

Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon, Bella Vita Restaurant

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NOVEMBER IS ROTARY FOUNDATION MONTH

Today: PDG Larry Stinson - Rotary Foundation

Next Week:

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

RI PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE



Looking back at the momentous 1917 Rotary Convention in Atlanta, it is difficult to see what could have been contentious about the words of then-President Arch C. Klumph: “It seems eminently proper that we should accept endowments for the purpose of doing good in the world.” Yet, at the time, support for the idea was far from unanimous. Some thought an endowment fund would create more trouble than it was worth. But Klumph’s idea received the support it most needed in the form of an initial donation of \$26.50 from the Rotary Club of Kansas City, Mo.

Nearly 100 years later, we recognize Klumph’s idea as not only visionary, but revolutionary: It set in place the mechanism that allowed Rotary to become the vast force for “doing good in the world” that it is today.



In many ways, our Rotary Foundation is the foundation of Rotary as we know it. It has created a mechanism for cooperation and partnership among clubs and between Rotary and other organizations; it has enabled us to be ever more ambitious in our work and to reach for goals of historic proportions, such as the eradication of polio. It is impossible to quantify the good that has been done over the last century as a result of The Rotary Foundation. All we can know for sure is that Arch Klumph, if he could see it, would be proud.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at our international convention in Atlanta: the city where our Foundation was born. I

hope a record number of Rotarians will be there to celebrate the centennial of our Foundation. In the meantime, there are plenty of other ways to celebrate! I encourage you to read more about the Foundation centennial at centennial.rotary.org. There, you’ll learn about the history of our Foundation and find ideas for events and projects in your clubs and your community.

One of the most important ways we are celebrating the Foundation centennial is with a fundraising goal of \$300 million. Your gift to your Foundation is the best way of ensuring a strong second century for Rotarians Doing Good in the World and for *Rotary Serving Humanity*.

John F. Germ President 2016-17

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

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

President's Quote for the Day by George Bernard Shaw:

*We don't stop playing because we grow old;
we grow old because we stop playing.*



President Ineke reminded us all that this year is the 100th birthday of the Rotary Foundation. To celebrate the occasion, Ineke circulated a collection box which will be at all of our meetings throughout the month of November. All members are encouraged to put some money into it, even if it is just your loose change, and at the end of the month the total collected will be sent to the Rotary Foundation. To encourage participation, all those contributing will be eligible for a draw at the end of the month, and the person whose name is selected will get a income tax receipt for the total amount in the box.

[Also, remember that every member is encouraged to donate something to the Rotary Foundation throughout this Rotary year. Although \$100 US is the suggested amount, a lesser amount will do. The Rotary foundation was started with the donation of \$26.50, and every member is encouraged to at least donate that amount, so that we can have every member of our club making a donation.]

Some Good News and Some Sad News



Some good news for **Angie Blanco** is that effective November 21 she has been given a significant promotion in her work at the Bank of Montreal, but the sad news is that she will have to move over to an office in Surrey and will not be

able to attend many of our club meetings. The really sad news (for her - but especially for us) is that she will not be able to be our club president in the 2017/2018 Rotary Year. **Libby Nelson**, who had been scheduled to take the president's job in the 2018/19 Rotary Year has agreed to take Angie's place. We are therefore looking for a vice president for 2018/2019 to replace Libby. [Don't raise your hands all at once.]

Ineke reported that **Mike Davies** is back home feeling very much better, but still having a few unresolved health problems. [Get better soon, Mike, we need you back as the chairman of our Community Services Committee.]

Ineke is looking for a volunteer or two to follow up with corporate sponsors who are going to contribute to our Starfish Pack initiative. The volunteer for this will not have to go out and round up donations, but simply take on the corporate sponsor recognition for the Backpack Project. **Peter Boekhorst** agreed to go with the volunteer to take pictures.

Guests

Honorary member **Irena Shantz**, and **Roshni Sinha** of the North Lakes Rotary Club, Sydney Australia, who exchanged banners with President Ineke.

Happy and Sad

Treasurer Walter Volpatti advised that our club just received and will be receiving \$2,588 for the next three years from RM Bingo Association. These funds are not actual gaming funds and can therefore be used for whatever Rotary purposes and programs we decide for the benefit of the community and/or Rotary generally.

Ineke gave two happy bucks, one for the fact that **Mike Davies** is now home from the hospital, and another for the fact that **Ken Holland** (of the Haney Rotary club) also appears to be doing much better.

December 6 – our club's AGM

Ineke reminded us that we are calling for nominations for officers and directors of our club for the next Rotary year, and that our Annual General Meeting will be held on December 6, 2016.

Guest speaker - Andy Bird - the Bird's Nest Society



When **Andy Bird** was a kid, every Monday night he would push his little bed out of his bedroom and in front of the TV, so he and his mom Patti could have the cosiest possible vantage from which to watch Monday Night Raw Wrestling together. His mother Patti was deaf, and Andy learned to sign before he could speak. "That's my first language," he said. "I learned to speak by watching TV- Sesame Street and wrestling." And he said

that he always wanted to be a wrestler!

Andy Bird had a dream. His dream was to become a wrestler. And he was persistent.

He was raised by a single, deaf mother. He is now 27, and in his life has lived in 25 different homes. At age 14 he found himself homeless, when the parents of a friend in whose home he was staying suddenly told him that he must leave. He had no where to go. This was one week before his final grade 9 examinations. But his dream of becoming a wrestler kept him going. "This is today, but tomorrow I will become a wrestler", he would say to himself. At the age of 19 or 20, he decided to send a message to Canadian WWE superstar Natalie Neidhart, of the famous Hart wrestling family, through social media. To his shock and surprise, she messaged him back and told him about a gym in Calgary where he might try to get some training. So he quit his job and left the house that he was living in, and set out for Calgary with all his possessions in a backpack. He trained at that Calgary Gym for 18 months, before moving to Burnaby where he joined Elite Canadian Championship Wrestling, and is now living his dream. And he is now married with a new four month old baby, and living in Maple Ridge.

He was raised in Saskatoon, but the home for much of his family was in the Montréal Lake Cree nation reserve located a couple of hours drive away from the city of Saskatoon. Although Andy did not grow up on the reserve, that is where his mother came from, and he did spend time there.

Said Andy: "I want you to imagine that you live in a remote community of Saskatchewan, with nothing but dirt roads. There is no work, industry or stores. There is literally nothing to do and you are surrounded by drugs and alcohol abuse. Education is almost irrelevant, even discouraged. The suicide rate is higher than almost anywhere in the world. The teen pregnancy rate is considered a national health crisis. People from your own country (Canada) assume you are either lazy or unmotivated, when the truth is that since you have never experienced anything except for your small community, the idea of venturing out on your own is so overwhelming you end up trapped in a life you do not want to live. This is what is happening right now on my Montréal Lake Creek Nation reserve in Saskatchewan."

And he says that there are 70 such reserves in the Province of Saskatchewan alone.

Andy Bird, through sheer determination, was able to chase a different life for himself. The first person he brought to Maple Ridge was his mother Patti, who has been accepted to go to Langara College to study cooking. Having worked out the life of his own that he was happy with, he wanted to give back - get help for his friends and family back on the reserve.



In October 2015, along with his wife's family and a mutual friend, they set about and founded the Bird's Nest, a non-profit society dedicated to bringing youth from his reserve out to BC to upgrade their high school diplomas and start post-secondary education. Since that time, they have developed a tailored post-secondary preparation course (with a dedicated help of the Maple Ridge Riverside College), held major fundraisers, gained non-profit status, and have purchased a seven-bedroom house in Maple Ridge housing young students from the Montréal Lake Reserve.

I am building a nest in beautiful British Columbia where young adults from my reserve can come to upgrade or complete their high school diplomas or head straight into postsecondary. We will provide a home with a "house parent" who will help with meals and guidance. When they finish school they will have the experience and education to spread their wings and fly.

"Hold fast your dreams, for if dreams die, life is a broken-winged bird that cannot fly." (Langston Hughes)

President's Closing Quote by **Thomas Edison**:

Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work.

Submitted by Laurie Anderson