

Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon, Bella Vita Restaurant

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## AUGUST IS MEMBERSHIP & EXTENSION MONTH

**Today:** Gerry Pinel - GETI Fest 2016

**Next Week:** Valerie Patenaude - Maple ridge Historical Society - Local disasters

Happy Birthday	Happy Anniversary

### CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Aug. 5	6 pm	Re-numbering of the Race-Ducks	Bonnie Telep, 21812 127 <sup>th</sup> Ave. <a href="#">Google MAP</a>
Aug. 6	9 am – 2 pm	Community Garage Sale	Memorial Peace Park, Maple Ridge
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



Forty years ago, a man named George Campbell, the owner of the company I worked for, invited me to join Rotary. Back then, that was a common practice in the United States. Your boss invited you to join Rotary because he thought it would be good for business and good for the community, and you said yes. It's not surprising that our membership surged during that period.

George warned me not to use Rotary as an excuse to slack off at work. Even so, I always had time to attend lunch meetings and serve on committees. I never had to worry that taking a long lunch once a week would hurt my advancement, or what my boss would think about the occasional Rotary phone call at work.

Today, things are different. Companies are less generous about time, and not every manager looks favorably on community service. It's hard to enjoy a Rotary meeting when you've got emails piling up on your phone. It's harder than ever to balance work with Rotary – and the model that gave us so much growth a few decades ago is part of what's holding back our growth now.

That's why the recent Council on Legislation adopted some innovative measures that allow clubs to vary their meeting times and expand their pool of prospective members. Clubs have more flexibility now to respond to the needs of their members and to clear away as many barriers to membership as they can. But there's one barrier to membership that only you can remove,

one thing that every prospective member needs to become a Rotarian: an invitation to join a Rotary club.

Whenever I tell a group of Rotarians that we need more willing hands, more caring hearts, and more bright minds to move our work forward, everyone applauds. But those hands, hearts, and minds won't magically appear in our clubs. We have to ask them to join. And an invitation to Rotary is something that only you can give. An invitation is a gift. It's saying to someone, "I think you have the skills, the talent, and the character to make our community better, and I want you to join me in doing that."

I'm the president of Rotary International, but the only club I can invite someone to join is the Rotary Club of Chattanooga, Tenn. I can't make your club or your community stronger. Only you can do that – by inviting the qualified people you know to join you in Rotary Serving Humanity.

**John F. Germ**  
 President 2016-17

### DUCK-TAGGING FRI. AUGUST 5, 6 PM



Coming Friday, August 5, we will have a "working party" at Bonny Telep's home (21812 127<sup>th</sup> Ave. [Google MAP](#)) renumbering the ducks for the Duck Race. Please come Y'all because many hands make light work – not that it is heavy work – and it is a great social too. It starts at 6 pm and there will be some food. (BYOB)

## COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE - AUGUST 6, 9 AM – 2 PM

(SET UP STARTS AT 7:30 AM)

- We need donations of garage sale items.
- Everything needs to be clean and “working”.
- Call Peter or Ineke for drop off/pick up.
- We need volunteers for 2 hr shifts on Aug 6.
- Assistance required for: set up, pricing, sales, break down.
- ALL proceeds to Rotary Foundation - \$26.50 in name of every member, who provided any donation.



## LAST WEEK'S MEETING

### Presidents Quote of the Day

By Luis Vicente Giay from the Rotary Club of Buenos Aires, Argentina:

“Action without vision is wasted, and vision without action is just a dream. Action with vision brings hope to the world”

### Happy and Sad

**Eric Mollema** welcomed everybody to attend his (and **Adrienne Dale's**) new office open house on Wednesday, July 27.

**Laurie Anderson** advised that July 27 was his and Lorna's 51<sup>st</sup> wedding anniversary.

**Ineke Boekhorst** had a sticky time of it when a can of honey tipped over in her car.

### Guest Speaker: **Bruce Beck** - The Starfish Pack Program

#### *The Parable of the Starfish:*

*On the morning after a violent storm, the residents of a seaside village awoke to find their beach covered with hundreds of dying starfish which had washed ashore. As the community gathered at the end of the beach, they spoke in hushed tones about the great sadness of the disaster. Suddenly, a young girl ran towards the beach and began to pick the starfish one at a time, then throwing them back into the water. A village elder walked towards the young girl and kindly said, “Child, there are hundreds of starfish on this beach and this must be happening on other beaches up and down the coast. You must understand that you alone can't possibly make a difference.” The little girl looked up at the old man, smiled and bent down to pick another starfish. As she threw it back into the sea, she replied, “I made a huge difference to that one!”*



Bruce said that when we think of hungry children, we normally think of the Third World, not Abbotsford which is the largest agricultural producing area in the whole of Canada. Yet, it was determined that 400 kids in Abbotsford go without any breakfast or lunch every day. One may be tempted to ask: “what's wrong with the parents?” But Bruce said that the proper question is “what can we do about it”. So they did something about it.



Currently most students in need are provided with breakfast, recess snacks and lunch each day at school. Unfortunately, the lack of access to food does not end when the weekend arrives, so the Starfish Backpack Program was created by the Abbotsford Rotary Club, who recognized that poverty and hunger continue over the weekend for many children in elementary school. They named it The Starfish Program, after the Parable of the Starfish. The starfish pack program has now spread from Abbotsford to Aldergrove, Chilliwack, Coquitlam, Duncan and Delta with the help of the schools and various community organizations and donors. The program is simple. Backpacks are sent home each Friday, full of food for children and their families for the weekend during the school year. The cost of filling each backpack is \$525 per school year with 100% of the donations received going directly to the purchase of food for the backpacks. All partners donate time and services for this worthy cause.

Bruce said that to start this program in our own community, we need to tell the community about it and get them involved. When the Abbotsford club put an ad in the paper about it, calls came in with offers of help. They now have 50+ community partners, 100 volunteers, and \$250,000 was raised.

Some persons wondered whether there would be a stigma attached to those students who received the backpacks, but Bruce said there has been no problem with this in the past three years. In fact, it has raised awareness among youngsters of the plight of some of their fellow students. One six-year-old decided that instead of getting birthday presents, he would try to raise money to help with the program, and was instrumental in raising over \$8,000.

**Our Club President Ineke** is very enthusiastic about our club getting involved in this great program, either alone or with the Haney Club.

The website for the program is [Starfishpack.com](http://Starfishpack.com), and contains these testimonials:

From an Abbotsford Elementary School Teacher:

*“I asked a student of mine about the Starfish Pack program and this is what he told me. ‘The backpack really helps us, because we don't have a lot of food at home, or a lot of money to get food. It helps to make things better for us at home.’ This program reaches out to those in need and this cause has a real soft spot in my heart. It's painful to see kids go hungry and to know they are going home to very little. You have no idea the difference Starfish Packs makes during the day for our students.”*

A Chilliwack Mother:

*"For a single mom of three kids, this was truly a blessing to receive every Friday. I appreciated it as well as my kids. Thank you for taking the time to help us and other families out."*

A Principal of Abbotsford elementary school:

*Three of our students suddenly "took off" last year as readers. All three were in Grade 3, two of the three were in the Starfish backpack program and all three received other interventions. What the three had in common was a lack of social and emotional capital to learn. They had low self-esteem, their home situations were uncertain at best and chaotic and even toxic at times, at the worst. Food security was one of the pieces for two of these kids that made a difference. They went from total non-readers in November last year to being almost caught up with their grade 3 peers in June. Remarkable there were many reasons for their learning to read; we don't know how much of an impact having food on a weekend made, both from a nutrition point of view and from an anxiety aspect. These boys went home on Fridays as providers, and that made a difference in how they perceived themselves.*

A Principal of Abbotsford elementary school:

*Until you have lived through the experience of the changes, you can't truly understand the magnitude of the positive impact that children having food on a regular basis has on their lives. Imagine how this can positively impact their future and ability to live up to their true potential.*

An Abbotsford Parent:

*"Being a low-income house, we greatly appreciate the bags you send home. It may be meant for one student only, but it makes a big difference for the 4 of us. Thank you for this wonderful program."*

50/50

**Patrick O'Brien** had the right suit (of cards, that is) but the "7" only increased the pot.

**Submitted by Laurie Anderson**