

Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon, Bella Vita Restaurant

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MARCH IS WATER AND SANITATION MONTH

Today (Mar. 19): **Mike Morden**, Mayor of City of Maple Ridge
Next Week (Mar. 26): **Laurie Anderson** - Who's Who

Happy Birthday	Happy Anniversary
Mar. 21: Debbie MacRae	

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	

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

President's opening Quote:

I had the right to remain silent, but being Irish I didn't have the ability.



Today's guests:

Adrian Keenan, guest of Brenda Jenkins.
Roger Pauley, currently a member of the Kelowna Rotary club
Mary Robson, currently of the Mission Mid Day Rotary club
Daniel Ruimy, our local MP
Khalida Ali, Mr. Ruimy's "fantasic" assistant.

President **Clint Callison**, with the help of some members involved in the Duck Race, said that 28 groups have now signed up to selling tickets; and that **Ineke Boekhorst** can be contacted for those of us who are willing to obtain books of tickets to sell for the Duck Race which will take place on August 11, 2019. Members are urged to spread the word that organizations who qualify can sell the tickets and get to keep \$9 for every \$10 ticket they sell. Ineke pointed out that the extra dollar goes to KidSport, and therefore every dollar of every ticket sold goes back into the community.



Happy and Sad:

Eric Mollema was very happy (\$20 worth of happiness), not because he forgot to renew his car insurance on the due date, but because, when he did, President Clint Callison (who owns **Callison Financial Services Ltd.** – Co-operators Insurance - in Maple Ridge) demonstrated his company's superior service by delivering the renewal decal right to Eric's door. How's that for service!

Laurie Anderson related what else might happen if you renew your insurance on time but fail to put the decal on your licence plate and are stopped by the wrong cop at the wrong time. A few (actually, many) years back, he renewed his insurance and had the renewal papers in the car with the insurance agent's stamp on it to show that he had paid for it, but left the renewal decal at home instead of on the license plate. Although he showed the 'kind, understanding and friendly' police officer the renewal papers (which proved that he had renewed and paid for the insurance), he nevertheless was issued ticket for driving without insurance and a proper renewal sticker on the plate, and prohibited from driving his car until Lorna drove from Pitt Meadows to Vancouver to bring him the decal. (Laurie, of course, instantly shot to fame - at least in his own mind - by his brilliance in successfully beating the rap in court.)

Adrienne Dale was happy to put (what I think was) seven lucky dollars in the cup because she and **Warren**, along with the **Nosworthys** and the **Vospers**, went to watch the "defending series champion South Africa beat a resurgent France 21-12 in the final of the Vancouver Sevens on Sunday to claim its first title of the season in the World Rugby Sevens Series".

Ineke Boekhorst was happy that as a result of our club donating bottles of wine (or money to purchase the same), \$1500 was raised at the recent Alouette Addictions “Drag Night” fund raiser. Ineke attended the event and arranged for the auction.

This was a great example of our club (Ineke) obtaining the necessary gaming license (as Alouette Addictions couldn’t get it on their own), supplying the auction items, and teaming up with another important community organization to raise money for good cause.

Dave Rempel reminded us that more restaurants are needed to participate in our annual Wine Fest which is coming up in April; so while opening our mouths to eat at our favourite restaurant, we are also to remember to open our eyes - and ask the restaurateur if they would like to participate and show their culinary skills at the Wine Fest.



Guest speaker - our (Liberal) Member of Parliament **Dan Ruimy**

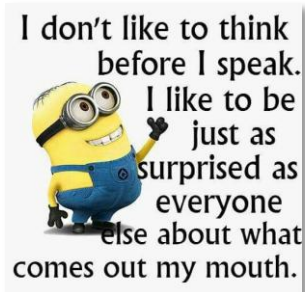


Dan said that in keeping with the unwritten rule that his talk shouldn’t get political when speaking to groups such as Rotary, he talked about the trip that he took last November along with his assistant Khalida Ali to see what one of Dan’s constituents was doing to help others. They went with **George Klassen** to Malawi, Africa, where George Klassen goes many times to install water wells to poor villages in

that country. George has been responsible for installing approximately 45 wells (of which 43 are still in operation) bringing fresh water to villages. Dan was thrilled to see how enthusiastic and happy villagers were to receive fresh water, which saved them having to walk long distances to streams to get water, in which they also bathed and wash their clothes. He said that people in those villages were extremely poor, but nevertheless happy (partly because they didn’t know what they did not have). Dan also visited some orphanages where about 30 children between the ages of two and 10 years resided in very poor conditions.

Dan said that he came back home with a renewed sense of what he could do for communities in Canada. He pointed out that even in Canada there was, as of a couple of years ago, at least 150 Indigenous reserves or communities that did not have access to clean drinking water (without boiling it first), because governments of the past have ignored these problems. He stated that going to Africa reaffirmed why he got into politics, namely, to try to get in to place policies that helped people.

Presidents closing quip:



[A recent article in the local News said this about George Klassen:



George Klassen sits with students at the school built by Project Wellness in Malawi this past summer.

It was seven years ago that Maple Ridge’s George Klassen first travelled to Africa and learned of the plight of the children of Malawi.

Stricken by drought and devastated by disease, the tiny land-locked country in central Sub-Saharan Africa is home to more than one million orphans, despite having a population of 14 million. More than 10 per cent of the country’s population has AIDS and the average life expectancy is 38 years, leaving many children without a parent to raise them.

Klassen, who had long performed missionary work with the Amazon Evangelism Society in South America, had been invited to take part in missionary work in Nigeria.

There Klassen heard about the dire circumstances in neighbouring Malawi and travelled there to see the conditions first-hand. He was introduced to a group of more than 100 orphans in the town of Ntcheu who had banded together for survival.

“They had three years of drought and had to walk three miles every day just to get water,” says Klassen. “They had nothing.”

The responsibility of fetching water fell literally on the backs of the girls. Even if school was an option, they would not be able to take advantage of the opportunity.

Klassen realized that if the children had access to clean water, not only would there be less of a risk of contracting malaria or other water-borne illnesses, it would open up opportunities for the children to attend school.

Two months later [after returning home], Klassen was back in Malawi, drilling wells, and Project Wellness was born.

In total, Klassen and his group have dug 20 wells, providing potable water for close to 20,000 people, and have built an orphanage and a school for the children in the area.....”

Submitted by Laurie Anderson