

Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon, Bella Vita Restaurant

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OCTOBER IS ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MONTH

Today: Amber Widman - Her Exchange Student 2015/16 to Sweden experiences

Next Week:

Happy Birthday	Happy Anniversary

CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Dec. 10		Christmas Social – Theatre in the Country	



MOST POWERFUL STORM TO HIT HAITI IN GENERATIONS

Hurricane Matthew tore through the Caribbean, destroying homes and communities in its path.

On Tuesday October 4 the Category 4 hurricane struck some of the region's most vulnerable areas, including Haiti, which is still recovering from the catastrophic earthquake in 2010.

The death toll is nearing 1000, while an estimated 90% of buildings have been levelled in the south of the country.

The hurricane, which hit Haiti with 230 km/h winds, is the most powerful storm to affect the island in more than 50 years.

Haiti is one of the world's poorest countries and many homes are extremely vulnerable to the strong winds. The level of damage is not yet known, as some parts of the country are totally cut off, with no means of communication, but initial reports show that at least 350,000 people have been affected by the hurricane.

A ShelterBox Response Team, including Canadian SRT Andre Bloemink, **has arrived in Haiti** and is working with local Rotary contacts to start assessing the extent of damage firsthand. Our team are noting a **movement of Haitians helping Haitians** - communities coming together to work on self-recovery.

We need to prepare for the worst. We already have limited stocks of aid stored in Haiti, but if initial reports are correct, it won't be enough. We need your support to make sure we have enough aid to respond whenever disaster strikes.

Our teams are no strangers to working in the Caribbean.

In 2010, a 7.0 magnitude earthquake struck Haiti, killing more than 250,000 people and leaving a further million homeless. We responded immediately and had a team on the ground assessing the situation within a day.

The quake caused damage on an epic scale and many of the worst-hit communities were accessible only by helicopter. However, ShelterBox teams worked tirelessly throughout 2010 to reach families in need of shelter, using any means possible.

Please donate today to help families affected by Hurricane Matthew and other disasters around the world.

WWW.SHELTERBOXCANADA.ORG

Peter and Ineke Boekhorst have donated \$100 to Shelterbox for Haiti. They challenge each and every Rotarian to do the same.

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

Guests:

Annika Polegato, Chuck Keeling - Vice President of Chances and Deddy Geese.

Cheque Presentations:

Dave Rempel, Chair of the Rotary Wine Festival, handed over two cheques from the proceeds of this year's Wine Festival:

Annika Polegato, executive director of **Alouette Addictions Services**, received a cheque for \$2,500. Our donation will go toward their programs including a recently held drug forum. Over 500 parents were present to learn about recreational drug use in our local student population. They are in the midst of piloting a project aimed at grade 6 and 7, the first in the province.



Ineke spoke about the **Starfish Pack** program that we are also supporting with a \$2,500 donation. The program supports kids who need food over the weekend. The back pack goes home on Friday and is returned the following week to be refilled for the following Friday.



Local partners including Save-On Foods, the Burnett Fellowship Church, Friends in Need Food Bank, and The News are all involved. It costs \$525 per year per child.

Matt told us about the **Dictionary 4 Life** program, targeting literacy in our local grade 4 children. He, along with other club members, have given out many books now and the reaction has been great. After telling the kids about Rotary and its goals, he and his helpers wander the crowd giving out dictionaries to all. Many of them still have their noses in the books as they leave the room.



Family matters: Mike Davies is still not well, but happy to receive visitors and phone calls at the hospital. Laurie will be filling in for him as the chair of the Community Services committee.

Rotary Exchange: We need at least one host family for the 2017/18 year, Ineke informs us. Clint and Patrick are considering this possibility.

Happy Sad:

- Doris was pleased that all she had to do for Thanksgiving was set the table. Sounds like the future daughter in law is a keeper!
- Dave Rempel ate too much for dinner and then did it again the next night. He is worried about his six pack.
- Annika Polegato had 25 relatives over for family dinner. Wow!
- Laurie stepped outside the protocol of happy/sad by issuing an apology to Dave Rempel. Something about Dave's personal limousine service (PLS). (See last week's bulletin!)

Fines: Betty Levens

First she demanded remuneration from those without winter tires. Then she wanted cash from those with sufficiently interesting lives that they don't need to watch the Clinton-

Trump comedy hour. Finally, we revisited the theme of too much to eat at Thanksgiving. All pockets were lightened by Ms. Hood as we traipsed through Sherwood Forest.

Mystery Greeter: Adrienne Dale

There is talk of a class action fine suit as Adrienne slipped in and sat down oh so close to the meeting's start. Oh well, there goes all the money I was saving up for that box of Kleenex with the flowers on the side.

Angela Charron spoke to us about Chances:



Angela Charron is Director of Operations for Chances Maple Ridge Community Gaming Centre. Her community involvement began with the Ridge Meadows Bingo Operators Society, raising funds in support of 30+ local charities through running bingo events at Haney Bingo Plex as far back as the late 80's.

With humble beginnings selling bingo cards and renting bingo chair cushions, Angela continued to advance through multiple roles including Bingo Coordinator and Operations Manager.

In 2008, when Haney Bingo Plex was acquired by Great Canadian Gaming Corporation, Angela was then promoted to Gaming Manager and since then has taken part in the planning and opening of Chances Chilliwack in 2012 and Chances Maple Ridge in 2013.

In 2015, Angela was appointed to the position of Director of Operations for Chances Maple Ridge and is responsible for all aspects of the business including guest services, slot and bingo play, food services, entertainment and security.

Having served as Director for the MR/PM Chamber of Commerce throughout 2014 and 2015, Angela continues to remain involved in several group volunteer initiatives driven by Chances Maple Ridge that support local charities such as Alisa's Wish and the Friends in Need Food Bank.



Great Canadian Gaming (GCG) purchased Haney Bingo-Plex in 2008 and completed their new building in 2013. The industry is structured carefully with the Provincial Gaming policy branch atop governing along with the BC Lottery Corporation (BCLC). Private companies operate the casinos etc. Two thirds of gaming gross revenue goes to the BCLC supporting services such as health care. Maple Ridge as a city has received 4.5 million from gaming revenues and collects ~\$158,000 per year in property taxes. Fifty-seven community organizations have received support from GCG in 2014/2015.

There are 70 people employed by the local Chances site. Chances spend about \$550,000 per year in Maple Ridge and spent 23.3 million on the facility. They estimate that 3.3% of people in BC have some kind of a gambling problem. Significant funds are spent to alleviate the effect on these persons by having counseling services, exclusion programs and on site GameSense Info Centres.

50/50: Laurie managed the Queen of Spades in the 50/50. Could it get any worse?

Submitted by Patrick O'Brien