

Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon, Bella Vita Restaurant

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NOVEMBER IS ROTARY FOUNDATION MONTH

Today: Andy Bird - The Bird's Nest Society

Next Week: PDG Larry Stinson - Rotary Foundation

Happy Birthday	Happy Anniversary

CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Dec. 6	Noon	AGM & Election of Officers	
Dec. 10	6:00 pm	Christmas Social – Theatre in the Country Dinner & “Miracle on 34th Street”	9975 272 St., Maple Ridge

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

Special Guests

Janet Smith, a helping teacher within School District 42, accompanied three grade 4 students, brave enough to stand before the club members and to tell us what they liked about the Rotary illustrated dictionary which they recently received.



- **Emily** said she loved the smell of new books.
- **Justin** said he liked illustrations, because it helped in the interpretation of the meaning of the words.
- **Braden** said page 125 was his favourite page in the dictionary because it had hockey and ice cream on it.

Janet Smith said that books are important to children. Recalling her own childhood, she said that her family had an illustrated Merriam-Webster dictionary which aroused her curiosity.

Curiosity, she said, was very important to learning as it peaks the children's interests in the subject being taught, and our dictionary program illustrates that very well.

President Ineke thanked Janet and the children very much for coming to our meeting, and said that her own family had several bookstores in Holland when she was growing up, giving her a special connection with books in her own life.

The President's Quote for the Day by Walt Disney:

The way to get started is to quit talking and begin doing.

Mike Davies was reported to be doing much better and may even be allowed to go home very soon from the hospital.

The Starfish Pack program is progressing with 10 packs having been given out to students in Golden Ears Elementary School and 5 packs to students in Harry Hooze Elementary School. Remember - it costs only \$525 per year per student to find one Starfish Pack.

Adrienne Dale is collecting money from members going to the Christmas Social to be held on December 10th at the Theatre in the Country, where we will enjoy a great dinner and a live theatre presentation of “Miracle on 34th Street”, all for the price of only \$60 per person and only \$55 if you are over 65 [that is to say, if you are a *golden-ager* aka *old fogey*? - No! If you are a Rotarian, “a busy, hardworking, retired or not, energetic, volunteer”?].

[Did you know that the Theatre in the Country occupies a space that was the old school gym of Whonnock Elementary, on 272 Street and 100 Avenue, half way between downtown Mission and downtown Maple Ridge, and is now christened the North Fraser

50/50 Draw - Jackpot at \$512.50 + 1/2 of today's sales, 20 cards left, Jackpot on “Queen of Hearts” only!

Events Centre. Maple Ridge's Theatre in the Country is believed to be the only ongoing dinner theatre group in the Lower Mainland.]

November 12 is the District Rotary Foundation Dinner to be held on November 12 in Mount Vernon to celebrate 100 years of Rotary Foundation. If you would like to car pool with Ineke and Laurie Anderson, let Ineke know soon.

Guests: Honorary member **Irena Shantz, Sandi McLatchey, and Lynda Lawrence.**

Happy and Sad

Mark Vosper, executive director of Hospice, was pleased that Hospice had an excellent Oktoberfest where some money was raised, and a good time was had by all.

Dave Rempel, our longest-serving school trustee, agreed with Janet Smith that keeping children curious is the key to a successful education program.

David Riddell was sad to hear (pun intended) that he recently suffered a broken eardrum, but (being ever the optimist) was happy that at least he was spared hearing the polka music at the Hospice Oktoberfest which he attended with some other club members.

Eric Mollema and Adrienne Dale must be successful in their new law firm, Centra Lawyers LLP, which celebrates its first anniversary on October 26, because they generously enriched our club by each throwing \$50 Happy Dollars into the kitty! Congratulations!

Snow bird **Matt Debruyn** threw in a 10 spot [five dollars of sad money for leaving us? Plus another five dollars in anticipation of seeing our happy faces again on December 17?].

Ineke Boekhorst noted that October 24, 2016 was World Polio Day, and that **Karen Hendrickson** will soon be inducted into our club as our first new member of the 2016/2017 Rotary Year. She was also happy to announce that our club members have donated \$1200 which will enable us to buy a Shelter Box. And last but not least, cyclamen plants will again be sold this year during the Christmas season with the proceeds going to the Starfish Pack program.

Guest Speaker -Amber Widman - last year's Rotary Exchange Student



This was the sign that met Amber when she arrived in Sweden as one of 80 students going to that country with the Rotary Exchange Program last year. She arrived back home in July 2016, to tell us that it was an amazing experience and that she wouldn't change for the world, and that it was the best year of her life so far.

During her time in Sweden she had only two host families, and when asked whether she got homesick, she admitted that after one year away she was more homesick leaving her host families and her newfound friends than she was in being away from her Canadian home. That she did so well on her own is all the more gratifying because this was the first time in her life that she had ever been away from her mother for more than two weeks, and that was when she went to summer camp [Amber, not her mother]).

Amber had many "firsts" that are etched in her memory:

- her first time sailing (her first host family had a sailboat and they sailed around Denmark)



- her first time skeet shooting or shooting any gun (she even hit the clay pigeon on her third try)



- her first time driving a ride-on lawn mower

- her first time seeing a flop eared rabbit

- her first time skiing (in Serbia, no less, and she didn't fall down once)



- her first time dog sledding and seeing the northern lights (after a 24 hour train ride to Kiruna)

- her first time in a hotel made entirely of ice (the Ishotellet)



- her first time in a canoe (*Paddla Kanot*) -even if she did tip it over twice in the process

And what about the *Kräfta Fest* [or crayfish party as we might call it, if we had such a thing]. As an exchange student she could not, of course, participate in the alcohol consumption but noticed that everyone else (after about the fourth shot) joined in and made for an interesting and boisterous party, eating lots of crayfish all night long.



Lucia/ Christmas was very special and a big deal (or was that a “huge ordeal”?) eating all that great food - which included four course meals of meatballs, salmon, four kinds of herring, and bread and cheese. They put candle holders in the window (like a candelabra) and each week leading up to Christmas they would light one more candle.

Meeting all of the Rotary exchange students (*Rotary Utbytesstudenter*) - they were 9 in her district out of 80 exchange students in all - was a great experience for her, said Amber, as they were from all over the world, with different lifestyles and with different cultures, and all experiencing the same thing together.



To top it all off, she went on a 17-day Euro Tour, setting foot in 10 countries with 44 Rotary exchange students on one bus.

Of course, she learned to speak the Swedish language, and was able to converse and understand the language after only nine months.

Amber thanked the Rotary for giving her this great and unbelievable experience.

50-50

Matt DeBruyn blew his second chance in as many weeks to finance his trip to warmer climes to the south of us.

CYCLAMEN SALE:



We will have our annual Christmas plant sale again this year with all proceeds towards the Starfish Backpack Project.

The order forms will be on the table this week. Also the order form is attached to this newsletter. When using Google Chrome browser, download the bulletin pdf-file and

open in Acrobat (Reader). Then open the attachment.

Or it is available online at meadowridgerotary.ca/Downloads

The President's Final Quote for the Day by Charles Schultz:

*Don't worry about the world coming to an end today.
It is already tomorrow in Australia*

Submitted by Laurie Anderson