



# The Four Way Flasher



**Meadow Ridge Rotary Club**

**Vol. 20, Issue 25**

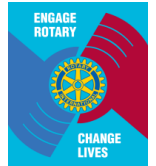
**Jan. 14, 2014**

Website: [www.MeadowRidgeRotary.ca](http://www.MeadowRidgeRotary.ca)

Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon, Bella Vita Restaurant

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## January is Rotary Awareness Month



### TODAY:

**JAN. 28: 6:00 PM Fireside at Patrick's home, 10328 276<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**No regular meeting!**

### Happy Birthday

Jan. 20: Urma Mollema  
Jan. 27: Sharon Kyle  
Jan. 28: Mike Davies

### Happy Anniversary

### Invocation

### MESSAGE FROM FRANCE

Hello and happy New Year. I'm sorry I haven't written for the past few months but life has been very busy here in Chambéry, France. I'll try to sum up my last three months as best as I can. In November my first host family, Louis and Jaqueline, took me to Paris for a weekend. It was everything that I had dreamed. We visited Sacré Coeur, le Louvre, Notre Dame, le tour Eiffel, l'Arc de Triomphe, and every other major landmark in the busy city.



In December I went to Lyon for le Fête des Lumières. It's a festival of lights that takes place throughout the entire city; light shows are shown on the side of buildings and throughout the streets. It was beautiful to see all the historical buildings being lit-up by many different coloured lights.

I also went cross-country skiing for my first time in December as well. I only fell once so I consider it rather an accomplishment for my first time skiing. It's also a lot harder than it looks due to all the special technique.



Christmas came a lot sooner than expected and I found it a bit of a shock. The food was terrific; I tired oyster, escargot, frog legs, and foie gras. Christmas dinner is an all day event in France lasting a normal 3-5 hours at the dinner table. My Christmas dinner lasted 6. It was a rather long day of eating. The next day, December 26th, I changed host families and also cities. I moved from Montmélian, 20 minutes outside of Chambéry, to Bissy, a small 'quartier' of Chambéry. My

new host family are very nice, just like my last. My host parents' names are Eric and Jocelyne and my two older siblings names are Nicolas and Adoline. My host dad Eric took me skiing for the first time and I absolutely loved it. In two hours I had moved from the green ski runs to the blue and started to use the ski poles.

The following weekend, January 18th and 19th, was the YEP District 1780 snow weekend. It was great to catch-up with all my friends who I only get to see during Rotary events. We didn't do much during the weekend, mostly talking and a small snowshoe walk, but it was fun to see all their smiling faces again.

Yesterday, Tuesday the 21st, I met my host Rotary club, Combe de Savoie, for the first time. I made a small presentation about myself, Canada, and my stay in France. Everyone seemed to enjoy it. I'm finding that time passes very quickly during exchange. Before I know it it's the weekend again and I'm packing my bag for a Rotary event, to visit a city, or to visit with one of my three host families or friends'.

School also passes quickly as well since I attend for more of the social interaction and oral aspects rather than the traditional learning. I did receive a report card though and was very happy and surprised to find my school average was 13.8 out of 20. My French has greatly improved in the past few months and my accent as well. While I do have some difficulties with the pronunciation of the letter R, it's made with a part of the throat we don't use in English; my English accent is becoming less and less obvious. While I was visiting Paris other tourists mistook me for a real 'Française' which I found rather amusing. January 25th to 31st I am visiting London for the first time with my school, Lycée Vaugelas.

While February is still a week away my calendar is already starting to fill up with ski days, birthday parties, and sleepovers. Tomorrow, January 23rd, marks the fifth month since I've arrived. Chambéry already feels like my home; while 5 months

**50 / 50 draw - Jackpot at \$60.00 + 1/2 of today's sales, 50 cards left, Jackpot on "Queen of Hearts" only!**

may seem like a long time it also feels like I've still just arrived. To think of all the things I've done, places I've seen, and people I've met in my short time here is more than I would do in an entire year back in Canada.

I would like to thank you all again for giving me this wonderful opportunity because I simply can't express how much it means to me. I hope everyone is doing well back in Maple Ridge and I promise I will try to give more monthly updates.

-Genelle

### HANEY ROTARY VALENTINES DINNER & DANCE

You are invited to join the Haney Club at their Valentines event.

**Date: Wednesday Feb 12<sup>th</sup>**

Location: Meadow Gardens Golf Club

Time: 6pm

Cost: +- \$35pp (to be confirmed)

Spouses are encouraged to attend.

Please let Adrienne know if you are interested in attending.

### VANCOUVER CHINATOWN VALENTINES PARTY

*"Be My Valentine"*

Floata Chinese Seafood Restaurant,  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, 180 Keefer St. Vancouver

**Friday February 14**

**Reception: 5:30 PM Dinner 7:00PM**

**Tickets: \$80/each**

***Lion Dance, Paper Cutting, Chinese Rainbow Calligraphy Painting, Photo Booth, Raffle Draw, Silent Auction, Free Parking***

Come and join us for a feast of traditional 12 courses Chinese New Year cuisine, and a performance by UBC Chinese Music Ensemble and Singers in celebration of the Lunar New Year. We will take you to China. Be there with us and see these famous Chinese artists demonstrate paper cutting (剪纸) and Chinese Rainbow Calligraphy, (彩虹書法), get your name rainbow painted and take home their works of arts as souvenir. Take a picture with Chinese Prince and Princess in their traditional costume. Be there and take a photo at our photo booth with the Great Wall of China as a back ground, as the token of memory of this special event.



We are intending to have a table of Meadow Ridge members (and spouse?). There are 10 guests to a table.

We can arrange rides if people are interested and the Vancouver Club also arranged special rates with 4 different downtown hotels, if people want to stay downtown (see below)

#### Hotel arrangement for event gala

The price for 2014 hotel arrangements are as following:

Ramada Inn	1221 Granville St.	\$85
Howard Johnson	1176 Granville St.	\$74
Sandman Inn Downtown	180 W. Georgia St.	\$99
Empire Landmark	1400 Robson St.	\$80

All rates include taxes.

Allan Ngan: [allan@culturaltoursca.com](mailto:allan@culturaltoursca.com)

Telephone: 604-214-8866 Allan Ngan

Please contact Ineke for tickets and further details:  
(604-467-2420, or [iboekhorst@telus.net](mailto:iboekhorst@telus.net))

## JAN. 7 MEETING

Betty Johansen gave the Invocation with the following words:  
*In this, our first meeting since the passing of Doctor **Marco Terwiel**, we remember the words of Albert Einstein, who said, "Only a life lived for others is worth living". Marco embodied this motto. Let us take a moment of silence to remember him.*

President **Adrienne Dale** set chair for Marco at the dinner table.

### Happy and Sad

- With Marco gone, **Betty Johansen** advised that her great niece was just born, thereby completing the "circle of life".
- **Ineke Boekhorst** said that she, along with Peter, Angie Edmonds and the other four members of the group, were boarding the plane that night for Nicaragua (and Ineke had yet to pack for the trip!). Ineke thanked all those who had supported the Pub Night to raise money for the trip to build a kitchen onto a school in a small village in that country.
- **Terry Becker**, our Rotary Foundation Chairman, urged every member to contribute at least **\$10** this year to our International Foundation. Without the support of Rotary members, the Rotary International Foundation cannot do the good work which it does both at home and abroad. As a collateral benefit, by each member doing this our club will receive recognition as a **Every Member Every Year** Club which will remind our members of the importance of supporting our own charity, if only a few pennies a day.
- **Mark Forster** reminded us that the Sports Banquet is set for Friday, April 4, 2014. [See Mark's email to us all sent on January 16, 2014 for further details and the request for club support.]

### Guest Speaker

We were all thrilled to have as our guest speaker **Gordon Kirkland** who recently received a liver transplant. [Gordon is famous as the husband of former club member Diane Kirkland, and also well known to many {including your reporter who has read all of his books} as an award winning author, newspaper columnist and humorist.] Gordon spoke to us about the gift of life which he received from an anonymous donor.



The following is a brief summary of his talk to us:  
*September 18, 2013 is etched permanently in my mind. I "came to" at 5:30 a.m. I saw that the sun had risen. I thought to myself, "It is a good day to die".*

*At the end of July 2013 I was moved from VGH to Maple Ridge, and I had spent the entire summer in Hospice, and had been helped to prepare for the end. I have little memory of what happened since December, 2012. I have almost no memory of events since May 2013. I didn't even know who my wife was. I had only 3 to 5 days left to live. Anticoagulants pumped into my system to keep me alive caused me to balloon to 415 pounds. The doctor said I was not a good candidate for transplant. We had already made plans for my funeral.*

*I had cirrhosis of the liver. Some people assume that people with liver failure must of been alcoholics or drug addicts. I have never been an alcoholic or drug user. I rarely have any alcohol. In fact, only 10% of cases of liver failure have been caused by alcohol or drug abuse. Unfortunately, this false assumption and prejudice ("they brought it upon themselves") makes it difficult to raise money for diseases of the liver.*

*Only timing saved my life. My chances were "slim and none". Only 5% of the population had my blood type. I was 6' 4" (at least I was before I was rear-ended in a car accident which caused me to become a paraplegic) and therefore a big person. The liver from a small person would not do.*

*There are 4.4 million people in British Columbia. 85% of the population say that they support organ transplant, but only 18% are registered. In Ontario 24% are registered. In New Hampshire (with a population of approximately 1,000,000 people) 500,000 have registered.*

*Only 1% of persons who are registered actually die in circumstances in which their organs can be used for transplant. My chances on September 18, 2013 finding a suitable and available organ have been estimated at 9/1000th of 1%.*

*By some miracle, the next morning at 6 am I was in the operating room. By 1 p.m., I was in the Intensive Care Unit. 11 hours later I was off the ventilator. I was out of the ICU in 10 days. 13 days later I was home.*

*There are 500 people in British Columbia waiting for transplants. In North America, 20 people die every day because they can't get an organ transplant.*

*To get a transplant at the Mayo Clinic, you need \$500,000 to start with, and in the end it would cost \$1 million. And there are collateral costs to the patient. Even in British Columbia, my wife paid approximately \$1,500 for hospital parking just to visit me. And of course it's not uncommon that those needing a transplant cannot work for a considerable length of time both before or after the procedure.*

*What can you all do? Firstly, you can sign up to be an organ donor. It is easy, and it is anonymous. You can do it online. Just go to the BC Transplant Website, and putting your care card number, and hit "Submit". [www.transplan.bc.ca](http://www.transplan.bc.ca)*

*Secondly, you can encourage others to be organ donors.*

*In some European countries, all persons are donors unless they opt out. We should urge our government to adopt that system.*

*Remember the slogan for blood donation? "It's in you to give". The same applies to your organs.*

**Just think of it as an advanced form of recycling.**

**Submitted by Laurie Anderson**