



Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon, Bella Vita Restaurant

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MARCH IS WATER AND SANITATION MONTH

Today Mar 17:

Next Week Mar 24: Zazie Todd - Author of "Wag: The Science of Making Your Dog Happy"

| Happy Birthday | | Happy Anniversary |
|----------------|---------------|-------------------|
| March 21: | Debbie MacRae | |

CALENDAR OF CLUB EVENTS:

| Date | Time | Event | Venue |
|---------------|-------------------|--|--|
| Mar. 28 | 6:00 pm | 30 th Anniversary Celebration of our Club's Charter | Meadow Gardens Golf Club |
| Apr. 25 | 7:00 pm - 9:30 pm | Rotary Wine Festival | ValleyFair Mall, Maple Ridge |
| Apr. 30-May 3 | | District Conference in Harrison Hot Springs | Harrison Resort |
| June 6-10 | | RI International Convention in Honolulu | Hawaii Convention Center |

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

Pres. Adrienne Dale presided.

Guests:

- Peter Tam** - Haney Rotary Club
- Mary Robinson** - Mission Rotary Club
- Al Stjernegaard** - Assistant Gov., Port Moody Rotary Club

AG AI reminded the club that on April 4, 2020 at Kwantlen College in Surrey is the District Training Day, and encouraged members to attend with president-elect Clint Callison.

[But hold on! Late breaking news! Thanks to COVID-19 that has now been just postponed (not cancelled)].

President's [very appropriate and timely] Quote for the Day:

"The coronavirus is no threat to me. I have a pallet of water and five crates of bathroom tissue from Costco. I am prepared!"



Happy and Sad (aka "What's the Buzz? Tell Me What's Happening")
[Quotes approximate only!]

Dave Rempel – "I am glad to have former Haney Club member **Ken Holland** in our club. Also, my wife **Sharon** is here to ask your help with the Wine Fest. [And thank you for listening to her, as I always do]."

Peter Tam - "I will be happy to come to your 30th anniversary celebration dinner. [And thank you for accepting Ken]."

Sharon Rempel - "I have volunteered to help round up restaurants and bakeries to provide food and goodies for the Wine Fest. If any of you know any local restaurateurs or if you eat in any local restaurants or bakeries, please approached the restaurant owner and explain to them the advantages of displaying their culinary talents at our Wine Fest. [And thank you for accepting Dave]".

Adrienne Dale - "I repeat, I bought a pallet of water and five crates of bathroom tissue to take on our intended cruise, but Warren and I regrettably have to cancel our trip - bye-bye COVID-19".

Libby Nelson - "I'm flying to India – hello COVID-19".
[Editor: **But hold on! Late breaking news! Thanks to COVID-19 India is thinking of closing its borders**]

Ineke Boekhorst - "I am soooo very sorry that I cannot go to Belize with the Port Moody Club for the International project. Goodbye sunshine – hello rain! But the duckies don't mind getting wet and will race - COVID-19 be damned!

This year the grand prize at the Duck Race is \$15,000 cash. Be sure to get your book of tickets – only \$100CDN for 10. [or better yet, only \$72US].

Program - Al Stjernegaard – Update on the Rotary International trip to Belize



[To save time, we will repeat the following that appeared in a previous 4-Way Flasher and which tells us all about it.

No wonder Ineke is sooo sorry that she is not able to go with Al and other members of the Port Moody Club to Belize to see this amazing project.]

In 2001, Rotarian **John Woods** was asked by the then Minister of Prisons to bring together a group of business persons in an effort to identify ways to improve The Belize Central Prison. John approached fellow Rotarians for help. This eventually led to the formation of the Kolbe Foundation through which the prison in Belize is operated under contract with the Federal Government. Belize Central Prison is the sole correctional facility in the country of Belize, located in Hattieville. The **Kolbe Foundation**, a non-profit, non-governmental organization, has managed the prison since 2002. The prison is on a 225-acre plot of land. The prison uses 150 acres of this land, with much of the acreage being used for farming and other activities. The main prison territory, located on 50-acre of land, is surrounded by a fence. It is the only known, privately managed non-profit prison in the world.

To date, most of the Board members remain Rotarians. The Kolbe Foundation has made tremendous success by keeping to its mission of maintaining a secure and humane facility geared towards meaningful rehabilitation and reintegration.

When Rotary took it over, they had 900 inmates sleeping in 300 beds. The prison today focuses on rehabilitation and allowing inmates to learn skills through a variety of programs, including woodworking and farming, and they even have their own radio station in the prison. They have a hog operation, a chicken operation, and their own slaughterhouse and a bakery. Inmates are able to get a high school graduation certificate while in prison. The worst violent offenders are in a separate building and the lesser offenders are allowed to take advantage of all these programs. Linda advised that the cost to run the prison is \$7 per day per prisoner (compared to \$254 per day per prisoner in Canada)

Some Rotarians in Belize saw that there was a need to improve the life of the inmates, and they saw long term that anything that can help an inmate become a better citizen, eventually will improve society and the local community in general. So in addition to life skills training, they also made programs to combat addiction.

The Port Moody Club's Belize project (Al Stjernegaard as the lead) began as an educational project to provide accessibility to computer service, training and education to prisoners. The intent is to rehabilitate prisoners and provide them with tools they can use when they are released. Al made a trip to Belize to bring the first batch of equipment to the prison last November.

They've built a school in the prison with 8 classrooms, to teach inmates how to read, how to write, and how to cope. The country is poor so kids don't always finish the mandatory years of free education. They also have a wood working shop to teach carpentry skills. Highest volume items are the coffins they build and sell for funerals, also prefab homes, kids' toys and furniture on spec.

The Port Moody Club applied for a Rotary grant to pay for educational units or devices based on using RACHEL technology, which stands for Remote Area Community Hotspot for Educational Learning. RACHEL is a portable plug-and-play server which stores educational websites and makes that content available over any local (offline) wireless connection. The units they supplied were pre-loaded with 100 areas of education and training to be used in the inmate education program.

A trip planned for April, 2020 (5-7 days) looking for new opportunities in Belize—to see if there a way to expand the program into the Elementary Schools.

[About RACHEL: *RACHEL can instantly turn a graveyard of unused computers into a learning center. For the 53% of people around the world without an internet connection, RACHEL is a valuable tool that connects offline learners to the best free educational resources.*



RACHEL is rugged, lightweight, and designed to travel anywhere. RACHEL is used by schools, libraries, community centers, orphanages, and the NGOs supporting them all over the world. RACHEL servers include copies of educational websites. By storing copies of websites directly on RACHEL devices, no internet is required and there are no data usage or subscription costs.]

Submitted by Laurie Anderson

