



Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon, Bella Vita Restaurant

President: Libby Nelson Phone: 604-314-6749  
 Secretary: Deborah Hyslop Phone: 778-387-0429  
 Editor: Peter Boekhorst Phone: 604-465-3392

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



## FEBRUARY IS PEACE AND CONFLICT PREVENTION/RESOLUTION MONTH

Today (Feb 20):

Next Week (Feb 27):

Happy Birthday	Happy Anniversary

### CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Feb. 10		Valentine's dinner at Mark and Pauline Forster's house	<a href="#">11439-234A St., Maple Ridge</a>
May 8-12		District Conference	MS Eurodam

### LAST WEEK'S MEETING

Invocation, given by **Ineke Boekhorst**

*"While we wait- and wait – and wait- for the weather to turn, let us think spring thoughts. Let us think about our club goals and the role each of us plays to make the world a better place through our involvement in Rotary. That is think about opportunities to serve in new ways. Let us be thankful for the food and the friends around this table. Let us be thankful that spring will come- as eventually !"*

President's quote for the day:

**Stay away from  
negative people.  
They have a problem  
for every solution.**

Happy and Sad ( aka "going-ons" in lives of our members)

**Brian Bekar**, our Sergeant at arms and ticket taker, gave a happy dollar for people who didn't pick up their change when they paid for their meal ticket and 50-50 tickets.

**Mike Davies** could very well appear on America's Funniest Home Videos, when he thought he was young enough to go skateboarding and riding a scooter, which brought his face in close contact with the ground.

**Ineke B.** and **Libby N.** gave happy bucks for the fantastic Valentines dinner put on by **Mark and Pauline Forster** for our Club on February 10, 2018, while Patrick O'Brien paid a dollar because he was sad to have missed it, due to other commitments.

**Laurie Anderson** had a great visit with his niece and her husband and their one-year-old girl who live on Cortes Island, but was sad to learn that his brother's cottage (where he was living on the niece's property) recently burned to the ground, taking his brother's books, papers and all his other worldly goods with it.

Program: Rotary exchange student **Hannah Nelson**

Hannah was our 17-year-old Rotary exchange student who went to Switzerland and was there from August, 2017 to January 2018. Hannah is the daughter of Sarah Nelson who has been a host family for previous exchange students, and is now a member of the Haney Rotary Club. Hannah and her parents have lived in Pitt Meadows since Hannah was about 18 months old.



The following is part of the presentation by Hannah to our Club:

*For those of you I haven't met before, my name is Hannah and this past year I went to Fribourg, Switzerland on the Rotary Youth Exchange program. I chose Switzerland since I am in French immersion here, and was looking to improve my French to a truly bilingual level.*

So, I went in early August 2017. I joined my first host family in France, for a wedding and then visited some of their family. At the end of the month I started school at the College Saint-Michel where I took 10 different subjects, and played on a semi-professional soccer team....

One of the things I learned right away is not rely on our preconceived ideas of something, especially when it comes to culture. In my research before leaving, I saw that Switzerland was a very international country with lots of scientific advancements, as well as being neutral in many ways. I had therefore assume that they were progressive in all other aspects as well, but I found that this was not necessarily the case. For example, women didn't get the right to vote until the 1970s, and this prejudice towards women was something I experience there more than I have in my entire life here. There is a strong emphasis on nobility in Switzerland that I hadn't expected. When I was with my first host family in France, they asked me about my heritage to make arrangements for a family get together. I do not have nobility in my family as it happens, so I told them that I descended from a long line of farmers. Being a young, title-less girl, I was placed at the end of the table! Despite all the research I did (which was definitely thorough) I was still surprised because I had mostly just considered my ideas of the country. It isn't always obvious before going and experiencing another culture what it is truly like, and I think living like a local in another country has really opened my eyes to that.

I was also able to meet lots of amazing people during my time in Switzerland. The other exchange students I met were easy to make friends with. I was able to meet kind and open-minded people from all over the world. However, I spent most of my free time with the locals. At my school, the classes take all the same subjects together; I was in the math and sciences option along with 20 other students, which made making friends with them easier as well. They were all really nice and I really felt like I was part of the class too. I also made friends with my soccer teammates, but that was a bit different since I was the only teenager on the team.....

My exchange also gave me a new found appreciation for what we do here in Canada. Before going to Switzerland, I never truly felt connected with the rest of Canada and felt more like a British Columbian than a Canadian. But as I experience a totally new culture, I began to appreciate our country more as it is in its entirety. At the same time, I felt like I became more of a global citizen. People I met and the new life I lived helped make me more of an international person. It's easier now to understand accept the point of view of someone from another culture. Being immersed in another culture definitely forces you to learn to adapt to super different points of view, and after a while I learned to see the world a little differently to. I'm not sure I feel "Swiss" now, but I feel much more than a British Columbian. I can say without a doubt that my exchange is valuable. It wasn't easy, and obviously it didn't go quite as planned, but I learned so much thanks to this experience that the hardships were worth going through. My exchange taught me more than just Swiss culture or the French language; it also taught me about kindness and empathy. Without the help of lots of other people, the good parts of my exchange wouldn't have been possible - the exchange itself would not have been

possible. So I want to thank you all for having given me this experience. It may not have been what I was expecting or a complete success, but there is a value in this program that is hard to put into words. As an exchange student, you learn all kinds of things that you just can't learn in any other way. It opens your eyes to a new culture, new language and a new world. I know that my perspective on life has been altered for the better by my exchange, so thank you all very much for having give me this opportunity.

President's closing quote (very appropriate to our guest's experience as an exchange student):



Submitted by Laurie Anderson