



Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon, Bella Vita Restaurant

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NOVEMBER IS ROTARY FOUNDATION MONTH

Happy Birthday	Happy Anniversary
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UPCOMING SPEAKERS:

Nov 03: Nikki Nevison The Family Education and Support Centre	Nov 10: Roger Powley To lead Remembrance Day	Nov 17: Constable Russell Ridge Meadows RCMP Briefing
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RI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:



We all know Rotary's tremendous power to transform our communities and ourselves. However, in every community, people have been left out, and we have not made a strong enough effort to reach them.

The RI Board of Directors is taking action to make Rotary more welcoming and diverse. We formed a task force to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion to help clubs

attract new members regardless of gender, race, religion, age, or other factors. This will help us speed up the change we all want and need. The selection of Jennifer E. Jones as Rotary president for 2022-23 — the first woman to lead our organization — is another step in this direction.

At the grassroots level, clubs drive inclusion and diversity. Alia Ali — who serves on the board of directors at the Big West Rotaract Multidistrict Information Organization and is a Rotary Youth Leadership Awards alumna and past president of the Rotaract Club of Surrey-Newton, British Columbia — offers her perspective.

I still remember the relief I felt as a RYLA participant four years ago. I had finally found my people: people who cared as much as I did. All over the world, Rotary has the same heart. We serve our communities and take action where others feel paralyzed by the size and scope of a problem.

Let's continue that spirit, especially when the conversation is difficult. Racism, prejudice, and discrimination take on different forms but exist in every country, in every city, and in every person. How do we root it out?

As a diversity, equity, and inclusion consultant, I help organizations create a culture that empowers and attracts everyone using the power of empathy. When we feel with others as if they were ourselves, we cannot hold prejudice in our hearts. When every child reminds you of your own child, when every woman or man reminds you of your mother or brother, you start seeing the world differently.

We can apply The Four-Way Test through the lens of empathy. Are we building goodwill and friendship with everyone in our area, including women? Are things fair and beneficial to people of all ages? Who has to make choices that you don't have to make?

I made a heartbreaking choice between Rotary and my religion when a Rotary convention was held during Ramadan. I wondered: When we ask if this is fair and beneficial to all concerned, did that not include me as a Muslim? Would the convention ever be held over Easter? Only by asking difficult questions can we begin the work of creating a more inclusive and diverse Rotary.

We already connect so many people across the world. Imagine the possibilities when we bring even more people along for the ride. That's the future of Rotary I want to see: one where we are unstoppable in our service, relentless in our kindness, and intentional in the change we want to see.

Rotary has a big enough heart. If we open our door wider, we might find a lot of interesting people with new voices and new perspectives. We already have a variety of clubs offering different styles, cultures, and opportunities — and those who do not feel welcome in any particular club might be great candidates for new clubs created on different models. It's important that we make sure every new Rotary member is a good fit for their club. *Rotary Opens Opportunities* through diversity.

Holger Knaack
President 2020-21

OUR CLUB LAST WEEK'S MEETING:

President **Clint Callison** presided over this third meeting which combined an in-person meeting at the Bella Vita restaurant and participants via Zoom.



Special guest: Marsha Kristensen (sister of Sharon Kyle)

Marsha Kristensen's coffee/social group donated \$400 to the Starfish Pack Program, for which Ineke Boekhorst thanked the group very much for their generous contribution.



Program: Lorraine Bates

- The Maple Ridge - Pitt Meadows Christmas Hamper Society

About Lorraine Bates:



Born in England, Lorraine Bates moved to Pitt Meadows with her family in 1972. She first became involved in the Christmas Hamper Society in 1988, and since that time Lorraine (and her entire family) has either volunteered for and or is on the board of the Society. She has been the chair and driving force of

this charity for more than two decades. She has an incredibly strong volunteer background in Maple Ridge, well beyond the Hamper Society. She was awarded 2002 Citizen of the Year by The Maple Ridge Community Foundation, and among her many community activities, she is also the executive director of the Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows Agriculture Association.

About the Christmas Hamper Society

Every holiday season families across Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows facing financial hardship turn to the Christmas Hamper Society for help. This year Lorraine Bates is not only expecting her workload to double because of the impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the community, but she is also facing the fact that the 2020 Christmas Hamper is going to look very different. Lorraine is expecting around 800 families to be registered by the society by the time Christmas rolls around. Last year the society helped around 400 families.

She noted that they had a set back in September when there was a break-in at the society office located on the Albion Fairgrounds where thieves made off with \$6000 worth of gift cards, as well as other items (and the whole safe).

Because of COVID, Lorraine and her team have opted to revert back to their original mandate – making sure every registered child has gifts under the tree on Christmas morning and every family has food vouchers for a full Christmas dinner. In previous years families were able to pick out brand new toys for their children in the Toy Barn and new and slightly used items at the Rudolph's Recycle Gift Shoppe, both located on the Maple Ridge Fair Grounds. Then there was the Kid's Only Gift Shoppe where children could pick out presents for their parents or caregivers. Not this year. Volunteers would not be able to sanitize every toy that was donated, and the safety of her volunteers (most of which are at a vulnerable age) dictated otherwise.

So, they will not be collecting toys this year. There will be no mall collection boxes and toys left over from last year will be kept in storage until the virus is behind us. Instead they will only be handing out gift cards. Every child will receive \$75 in gift cards (3 times \$25) from local businesses. The society will also be working closely with the Friends In Need Food Bank this year, and because those registered with the Food Bank have already gone through a means test, anyone who is registered there will already qualify for the Hamper Society. The Food Bank will be sending out a letter to all food bank recipients letting them know that they can register for the Hamper Society gift certificates. So, the society will not have to process every family because that work will have already been done. Those not registered with the food bank will still be able to register over the phone with the Christmas Hamper Society. For donors there will be a separate drive-through event where they can enjoy some Christmas festivities and drop off gift cards to be donated.

After Lorraine learned that the Santa parade (put on by the Maple Ridge Christmas Festival Society) was going to be cancelled this year because of COVID, she asked them to come on board. Instead of the Christmas Festival floats coming past the people, this year the floats will be stationary and people in cars will be able to drive past the floats and other displays. [Now that is COVID ingenuity for you!] Before Christmas, families who are registered will be given specific times to pick up their gift certificates at the Maple Ridge Fairgrounds where a "Drive-Through for a Santa Cause" will keep people socially distanced from one another while they can pick up their gift certificates. Community groups (such as the Rotary clubs) can put up a display or a float at the fairgrounds to give some publicity to their organization and the work that they do.

Happy and Sad:

Roger: only one week left until the US election.

Lib: thanks Matt for all you do for the club.

Deb: her 90 day employment contract is over [ed: so if anyone is looking for a great employee, remember Deb!]

Laurie: a reminder to anyone with items to donate for the container which is going to El Salvador to phone Laurie to arranged for delivery to his home by the end of the month.

Ineke: very happy about the \$400 donation (see above). She has met with a representative of the Salvation Army to plan a joint seniors' event for Christmas.

Matt: Matt is available to accept, by way of e-transfer, any donations which club members wish to make, whether for donations to polio plus, happy and sad dollars, fines, Zoom \$, or other payments to our Club.

Former Club member passes:

Ineke noted that a former club member, **Fred Low**, has passed away.

Zoom dues:

It has been proposed that, particularly in view of the fact that when we meet together in person at least five dollars out of our meal ticket goes into the club's coffers, club members who attend the meeting by Zoom should also contribute an equal amount. President Clint supports this proposal but noted that it will be a voluntary payment only by those who wish to participate.

President's quote:



Submitted by Laurie Anderson