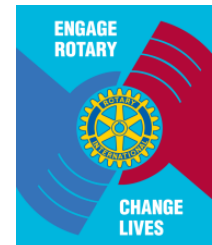


Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon, Bella Vita Restaurant

President:	Adrienne Dale	Phone: 778-242-5549	E-mail the President
Secretary:	David Riddell	Phone: 604-406-8882	E-mail the Secretary
Editor:	Peter Boekhorst	Phone: 604-465-3392	E-mail the Editor



March is Literacy Month

TODAY: Business Meeting
NEXT WEEK: Jack Rae - "Polio Awareness & Scholarships"

Happy Birthday

Mar. 21: Debbie MacRae

Happy Anniversary

Invocation

Mar. 18 Patrick O'Brien
Mar. 25 Dave Rempel

CALENDAR OF CLUB EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Aug. 31	10am – 3pm	Rotary Duck Race	Maple Ridge Park
Oct. 11		OktoberFest	

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

Cheque Presentation

Angie Edmonds, chair of our Community Services Committee, presented a cheque for \$3000 to the Ridge Meadows Youth Diversion Program.

Accepting the cheque on their behalf were **Anna Black and Ranjit Kingra**. Anna spoke briefly to the Club and advised that Youth Diversion, which has been doing its work in Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows for 20 years, accepts young persons between the ages of 12 and 17 who are in conflict with the law, and diverts them from the court system. It receives approximately 100 referrals a year. Anna advised that our donation was greatly appreciated and will allow them to continue this worthwhile program in our community.



Their Web Site - www.youthdiversion.ca - says as follows:

Ridge Meadows Youth Diversion Program is operated by the Ridge Meadows Youth & Justice Advocacy Association which, in 1994, evolved from a group of community members taking part in a court watch. They envisioned a program for youth in conflict with the law. This program would offer an alternative way outside of the court process to hold youth accountable for their actions and make timely amends to those harmed. They also

thought youth had a better chance at success if the community took ownership and became involved.

The program was the first of its kind in British Columbia to be awarded direct referrals from Crown Counsel and by 1997 was also receiving direct referrals from the Ridge Meadows RCMP. We strive to enhance the quality of justice in our community by offering youth in conflict with the law an opportunity to succeed. We believe that accepting responsibility, being accountable and receiving mentorship helps youth achieve a successful direction in life.

Guests

In addition to Anna Black and Ranjit Kingra, we had six guests, namely, **Lynda Lawrence** (Mission Club), **Ken Holland** (Haney Club), **Hugh Mitchell** (Coquitlam Sunrise, and a member of the Nicaragua team), and we welcomed again **Clint Callison, Karin Duffield**, and last but not least, **Pauline Forster** (wife of Mark).

Happy and Sad

David Rempel was disheartened about the current turmoil in the Ukraine, a country with which he has a close emotional connection, as his family came from there (as we all learned during Dave's recent Who's Who).

Dave was happy, however, about the fact that through School District #42 our club was able to deliver 12 soccer balls with our visiting Rotarians to Nicaragua, and about the fact that he recently attended the Whonnock Musical Festival where he listened to "food for the soul" (of the type played on musical instruments, to which our own club has been a key contributor).



Mark Forster advised that 28 members attended Pub Night where a good time was had by all. Mark especially thanked Deborah Hyslop for her help in organizing the event.

Betty Levens was happy to give a special thanks to **Ranjit Kingra** who has worked many, many years with Ridge Meadows Youth Diversion.

Laura Cherrille, executive director of the Ridge Meadows Hospital Foundation, advised that the Foundation is having a "Spin-a-Thon" (of the bicycle, not the bottle, variety), to raise money for the support of our local hospital, and that she is looking for persons who wish to sponsor her by pledging a few dollars.

Announcements

Bob Shantz advised that the duck race is proceeding and now will be held on August 31, 2014 which is the long weekend (rather than the usual summer time for this event) to enable the committee to have time to get everything organized in view of the late start which we had as a result of the delay in getting a commitment for the prize vehicle.

Terry Becker, who looks after Facebook for the Rotary District 5050, advised that the District is no longer having a club Bulletin Contest, but is putting its emphasis on Facebook and social media to get the word out about Rotary. Terry advised that the District is by no means discouraging the continuation of club bulletins which she encouraged the club to continue.

Program

The great turnout at our club meeting of both members and guests was due to the fact that **Ineke Boekhorst** was here to tell us all about the trip to Nicaragua, this year's International Project.

Her presentation could have had any number of plagiarised titles, including:

- "Hurry Up and Wait" - One Step at a Time (Jordin Sparks)
- "Surf's Up" (the Beach Boys)
- "Yo - Ho - Ho and a Bottle of Rum!" (Treasure Island)
- "Thanks Heaven for Little Spiders" (Maurice Chevalier),

*Thank Heaven for little spiders,
For little spiders get bigger everyday
Thank Heaven for little spiders,
They grow up in the most delightful way*

- "In the Gecko" (that Elvis Presley hit),

*On a hot and sunny Nicaragua morn
A poor little baby child is born
In the Gecko*



But Ineke would probably just call it
"A Life Changing Experience"

So in Ineke's own words:

From January 7 till Jan. 22 a group of 12 Rotarians and friends from our Club and the Coquitlam Sunrise Club left for Nicaragua to build a kitchen to 2 schools in Jiquilillo.



This will allow the storage of rice & beans, provide access to clean water and create an opportunity to cook one hot meal per day for approx. 400 elementary school kids.

Additional work we did was painting roof panels, general clean-up of the schools and building and repairing bookshelves for the schools.

We stayed in Monty's Beach Lodge in Jiquilillo, an awesome place. We slept in small palm thatched "huts"; very simple but adequate accommodations. There was a large outdoor dining / gathering area, just covered by another palm thatched roof. Everything was located directly on the beach, with those absolutely unbelievable sunsets!

The "Soup Kitchen" is located outside Chinendega, in a village entirely built from pieces of metal, cardboard, pieces of plastic and houses thousands of people. After a tsunami, these people, who lost everything, were given a tiny piece of property. A "make shift" village resulted where the dump used to be and directly adjacent to the Cemetery.



In Chinendega we purchased soup ingredients at the Mercado (approx \$100). We cut all ingredients, prepared and served soup to approx. 250 kids; they brought their bowls and cups and lined them up nicely along the wall.

A very important part of our mission was that we "connected" with the Chinendega Rotary Club and convinced them to become our "host club". This will enable us to apply for a RI Global Grant, possibly providing equipment for a Vocational School (next year's project), presently being built from 2 liter coke bottles, filled with beach sand!

Two Fellowship meetings with this club took place: one in Chinendega and one in Jiquilillo

Did lots of "other stuff" as well.....

- Watched the release of baby turtles
- Went on a boat tour with Gerry (our host) to a beautiful Mangrove Reservation and a private Island, where we watched an absolutely spectacular sunset!
- Slid down the steep side of a Volcano on a tiny board; the only thing to hang on: a small rope!
- Went to the market in Chinendega
- Visited León, approx. 2 hr drive, beautiful Cathedral, Theatre, love the market!



50/50

For two weeks in a row, Bob Shanz has had his ticket drawn - (but he decided the pot was too small to flush out that Red Queen).

Submitted by Laurie Anderson