



Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon, Bella Vita Restaurant

President: Mark Forster

Phone: 778-242-5549

[E-mail the President](mailto:markforster@meadowridge Rotary.ca)

Secretary: David Riddell

Phone: 604-406-8882

[E-mail the Secretary](mailto:davidriddell@meadowridge Rotary.ca)

Editor: Peter Boekhorst

Phone: 604-465-3392

[E-mail the Editor](mailto:peterboekhorst@meadowridge Rotary.ca)



## NOVEMBER IS ROTARY FOUNDATION MONTH

**Today:** Michelle Broughton, Notary Public - Bio and Notary business

**Next Week:** Ian Speckman, Maple Ridge Chrysler - The car business

Happy Birthday	Happy Anniversary	Invocation
		Nov. 3: Betty Levens Nov. 10: Debbie MacRae

### CALENDAR OF CLUB EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Nov. 19	6 pm	Russian Borscht Night – Tickets \$25 Ineke Boekhorst / Dave Rempel	Samuel Robertson Tech. 10445-245 St.
Dec. 8	Noon	Meadow Ridge Rotary AGM	
Dec. 31	6:30 pm	New Year's Gala – Tickets \$95 Clint Callison / Mark Vosper	Meadow Gardens Golf Course, Pitt M.

### RI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



One sunny morning at the end of June 1991, a van drove through the busy, rush-hour streets of Colombo, Sri Lanka. Winding through traffic to a northern suburb, the van arrived at the Forward Command Headquarters of the Defense Ministry. Security guards stopped it for inspection. When they did, the two suicide bombers driving the van detonated their cargo: thousands of kilograms of plastic explosives.

The roof of the building was blown off completely. Debris was strewn for blocks. In total, 21 people were killed and 175 people injured, among them many pupils of the girls' school next door. More than a kilometer away, the blast shattered every window in my home. My wife raced toward the sound of the explosion – toward our daughter's school.

Our daughter was then nine years old. That morning, she had forgotten her pencil case at home. At the moment of the blast, she was coming out of a stationer's shop, admiring her new pencils. Suddenly her ears were ringing, the air was filled with sand, and everywhere around her people were screaming, bleeding, and running. Someone pulled her into the garden of the badly damaged school, where she waited until my wife arrived to bring her back to our home – its floors still covered with broken glass.

Sri Lanka today is peaceful and thriving, visited by some two million tourists every year. Our war now is only a memory, and

we as a nation look forward to a promising future. Yet so many other nations cannot say the same. Today, more of the world's countries are involved in conflict than not; a record 59.5 million people worldwide live displaced by wars and violence.

In Rotary we believe, in spite of all that, in the possibility of peace – not out of idealism, but out of experience. We have seen that even the most intractable conflicts can be resolved when people have more to lose by fighting than by working together. We have seen what can happen when we approach peace-building in ways that are truly radical, such as the work of our Rotary Peace Fellows. Through our Rotary Foundation, peace fellows become experts in preventing and resolving conflict. Our goal is that they will find new ways not only to end wars but to stop them before they begin.

Among the hundreds of peace fellows who have graduated from the program, two from Sri Lanka, one from each side of the conflict, studied together. In the first weeks of the course, both argued passionately for the rightness of their side. Yet week by week, they grew to understand each other's perspective; today, they are good friends. When I met them and heard their story, they gave me hope. If 25 years of pain and bitterness could be overcome by Rotary, then what, indeed, is beyond us?

We cannot fight violence with violence. But when we fight it with education, with understanding, and with peace, we can truly *Be a Gift to the World*.

K.R. Ravindran  
RI President 2015-16

## LAST WEEK'S MEETING



To make sure that last week's singing of O Canada would not be repeated and to make sure that this week we started "on-key", **Matt DeBruyn** played the national anthem on the violin while we sang a not-bad rendition, so we would not be embarrassed in front of our District

Governor.

**President Mark Forster**, in lieu of a Rotary Moment, advised that our club participated in the World's Greatest Meal program, and garnered \$300 from the sale of Patrick O'Brien's pumpkins, and \$36 from last week's 50-50 draw and Happy and Sad loonies.

President Mark also pronounced **Libby Nelson** only 64 years of age, and wished her a happy birthday.

### Announcements

- **New Year's Gala** - see Clint Callison or Mark Vosper for tickets which are now available.
- **Russian Borscht Night** - Thursday, November 19, 2015, 6 PM, at Samuel Robertson school for an authentic Russian borscht dinner and to hear about Dave Rempel's and Ineke Boekhorst's trip to Russia – only \$25.

### Guests - apart from our District Governor

#### **Assistant District Governor Clive Evans**

**Paul Zelinski** - visiting from the Coquitlam Rotary club

**Leonard Lewis** - a guest of Mark Vosper (Leonard is a financial advisor who works with Tri-America - with their offices on the top floor of the old post office on 224th Street).

### Happy and Sad

- **Sharon Kyle** was sad that her knee replacement operation had to be postponed until December 2, but she just bought a new car which cheered her up.
- **Kim Roberts**, while keeping us in the dark as to the "nature of the wager", said that Clint Callison won the bet and Kim lost it.
- **David Rempel** visited seven Rotary clubs while in Russia, and is happy to be organizing the November 19 event referred to above.
- Assistant Governor **Clive Evans** was happy to be visiting us - to introduce our District Governor.
- **District Governor Bill Robson** not to be outdone, gave a couple of loonies in honour of our contribution to the World's Greatest Meal, and said that he was advised by a Rotarian who arrived in Pakistan one half hour before the recent earthquake, that he was "a little shook up" about it.
- **Matt DeBruyn** is leaving us again but will be back April 2 or 3, 2016. He thanked those that participated in introducing



the four-way test into the schools, said he was working on the dictionary program, and wished us all an early Merry Christmas.

### Guest Speaker - our District Governor Bill Robson's official visit

#### **Assistant Governor Clive Evans introduced DG Bill Robson**, who is the second District Governor of District 5050

to be in the banking business. Bill was raised in England and came to Canada in 1974. After working seven years in the Midland Bank in England, he joined the bank of Nova Scotia in Canada. After 43 years in the banking business, he retired in 2011. He joined Rotary in 1993 and currently is a member of the Langley Central Club. He is a most active Rotarian, holding numerous positions at the District level. He went on a trip to Ethiopia to administer the polio vaccine, also went to Uganda on a Rotary trip, and led a Group Study Exchange to New Zealand.



**DG Bill Robson:** In January of this year he attended in San Diego where all incoming District Governors attended a training session. These goals were stressed at that session:

1. Membership - why did you join Rotary and why did you stay. If we are going to increase our membership, we need to share with others in our community "why you love Rotary".

The main theme of Bill's talk was that the most important thing in Rotary is the Rotary club members, for without them there would be no Rotary District, and no Rotary International. Rotary is successful because it is a bottom-up organization and not top-down.

2. The Rotary Foundation - our charity

DG Bill reminded us that our club is now in its 36<sup>th</sup> year, having been chartered in 1989. The records show that our club has donated in excess of \$200,000 to the Rotary Foundation since it was chartered.

In 1985 RI announced that it was going to give a "gift to the children of the world" by eradicating polio, and committed \$150 million to the project. 30 years later the Rotary Foundation has spent \$1 billion, and polio has been eradicated from all countries of the world except Pakistan and Afghanistan. In 1985 there were 1,000 new cases per day. In all of 2015 to date, there have been only 51 cases. We need to keep up the fight against polio and make sure that the children of the world receive this gift.

DG Bill admitted that he doesn't like being on the water, and the closest he wants to come to it is to wear a captain's hat which he donned for our benefit - to remind us to attend the District Conference which will be held from April 28 to May 1, 2016 at the Semiahmoo Resort in Washington. There will be great speakers including Dean Rohrs who was an operating room nurse in the OR when Christian Bernard performed his first heart transplant in South Africa. She has an interesting life to talk about (and is now qualified to be a big game safari guide in her country of origin).



At the San Diego training session, Rotary international President Ravi Ravindran challenged all 530 district Governors-elect to make a contribution of \$1,000 each to the Rotary foundation, and every one of the 530 did so. Rotary international President said they were "World Class".



DG Bill recognized four of our club members as "World Class" Rotarians. These included

*"Quartermaster"* **Peter Boekhorst**,  
Treasurer **Walter Volpatti**,  
Secretary **David Riddell**,  
and our *"World Class"* Club President **Mark Forster**.



Our Club President Mark Forster gave a Rotarian-of-the-month pin to **David Rempel** in honour of his trip to Russia, and plans to give one to fellow traveller **Ineke Boekhorst** when she returns from California.

50/50

**Jim Coulter** won the chance to pull the Queen of Diamonds from the deck.

**Submitted by Laurie Anderson**