

Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon, Bella Vita Restaurant

President: Mark Forster

Phone: 778-242-5549

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

Secretary: David Riddell

Phone: 604-406-8882

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

Editor: Peter Boekhorst

Phone: 604-465-3392

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



JANUARY IS VOCATIONAL SERVICE MONTH

Today: Dr. Cohen, University of the Fraser Valley - Police Based Crime Reduction

Next Week:

Happy Birthday	Happy Anniversary
Jan. 13: Matt DeBruyn	

CALENDAR OF CLUB EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Apr. 16	7 pm - 10 pm	Rotary Wine Festival	ValleyFair Mall, Maple Ridge
Apr. 30 – May 1		District Conference	Semiahmoo Resort in Blaine, WA.

MESSAGE FROM DISTRICT GOVERNOR BILL ROBSON



My Rotary friends, and that is all of you,

Lona and I want to wish you a very Happy New Year. I hope you all enjoyed the holidays; Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa or whatever you happened to celebrate. If you follow an Orthodox tradition then Happy Christmas for January 7th and of course Happy New Year for the 14th.

This Rotary year is half done and very soon we will be sending DGE Scott and Christine off to San Diego for International Assembly. They will be able to meet their 2016-2017 classmates and, of course, bring back with them R.I.P.E John Germ's theme for next year.

This year's theme is, as you will remember, "Be a gift to the World" and during my club visits I saw many, many examples of District 5050 Rotarians doing their part to make President Ravi's theme a reality. Keep it going; **we are** a "World Class District".

Everyone's hopes for an end to polio this year came crashing down recently with twelve new cases reported, the latest being on November 21st. However, we must not lose sight of the finish line because nothing less than total eradication will suffice. Please keep your donations flowing in to The Rotary Foundation for Polio Plus so that we can get this done.

January is Vocational Service Month and I encourage you to work with integrity and contribute your expertise to the problems and needs of society. I also encourage you to promote the Four Way Test and The Object of Rotary in your business.

Thank you all for everything you do for your communities and around the world.

Finally, **registration is open for the District Conference at The Semiahmoo Resort** at the end of April.

It is a wonderful location and plans are underway for a fabulous weekend of fun and frivolity.

See you there!
DG Bill

CONGRATULATIONS RAVI! YOU ARE REALLY "WORLD CLASS"!



The Government of Sri Lanka has released a Rs. 5 postage stamp to honour Rotary International President Ravi.

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

Rotary Moment

Adrienne Dale gave a real life application of the four-way test (or rather, turned the test over to our illustrious President **Mark Forster** to deal with). During the process of taking over their new offices, she found some Duck Race tickets, and cash to pay for them, which got mislaid about three years ago and therefore never made it into the paddles to the finish line. Take it away, Mark!

Presidential Scolding

President Mark pointed out that although the New Years Eve Gala was a great success (due to the fact that the Meadow Gardens Golf Course sold approximately 200 of the 250 tickets that were sold), he pointed out that only six Rotarians attended, and only two club members sold tickets. Mark gave special thanks to **Mark Foster and Clint Callison**, who headed up the event, as well as thanking all of those members who were on the organizational committee and who work so hard to making it the special, fun and successful event that it turned out to be.

Happy and Sad

Dave Rempel stated the January 1, 2016 was the 20th anniversary of the adoption from Russia by **Dave and his wife Sharon** of their daughter, who is now 21 years old.

Ineke Boekhorst (one of the six members who attended the event) said that the New Years Gala was a very successful event, and those members who did not attend miss a very fun way to bring in the New Year.

Brian Bekar was very sad (not!) to advise that **he and Sharon** were taking their annual trek south on January 15, to join the likes of **Matthijs (aka Matt) and Lynda DeBruyn**.

Shirt and Tie Auction

A Rotary shirt and Rotary tie (which belonged to **Bob Shantz**) was auctioned off to raise money for one of our projects. **Eric Mollema** showed that he has not only a big body but also a big heart: a big heart because he was the highest bidder - and a big body because the shirt wouldn't fit him - meaning that he paid about \$15 just for the tie.

Announcements

February 5, 2016 - the **District Membership Seminar** will be held.

February 20, 2016 - is the date for the **District Grant Seminar**. In order that our club can qualify for Matching Grants, two of our club members must attend, and the club is looking for volunteers for that purpose.

April 28 to May 1 - is the time for the **District Conference**.

Guest Speaker: our own **Dr. Patrick O'Brien, DVM**

Topic: **Veterinary Medicine and his experiences as a student, and as a dairy cow vet in the Comox Valley**



The following is the bare bones of Patrick's talk (in person, it was even greater!) who said:

The first veterinary college was opened in 1860 in Lyons, France in 1860; I think in response to a disease outbreak in farm animals. In 1862, the first college opened in North America in Toronto, but moved to Guelph in 1922. The University of Montreal, from whence my wife Stefanie graduated, opened in 1886 (the same year that Vancouver was incorporated), later moving to Saint-Hyacinthe, Quebec, in 1947. The Western College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan opened in 1965, from which I graduated in 1987. The Atlantic college opened in 1986 and the U of Calgary opened in 2008. The degree is Doctor of Veterinary Medicine or DVM. The French school mixes up the letters to make DMV.

Students must have a minimum of 2 years of sciences prior to application (except Quebec) though most have a degree. A few have master's degrees and there is the odd doctorate. The program is 4 years with 8 weeks of extra class time per year over regular university programs. The program is focused on cows, horses, cats and dogs. Less attention is paid to pigs and poultry, and even less to exotics. So many animals, so little time! There are courses and CE available in all fields in conferences around North America every year. Upon graduation, most vets go into private practice immediately, but internships are available as well. New grads make about \$70,000 per year. Seasoned vets make about \$110,000. Practice owners generally do a bit better, but no one should expect to get wealthy from vet practice. From there, graduates can specialize in surgery, medicine, radiology, ophthalmology (medical and surgical eye problems), epidemiology, oncology, reproduction etc.

Vets like me limited our practice to dairy, equine, poultry etc. I was very much interested in preventing diseases rather than treating them. (It was great training for my current position which is also about production and risk management.) Each province has a lab where diagnostics are performed to help field vets identify disease problems on private farms. Vets also work for the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), pharmaceutical firms, vet colleges, research or other work. Besides me, one class mate is a mortgage broker and another was a school teacher. It is a tough job to be a 24/7 on-call vet and run a family and have a life. Ultimately, the risk of losing my family after giving up my great farm and practice in the Comox Valley led me to changing species from cows to investments and financial planning.

Veterinarians are provincially regulated, but have a national voice via the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association or CVMA. The college of BC veterinarians is the regulatory body setting bylaws and investigating complaints. The Society of Veterinarians of BC is the self interest group.

50-50

The deck gets smaller, as **Walter Vopatti** decided to by-pass the Queen of Hearts once again.

Submitted by Laurie Anderson