

Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon, Bella Vita Restaurant

President:	Ineke Boekhorst	Phone: 604-467-2420	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: Nikita Dorozhkov - Russian Exchange Student

Next Week: Ineke & Peter Boekhorst - Their trip to the RI Convention in Seoul, Korea

Happy Birthday	Happy Anniversary
July 10: Eric Mollema	

CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Aug. 7	Noon – 2 pm	Rotary Duck Race	Maple Ridge Park
Sep. 13	Noon	DG Scott Dudley's official visit	Bella Vita Restaurant

RI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Today, we look ahead toward a Rotary year that may one day be known as the greatest in our history: the year that sees the world's last case of polio. Wild poliovirus caused only 74 cases of polio in 2015, all of them in Afghanistan and Pakistan. As we continue to work tirelessly toward our goal of eradication, we must also look beyond it: preparing to leverage our success into even greater successes to come.

It is tremendously important to Rotary's future that our role in the eradication of polio be recognized. The more we are known for what we've achieved, the more we'll be able to attract the partners, the funding, and, most important, the members to achieve even more. We're working hard at RI headquarters to be sure that Rotary gets that recognition. But it can't all happen in Evanston. We need you to get the word out through your clubs and in your communities about what Rotary is and what we do. We need to be sure that our clubs are ready for the moment when polio is finally eradicated – so that when people who want to do good see that Rotary is a place where they can change the world, every Rotary club is ready to give them that opportunity.

We know that if we want to see Rotary Serving Humanity even better in the years ahead, we'll need more willing hands, more caring hearts, and more bright minds to move our work forward. We'll need clubs that are flexible, so that Rotary service will be attractive to younger members, recent retirees, and working people. We'll need to seek out new partnerships, opening ourselves more to collaborative relationships with other organizations.

Looking ahead, we also see a clear need to prioritize continuity in our leadership. We in Rotary are all playing on the same team,

working toward the same goals. If we want to reach those goals together, we all have to move in the same direction – together.

Every day that you serve in Rotary, you have the opportunity to change lives. Everything you do matters; every good work makes the world better for us all. In this new Rotary year, we all have a new chance to change the world for the better, through Rotary Serving Humanity.

JOHN F. GERM
RI PRESIDENT 2016-17

CALENDAR UPDATE!

There will be a meeting on July 19; the joined meeting with the Haney Club on July 20 has been cancelled. The presentation of the Starfish Pack Program will be at our regular meeting on July 26th.

GETTING READY FOR THE ROTARY DUCK RACE



It is time again to get ready for the upcoming Duck Race. The committee discussed a night to strip off the old numbers from the ducks and installing new numbers.

The following was agreed upon:

- It will happen on Friday August 5th at 6:00
- Most likely at Bonnie Telep's house
- We will order in some food and it will be BYOB
- We need to recruit members from both clubs to do the work

Very soon there will be a sign-up sheet distributed.

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

President (and soon to be past President) **Mark Forster** conducted his last meeting of his Rotary year with a smile on his face.

Rotary Moment

David Riddell, who recently returned from the Czech Republic (where his son Edward's team played in an international ball hockey tournament – and won gold !) had a “first” when he happened to meet a Rotarian (identified by a Rotary pin on her person) and struck up a conversation in the middle of the square in Prague. [We won't mention that he observed Czech Rotarians excelled at their ability to consume and hold their alcohol.]

Cheque Presentation

Matt DeBruyn presented a cheque in the amount of \$1,000 to Anthony Kalichin. Introducing Anthony was Scott Kyle, who is the son of our own Sharon Kyle, and the full-time maintenance and public education member and Fire Safety Technician of the Pitt Meadows fire department.



Anthony (L), Scott (R)

We have two Fire Fighters Youth Academies in our area, one in Maple Ridge and one in Pitt Meadows. The top student in each of the two academies receives an award from our Rotary Club in the form of a \$1,000 cheque. In order to claim the award the student must enroll in post-secondary education.



This year's winners were: Anthony Kalichin, who attended the Pitt Meadows Academy and Roman Halvorsen (L) from the Maple Ridge Academy.

School District No. 42 is working in partnership with the Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows Fire Departments to provide a unique opportunity for secondary school students to fulfill their work experience requirements. This program is designed for students aged 16 to 18 years who are interested in firefighting as a possible future career.

Rotarian of the Month

Pres. Mark presented to **Adrienne Dale** the Rotarian of the Month Pin for her and Warren graciously hosting the installation of the new Board of Directors at their home on June 23, 2016.

He also presented **Mike Davies** a “Service above Self” Award, and **Patrick O'Brien** a President's Citation for his support of polio plus and being the “fill-in” note taker at club meetings.



He recognized **Brian Bekar** as a Rotary Foundation Sustaining Member.

Happy and Sad

Eric Mollema - that his son was able to avoid an extortion attempt while visiting Europe, and that his daughter is home for a visit.

Betty Levens - that she will be attending Nashville to enjoy listening to (but not participate in) an international barbershop competition (Pres. Mark added whether that was of the singing or hair cutting variety).

Libby Nelson - her children visiting here from Australia.

Ineke Boekhorst - thanking Adrienne and Warren for hosting the installation of the new executive.

Guest Speaker - Gem Munro - of the Amarak Society

Our guest speaker, **Gem Munro**, has devoted his life and career to improving educational opportunities for disadvantaged people across Canada and abroad. Pursuit of this objective carried him into residence in unfortunate communities across most of Canada, before carrying him overseas. He is presently a Director of Amarak Society, a registered Canadian charity, which provides educational programs to the very poor in Bangladesh, Pakistan and Nigeria.



As well, Gem is an author and artist. His current book (“South Asian Adventures with the Active Poor”) is the best-selling collection of stories about some of the extraordinary people he has come to know in the slums of Bangladesh. For their work, Gem and his wife, Dr. Tanyss Munro were recipients of Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medals.

His message to us is as follows:

If the city of Vancouver is the best place in the world to live, then Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh, is the worst of the worst and contains the poorest of the poor. Bangladesh, which is only 1/6 the size of British Columbia, has 175 million people. If all the people in the city of Dhaka were to come out of the buildings and stand on the ground, each person would only have one square foot to stand on.

Bangladesh has the worst school system in the world. Millions of children cannot afford to go to school at all. Simply building and filling schools does not work or diminish the lack of education in that country. Gem and his wife Tanyss concluded that the solution is to establish schools to teach the mothers who could then teach their own children and others in their neighbourhood. The Munros were told that this could not possibly work, because: the slums were impenetrable- the system was too corrupt-the Muslim extremists would never permit it-the poorest Muslim women could never learn enough to teach others- etc. etc. It is true that the poorest of the poor women in Bangladesh get by on a vocabulary of only about only

500 words in their own language. But they have the ability and desire to learn.

So they opened schools to teach mothers. To become a teacher they must in turn teach five children as a condition of enrollment. Gem says that the human mind has a desire to learn, and if there is no learning, then there is despair. Through education, a person can rise from despair to optimism and hope. They teach the women English, history, conflict resolution, birth control, health and nutrition, and how to think for themselves. Through this type of education, their lives start to make sense to them.

Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nigeria are struggling to remain moderate Muslim countries. Extremists rely on pools of poor and destitute people. Extremists hate education. They want the population to believe that the path to help is hating others - hating the West.



The Amarak Society website says as follows: *We bring a revolutionary solution to a chronic humanitarian problem. What do you do in lands where there is no money to build schools for millions of uneducated children? How do you reach into the hearts of destitute communities to inspire lasting change in a way that's sustainable and cost-effective? How do you counteract primitive extremism where fundamentalist fanatics have enjoyed free reign?*

Amarok Society effects miraculous changes in the lives of thousands of children through our unusual and daring design for educating the dwellers of desperately poor slums. Amarak Society teaches uneducated mothers how to read and write, and then teaches the mothers to be neighbourhood teachers – educating their own and their neighbours' children every day in their homes, with astonishing result. The failure of humanity to educate all its children is our greatest sin of omission. One of the many, many penalties we pay for this sin is the rise of extremist violence and warfare, which is often cited as the most pressing challenge of our age. Responding to this with violence and warfare has been a hideous exercise in futility, and has invariably made matters yet worse. Education is the only means available to us by which we may defeat the objectives of extremists.

50/50

Betty “Lucky Levens” again - [but she drew the Jack of Diamonds]

Changing of the Guards

At the end of the meeting **Pres. Mark** joyously handed over the seal of office and the gavel to our new president **Ineke Boekhorst**, who stated that she is excited to commence a new year which she



knows will be fun and fruitful.

Submitted by Laurie Anderson