



Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon, Bella Vita Restaurant

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OCTOBER IS ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MONTH

Happy Birthday	Happy Anniversary
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UPCOMING SPEAKERS:

Oct 13: District Governor Carol Tichelman	Oct 20: Maria Perretta Ridge Meadows Seniors Society	Oct 27: Lorraine Bates MR/PM Christmas Hamper Society
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DG CAROL TICHELMAN'S MESSAGE



Happy Autumn – and we are a quarter of the way through the Rotary year!

Unemployment, underemployment, lack of economic opportunity, lack of appropriate training, and the absence of social safety nets lie at the core of poverty. For the poor, labour is often the only option to improve well-being. Creating productive employment opportunities is essential for reducing poverty and achieving sustainable economic and social development, and for providing income security and empowerment especially for women, people with disabilities, youth, and the extremely poor.

Over 795 million people (or 1 in 9 people in the world) do not have enough to eat; 60% of the world's hungry are women and girls; 70% of the world's poorest people live in rural areas and depend on agriculture and related activities for their livelihood.

The Rotary Foundation enables Rotarians to invest in people by creating sustainable, measurable and long term economic improvements in their communities and lives.

In the last year our District approved four global grants to address this Area of Focus. The Rotary Club of Langley Central has a food security program developing a plantain farm in Liberia; the Everett Club has a greenhouse project in the Dominican Republic; led by the Abbotsford-Sumas Club seven clubs collaborated and are expanding a wheelchair factory in Guatemala; and the Fidalgo Island Club has an extensive economic development program in six Mayan villages in Honduras.

Rotarians are People of Action – and the Rotarians in District 5050 are very active in improving lives around the world. Thank you!

Stay well!

Carol

OUR CLUB LAST WEEK'S ZOOM MEETING:

October 6, 2020 was the first meeting since COVID when the Meadow Ridge Rotary Club met both in person at the Bella Vita Restaurant and virtually. **Pres. Clint Callison** presided.

Guests:

Christine Rendell, Past Governor of Rotary District 5360 in Alberta and current member of the Rotary Club of Calgary East. Christine was instrumental in supporting our homeless veterans and gaining the support of Rotary Clubs in support of Home for Heroes.



Colonel (Ret'd) Dave Whittier served for over 25 years in the Canadian Army. He commanded the 39 Signals Regiment and acted as the Director of Technology Implementation for the 2010 Vancouver Olympics. After leaving the CF he acted as the Executive Director of the Legion's BC Yukon Command. Today Dave is a Senior Associate at Ally Emergency Management..

Captain (Ret'd) Cameron Diggon is a native of Niagara Falls, Ontario. He started his military career in 1968 as a gunner with the 57th Field Regiment RCA (reserves), before attending at the Royal Military College of Canada in Kingston, Ontario. After graduating in 1973 he served with the 8th Canadian Hussars (Princess Louise's) in Petawawa. Duty tours included the Canadian Arctic in 1974; Peacekeeping duties in Cyprus '74-'75; deployment to West Germany in 1975; and, Liaison/Admin Officer in Ottawa during the '76 Olympics.



Since leaving the CF, Cameron has served in senior leadership positions with a wide variety of Canadian charities and not-for-profits, including the Royal Military College of Canada Foundation, the Royal Military College Club of Canada, the Calgary Military Museum Society, the 78th Fraser Highlanders Historical Society, the Calgary Polo Club, the Canadian Corps of Commissionaires – Southern Alberta, the Order of St. George and numerous arts

organizations. He is currently applying his background in fundraising and not-for-profit management as Director of Fund Development with the Homes For Heroes Foundation in Calgary, a registered charity whose mission is to end homelessness among Canada's veterans.

Mark Stewart, executive director, Maple Ridge salvation army

Program: **Cameron Diggon** – Homes for Heroes



Presentation for Meadow Ridge Rotary Club



This program was arranged by our new member **Roger Powley**, who talked about it briefly when he gave his "who's who" presentation a few weeks ago.

As it says on the website of "[Homes for Heroes](#)":

- *It is building unique and affordable urban villages in major cities across Canada where homeless veterans will be able to successfully transition back into civilian life. Our villages for veterans consist of 15 to 25 individual "tiny homes" arranged in a park-like setting. All homes face inward to facilitate peer-to-peer support. Each home is less than 300 square feet in size, but fully equipped with all the features of a larger home - Each village also incorporates a central resource centre, counselling office, community garden and other amenities.*
- *It is providing the resources, services and training they will need to achieve the goal of living independently in the long term.*
- *Residency in the village is transitional, with the goal of having each veteran leave the village and re-enter mainstream society, employed, stable and self-sufficient.*

In front of each home is a plaque on a granite pedestal honouring a veteran who has died in the service of his country. This plaque remembers with sadness those who died, pride for their service of their country, and hope for those who made it back and are experiencing hard times. Each home is dedicated to the fallen soldier who is described on the plaque, and each home is sponsored by an organization, corporation or individual.

Home for Heroes Charity researched the needs of veterans. It was found that one in four veterans have experienced difficulties upon returning from active service. Veterans are twice as likely as non-veterans to become homeless, and female veterans are twice as likely as male veterans to experience difficulty. There are approximately 5,000 Homeless Veterans in Canada. When Veterans were asked what they need, it was clear that veterans did not want a "handout", but rather a "hand up".

A "hand up" means housing and resource services. The housing (described above) is limited to 15 to 25 housing units, giving the veterans a sense of community, unlike what they would have if they were put in a high-rise apartment. All houses are on the same level and when a veteran walks out the door of their home they meet their other comrades and can see where they are living. Resource services includes counselling, training, and resources. The veterans leave the housing community when they have reached their personal goals. Each veteran pays \$600 per month, and the charity connects with Veterans Affairs to make sure that they have the resources.

The first complex was opened in Calgary in October 2019. The second one will be started in Edmonton, and will open in 2021. Others are planned in Winnipeg, Victoria, and other centres. This problem of the veterans will not be solved by government alone, but working together we can help these veterans get off the streets.

How can we help?

The challenge is to raise \$100,000 for each housing unit. As Rotarians, we are encouraged to contact other Rotary clubs in our District, and put our own heads together to raise the necessary funds. The need is great.

When **Roger Powley** was with the Rotary club in Kelowna, they found that there were 20 homeless veterans in that community alone.

Our guest **Christine Rendell** is very enthusiastic about the program, and stated

"I can't imagine not helping out".



You can view a video of the presentation [HERE](#)

Guest Mark Stewart: Mark was pleased to report that the Salvation Army has given out 350 backpacks filled with school supplies for needy students, along with 17 new laptops. He thanked the Rotarians for their support and help.

Submitted by Laurie Anderson