



Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon, Bella Vita Restaurant

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## MARCH IS WATER AND SANITATION MONTH

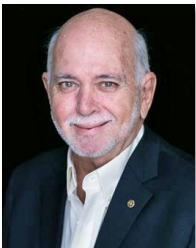
**Today** (Mar. 5): **Laurie Anderson** – Who’s Who  
**Next Week** (Mar. 12): **Dan Ruimy**, MP for Pitt Meadows - Maple Ridge

Happy Birthday	Happy Anniversary
Mar. 11: Patrick O'Brien	

### CALENDAR OF CLUB EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Apr. 11-14		District 5050 Conference	Tulalip Casino & Resort
Apr. 27	7 pm – 9:30 pm	Rotary Wine Festival	ValleyFair Mall
Jun. 21		Installation of 2019/2020 Executive	

### RI PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE



One of the things I appreciate most about serving as president of Rotary International is the people I get to meet. Much of my time is spent traveling and visiting Rotary clubs around the world. A Rotarian welcome is something quite special. But let me tell you, there's nothing so warm as the welcomes that have been rolled out for me by Rotaractors.

These are young people who are committed to Rotary ideals, who are pouring their hearts into service, and who, in the process, don't forget to have fun.

One of the highlights of my recent travels was a trip to Ghana, where I visited a district that boasts some 60 Rotaract clubs. They aren't satisfied with that number, though — in fact, they're excited about a plan to double it. They'll do it, too.

Rotaractors are vaccinating children against polio. They're donating blood where the supply is dangerously low. They're providing handwashing facilities to schools where children previously had no way to get clean. In short, they're all about transformational service: carrying out projects that make a real difference in their communities.

In Nakivale, Uganda, one special Rotaract club is making a difference in its community — which happens to be a refugee settlement. These young leaders are turning what others might see as disadvantages into opportunities for service, building community and opening up new possibilities to those who are most in need of them.

In Turkey, Rotaractors are visiting children in the hospital every Wednesday to lift their spirits by playing games with them. They also are mentoring new students at their university and teaching them leadership skills.

Rotaractors are blazing the path for Rotary to be more relevant in this new century of service. And World Rotaract Week, which we're celebrating 11-17 March, is the perfect opportunity to get to know your local Rotaractors and talk to them about how your clubs can work together. If your Rotary club doesn't already sponsor a Rotaract club, know that you don't need to be near a college or university to do it: Community-based Rotaract clubs are a great option. And remember that Rotaractors are part of the Rotary family.

When Rotaractors are ready to leave their Rotaract club, we don't want them to leave that Rotary family behind. I'm asking all Rotarians to help them make the transition into a Rotary club or to start a new one: I'm happy to charter as many new clubs as we need to give everyone a place where they feel at home while making the world a little better. Service should be fun, it should be inspirational, and it should be open to all.

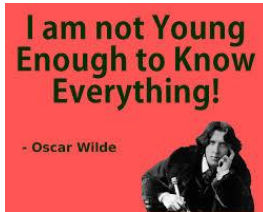
If there's one thing Rotary has always excelled at, it's diversity. In the past, that often meant diversity of profession, nationality, and outlook. We've made great strides when it comes to diversity of age and gender, and as we welcome more Rotaractors into our organization, we'll become even stronger.

Rotary is powerful. Together with Rotaract, it is unstoppable. Working side by side, we have the potential to *Be the Inspiration* in every part of society, to every person we meet.

Barry Rassin  
President 2018-19

## LAST WEEK'S MEETING

### President's Quote of the Day:



### Cheque Presentations:



**Tina Sorenson**, representing the Haney Farmer Market received a cheque in the amount of \$500 in support of the **Farmers Nutrition Coupon Program**, that allows low income seniors and families farm fresh eggs, dairy, fruits and vegetables, as well as locally raised or cut meat and seafood at the Farmers Market. As part of the program, the Haney Farmers Market is required to present food literacy, a skill

building component in which it teaches the participants how to recognize the fruits and vegetables that they are unfamiliar with, how to prepare them, and teach preserving methods - giving them ways to keep the produce longer, throughout the winter months. The club's donation allows them to organize and present food literacy workshops throughout the summer months.

**Deborah Bradberry** also received a cheque in the amount of \$500 in support of the **Family Fest at the Home Show Fun Zone**.

Celebrating 20-plus years and still entirely free, Family Fest is a magical place for kids, but also includes features for the not so young, but young at heart. The entire event is free and runs all three days of home show.



### Guests:

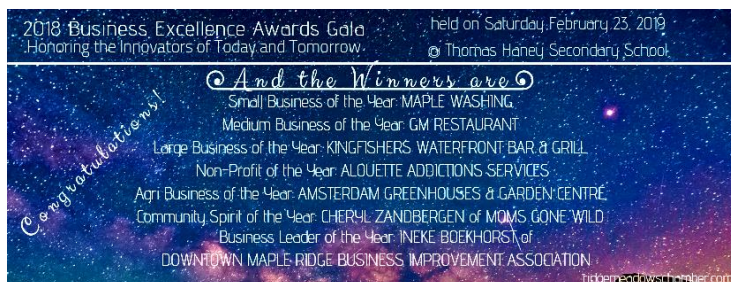
- Roger Powley** – Kelowna
- Jim Michals** – Kamloops,
- Mary Robson** - Mission Noonday club
- Karen Diarmid** - Yale Town Club

### Happy and Sad Dollars:

**Adrienne and Warren** (a.k.a. "Prince Phillip") **Dale** went to Presidents-Elect Training (a.k.a. "PETS") on February 22-24, 2019.

Be sure to look for a couple of **Dave Rempel's** geese starring in a Petro Canada commercial coming to a television set near you.

**Lynda Lawrence** congratulated **Ineke Boekhorst** for being named **Business Leader of the Year** by our local Chamber of Commerce.



Program: **Steve Saccomano**: Autism Spectrum Disorder ("ASD") and the Pacific Autism Family Network ("PAFN")



Steve has been a member of the Chilliwack Rotary Club for the past 10 years. He is married with 4 grown children living in Ryder Lake, BC and am currently the Manager of Business Development- Corporate Agriculture and Agribusiness- RBC Royal Bank . He is the Chair and founder of " Saccomaniacs Agriculture for Autism Golf Tournament & Trade Show" and advocate for families with autistic children. He was born and raised in South Western Ontario, on a family dairy farm. He studied Agriculture Business Management at Fanshawe College in London Ontario, followed by continued studies at University of Guelph . And - he is a life time Maple Leaf Fan!!

### Autism Spectrum Disorder ("ASD")

Autism Spectrum Disorder ("ASD") is a developmental disorder that affects the way that communication, sensory needs and socialization manifest. ASD is considered a spectrum of disorders as it manifests vastly in difference in appearance, self-regulation, communication, sensitivity to touch, noise, lights, smells, tastes and socialization. Every person on the spectrum is as individual as those who have no diagnosis. Autism is an invisible disability, you can't see Autism itself. Autism is not visible, not contagious, and not something to feel nervous about.

It has been said that no two people with ASD are the same. PAFN has supported individuals that have Master's Degrees and struggle with social anxiety as well as individuals that experience more significant challenges and need lots of support throughout their day.

- In BC, there are currently an estimated 56,000 people with autism.
- There are 8,500 children and youth in the province diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder; over 1,000 children 0-9 and over 7,500 aged 6 through 18.
- Provincial Wait Lists for diagnosis can run from 9 to 12 months.
- All children diagnosed with ASD have access to supports and funding from Ministry of Children and Family Development. Individuals over 19 years of age may have access to Community Living B C funding, however many do not qualify (must have IQ below 70) and have little to no support.
- Families note a lack of reliable information, and inconsistent services.
- Impact on the family unit – increased divorce and suicide rates.
- Given the complexity of the autism diagnosis, families are often left to piece together their own treatment plans.

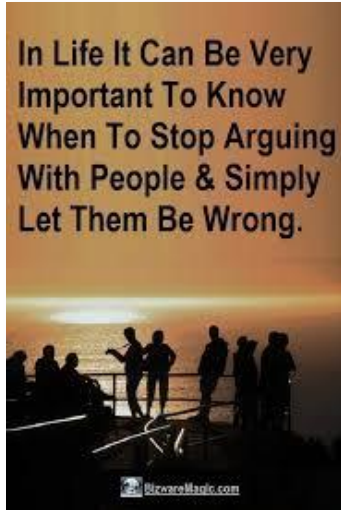
### Pacific Autism Family Network ("PAFN")

PAFN opened the Good Life Fitness Family Autism Hub in Richmond . The state-of-the-art facility is the first-of-its-kind in North America. The Knowledge Centre provides support for individuals and families affected by Autism Spectrum Disorder and all related disorders.

## **Saccomaniac Golf Tournament**

Steve and Antoinette Saccomano of Chilliwack BC, and their family, started a family and friends golf tournament in 2008. Steve and Antoinette have two children who have Autism Spectrum Disorder. Steve says: "We started this event (the Saccomaniac Golf Tournament) to create awareness of Autism Spectrum Disorder, and to raise funds for Autism programs. Autism touched our lives more than 15 years ago (when their son was diagnosed with autism) and we turned to many support groups and organizations for guidance and help. Our golf tournament is our way of giving back to the Autism Community." Their golf tournament has raised almost \$400,000 since its inception. The 11th Annual Saccomaniacs Agriculture for Autism Tournament will this year be held on Monday, August 12, 2019, at Golden Eagle Golf Club, Pitt Meadows.

Presidents Closing Quip:



**Submitted by Laurie Anderson**