

Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon, Bella Vita Restaurant

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## OCTOBER IS ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MONTH

**Today:** Angela Charron - Chances Casino

**Next Week:** Amber Widman - Her Exchange Student 2015/16 to Sweden experiences

Happy Birthday	Happy Anniversary

### CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Oct. 12-14	8:30, 10:30, 12:30	Delivery of Dictionaries 4 Life	
Dec. 10		Christmas Social – Theatre in the Country	



### Hurricane Matthew is the most powerful storm to hit Haiti in generations, destroying homes and communities in its path.

The Category 4 hurricane struck Haiti on Tuesday October 4, causing massive destruction to the already vulnerable country.

**It is estimated that 350,000 people are in need of assistance and over 14,500 people have been evacuated to emergency shelters in Haiti alone.**

These numbers are expected to rise significantly.

A United Nations official in Haiti, Mourad Wahba, described the storm as "**the largest humanitarian event**" in the country since the earthquake that struck the country in 2010. **More than 840 people have been killed** and this number is expected to rise as the extent of the damage becomes clear.

Even though the storm has passed in Haiti, the devastation and destruction is not yet over. Communities are experiencing flash-flooding and mudslides that continue to rip houses apart and put families at risk of waterborne diseases like cholera.

The storm moved north through Cuba and the Bahamas with max wind speeds of 230 km/h, causing 3 metre tidal surges and

more than one metre of rainfall in some communities. Hurricane Matthew is now hitting the east coast of the United States.

**ShelterBox has aid stored in Haiti and Panama and a ShelterBox Response Team, including Canadian SRT Andre Bloemink, has arrived in Haiti to begin assessments.**

The team has been in contact with the Rotarian Haiti Disaster Chair and will arrive in Haiti on Friday October 7 to begin assessing how we can assist the families devastated by Hurricane Matthew.

We believe that no family should be without shelter, and our teams will go to the ends of the earth to support communities who need it.

**As a Rotary Project Partner, ShelterBox remains the best Rotary way to support the families affected by disaster around the world.** Rotary Clubs from coast to coast continue to make the work we do possible, 365 days a year.

ShelterBox is committed to the families affected by Hurricane Matthew in Haiti and throughout the region, and to other disasters around the world, but **we can't do it alone. We need your help.**

Thank you so much for your continued support of ShelterBox Canada, our work would not be possible without the dedication of Rotary Clubs across the country.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Christensen  
 Executive Director, ShelterBox Canada

[WWW.SHELTERBOXCANADA.ORG](http://WWW.SHELTERBOXCANADA.ORG)

[Download the pdf file here](#)

## LAST WEEK'S MEETING

### Dictionary Program

On this day, October 4, 2016, **Mark Forster, Ineke & Peter Boekhorst and Matt Debruyn** were busy giving out dictionaries to grade 4 students, and on last Friday September 30 our club's participation in the Starfish Pack program got underway with the first distribution of backpacks.

**President Ineke** noted that October is Rotary's Economic and Community Development Month, and that our participation in the dictionary program and in the food pack program fit well within this month's theme. We already have five sponsors at \$525 per year per pack (and this is prior to any publication in the newspaper). President Ineke noted that never before in the history of our club have we mobilized so many different people in the community to be involved with one of our sponsored projects. The Haney Rotary club has committed to sponsoring five packs. In the Maple Ridge News, to be published on Oct. 5, 2016, is a full-page article about the backpack program.



[See the full story here](#)

Guest - honorary club member **Irena Shantz**

### Happy and Sad

**Libby Nelson** has just returned from a great holiday, and was happy to find that her granddaughter had not missed a day of school during her absence.

**Laurie Anderson** was happy that **Sharon Kyle** had sold him what she had warranted would be the winning ticket on today's 50-50 [an allegation which Sharon vehemently denied, reminding him of the first rule under the Four-Way Test].

**Adrienne Dale and Warren** had just returned from a successful camping trip [if you can call sleeping in their great motorhome "camping"!]

**Irena Shantz** will shortly be off on holiday to Palm Springs [if you can call having fun in the sun a "holiday"!].

**Mike Murray** was happy to report that contact had been made with last year's exchange student Jhon \*\*\* from Peru, and that the money which we sent home with him has been used to fund a water project in his village. He is reported to have been "really changed" by his exchange student experience and has grown as a result of it.

Fine Master [Fine Mistress?] was **Deborah Hyslop**: who fined anyone [which turned out to mean everyone] who was sitting at the same table they occupied in the previous meeting.

### Guest speaker - School Board Chairman Mike Murray - the role of school trustees



On behalf of the school board, Mike thanked the Rotary clubs for their strong support of our school students in School District 42, including our distribution of dictionaries, the bursaries which we give out, the bag lunches which we have supported, and now the Starfish Pack program which make sure that students do not go hungry on the weekend.

Besides the Chair **Mike Murray**, there are six other school trustees including **Eleanor Palis, Susan Carr, Ken Clarkson, Dave Rempel and Korleen Carreras**. The longest-serving member is **Rotarian Dave Rempel** (a Trustee for at least 20 years) who also serves as the liaison representative to the **Ridge Meadows Education Foundation, Tzu Chi, PLS and Arts Council**.

[**Reporters note**: In case you think that "Tzu Chi" is a form of raw fish, please see **note 1** at the end of this report].

[**Reporters second note**: If you do not know what the acronym PLS stands for, PLS see **note 2** at the end of this report].

[**Reporters third note**: If you do not know what the Arts Council is...., never mind].

Mike Murray said that the role of the board of Trustees is to represent the citizens of the School District and provide support to the District. There are approximately 15,000 students in SD42, and over 775 full-time teachers employed. Non-teacher support staff number over 585, with 51 principals and vice principals



Student enrolment has increased by 417 students last year. As a result of planning and increased enrolment, the school board focus is on developing a new elementary school in Albion, and adding new trades training in conjunction with local colleges and international baccalaureate education opportunities. (The school district has earned \$1.6 million from international students attending within our district).

Student graduation rates have increased from 76.3% in 2007/2008 to 90.7% in 2012/2013.

In the same period, Alternate Education graduation rates increased from 43.3% to 61.2%, and aboriginal graduation rates increased from 58.6% to 74%.

The Trustees fulfill their role in the following ways:

1. They look, listen, and learn (by visiting schools, public consultation, participation in Pro D, and public consultation, etc.)
2. They Develop Plans
3. They Govern (by setting policy, establishing priorities, monitoring performance, and hiring and providing Superintendent oversight)
4. They Provide Advocacy.

The school board and staff advocate on behalf of the school district through:

- participation in the British Columbia School Teachers Association.
- meetings with MLA's on education finance and the annual capital submission.
- correspondence and meetings with the Ministry of Education on a variety of subjects.
- making submissions to the Select Standing Committee on Government Services and Finance.
- media interviews on radio, television and several newspapers following the 2015/16 budget process.
- participation by our Secretary Treasurer on the British Columbia Association of School Business Officials.

In carrying out its function, the school board faces many fiscal challenges. These include:

- With declining enrolment, six schools have had to be closed over the past decade, which has unavoidably resulted in some unhappy parents and disrupted children.
- The annual operating budget has been reduced by \$10 million in the last two years, which has resulted in increased class sizes, reduced clerical support, reduced career counseling, reduced education leadership, increased fees, energy savings, reduced supply budgets, and changing spring break from one week to two in order to save cost (in salaries).

As a result of Ministry Imposed saving targets of \$1.2 million and unanticipated additional costs downloaded by the Ministry, the school board made the following decisions:

- To eliminate school busing in 2016 instead of having to increase class sizes he further (a decision which was reversed as result of increased funding from the Ministry).
- A move to require students to bring their own devices to school, as current laptops and iPads owned by the school district reach the end of their life expectancy.

The school board has engaged in policy review and development. Notably among them are policy reviews concerning:

- the use of information technology,
- student transportation,
- records information management, and
- environmental sustainability.

The school board also has to plan for tomorrow by making the most effective use of available facility resources given the shifting demographics and changes in teaching and learning. They need to look at facility allocation through the fiscal, educational and community lenses. Key recommendations include pursuing land for growth and new schools, adjusting catchments to make the best use of available resources, and put greater emphasis on fine arts and new trades training opportunities.

50-50

**Eric Mollema** eliminated the King of Hearts. Long live the Queen.

**Reporters note 1:**

Tzu Chi, is it:



or is it:



Flashback from the Maple Ridge-Times Newspaper 2011:

*In 2010-2011, the Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows school district was able to distribute \$17,500 to needy children for things like a foodsafe course and a guitar program thanks to the generosity of the Buddhist worldwide charity, called the Tzu Chi Foundation.*

*But this isn't the first year Tzu Chi has donated money to help underprivileged children participate in extra-curricular activities. Money has been coming from the Foundation since 1995.*

*"Tzu Chi is one of the largest charities in the world", said Dave Rempel, the Trustee liaison to the Tzu Chi Foundation, "but they tend to do thing quietly".*

*Since 1995, Tzu Chi has donated approximately \$16,000 per year with some extra funding for select students.*

*"We were the only District that showed how their money was spent", Rempel said.*

**Reporters note 2:**

Google says that PLS is an acronym for 66 different word combinations, including:

PLEASE,  
PLACE LAST SEEN,  
PERSONNEL LOCATOR SYSTEM, and  
PERSONAL LIMOUSINE SERVICE.

So if someone says to you, "PLS tell me what is the PLS of School Trustee David Rempel", you can use the PLS and may find out he was using his PLS on his way to get some Tzu Chi.

**Submitted by Laurie Anderson**