymail.com, or by phone at (Teesha) 778-874-2283 or (Bev) 604-961-5964.

Club's Service

Unfortunately, **Bob Shantz** managed to break his hand and his scheduled hospital appointment for his upcoming surgery (which had been set for May 20, 2015) has therefore been delayed.

50/50

Peter Boekhorst drew the ace of clubs [and is beginning to think that God must be punishing him for gambling on the 50/50]. But being the optimistic sort, he is still praying for a win next week, as the remaining deck is getting smaller, and the pot bigger.

*Said Peter, "the deck's getting thinner,
and, God, do not think me a sinner,
my club was an ace
which is a disgrace !
So please God, just make me a winner"*

Submitted by Laurie Anderson