

Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon, Bella Vita Restaurant

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DECEMBER IS DISEASE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT MONTH

Today (Dec. 4): **George Klassen** - International Projects
Next Week (Dec. 11): **AGM & Election of Officers 2019/20**

Happy Birthday	Happy Anniversary
	Dec. 10: Peter & Ineke Boekhorst

CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Dec. 11	Noon	AGM & Election of Officers 2019/20	
Dec. 16	5:00pm	Club Christmas Party at Adrienne & Warren's home	10295 248 St, Maple Ridge
Dec. 18	Noon	Meeting at Meadow Gardens Golf Club	

RI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



It's traditional that the first *Rotarian* magazine of the Rotary year carries a profile of the incoming RI president and his or her family. I've always read those profiles with interest, never giving much thought to the possibility that one day, I might be the one bringing a writer from the magazine to my Rotary club meeting! I have never liked a lot of attention, and the idea of having my picture on the magazine cover made me a bit uncomfortable. But when I saw the photo the editors chose, I smiled. Because the star of that picture definitely isn't me, or even my wife, Esther. It's the flock of flamingos, none of which could care less about Rotary, all strutting past us in the same direction. All of them - except one.

I couldn't think of a more appropriate image to reflect the message I want to convey to Rotarians. That one flamingo, going the other way, represents so much of what we need to do in Rotary. That flamingo knows everyone's going one way. She sees it. But she also sees that maybe the path they're on isn't the best path. Maybe, just maybe, there's a better path over there, and she wants to get a good look before she goes marching on with her friends. And if, when she does stop and look, that new path does seem better, she'll call the rest of the crew to come over and check it out with her. And maybe, just maybe, they'll all choose that better path together.

Change is hard. And the longer we've been going one way, the more friends we have with us, the harder it is to be the one who turns around and does it differently. But change - not change for its own sake, but careful, considered, goal-directed change - is essential for any organization that wants to evolve, stay relevant, and move forward in the right direction.

So take a look at that picture, but don't look at me. I'm not the one that cover's about. That cover is about the flamingo. It's about having the curiosity, the courage, and the conviction to look at different paths that might be better - whether you're out for a stroll on a beautiful Bahamas morning, or helping chart the course for our organization.

Barry Rassin - President 2018-19

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

Presidents Quote for the Day:



Cheque presentations:

Mike Davies, chair of our community services committee, presented to **Holly Henderson** a cheque in the amount of **\$500 in support of the Christmas Haven Society Committee**.



Every Christmas Eve since 1998, a group of community minded volunteers organize a free, non-denominational, and wheelchair accessible Christmas Dinner, promoting a sense of belonging and camaraderie for those that don't wish to be alone during the Christmas season. Christmas Haven is held at The ACT in

downtown Maple Ridge from 6 pm to 9 pm every December 24th. This free event provides a wonderfully festive atmosphere for guests and is the centre point for a dinner of turkey and all the fixings; local entertainment; children's activities; and a visit from Santa. No reservations are required. The Christmas Haven is 100% volunteer driven. Holly advised that there are approximately 65 to 70 volunteers each year, and that the event is only made possible through donations, such as that from the our Rotary Club.

Mike also presented a cheque in the amount of **\$1000 to Mary Robson**, executive director of the **Friends in Need Food Bank** to support that organization. When they Christmas train stops in Maple Ridge each year much food is donated on that occasion, which is the Food Bank's largest fundraiser for the year. Our donation will go to help pay for the operating costs of putting on the event, such as fences and barriers that are now required to keep participants safe.



Angela Pallister also spoke to us briefly about a program of the Meadow Ridge Independent School: **The Scholastic Book Fair** has been a community favourite for the past five years. Overnight, the library is transformed and shelves of

books are brought in to be purchased and brought home. This year, they chose to donate the funds raised through the fair to the BC Children's Hospital. Teachers were also excited to support a local initiative—**Starfish Packs**—and wanted to tie it in somehow. Angela Pallister reached out to Ineke and Starfish team, and they were keen to add books to their packs, which are delivered each week to students in need throughout the lower mainland. And so, a special bin for Starfish Packs was set up to add books to.

Happy and Sad dollars (all happy this week):



Eric Mollema and his law firm Centra Lawyers gave a cheque in the amount of **\$525 for the purchase of a Starfish Back Pack**.

Gordon Robson gave a happy five dollars, stating that he was very pleased that the new Maple Ridge City Council is working well together under their newly elected mayor and councillors.

Brenda Jenkins' five dollars was to announce her excitement over the fact that she is going to be a grandmother.

Sharon Kyle, who for the past few weeks has acted as the interim Sergeant at Arms, is glad that **Brian Bekar** is back to resume his duties.

Ineke Boekhorst hopes that everyone had seen the newspaper ad about the Starfish Pack program, and wishes to recognize the local News for its generosity in publishing the ad.



Program

new member **Scott Payne** - Who's Who

The following is an abbreviated version of Scott's interesting and humorous presentation:



To start at the very beginning, I have included an obligatory baby photo, as requested in no uncertain terms by Urma.



Growing Up in Maple Ridge

I grew up in Maple Ridge and lived here until I was 26 years old. I was lucky enough to live just one street over from my elementary school, Alouette Elementary. My mom happened to work there as a Special Education Assistant until her retirement earlier this year. Of course, growing up in Maple Ridge, I was lucky enough to spend a lot of my time camping at Golden Ears, floating on Alouette Lake and hiking along Gold Creek Falls. It was a fantastic place to spend time as a kid. However, I will say that the one of my earliest memories was being terrified of the moving horse clock on Dewdney..... Skipping ahead, I went to MRSS for high school and graduated in 2007. I remember that most of my friends who planned to go to University were evaluating their choice of school very carefully, weighing all the pros and cons. For me, it was very simple: there was a girl I was interested in named **Leah**, who it turns out had decided to attend SFU. So, notwithstanding the fact that Leah and I had already dated and she had promptly dumped me earlier that year, I decided that it was SFU that had the most to offer academically. I admit that this wasn't the best example of personal planning, but I'm happy to report that Leah and I are now married and have a 16-month-old son together – so that's what I call a comeback.

SFU

I stuck with SFU for my undergrad degree in History. Although, it was terrifying graduating with a History degree, - as I'll speak about in a few minutes, - I absolutely love History and have since I was a kid. It's hard to beat sitting down with a good History book. In the course of my program, I ended up specializing in Middle Eastern History after taking a class on the Ottoman Empire. I think we tend to grow up inundated with almost nothing but European history, so it was fascinating to learn about a part of the world I was completely unfamiliar with.

History

Now, this might be cheating, but rather than just repeating to you the fact that I'm a history nerd, I'd like to share with you three of my favourite moments from History, if you'll indulge me.

I'm going to start with one of the earliest pieces of writing we know of. This is a clay tablet dating from 1750 BC and located in what is today Iraq.. Written by a Sumerian fellow named Nanni, and the Sumerians are famous for producing the first written language we know of [cuneiform writing]. This tablet is called the Complaint Tablet to Ea-Nasir, and it's effectively a complaint about poor quality copper that had been purchased by a customer named Nanni from a somewhat shady copper merchant named Ea-nair.



Tell Ea- nasir: Nanni sends the following message:

When you came, you said to me as follows : "I will give your servant (when he comes) fine quality copper ingots." You left then but you did not do what you promised me. You put ingots which were not good before my messenger and said: "If you want to take them, take them; if you do not want to take them, go away!"

What do you take me for, that you treat somebody like me with such contempt? I have sent as messengers gentlemen like ourselves to collect the bag with my money (deposited with you) but you have treated me with contempt by sending them back to me empty-handed several times, and that through enemy territory. Is there anyone among the merchants who trade with Telmun who has treated me in this way? You alone treat my messenger with contempt! On account of that one (trifling) mina of silver which I owe(?) you, you feel free to speak in such a way, while I have given to the palace on your behalf 1,080 pounds of copper, and umi-abum has likewise given 1,080 pounds of copper, apart from what we both have had written on a sealed tablet to be kept in the temple of Samas.

How have you treated me for that copper? You have withheld my money bag from me in enemy territory; it is now up to you to restore (my money) to me in full.

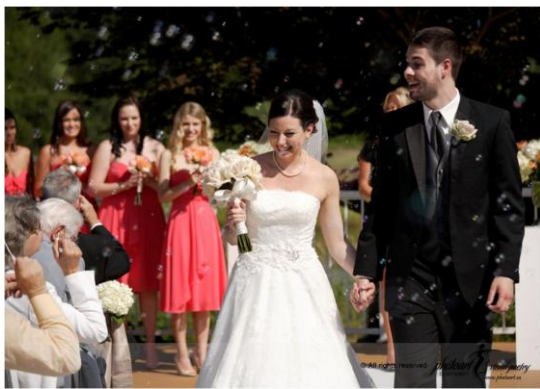
Take cognizance that (from now on) I will not accept here any copper from you that is not of fine quality. I shall (from now on) select and take the ingots individually in my own yard, and I shall exercise against you my right of rejection because you have treated me with such contempt.

Now, I love this tablet because I think that any of us who have worked in customer service in the past can read this note from almost 4,000 years ago and feel a pang of recognition. This is definitely the type of person who would be demanding to speak to the manager today.

Law School

I began law school at UBC in 2012. It was quite a commute, but I learned to become an expert juggling my laptop along the bus, skytrain and West Coast Express and getting a decent amount of work done on the way. During my last 2 years of law school, I worked as a law tutor at the Sauder School of Business for prospective realtors preparing for their licensing exam.

It was right after my first year of law school that I was married to Leah.



Lawyer

I joined CBM Lawyers as an Articling Student in 2015. CBM is based primarily in Langley and Maple Ridge. In fact, our new office is just upstairs. I finished articling and was called to the bar in 2016.

As some of you may already know, I am a general litigator, or (courtroom lawyer) although I'm beginning to specialize in estate litigation. However, when I first began, I did not see myself working within 10 miles of a courtroom. If I'm being honest, I don't like the spotlight, and I tend to hate confrontation, so I'm still not exactly sure how I ended up here.

However, while I was articling with CBM, I was gradually pulled into the world of litigation. One of the most appealing aspects of litigation I've found is not knowing what sort of bizarre or eccentric cases are going to walk through the door and become yours.

In fact, it turned out that the very first trial I ran concerned the breeding rights to a male miniature schnauzer, named Chevy. Without getting into too much detail the, opposing party who was suing my client, was claiming that not only had they been denied breeding rights to Chevy, but that Chevy was the miniature schnauzer to end all miniature schnauzers – the ultimate stud. Among other things, I had to prove that this was not the case. Of course, at the same time, I couldn't be too harsh. After all, Chevy was my client's beloved pet, and he was by all accounts a very good boy. So, to my surprise, this case actually went to trial and became quite involved. The trial had been originally scheduled for two days but somehow stretched into five. There were experts called to testify for both sides. We all but called Chevy to the stand to determine the quality of his genes. Fortunately, after all that, it was a happy ending for my client. So if you ever find yourself wondering about the finer points of miniature schnauzer breeding, please feel free to pull me aside.



By a similar token, one of my earliest files involved three pigs who, allegedly, escaped their pen, went on a wild adventure into a neighbouring property wherein they, allegedly, frightened a poor horse to the point that it broke out of its pen and caused all manner of havoc and property damage. I don't recall the pigs' name, but I'll never forget their owner assuring me in full earnestness that these were well-behaved pigs and were completely innocent.

Unfortunately, I haven't had as eccentric as case for a couple years now, but my colleagues still like to tease me from time to time about my illustrious career in pig and dog law.

James and Leah

And the most exciting part of my life these days is of course my son, James, who just turned 16 months old. He's only been walking for about a month and a half now, but he's recently decided that it's time to graduate into sprinting non-stop, so he's keeping us on our toes. We've also noticed that he enjoys nothing more than figuring out how things work, taking them apart and putting them back together again.



Closing Quip for the Day:



Submitted by Laurie Anderson

Christmas Plants for Starfish Backpacks!



The Meadow Ridge Rotary Club presents
a Festive Christmas Fundraising Event,
with 100% of PROCEEDS to the Starfish Program!
Project details: starfishpack.com

What is the Starfish Pack Program?

Every Thursday **volunteers** pack 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 2 dinners, snacks and 3 pieces of fruit into each backpack to assist hungry elementary school children in MR and PM over the week-end. The backpacks full of food are delivered every Friday to each participating school throughout School District #42 during the school year.

We are selling beautiful Christmas plants

7" Kalsetia or 7" Point Pan

Wicker Christmas Basket



\$25.⁰⁰ ea

\$59.⁰⁰ ea

\$20.⁰⁰ ea when buying 3 or more

\$55.⁰⁰ ea when buying 3 or more

(Christmas card and taxes included)

P/U or Delivery last week of November or early December.

These fabulous plants are provided at cost by Maple Ridge Florist and come with a handmade Christmas card for easy gift giving just sign your name on the card and you're done!



We will have a booth at the MAIN ENTRANCE of RM Hospital
Wednesday Nov. 28 (10 am – 4 pm) ONLY
or call Ineke 604-467-2420 for p/u or delivery in MR/PM early December

100% of proceeds to Starfish program in MR and PM

(Click on picture to enlarge)

You can download the order form [our website](#)