



Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon, Bella Vita Restaurant

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MARCH IS WATER AND SANITATION MONTH

Today: Erika Van Oyen - Sanitary Kits for Uganda

Next Week: Dr. Doug Bing – MLA

Happy Birthday	Happy Anniversary
March 21: Debbie MacRae	

CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT 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.
May 12-15		RYLA	WA, United States
Aug. 7		Rotary Duck Race	Maple Ridge Park

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

Rotary Moment

Mark Vosper pointed out that today, March 8, is International Women's Day, originally called International Working Women's Day, which is celebrated on March 8 every year.

In different regions the focus of the celebrations ranges from general celebration of respect, appreciation, and love towards women for their economic, political, and social achievements. In some regions, the day lost its political flavour, and became simply an occasion for people to express their love for women in a way somewhat similar to a mixture of Mother's Day and Valentine's Day. In other regions, however, the political and human rights theme designated by the United Nations runs strong, and political and social awareness of the struggles of women worldwide are brought out and examined in a hopeful manner. Some people celebrate the day by wearing purple ribbons. (As per Wikipedia).

Pres. Mark Forster noted that past club president **Terry Becker** resigned from our club, but has joined the Haney Rotary Club, and that last week was the last day of attendance for our former Sgt. At Arms **Jim Coulter**, who has moved to Kelowna. Mark also advised that the job of Sgt. At arms, until a replacement can be found, will be rotated among members of the club. Anyone interested in the job on a permanent basis should please contact Mark.

Guests:

Apart from our speaker, we welcomed our repeat guest **Cameron Mackenzie**, a new associate of Patrick O'Brien at RBC Dominion Securities.

Happy and Sad

Ineke Boekhorst attended the Haney Club last week to raise some awareness and enthusiasm in that club for the Wine Fest. She also noted that at that meeting club members were challenged to raise money for the Syrian refugees in our community. Members put up \$1500 which was immediately matched by a club donation of the same amount. It was noted that on April 12, 2016 our club will be challenged to do the same when our speaker will be **Ahmed Yousef**, who together with **Gordon and Mary Robson and their son Gordon Jr.** are spearheading a fundraising drive in the community to help the refugees meet their financial needs in rental housing and other urgent needs.

Mark Vosper noted that Hospice was putting on a fund raiser "Public Night" on Friday, March 18, to support the good work of our local Hospice Society. Those willing to support this event may obtain tickets from Mark or, of course, by phoning the society.

David Riddell, as Fine Master, picked on poor **Adrienne Dale** who dared to go on a cruise to sunnier climes while we stayed here and got drenched in the rain. He also picked on **Mark Vosper** for missing a couple of our club meetings with only the flimsy excuse of having to attend to his important duties as the Executive Director of Hospice.

Speaker



Laurie Anderson introduced our guest speaker, **Brad Whittaker**, who not only is the Past Pres. of the Chilliwack Rotary Club (the singing club) and currently the Assistant Governor of Area B (which encompasses Abbotsford and Mission), but also the Director, Research Services and Industry Liaison, at the University of the Fraser Valley, and last but not least, the proud owner of three adopted rescue kittens, a golden retriever, four stepsons, and a partner who is the head librarian at the UFV.

Brad asked what does peace mean to you? He pointed out that peace (or its opposite, conflict) can exist at various levels: the personal home level, the school level, the community level, and the international level.

One method of approaching the achievement of peace in our lives is the program at UFV where students can obtain a degree in peace and conflict studies. As we know, Rotary International has six Peace Centres for Peace and Conflict Resolution throughout the world, and has peace and conflict resolution as one of its major goals. The UFV together with Rotary want to involve Rotary members at the club level in the peace process. The Abbotsford campus is going to have one Rotary person on the advisory committee of their peace and conflict resolution program, and will show promotions about what Rotary does on both the local and international level. If we are to “think big” and worked hard and long enough, it could be that the seventh Peace Center of Rotary could be situated right at the UFV campus in Abbotsford. Graduates of the program could go out to peace centres throughout the world. This peace study program is the only one in the three western provinces of Canada. One advantage which students in this program have is the ability for research and networking, and the ability to have actual experience for students to take out what they learn on the campus to work with it in real life situations.

Brad is asking Rotary clubs to consider whether they will commit to getting involved in the peace project by donating \$1000-\$3000 per year for a three to five year period.

Responding to a question from our Pres. Mark, Brad advised that the four-year program at the University of the Fraser Valley leads to an undergraduate bachelor’s degree in peace and conflict resolution, and that students can find paying jobs working for such organizations as the Red Cross, the United Nations, and Survivors International (Survivors International provides essential psychological, social service and medical services to help heal the wounds of torture for those who have survived persecution seeking safety and freedom. Their program aims to help survivors

re-establish healthy, productive lives by providing support and ensuring access to comprehensive services.



The Website of the UFV says this about its program about becoming a peacebuilder:

Social conflicts can leave behind a trail of devastation that crushes all hope.

But peacebuilders can make a difference: they have the conflict management and peacebuilding skills needed to help prevent conflict, defuse violence, save lives, and rebuild shattered communities. Learn the skills needed to become a peacebuilder with UFV's Bachelor of Arts in Peace and Conflict Studies, the only degree of its kind west of Manitoba. The program helps you develop a holistic understanding of the dynamics governing human conflict and peacebuilding initiatives. Through simulated exercises, core program courses — including three courses offered through the Justice Institute of British Columbia — provide you with hands-on skills in negotiation, mediation, conflict transformation, and restorative practices. You develop a broad base of knowledge through a series of multidisciplinary courses, with a special focus on local indigenous and community content: Geography and Political Science teach you to design peacebuilding strategies based on real-life conflict scenarios; Psychology and Sociology give you insight into interpersonal relationships and social systems. Anthropology and Communications train you to communicate effectively across cultures; and Criminology and History provide you with strategies for post-conflict reconciliation to foster long-term, sustainable peace.

To apply your analysis and critical-thinking skills, you may choose to complete a capstone project or take part in field work, either locally or abroad. An innovative colloquium also offers an ongoing forum to debate peace and conflict ideas with your peers and professors.

50/50

Libby Nelson (with odds of only 1 in 52) won the 4 of Hearts. As we know from last week’s bulletin, Betty Levens had better odds and won the jackpot.

Submitted by Laurie Anderson