

Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon, Bella Vita Restaurant

President: Ineke Boekhorst Phone: 604-467-2420
 Secretary: David Riddell Phone: 604-406-8882
 Editor: Peter Boekhorst Phone: 604-465-3392

[E-mail the President](#)
[E-mail the Secretary](#)
[E-mail the Editor](#)



SEPTEMBER IS BASIC EDUCATION AND LITERACY MONTH

Today: Linda Szilagyi, Registered Nurse

Next Week: Mike Murray - School District Trustees

Happy Birthday	Happy Anniversary
Oct. 2: Clint Callison	

CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Sep. 28		Rotary Ladies Night	Swan-e-set
Dec. 10		Christmas Social – Theatre in the Country	

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

President Ineke Boekhorst had a long commute to get the meeting. She left Kelowna at 6 a.m. and made it in time to be early for our meeting! That is dedication.

Matt Debruyn reminded us that this coming Thursday at Matt's house they will be finishing putting labels on all of the dictionaries which are being distributed to all grade 4 classes in School District 42. The distribution will take place on October 4, 5 and 6 and on October 12, 13 and 14. Matt asked for one or more volunteers to attend with him on those locations to distribute the dictionaries.

Ineke thanked **David and Sharon Rempel** for their hard work in putting on the annual Rotary Frisbee Golf social on Sundays September 18, 2016. Those in attendance included club members from the Mission and Haney Rotary club and Rotaract members, as well as our outgoing exchange student of last year Amber Widman.

Happy and Sad

Dave Rempel was pleased with the Frisbee Golf event which was held at his property.

Angie Edmonds was sorry that she missed the Frisbee Golf as she had to take her son to his hockey event but, alas, the hockey event could not proceed when they arrived and therefore no hockey and no Frisbee.

Ineke and Peter picked up food for the Thanksgiving food bank drive, and of the 140 bags which were distributed, 26 bags containing the donations were received. The total amount of food collected by the drive was approximately 5,600 pounds,

which was only 50% of last year's take. Ineke and Peter picked up 230 pounds of food doing their own rounds.

Brian Bekar will be away on holidays for an extended period, and thanked the Rotarians who would be taking his position as Sgt. at Arms during his absence.

Guest Speakers - RainCity Housing and Support Society

Representing the society were **Bill Briscall** and **Sean Spear**, telling us about the activities of RainCity. Both Bill and Sean have worked in a variety of roles in the non-profit sector for the last 20 to 25 years.



Bill, who has worked at RainCity housing for 16 years, began doing front-line work at a shelter, worked as an outreach worker, and managed transitional housing programming. Since 2009 he has been the Communications Manager.

Sean has worked for RainCity for the last 10 years where he has launched permanent facilities and temporary shelters, and is one of the main spokespersons for RainCity Housing media relations. He is currently the Associate Director responsible for projects in Vancouver, Coquitlam and Maple Ridge.





a home for every person

RainCity Housing is an independent, non-political, non-religious, charitable organization based in the Lower Mainland. RainCity operates the temporary facility on the Lougheed Highway opposite the

Haney Hotel, and will operate the new temporary facility that is being proposed on the Lougheed Highway opposite the hospital near Laity Street. Until a permanent facility is constructed, modules (of the type used in construction camps) will be brought in as temporary shelters. Said Sean, "No one sees the temporary facility as a permanent solution. The existing facility is certainly not ideal, with mattresses on the floor laying side by side, giving no privacy. But RainCity was successful in opening the facility is a temporary operation because of the tent city that had developed. As for a permanent facility, it will be at least three or four years, given the time it takes for public consultation, design, entered into contracts, etc."

The stated philosophy is that *for people who occupy mainstream society, basic needs such as shelter, security, health and daily provisions are readily accessible. However, people who occupy the margins of society often do not have the same assurances. Homelessness, mental illness, substance use, and chronic physical health problems are often accompanied by poor nutrition, a lack of access to health care and housing, and a life of risk and vulnerability to violence and exploitation. Furthermore, stigmatization keeps these individuals removed from mainstream society and essentially disenfranchises them from addressing their basic needs and from enjoying their inherent right to human dignity. The recognition of this chasm has given rise to support for the need to provide services to these citizens in need. This is a fundamental premise in our work of advancing social equity – the equal opportunity for all to address their basic needs for shelter, food, services and to be treated with dignity.*

Beginning in 1982 as a small emergency shelter, the RainCity Housing family of services has expanded to operate over 20 programs in 15 buildings, located 5 different municipalities and over 450 employees. It operates:

- Emergency Shelters – Triage Shelter, 3030 Gordon, Maple Ridge, Seasonal shelters, EWR shelter
- Supported Housing – Princess Rooms Transitional Housing, the Lux Transitional Housing, the Former Biltmore Hotel, 3030 Gordon Avenue in Coquitlam.



The 3030 Gordon Avenue facility was recently viewed by our own Maple Ridge City Representatives with a view to planning for the

permanent facility which is being proposed in Maple Ridge. The 3030 Gordon Avenue Shelter has 30 private rooms: 20 for men and 10 for women. Pets are welcome and three meals a day are provided. The building is staffed 24 hours a day, every day. It also serves as Transitional Housing.



Initial referrals to the 30 self-contained suites of transitional housing are made through BC Housing. Once the application is received, new applicants are interviewed by BC Housing staff and RainCity staff, and they decide together on successful applicants. It also serves as an Extreme Weather Response facility. The Building provides shelter space for an additional 30 individuals during periods of exceptionally inclement weather.

- Abstinence-based Housing – Fraser Street Transitional Housing - this facility is a drug and rehabilitation centre in Vancouver. In developing it, RainCity got the community involved and educated the neighbourhood about the work they were doing.

RainCity provides services that include:

- Women’s Housing – The Vivian Transitional Housing
- Women led Family Housing – The Budzey
- Long Term Housing – Windchimes Apartments, Bridget Moran Place, the Shaldon Hotel, Killarney Apartments, the Lux Apartments, Marguerite Ford Apartments
- Outreach services – ACT Team, ICM Team, STOP Team, Sunshine Coast Outreach Services

You can visit their website at www.raincityhousing.org

Sean Spear advised that one of the big differences over the past year which is not been seen before, is the fentanyl crisis resulting up to 800 persons per year (over two people per day) dying in British Columbia as a result of this deadly drug. Sean states that it is hitting persons in all walks of life.

50-50

Matt DeBruyn was the lucky winner of the 9 of Diamonds and not the Queen of Hearts, but he kept his cool and did not explode !!!

Submitted by Laurie Anderson

