



Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon, Bella Vita Restaurant

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TODAY: Kristina – Maple Ridge & Pitt Meadows Tourism

NEXT WEEK: Val MacDonald – Eating for Energy

Happy Birthday

Happy Anniversary

June 4: Brian & Sharon Bekar

Invocation

June 3 Clint Callison
June 10 Laura Cherrille

CALENDAR OF CLUB EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
June 7	11am – 7pm	Hot Dog Fundraiser	Mark's Work Wearhouse
June 19	6pm	Installation of new Meadow Ridge Rotary Executive	Pitt Meadows Golf Course
Aug. 31	10am – 3pm	Rotary Duck Race	Maple Ridge Park
Oct. 11	6pm	OktoberFest	Pitt Meadows Heritage Hall

RI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



We have a saying in Oklahoma that you need to leave the woodpile just a little higher than you found it. To do that, I needed to ask you to get involved. Involvement is what our theme this year – Engage Rotary, Change Lives – is all about. And, as each of us has done that – as each of us has gotten up out of our chairs and truly engaged Rotary – we have changed lives.

This year, I asked each one of you to bring in one new member. The Board has laid a foundation for strengthening membership around the globe: Sixteen regional membership plans are now in place. They are built around making sure that we give people a reason to be in Rotary. I believe that if we can get prospective members to help us with a project – it could be reading to kids, or working in a soup kitchen, or picking up trash along the highway – the rest will take care of itself. They will realize that they made a difference in someone's life. And they'll also realize that when you give through Rotary service, you get so much more in return.

I also asked each one of you to make a gift of some amount to our Rotary Foundation. All of our governors did that and became the first class in the history of Rotary to make that commitment.

Sometimes we get comfortable in going to our club and not having any responsibility. Maybe it's because we haven't been asked to be more engaged. And, of course, it's great to go to your

meeting and see your friends. But if you want to get fired up, you need to be doing projects. Hands-on projects are great equalizers. When you're unloading boxes off a truck, you're just like the next person, and that person is just like you. When everyone's serving together, there's a camaraderie, and that's how you keep people engaged.

Rotarians sometimes don't realize all that Rotary is doing and is capable of doing. If they could witness the impact of the projects I have seen this year, it would change their lives. They would understand that they belong to an organization whose members have a common desire to do something good and who, working together, accomplish incredible things.

I continue to be in awe of the good I see Rotarians doing. I am firmly convinced that the woodpile is just a little higher because of your efforts. It is my hope that each one of you will continue to Engage Rotary, Change Lives.

RON D. BURTON
RI PRESIDENT 2013-14

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

The meeting started with a rousing rendition of our National Anthem led by the vocal chords of **Brian "Boom Box" Johnston**.



Next up was **Angie "✓ Book" Edmonds** who presented to (former Rotarian) **Debbie Pearce** on behalf of the **Caribbean Festival Society** our Club's donation of \$750. Their Website tells us:

Maple Ridges' Annual Caribbean Festival will again take place on July 12 -13 in the downtown core of Maple

Ridge on 224th Street and the Peace Park. The Festival will feature 2 stages with 15 live bands from the lower mainland's Caribbean community entertaining with reggae, calypso, salsa and soca music. Over 200 entertainers in all. 60 to 70 street vendors will be displaying their goods at the Caribbean open air market.

Then **Eric "Lone ☆" Mollema** presented to some of our new members (including **Clint Callison, Karen Duffield, Betty Johansen and Debora Hyslop**) a 🎯 with instructions to "pin" the blame on their sponsors for their recent addition to our Club's roster.



😊 and 😞

Adrienne Dale and Ineke Boekhorst were both very 😊, 😊 to be going to ➔ to the **International Rotary Convention in Australia** where they will meet up with **Bob Shantz and Irena**. Adrienne advised that there will be 55 Rotary members from our District 5050 going to the Convention.

[Meanwhile, Ineke volunteered Peter to get up at 6:30 am to meet Matt DeBruyn at 7:30 am to set up the Duck Race Booth on the weekend. Did I hear Ineke say "If I want your opinion, Petrus, I will give it to you" ?].

Guest Speaker

Matt DeBruyn introduced to us our guest speaker **Wanda Morris**, who introduced to us the topic of the right to choose the time of our death. Wanda is the executive director of "**Dying With Dignity Canada**", a charity who promotes the position of having the right to have medically assisted dying.



Their web-site states:

Our mission is:

To improve individuals' quality of dying and expand Canadians' end-of-life options.

Dying With Dignity has a four-part mandate. We provide:

- 1. Education about end-of-life options and the importance of advance care planning;*
- 2. Education about patient rights and advocacy for patients whose rights are abused;*
- 3. Support for individuals at the end of their lives, including support at the bedside of those who wish to determine the nature and timing of their death, and*
- 4. Information about the choice-in-dying movement, and the reasons why appropriately regulated medically assisted dying should be legalized in Canada.*

Wanda advised us as follows:

Medically assisted dying involves a physician prescribing the medication (to end the life), and a health care professional administering it.

A fundamental aspect of our health care system is the right of informed consent. Each of us has the right to refuse medical treatment. This is more than giving a DNR (do not resuscitate) direction. Any person can refuse antibiotics or blood transfusions or insulin, as examples.

In 1992, in the Quebec case of Nancy B., the court upheld the right of a person to be taken off life support. This is now established law. We have the right to stop treatment once it is commenced. We have the right to voluntarily stop eating and drinking [ed: some would say that if you do that, you might as well be dead].

In 1972 Canada decriminalized suicide. [Ed: If you're successful, they won't prosecute you any more]. But Canada did not decriminalize assisting someone to do what is now legal for a person to do themselves. Thus, a person can go to jail for a long stretch for helping someone try it.

Wanda posed the question (which many people ask): Is it safe to give someone the right to get assistance in ending their life? Can we give that right and still protect people, especially the vulnerable? Wanda and the Dying With Dignity organization believes that the answer is yes to these questions if the proper safeguards and controls are put in place. These may include:

- it must be a competent adult
- the person must be suffering greatly
- there is no known treatment for the condition
- there must be self choice
- there must be two physicians involved
- there must be given to the person full information and informed consent
- there must be the right to change your mind (no "sorry, too late, you said you wanted it so we are going ahead with it")
- there must be universal right to palliative care
- there must be oversight and reporting

In the 1993 Rodriguez case, the Supreme Court of Canada (SCC) held (in a 5-to-4 decision of the 9 judges) that the existing law prohibiting assisted suicide was not unconstitutional and must be upheld.

In 2011 the case of Gloria Taylor in the BC Supreme (lower) Court, a single judge granted the right of Gloria Taylor to have an assisted end of life. However this was reversed in the BC Court of Appeal on the grounds that the Courts were bound by the earlier SCC case. This case is now being appealed to the SCC and is scheduled to be heard on October 14, 2014. [Times they are a changin'].

Quebec says this issue is a "health care" matter over which the Provinces have exclusive jurisdiction, and not a criminal matter over which the federal government has authority, and Quebec is set to introduce legislation to allow "legalized assisted dying".

Wanda says "I am not pro death; rather, I am pro choice".

In conclusion, she urged everyone to study the matter and make up their own mind about it – but with an open mind, based on the facts and studies on the experience in other jurisdictions where it has been legalized; and to have an "advanced care plan" (aka a properly drawn Representation Agreement) setting out what you want for yourself in this regard. She says their website will give help in how to do it [i.e., how to get help to develop an advanced care plan, not to do that other currently illegal thing]. Their website can be found at www.dyingwithdignity.ca

50-50

Patrick O'Brien was this week's "almost winner". He was at first ☺ to have his ticket drawn, but then ☹ to pull the Jack of ♥ from the deck. Oh so close !!

Submitted by Laurie Anderson

ROTARY'S HISTORIC CLIMB IN SYDNEY



Rotary members climb the Sydney Harbour Bridge and break the world record for most flags flown.

Photo Credit: Rotary International/Alyce Henson

During Friday's world record-breaking Sydney Harbour bridge climb, Rotary members raised enough money to protect 240,000 kids from polio.

Despite the physically grueling four-hour trek up and down the bridge's storied steel arches, the 340 participants kept their good spirits and stood side-by-side waving 278 flags.

"When the helicopters were going around, you just felt like one great big nation," says Graeme Davies, district governor of the Rotary Club of Kincumber in Australia.

The massive turnout eclipsed Oprah Winfrey's world-record climb in 2011 when she summited the bridge alongside 315 of her most ardent fans. But for Rotary members, the record paled in comparison to the experience and the opportunity to take a step closer to ending polio forever. The event raised 110,000 Australian dollars (US\$102,300).

"It made me even prouder to be a Rotarian," said John Avakian from Healdsburg, California, USA. "It was an incredible experience of tremendous camaraderie."

Rotary members cheered for each of the 26 groups as they made way through the lobby to the entrance of the bridge climb. Cloud cover hid the sun for most of the morning, but light broke through briefly as the climbers unfurled their flags, which had been tucked into their sleeves during the ascent. Helicopters circled overhead from a variety of local Sydney news stations. Climbers cheered, danced, and even broke into the "Wave" from 400 feet above ground.

"I think that's exactly what Rotary needs," said Nate Harimoto of Thousand Oaks, California, "a show of force from all around the world."

Climbers from Taiwan, Australia, China, Japan, United States, and dozens of other countries and regions supported each other during the event. They watched each other's backs, literally and figuratively, helping to steer climbers' heads away from hanging steel beams. For a day, their commitment to help others also became a commitment to help each other. And in the process, they raised enough money to show the world how committed they are to polio eradication.

For Leilani Ross of Queensland, however, the climb was also about closing an important family chapter. She had long wanted to climb the bridge with her father, but didn't get the chance before he died a few years ago.

"The friendliness is just wonderful," Ross said. "Everyone is very welcoming."

Cheryl Drozdowicz, a former Youth Exchange student from Wisconsin, USA, who stayed with Ross 35 years ago, watched her go up. After the convention, Drozdowicz will travel back to Queensland for the first time since her program all those years ago.

"I always feel like a piece of my heart is still there," Drozdowicz said.

Fondly known as the "Coat Hanger," the bridge officially opened in 1932. The bridge is also referred to as the "Iron Lung" because it employed so many Australians during the Great Depression. Tourists began climbing the bridge in 1998, which is now considered a tourist must with over 3 million visitors from more than 130 countries in that time.

Adam Ross

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