

PEOPLE OF ACTION

DISTRICT 5020

APRIL 2021



UD5020

UNITE | DISTRICT 5020

UNITE - It is all about serving

Highlighting inspirational news and successes to UNITE Rotarians with a common mission within District 5020.

Caleb Summerfelt
NSB DESIGN
 Caleb Summerfelt
 Gateway Rotary
UD5020 EDITOR



ON THE COVER

...we heard of Storybook Walk last September when Melissa Bond, Program Manager, and Tanya Reid, Program Coordinator, both from the Ladysmith Resources Centre Association came to our Rotary zoom meeting...

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

FEATURE ARTICLES	ON THE COVER	3
	APRIL GOVERNORS MESSAGE	6
	BY GREG HORN	
	TIME TO UPDATE... WHY IT MATTERS	16
	BY CALEB SUMMERFELT	
	A STORYBOOK TALE OF COLLABORATION AS TOLD BY PARTICIPANTS	74
	BY BRIAN KING, PAUL WILLIAMS AND THE LADYSMITH INTERACT CLUB	
DISTRICT/INTERNATIONAL NEWS	ROTARY'S YOUTH PROGRAMS ARE AN INVESTMENT IN YOUNG PEOPLE	8
	BY NATALIE CRAWSHAW	
	THEY'RE COMING... ARE YOU READY?	14
	BY CALEB SUMMERFELT	
	EMERGING FROM THE PANDEMIC	21
	BY MARK HOPPEN	
	DISTRICT AND CLUB EVENTS.....	88

WE NEED DISTRICT LEVEL COMMITTEE ARTICLES!

DISTRICT 5020 CLUB NEWS

WATER, JUST LIKE SHELTER, IS A HUMAN NECESSITY	23	THE BULL, EH-HEM I MEANT BALLS, WILL RUN THIS MAY IN PORT TOWNSEND	50
BY DANI BRISTOW		BY JAYNE NEU	
PIERCE COUNTY VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION – GROUP SPECIAL SERVICE AWARD	24	SEQUIM NOON ROTARY SUPPORTS KIDS.....	52
BY KYLE WINTERMUTE		BY ROCHELLE MCHUGH	
ROTARY CLUB OF NANAIMO NORTH GREAT GOLF BALL DROP	26	HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF KOB?	55
BY DON DEMPSON		BY RON CARTER	
WE GROW PHYSICIANS™ FOR UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES	32	THE ROTARY E-CLUB FIRST ANNUAL HEALTHY WALK/WHEELCHAIR CHALLENGE	56
BY CHRISTOPHER CARLSON		BY WILLIAM MCCARTHY	
RESTORING WATER TO HONDURAN VILLAGE.....	34	DIAPER PANDEMIC IN AMERICA.....	58
BY GERRY BELTGENS		BY SARAH DAGEENAKIS	
“SURRENDER THE BOOTY BASH”	41	SPRING SHREDDING EVENT	61
BY KEVIN GLEIM		BY MICHELE F HOLMES	
THE ROTARY 8 LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD.....	42	PORT ALBERNI ROTARY CLUB HELPS REVIVE LITTLE LIBRARIES.....	62
BY CHRIS SERFACE		BY SUSAN QUINN ALBERNI VALLEY NEWS	
DISASTER AID REGIONAL COLLABORATIVE CONFERENCE	44	THE POWER OF ROTARY – EMPOWERING WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS IN GUATEMALA.....	64
BY GERRY BELTGENS		BY MARY COWARD	
TACOMA SUNRISE ROTARY SPEAKER BOOK PROGRAM .	47	STRATHCONA SUNRISE SUPPORTS LITHUANIA REHAB CENTER.....	68
BY KATHLEEN FIGETAKIS		BY RAY WINDSOR	
ROTARY BRINGS IMAGINATION LIBRARY TO JEFFERSON COUNTY	49	ROTARY RECONCILI-ACTION GROUP	71
BY PORT TOWNSEND ROTARY CLUB		BY EV BOEGH	



APRIL GOVERNORS MESSAGE

BY GREG HORN

As I visit clubs virtually throughout the district I'm finding that many have been tackling the issue of DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) head-on, while others have adopted a wait and see attitude. Three clubs, Gig Harbor, Gig Harbor North and Gig Harbor Midday have been holding weekly joint meetings outside their regular meeting times, every other Monday at 1:00 p.m. (April 12, April 26, May 10, etc.) to explore this issue. Attendance of club members is completely optional. For a Zoom link to these meetings please contact Dan Wilson: danrwilson@comcast.net.

Other clubs have been addressing DEI directly during club meetings or at specific times outside their regular club meetings. Olympia Rotary is doing a wonderful job focusing on Anti-racism.

One very innovative example I'd like to point out is an upcoming six-week series that will be hosted by the Poulsbo Rotary club. It will begin Tuesday, May 4 at 4:00 p.m. and continue May 11, May 18, May 25, June 1 and conclude June 8.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion is a huge topic and involves many

layers. In order to really learn and grow, the development should be thoughtful and with clear metrics. The Poulsbo Rotary DEI Series will be unique in that they, as Rotarians, will be hosting six conversations that include actionable steps for you to take as individuals and as clubs.

The one-hour conversations will be titled:

- Setting the Stage
- Microaggressions
- Recruiting
- LGBTQ+ Community
- Dismantling Racism and Conclusions

DEI is a very broad topic subject to many interpretations. What I like about this series is that it is specific to Rotarians and Rotary clubs.

I hope everyone in our district will try to attend and learn for themselves with an open mind and the four-way test in your heart. Please go to www.rotarydei.com to register and sign up for updates. The recorded conversations will be posted on the website for later viewing.

DACdb update: Mary Horn will be hosting Tuesday Training sessions covering the basics and more. Put it on your calendar, 7:00 p.m. every Tuesday until further notice.

Please mask up, avoid even small gatherings, and be safe every way you know how. We will get through this.

Thanks, and I hope to see you at one of your weekly Zoom or V/IP club meetings soon.

ROTARY'S YOUTH PROGRAMS ARE AN INVESTMENT IN YOUNG PEOPLE

BY NATALIE CRAWSHAW

HOW CAN OUR CLUB STAY INVOLVED WITH STUDENTS NOW THAT EXCHANGES ARE CANCELLED FOR 21/22 AND EVERYTHING ELSE IS ONLINE ONLY?

Last month I wrote about exchange being a long game. All of Rotary's youth programs are an investment in young people. It changes their lives and ours in ways which are both profound and subtle.

You may be wondering how your club can stay connected to youth programs with continued restrictions on in person gatherings and travel. Just because exchanges and other in person programs aren't happening this year doesn't mean that students can't stay involved with your club. Rotarians have a huge range of interests, skills and connections to share with students.

GATHERING IDEAS

This list is meant to get us thinking about possibilities for youth service projects in our local communities and internationally and ways to stay engaged with the up and coming citizens in our district. Ask your students what their interests are and how they want to get involved. Some of these ideas will work right now, some will work when we can gather in larger numbers in





person and some will work when travel is open again. Please reach out to the leaders of these programs through the website links provided if you want to find out more.

PROJECTS

Invite students to participate in projects. Don't just invite them to zoom meetings! Students might be interested in helping with community or international service projects. Outdoor projects with an environmental focus such as beach and trail cleanups are an easy way to include people of all ages.

Involve your student in an International service project

Consider sponsoring your outbound student or dedicated Interact volunteers to join your club on a future international service project with the funds your club had earmarked for exchange or other youth projects this past year. Get them involved in your club's fundraising in the leadup to the project.

AWARD YOUR OUTBOUND STUDENT A SCHOLARSHIP

The Bremerton club has recommended that they give their outbound exchange student, (who instead of exchange will be heading to university this fall), a scholarship from the unused funds that they had earmarked for the exchange program. With club support this is an idea that wouldn't be hard to implement and can keep you connected with students who have been involved with your club.

INTERACT

If students aren't already involved in Interact at their school encourage them to check it out or sponsor a club at your local high school. <https://www.rotary.org/en/get-involved/interact-clubs>

ROTARY YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARDS

RYLA involves students in grades 8-10 in leadership training. Check out this amazing program that has branches on Vancouver Island and in Northwest Washington.

RYLA Vancouver Island: <https://www.rotary5020.org/sitepage/ryla-vancouver-island>

RYLA Northwest: <http://rylanw.org/>

Related idea: the Qualicum Beach club has facilitated virtual discussion groups with RYLA Vancouver Island members on topics such as Isolation in the Elderly and Environmental Restoration. Students get to know each other through group activities and then develop a service project to help with their topic. RYLA Alumni are also involved in helping run the groups.

SHORT-TERM EXCHANGE

We plan to resume the planning process for the 22/23 Rotary year for exchanges that will start after July 1, 2022. Watch our website in the summer for more information. <https://www.rye5020.org/page/short-term-exchange-program>



LONG-TERM EXCHANGE

We plan to resume the planning process for the 22/23 Rotary year for exchanges that will start after July 1, 2022. Watch our website in the summer for more information. <https://rye5020.org/page/long-term-exchange-program>

VOCATIONAL SERVICE

Vocational service is another great way to get Rotarians and young people involved in their community. <https://rotary5020.org/page/vocational-service>

NEW GENERATIONS SERVICE EXCHANGE

New Generations Service Exchanges go to age 30 but are also not an option until after June 30, 2022. Up to 12 weeks on tourist visas. <https://www.rotary.org/en/our-programs/new-generations-service-exchange>

FRIENDSHIP EXCHANGES

Involve students in future plans for friendship and group study exchanges. <https://www.rotary.org/en/our-programs/friendship-exchange>

POST GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS

The Rotary Foundation sponsors a number of scholarships at the post graduate level. <https://rotary5020.org/Page/scholarships>

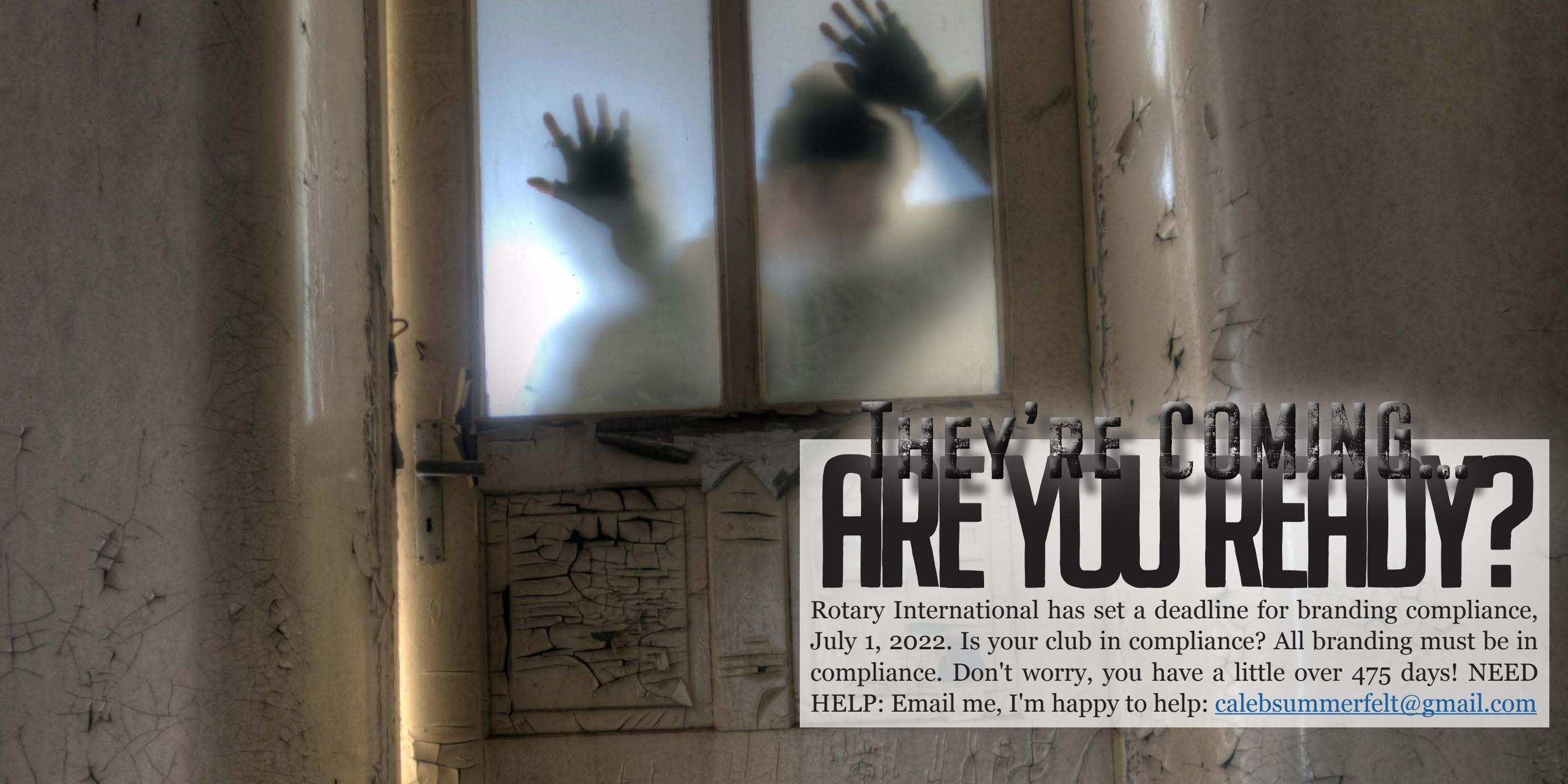
YOUTH PROTECTION

Youth Protection awareness and certification is the cornerstone of all of Rotary's youth programs. All club Presidents must be individually certified. Presidents Elect must be certified before starting their year. And if you are a President Elect Nominee it's not too early to start on your certification <https://rotary5020.org/sitepage/youth-protection-information>

D5020 YOUTH PROGRAMS WEBSITE

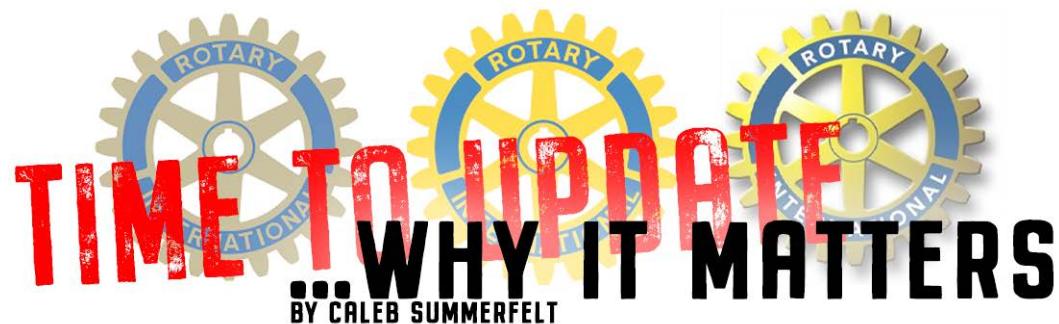
For a summary of all the youth programs in D5020 have a look at the D5020 youth programs home page <https://rotary5020.org/page/youth-programs>



A photograph of a person's hands pressed against a window in a dilapidated room. The room has peeling paint and a window with a person's hands pressed against it. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

THEY'RE COMING... ARE YOU READY?

Rotary International has set a deadline for branding compliance, July 1, 2022. Is your club in compliance? All branding must be in compliance. Don't worry, you have a little over 475 days! NEED HELP: Email me, I'm happy to help: calebsummerfelt@gmail.com



“
**IT'S TIME TO CELEBRATE OUR
 NEW LOOK AND FEEL, AND YOU
 CAN HELP BUILD AND MAINTAIN
 ROTARY'S IDENTITY.**

”

Rotarians have been creating change for more than a century, in communities around the globe, but even now, people don't fully understand what Rotary is about, how we are distinctive, and why engaging with us means success. To thrive, Rotary needs a strong visual identity that is followed and appreciated. Every Rotarian's experience is unique, but the story we tell of Rotary should always be consistent.

It's time to celebrate our new look and feel, and you can help build and maintain Rotary's identity.

Several years ago, Rotary updated its logo, the power of the Rotary wheel is in its consistency, and when an organization does update a logo, it is critical that everyone follows the guidelines to keep the focus on consistency. Globally, you will find the Rotary wheel proudly displayed in parks and on sponsored projects, to name a few locations. With over 33,000 clubs worldwide, not a single club is alike, but the Rotary wheel signals what we represent, people coming together to move our communities forward, the message is evident, and it is the same everywhere.

With inconsistent branding, it weakens the power of branding and brings confusion to the

unity of Rotary. Is it time to update logos? Yes, please!

Why is Rotary focused on its public image? Two million nonprofits worldwide compete for volunteers, donor money, and critical other resources to make positive change. Rotary has an amazing story to share with the world, but we need to keep it concise and consistent. Research has taught Rotary better ways to frame their strengths and how to bring the core values to life.

By providing a clean and consistent image of what Rotary represents and how we are different from other charitable organizations, Specifically, what Rotary offers prospective members, donors, and volunteers is a powerful vision of what it means to engage with Rotary, and Rotarians alike.

On a local branding level, do the people in your community know about Rotary and what your club does locally and globally?

Internationally, 40% of the public has never heard of Rotary, while another 40% percent claim they don't know anything about Rotary. This means, internationally, that the public doesn't understand what our clubs are achieving

in our community. More people need to know that together, we are tackling community and global challenges. With this current lack of understanding, this makes it harder to attract and inspire new members, prospective donors, and volunteers.

The first minor step in the process of educating the public about the Rotary is to keep all club logos inline with what Rotary International has requested. Why does the logo matter so much? Simple, when the public sees several types of logos, they get the interpretation that the clubs are all complete stand-alone entities. While each club is unique and powerful, while working together, Rotary can take on and solve global problems. We need to keep all public image details in sync with what Rotary is asking.

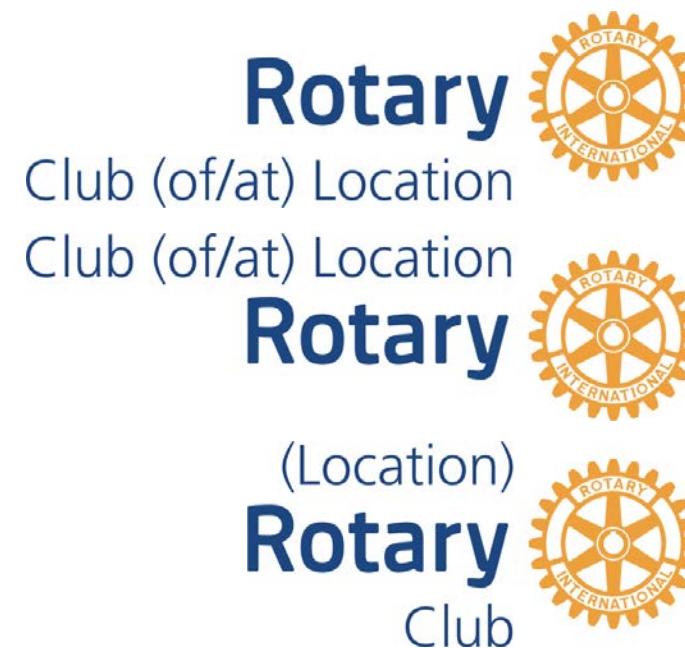
As another real-world example, let's look at Nike. Everyone knows Nike, and you also know that if you aren't careful, you can easily buy fake Nike products. It isn't hard to go online and find fraudulent products for this company. The key to spotting the fakes is looking at the logo. The Nike logo has gone through several iterations, and even today, some stores are still displaying old logos, and for most consumers, they become cautious and avoid the store, unless they are looking for one fantastic deal!

The Rotary logo is the same way; we need to build reputability by focusing on displaying the same logo, starting on the club level. All internal club material, material seen by the public needs to change, as we focus on the challenges of changing logos, we know that the goals are the same; building the reputation, reliability, and power of Rotary International. Each club is a part of Rotary International, we aren't independent franchises, we have the same core values, have the same ethical approach to problems, our public image needs to match globally.

We are Rotary, are you? Is your logo updated?

The approved Rotary club signature (pictured to the right) consists of the masterbrand signature plus the club name and should be used instead of the masterbrand signature on club-level communications. The preferred configuration is Rotary Club [of/at] [Location], with the word Rotary coming first. Two acceptable alternatives have been provided to cover variations of club names. The positioning and size relationship between the Rotary wordmark and the wheel are fixed and should not be altered.

Spread the word in your community. Find the needed tool at www.rotary.org/brandcenter



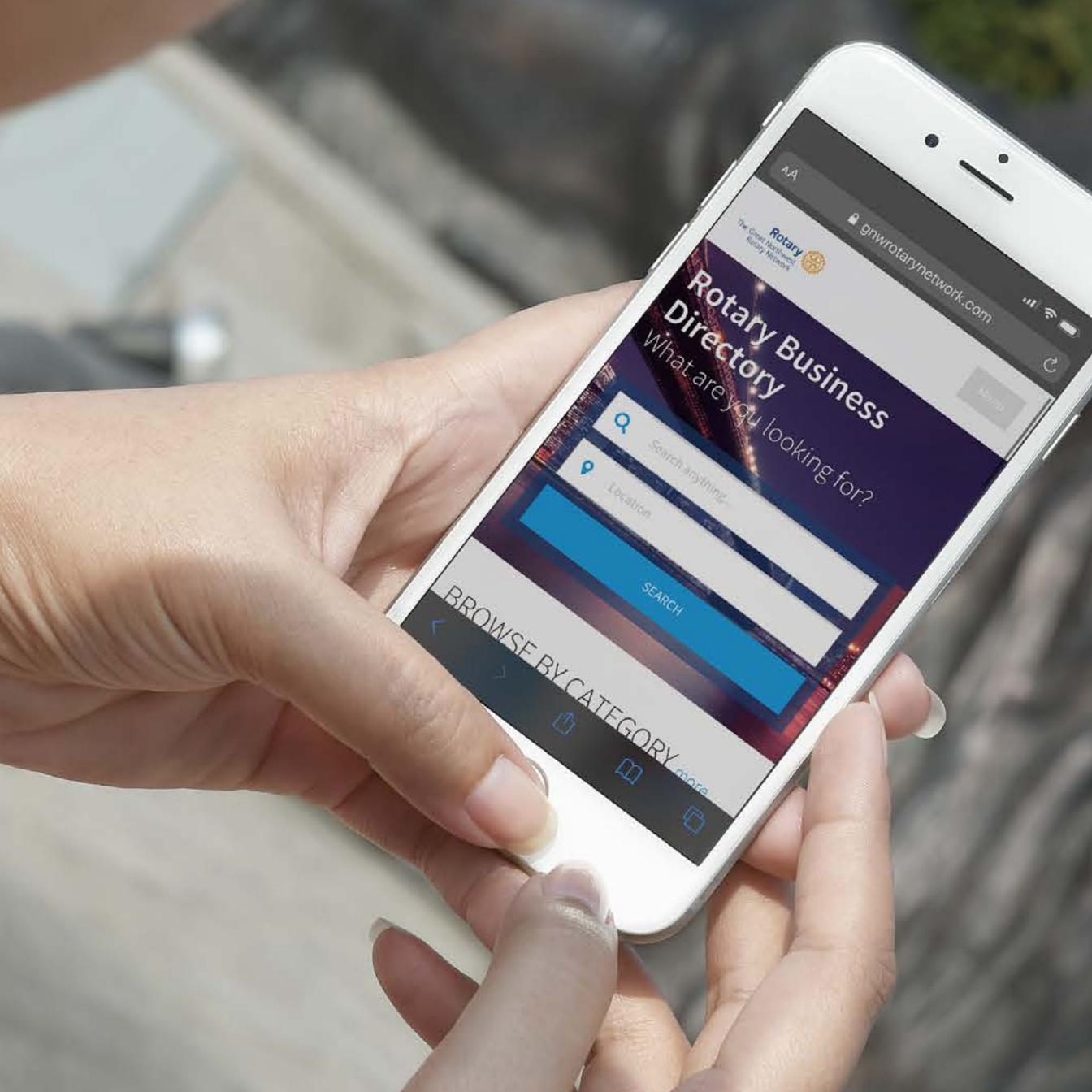
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If you need help, please ask, the District Public Image Team is here to help you!



EMERGING FROM THE PANDEMIC

BY MARK HOPPEN

As Rotary attempts to emerge from the pandemic, two useful tools for District 5020 Rotary Clubs are available. One tool is the Rotary Business Directory on The Great Northwest Rotary Network, which is available to all 5020 Rotarians at <https://www.gnwrotarynetwork.com>. The other tool is a potential club Vocational Service presentation about the nature of Vocational Service, The Promise of Vocation, featuring the Rotary Club of Gig Harbor's Vocational Service Committee.

The Promise of Vocation speaks to Rotary Vocational Service projects that promote renewal and resilience, community engagement, low entry project cost, individual Rotarian initiative, unexpected project expansion, and an attitude toward service, which, as Sharon Shaffer of the Gig Harbor club states, comes "...from her vocation, but not her job." The motivational, how-to video answers the question, "What is Vocational Service?"

All Rotarians can find these tools and more on the District 5020 website under "What We Do," then under "Vocation," then on the left

menu "Vocational Service Resources." This menu contains the Great Northwest Rotary Network (Rotary Business Directory), The Promise of Vocation 27-minute video, The Boys of 1905 (original footage about the origin of Rotary), a Vocational Presentation (a PowerPoint about the elements of Vocational Service with useful weblinks), as well as Rotary International tools for projects, and guidelines for classification talks.

All club presidents, president-elects, chairs, and members might review these resources and should, perhaps, bookmark the page. If you wish to help or wish to join the Vocational Service Committee, please email me, request a Zoom meeting, or call. All committee members and contacts are listed on the Vocational Service webpage: Mel Santos (Gig Harbor), Corinne Gregory (East Jefferson), and Darwin Husa (Bainbridge Island). Mel developed The Promise of Vocation, and Corinne is one of a few people in the world who have written about the Four-Way Test, in her book *Character Counts: Bringing the Rotary Four-Way Test to Life*, available through Amazon.



WATER, JUST LIKE SHELTER, IS A HUMAN NECESSITY

BY DANI BRISTOW

Whoever you are, wherever you are – you are entitled to clean, safe water. But today, billions of people around the world do not have access to clean and safe water. According to WHO/UNICEF, 2.1 billion people lack access to safely managed drinking water services.

When disasters hit, it forces families out of the homes, making it difficult to access clean drinking water. Disasters cause a huge amount of damage and destruction. Water hand pumps break, and local water sources get filled up with debris, dirt, or chemicals, making it unsafe to drink.

When families are unable to access clean water, water filters can help produce safe drinking water. ShelterBox distributes water filters to families which can turn up to 1,000 litres of unsafe water into clean, safe, drinkable water. These water filters can remove viruses, bacteria, pathogens, chemical, heavy metals, and fecal matter that can be found in contaminated water.

Meet Mairamu. Mairamu and her family

of 7 became displaced after their village in Nigeria was attacked by Boko Haram. Like many refugees, the most difficult problem that Mairamu faces daily is access to safe drinking water. “We started to get sick. After a while, I noticed that my children and I were having frequent stomach aches and diarrhea. I realized it was caused by the water.”

After receiving a ShelterBox water filter, Mairamu and her family no longer suffer from sickness and diarrhea. “Thanks to the filter, I can assure you that our problems concerning water are no longer related to sickness, but to distance, because we still have to travel a long way to collect it. Today, we drink water without fear.”

Having access to clean water reduces the risk of illness caused by bacteria and other pathogens found in dirty water. By providing families with water containers and water filters, we can make safe drinking water one less thing to worry about. To learn more about how you can support families with clean water after disasters, visit: <https://www.shelterboxcanada.org/world-water-day-provide-clean-water/>

PIERCE COUNTY VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION – GROUP SPECIAL SERVICE AWARD

BY KYLE WINTERMUTE

Auditor's Office - 2020 Presidential General Election

PIERCE COUNTY ROTARIANS

Pierce County Elections managed the largest election in County history on November 3, 2020. All of our staff were focused on the essentials: Voter registration, election management, and ballot processing. We didn't have resources to station staff at our 22 busiest ballot drop boxes. We needed volunteers to keep cars moving and maintain order.

ROTARIAN ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Partnership. To streamline volunteer recruitment, ensure broad geographic coverage, and guarantee nonpartisanship, Pierce County Rotary Clubs were the perfect partner. Outreach began in January of 2020. Project Sponsor Julie Anderson kicked off the program February 27 with a "pitch" to the Rotary Presidents. Then we began individual presentations to clubs. Project Coordinator Casey Kaul presented

at six different virtual Rotary Meetings beginning in late July.

2. Technologically proficient. DocuSign was used to complete Volunteer Release forms. Scheduling software allowed volunteers to create a login and select their shift of choice. Three training videos were created on YouTube about what to expect on election day.
3. Turnout. Eleven different Rotary clubs in Pierce County provided a total of 107 volunteers. Approximately 1,000 emails were exchanged. 88 attendants covered 22 Ballot Drop Boxes for six hours each. 6 Rotary leaders visited each site offering breaks and water. 1 Rotary volunteer coordinator assisted with recruitment, shift confirmations, and distribution of supplies.

Volunteers loved the experience. Rotary Clubs are eager to participate again! Some said it was the best community service experience in their Rotarian career.



ROTARY CLUB OF NANAIMO NORTH GREAT GOLF BALL DROP

BY DON DEMPSON

Like scrambled eggs flowing across a frying pan, 4,000 golf balls recently disgorged themselves and quickly spread across a putting green at the Nanaimo Golf Club while scores of anxious onlookers watched the action at the Rotary Club of Nanaimo North's Great Golf Ball Drop.

On March 27, the Rotary club held its first ever golf ball drop raising money for Nanaimo Youth programs and the event was a 'Sellout' resulting in \$20,000 being collected (before expenses).

Club president Glynis Hayes said, "it's a tribute to the generosity of people from Vancouver Island and around the country, who stepped up and got involved in this event. The money raised will allow the club to further contribute to the great projects already in place aimed at helping to deliver specific program benefits to our local youth."

The Great Golf Ball Drop started in December but really ramped up over the past three weeks and culminated a day before the 'official drop' when Island television's CHEK News and

the "UpSide Guys" were on site at the golf club. In seven cut-ins during the two-hour news programming, viewers were asked to get involved and were told about a couple of the beneficiaries of the money collected, and about many of the important programs the Rotary club is involved with in the local community.

Golf Ball Drop chair, Ian Thompson explained that, "it was a Rotary team effort and we had strong help from a number of local media groups getting the word out, but," he added, "it was a positive media initiative and energy of our members and friends, with their contacts that made the initial difference. In the end though," Thompson explained, "it was having the TV guys on site that put us over the top. We sold more than 1,200 tickets in that two hours and it was incredible to say, 12 minutes before they went off air – 'we're sold out'! What an uplifting moment, and we got to wrap it all up as a very positive Rotary in the community story."

The day before the official drop, the club gave away pre-drop teaser prizes that included three



The TV set up with cameraman Mark, Ed and Jeff

sets of gift certificates, but it was the Big Day drop that had everyone anticipating who might walk away with the \$2,000, \$1,000 or \$500 prizes. In the end it was a golf club member that won the big prize and when he heard, he immediately gave \$500 back to the Rotary club!

"The need in our communities has never been

higher," said Thompson, "and being able to engage with and enhance our Youth Program focus is something our Nanaimo North club is very proud of. This is only the beginning; we're looking forward to more golf ball drops and other fundraisers that will continue our commitment to making things happen, and making our community stronger."



The impact point of 4,000 golf balls on the green



Jim Turley (left) and Ed Poli (right) clarify a winning ball



Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

Your help is needed to improve the availability of primary medical care in underserved communities.

The vision of Washington's community-based medical school is to prepare students to become healthcare leaders to serve Washington communities where they are needed most.

The first recipient of the Rotary Scholarship will be selected in July 2021 with support through their four-year study.

Three more scholarships are planned for successive years.

Donations of at least \$20 per Washington Rotarian will be enough to fund an endowment for four scholarships. To learn more or make a donation visit www.bellevuesunriserotary.org/rotary-scholarship

WE GROW PHYSICIANS™ FOR UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES

Over \$6400 Donated through March 15, 2021

- \$20 Per Member by Rotary Club of: Bellevue Sunrise and Seattle Northeast
- Kent Noon
- Jeffrey Brennan
- Robert Kearns
- Janet Thompson
- Brietta Easterlin
- Dave Mincks
- Chris & Geri Carlson
- Kaitlin Brown
- Russell Taylor
- Sterling Johnston Real Estate
- Marina Cofer-Wildsmith



RESTORING WATER TO HONDURAN VILLAGE

BY GERRY BELTGENS

“Solving problems as a team just gets more work done.” That is the inspiration behind the Disaster Aid Regional Collaborative. The DA Regional Collaborative, or DARC for short, was formed in January 2021 to enable Disaster Aid Canada, Disaster Aid USA, and Rotary Clubs in Guatemala and Honduras to work effectively on regional challenges.

Our first project as a collaborative in Honduras is now reaching completion. Organized by Disaster Aid Canada but managed by the Rotary Club of Comayagua in Honduras and the Rotary Club of Comox in Canada, the project was spec'd and funded in record time. Fernando Martinez of Comayagua and Brian Mather of Comox had worked together on the original water Project for the Village of La Mata 12 years ago. La Mata has a population of 500, and access to clean water was now out of a creek 7 kilometers from town.

In late 2020 the combination of 2 hurricanes and two more tropical storms had completely washed out the original system. Fernando worked with the community to devise a better system able to withstand the force of the tropical storms.

A dam made of concrete, steel reinforcing, and stone was placed in a cleft of a creek on a foundation of solid rock. The workers in the community had to manually move all of the gravel and cement and break out the loose rock by hand. Lumber for the forms was



hand cut with chainsaws. Gravel was dug out of the creek bed.

Fernando has years of experience and training with community projects. His skills and commitment were key to the success of the project. He completed a comprehensive funding application (based on Rotary project funding standards) that totaled approximately \$13,000.00 Can. for materials and skilled labour. The Rotary Club of Comayagua contributed \$1,300.00, trucks, and labour for the project.

The Town of Comayagua is extremely poor and contributed the manpower and ongoing maintenance for the project. Cement and tools were carried on the back of the workers for 3 kilometers to the dam site. Concrete was mixed by hand with shovels and bucketed into the forms. See the pictures for more details. For the workers to do the work, RC Comayagua also used part of the funding to provide food to the village for the duration of the project.

Disaster Aid Canada raised seed capital through an appeal to get the rest of the funding for the project. The majority of the funding came from RC Comox, RC Victoria Harbourside, and RC Woodstock-Oxford. Disaster Aid Australia heard about the project and also contributed funds. The total funding was raised within a couple of weeks.

As of this writing, the Village of La Mata has a working dam with a temporary hose running water to the town. Soon the last of the pipe will be installed, and the water will flow to the homes. A better water filtration system is being discussed with DA Australia for future installation.







“SURRENDER THE BOOTY BASH”

BY KEVIN GLEIM

Parkland Spanaway Rotary held its annual “Surrender the Booty Bash” auction virtually from March 25 through April 1. While attendees couldn’t shake hands and hug each other, they did view over 80 items and make bids from the comfort of their own home.

Nearly \$17,000 was raised to support our club’s many good causes, including college scholarships, Family Renewal Shelter, American Lake Veteran’s Golf Course, Relay for Life, Build a Bike, local food banks, PLU Winterfest, and many more. A big thank you goes out to our club auction committee volunteers and the bidders that went home with the loot and a lighter wallet.

An even bigger thank you to our sponsors: Titus Will Automotive Group, LeMay Pierce County Refuse a Waste Connections Company, Timberland Bank, PNW Insurance Group, McFarlands Flooring Encounters, Mary Kay Cathy Hamel, Dan’s Delivery Service Kelly and Dan Smith, Collison Realty Julie Collison,

Alaska Airlines, and Columbia Bank.

We have great news that our club meets regularly again beginning April 13 at Paradise Entertainment Center in Parkland from 12:15 to 1:30 (IN PERSON).

If you want to attend a meeting with people that add the 5th-way test as FUN, join us. Cost of lunch is \$17 and is a full lunch including drink and tip. No charge to use the rooms heat and the high energy from club members.

It looks as though our club may again staff a rest stop for the Courage Classic this coming August, and if you would like to join us, just call any of our leadership at www.psrotaryclub.org to get involved.

Just a heads up as well to our 10th Annual Golf Tournament to benefit our causes ALVGC will be held September 25 at the American Lake Veterans Golf Course with information about it at the previously mentioned website.

THE ROTARY 8 LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

BY CHRIS SERFACE

For the third time in its 111-year history, the Rotary Club of Tacoma #8 awarded the Rotary 8 Lifetime Achievement Award.

This award was created to recognize members based upon the following criteria:

- Commitment to the club through service activities as well as financial support
- Quality and quantity of service to the club
- Service to the local and global community

The following qualifications must be met to be considered:

- A Rotarian for a minimum of twenty (20) years. (Service in other clubs will be considered as well)
- A Rotarian of Tacoma Rotary 8 in good standing.

This year, the Rotary 8 Lifetime Achievement Award is being presented to Past President Jim Henderson.

Jim has been a member of Rotary 8 since August of 1985. Jim retired in 2013 after 18 years at The News Tribune. He has been active on a number of Committees including: Rotary International Foundation (chaired numerous times); Membership Classification; Auction; Communications; International Services; Scholarship; and Club Counselor to five RI Foundation Ambassadorial Scholars. He has served on the Board of Directors and has been Club Secretary (twice!). Jim served as Club President in 2002-2003. He also co-chaired our Club's Centennial Dinner in 2010 and helped with our 110th Anniversary Celebration in January of 2020 (our last large event before the pandemic). In 2020 Jim also received the first Presidential Citation Award presented by Linda Kaye Briggs during her term. He has also served our District by co-chairing the District Conference held in Tacoma. He is also a multiple Paul Harris Fellow, an Arthur Wickens Fellow, and a Benefactor to the RI Foundation.

Jim was also instrumental when the Rotary Club of Tacoma #8 moved from their offices to a new location. During that time period, the



weekly meetings also moved to a new venue. Jim was one of the first to step up and help with that tremendous project.

Jim is one of those individuals who truly embody the four-way test in all that they do.

Anyone who has met him would agree with that and say Jim lives by the motto "Service above Self" and is a shining example for each and

every one of us.

In addition to honoring the individual selected, the Rotary Club of Tacoma makes a financial contribution in the name of the recipient to the nonprofit organization the recipient selects. The Rotary Club of Tacoma #8 could not be more excited than to have Jim become our 3rd Lifetime Achievement Award winner, following Jim Harris in 2020 and Cap Pearson in 2019.

DISASTER AID REGIONAL COLLABORATIVE CONFERENCE

BY GERRY BELTGENS



WATER PROJECTS AND SYSTEMS IN CENTRAL AMERICA

April 30, 2020/ 3:00 pm Pacific Time
The Conference will be hosted on Zoom and attendance is Free.

The purpose of the Conference is to examine a sample of Community/Rotary led projects in Honduras and Guatemala. To discuss our experiences and share what was learned.

We will also share the experience of Disaster Aid Australia. DAA has sponsored and implemented many community water and filtration systems around the world.

The Conference is sponsored by Disaster Aid Canada, Disaster Aid USA and Disaster Aid Australia, with support from Rotary Clubs in Districts 4250, 4240, 5020 and other Rotary Clubs involved in local projects.

If you are interested please email an RSVP to admin@disasteraid.ca with your Club affiliation and contact information.

You can also visit our Website for updates at www.disasteraid.ca or Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/DisasterAidCanada>

If you have a current or recent water project in the area and would like to share it please contact: Gerry Beltgens at gbeltgens@disasteraid.ca

DRAFT PROGRAM

Introduction and Purpose

Example Project: La Mata Water System Reconstruction - Fernando Martinez, Rotary Club of Comayagua, Honduras and Brian Mather, Rotary Club of Comox

- Planning, Outcomes and Challenges
- What we learned from the project

Impact of Water Filtration on Communities - Brian Ashworth, Disaster Aid Australia

- DAA - Overview of SkyHydrant and the SkyJuice Foundation
- Implementation of Skyhydrant Technology in Schools
- Outcomes of proper water filtration on students success

Projects in Guatemala and Honduras

- Project 1 - Water Harvesting in Schools
- Project 2 - To be decided
- Project 3 - To be decided

Closing Panel - "What have we learned from our experiences?"



TACOMA SUNRISE ROTARY SPEAKER BOOK PROGRAM

BY KATHLEEN FIGETAKIS

WHAT IS THE PROGRAM?

When Bruce Kadden was Tacoma Sunrise Rotary (TSR) president, he began the tradition of donating a book instead of a speaker gift. Miriam Barnett, Rotary 8 member and CEO of the local YWCA domestic violence agency, was excited to collaborate on this program. Her YWCA staff help children ages 0-18 in residence at the domestic violence shelter select a book to keep from TSR-donated books. Many have never owned a book before. Having the right to choose and experiencing both the pride and responsibility of ownership helps the children in their healing process.

WHAT TYPES OF BOOKS DO WE DONATE?

We intentionally seek protagonists with racial and ethnic diversity. Unfortunately, domestic violence knows no racial boundaries, and in our book donations, neither do we. Story characters may have black, brown, Asian, or white heritage and more. Stories from the varying

viewpoints are deliberately included, anything from Jewish folk tales to Simon Calcavecchia's stories of overcoming disabilities. We usually donate several books written in Spanish.

The books include both fiction and non-fiction, anything from board books to young adult novels.

Sometimes we seek a theme like resilience, self-esteem, or Caldecott award winners. We try to choose trauma-free books; the children at YWCA have experienced more than enough trauma already in their lifetimes, and the purpose of the books is to heal rather than to trigger.

Looking to gift a book to a child, you know? Here's the latest book list used to select donations:

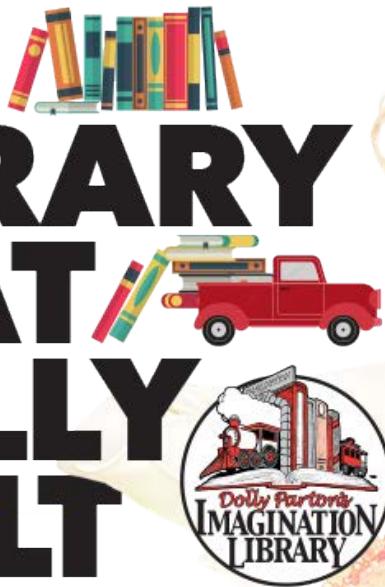
<https://www.readings.com.au/news/childrens-books-that-teach-resilience>

Thank you to TSR for supporting this valuable program for years.



TSR President Elect Ric Arredondo preparing trauma free books for delivery, affixing a customized Rotary bookplate.

THE LIBRARY THAT DOLLY BUILT



ROTARY BRINGS IMAGINATION LIBRARY TO JEFFERSON COUNTY

BY PORT TOWNSEND ROTARY CLUB

The Port Townsend Rotary Club is bringing Dolly Parton's Imagination Library to the children of Jefferson County, Washington. The Imagination Library is a book-gifting program for preschool children that has supported more than 1.7 million children in the country and has provided more than 145 million books to kids.

What the Imagination Library provides:

- With \$25 a child receives a year of free books.
- A donation of \$100 grants four children free books each month for a year.
- All books are age-appropriate.
- Once the child is registered, they will continue to receive a book a month until they reach 5 years of age with no renewal necessary.
- Children from birth to age 5 qualify.
- Because of the Imagination Library, a child registered at birth will have been exposed to 60 books by age 5.

On a mission to help promote a passion for reading and learning, Imagination Library provides an

age-appropriate book for children up to 5 every month in the mail at no cost to the parent. All books have been selected by a panel of noted educators and early childhood development specialists.

There are approximately 1,068 children in Jefferson County currently under the age of 5. Studies show that reading to preschool children makes a significant difference to a child's success in school.

The Port Townsend Rotary Club has committed to support the on-going program for the children of Jefferson County.

"Our goal in the next five years is that 700 children under the age of 5 in Jefferson County will receive 12 books every year until kindergarten," said Lynette Jennings of the Port Townsend Rotary.

For information about the Imagination Library in Jefferson County, contact imaginationjeffco@gmail.com. To make a tax-emept donation, make a check out to PTRC Charitable Fund and note that it is for the Imagination Library.

THE BULL, EH-HEM I MEANT BALLS, WILL RUN THIS MAY IN PORT TOWNSEND

BY JAYNE NEU

No Parade? No Problem! On to Plan B... Just a minor “bump” in the road!

Typically, spectators would line up to watch golf balls take over the street in Port Townsend Sunrise Rotary’s “Running of the Balls” on the third Saturday in May, just before the Rhododendron Festival Grand Parade. But not this year. It didn’t happen that way last year either, but the 9th annual “Running of the Balls” will go on!

This annual event involves releasing a few thousand numbered golf balls on the Rhody Festival parade route – a steep portion of Monroe Street – where they bump and bounce for three blocks to the end of the course.

“We typically have our Rotary Youth Exchange student that attends Port Townsend High School for the year lift the tail of the bull gate, which releases the golf balls into the street. Sadly, “the Rotary Youth Exchange Program was put on hold for this year, so we won’t have a student to assist” said President and Event Chair Lois Sherwood, “but the bull will be on

hand to do the heavy lifting! We will still make this event work. It is our signature fundraiser of the year.”

Last year in wake of the Rhododendron Festival Grande Parade being canceled, we took it to a completely different level. One of our members, Chuck Henry, created a turning bins contraption that tossed the numbered tickets around and the “Bull” himself (or was it herself?) drew the three winning tickets out of the bin live on Facebook.

“We think we are going to set up the track, as usual, this year, but the spectators will have to be a lot fewer and observe social distancing and masking”, says President Sherwood, “but May is still a month away, and who knows what clever idea may evolve. Rotarians are very clever people, you know!”

At a typical Running of the Balls event, the first three balls to reach the finish line earn their owners a prize. Grand Prize is \$2000 in cash, second place is \$500 in cash, and third place is \$250 in cash.

The event is scheduled at its normal time and will begin at 12:30 p.m., on May 15th, on Monroe Street near Lawrence, and we will stream it live.

Golf ball tickets are sold at the Port Townsend Farmers Market on Saturday and other local pop-up spots from now until May 15th. You

can also purchase tickets directly through one of our club members or email us at pttownsendsunriserotary@gmail.com

Tickets are \$5 each, or a book of 5 is \$20. All proceeds of the event go to support our projects and other beneficiaries in the community and beyond.



SEQUIM NOON ROTARY SUPPORTS KIDS

BY ROCHELLE MCHUGH

Members of the Noon Rotary Club of Sequim are very proud and excited to assist the Port Angeles Turner Unit of the Boys & Girls Club of the Olympic Peninsula in the purchase and installation of 32 monitors for the all new computer lab in their beautiful new two story facility located on Lauridsen Boulevard, Port Angeles. In addition each computer station will boast a large mouse pad with the Rotary club's name and the Rotary wheel logo.

Members of the noon Rotary Club of Sequim were also hosted via Zoom to an exclusive tour of the brand new facility, including the games room, their large gymnasium, the upstairs teen area and the secure playground area which will be completed in the near future.

It is expected that by early March the building will be ready for occupancy and teeming with the happy voices of Port Angeles Boys & Girls Club members (as much as Covid will allow) Students will be able to use the Computer Lab under the guidance and with the assistance of Boys & Girls Club staff to complete homework in a safe and socially distanced manner.

If you'd like to learn more about Rotary Club of Sequim's community and international projects please visit our website <http://www.sequimrotary.org> or visit our Facebook Page Facebook/Sequim Noon Rotary. If you'd like to join us for our regular, weekly lunch-time meeting and don't have the Zoom Meeting ID, please send us an email to sequimrotary@gmail.com for your personal invitation.



President Ted Shanks and Mary Budke, (CEO of the Boys & Girls Club of the Olympic Peninsula and Sequim noon Rotarian).

THE ROTARY E-CLUB FIRST ANNUAL HEALTHY WALK/WHEELCHAIR CHALLENGE

BY WILLIAM MCCARTHY

Challenge To all Clubs in District 5020

In February, we announced our challenge to the clubs of District 5020 to get out and move so we could develop healthier Rotarians and healthier Communities.

We have learned the Clubs of Comox Valley do a “Green Walk” whereby members pick up trash along their favorite walkways.

It is encouraging to see Rotarians getting out and becoming healthy while raising funds to help their communities become healthy as well.

Our own club members have really taken this on as a personal challenge. Sasha Katzalay was once an Interactor, then a Youth Exchange, then a Rotaractor, then a Rotarian with the Victoria Harbourside Club. She is now a member of our E-Club 5020 and while in Japan teaching English as a second language, she has also joined a Rotaractor Club there.

Using her imagination, she has decided to walk, jog, run from Mt. Fuji to a train station on the

southeast coast. Her personal challenge story is below. How many other Rotarians are finding unique ways to carry out this challenge? Please let us know.

DOMOO I'm running from Mt. Fuji Station to Chigasaki Station, Japan....That's 76 km!

The Rotary 5020 E-club's goal is \$1,500 USD, and we are going to put the funds earned into RYLA Scholarships and local Food Banks.

I am every so proud to be a member of the District 5020 e-club. For the past few months, we have been shuffling around our social distant spaces to take part in the District 5020 Virtual Walk and Wheel Challenge. The fun of being in an e-club is that I can also participate in this event, even from all the way over here.

I've set my goal of 76km, the distance between Mt. Fuji Station and Chigasaki Station, the city where I did my Rotary Youth Exchange. I've been accomplishing this in increments of 5km in the mornings and evenings. I am

currently at 38KM.

I MAY BE FAST, the one thing I've become increasingly slow at is updating my socials. But it's never too late to start, right? I'll be poking some of you Rotarians, but to the general public, if you would like to place a pledge, do reach me through dm or by email: Sasha.katzalay@gmail.com

This will run through until mid-June and, since I'm sure to meet my goal before then, I'll continue to increase the distance. Who knows how far I'll get, maybe I can virtually run back to Victoria and take that nap I so sorely need.

[TRACK MY PROGRESS \(click here\)](#)
Anyways, thank you for reading this far!

We sincerely hope that more club members accept this Challenge to make themselves healthier while improving their communities' health.

Remember, we are CHALLENGING all clubs



in our District to join in. Create your own Challenge, set your distance, and set your funding goals. Each month let us know how you are doing. With approximately 90 Clubs in District 5020 our goal is to raise \$50,000. Remember, all funds that you raise, you keep to support your own local projects.

This Challenge will run through mid-June. Then in the first quarter of the new Rotary Year, we would ask that you report back on how you improved your Club and your Community's health. We will then publicize those results to show the cumulative effect of our District's Clubs.

Lets' make this Challenge Fun and Interesting! Recognition and prizes will be awarded.

DIAPER PANDEMIC IN AMERICA

BY SARAH DAGEENAKIS

Recently our club had a guest speaker about the Diaper Pandemic in America. So, of course, in Rotary style, we jumped in with both feet. We partnered with West Sound baby corner, Kitsap SAIVS, and Kitsap Strong.

These are three organizations in our community that work with women and children, special assault investigations and victim's services, and improve children, families, and adults' health and well-being.

Diapers are expensive! During Covid shutdowns, more and more parents were having to stay home with their children, leaving the workplace. Not being able to buy diapers for their kids, parents have resorted to no diapers, t-shirts wrapped around children, sagging overused diapers, you can imagine the rest. So, we went straight to work.

We contacted our local Fred Meyer store and others to place boxes for Diaper Collection and spread the word thru social media, flyers, and word of mouth. We were excited each day to see how many diapers and wipes were donated by our awesome community and our own club members.

We decided to add a little competition with The Port Orchard Rotary Club, and what a success! Port Orchard Rotary gathered in diapers and cash donations the equivalent of 4540 diapers (not to mention the wipes).

South Kitsap Rotary gathered (during the drive period) in diapers and cash donations the equivalent of 4296 diapers and \$325.00 in Cash donations (not to mention wipes).

We extended our drive an extra weekend, so our GRAND total was 4702.

The Executive Director of EBC had this to say about your work: "This has been a seriously phenomenal drive. This is the exact way we wish all drives were able to run, as a true effort pulled together by the entire community. It is so astounding you were all able to get such great involvement, especially during a pandemic!"

The drive was a huge success, and our community came together. The total diapers gathered are 32,914! We are looking to make this one of our annual events and are so thankful for both clubs' efforts!



TIME TO SPRING CLEAN YOUR HOME OFFICE OR WORKPLACE



SPRING SHREDDING EVENT

**April 24
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

**Mary Winspear
Parking Lot**

Prevent identity theft and protect privacy by shredding no-longer-needed confidential documents.

\$10 per Banker box or equivalent. Immediate shredding.

COVID 19 protocols will be in effect.

Proceeds benefit Rotary's support of local community organizations.



**Rotary Supports
the Environment**

Sidney by the Sea
Rotary
Club



Sponsored by Seaside Magazine

SPRING SHREDDING EVENT

BY MICHELE F HOLMES

Sidney by the Sea Rotary invites you to join us at our upcoming Spring Shredding Event to be held at the Mary Winspear Centre parking lot on April 24 from 10am to 1 pm. This is an opportunity to spring clean your home or workplace of paperwork you no longer need while protecting privacy and preventing identity theft. Cost is \$10 per bankers box or equivalent. All proceeds benefit Rotary's support of local community organizations. COVID 19 protocols will be in effect.

PORT ALBERNI ROTARY CLUB HELPS REVIVE LITTLE LIBRARIES

BY SUSAN QUINN ALBERNI VALLEY NEWS

Literacy Alberni's little library program has been revived, thanks to teamwork between Literacy Alberni, the Rotary Club of Port Alberni and Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District.

The coronavirus pandemic and the loss of warehouse space just before COVID-19 restrictions came into play meant Literacy Alberni had little space to either store books or allow volunteers to sort or distribute donations. As a result, some libraries have been looking a bit thin on books, and those inside buildings that were closed due to COVID-19 were inaccessible.

"Since COVID we have been asking people if they have books to stick them in a little library themselves," said Rebecca Dixon, literacy services coordinator for Literacy Alberni.

"We used to have a huge warehouse space but we had to give that up before COVID."

When the Rotary Club of Port Alberni realized the libraries needed some TLC, they

approached Literacy Alberni about putting in some volunteer hours to help. "I'm always blown away how much Rotary clubs do in Port Alberni," a grateful Dixon said.

"I wasn't surprised that they offered. It's amazing for us that they volunteered for this."

Rotarians are tending to 18 little libraries around the community, stocking them with books every couple of weeks and making sure the boxes are in good repair. There is a list of all the little library locations on the Literacy Alberni website, literacyalberni.ca/little-libraries/.

Volunteers from Literacy Alberni sort through the books donated at the ACRD recycling depot, boxing them up to store in the Alberni Valley News's warehouse.

Rotary members are then able to pick up boxes of books from the AV News and fill their designated libraries on their own schedule.



Crystal Knudsen, president of the Rotary Club of Port Alberni, stocks a Little Library in Port Alberni with a fresh supply of books.

THE POWER OF ROTARY – EMPOWERING WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS IN GUATEMALA

BY MARY COWARD

In response to the pandemic, Rotary partners recently raised \$21,725 USD to provide microloans to 55 women entrepreneurs in Guatemala. The loans are part of a nine-month business training program offered by Fundacion Namaste Guatemala (Namaste). The project, led by Victoria Harbourside Rotary Club and the Antigua Rotary Club, received generous contributions from five District 5020 clubs, the Project Unity Committee, and the Portland Rotary Club. The Rotary Club of Berlin, Germany, heard about the project through the Rotary Action Group on Community Economic Development (RAGCED) and gave a significant donation. Thanks to all who have made a difference in the lives of these women and their families.

Rotary Clubs are looking for ways to support their projects and partners through the challenges of the pandemic. Victoria Harbourside Rotary Club, together with many partners,

has worked with the Antigua Rotary Club since 2007 to empower women entrepreneurs in Guatemala through the Fundacion Namaste Guatemala (Namaste).

Namaste is an NGO that has successfully supported women entrepreneurs and their families in Guatemala since the 1980's, providing business training and microloans. Namaste's success in moving women away from poverty and improving the wellbeing of their communities is proven. Read more about Namaste in The Rotarian magazine, August 2020, or at www.namastedirect.org.

In September 2019, a Global Grant sponsored by Victoria Harbourside Rotary Club and the Antigua Rotary Club began to provide business training for 140 women entrepreneurs. By September 2020, 85 women were enrolled in the program, with 55 not yet started.



January 2020 site visit with Victoria Harbourside and Antigua Rotary Club members, and Namaste staff.

COVID-19 has had major impacts on Guatemala, and Namaste clients have suffered business and personal losses. In response, Namaste deferred repayments of loans for three months and provided emergency support to clients. They continued to provide training and business advice to clients by phone.

In September 2020, Victoria Harbourside Rotary Club asked what we could do to help. Namaste identified a need to rebuild their microloan capacity. Victoria Harbourside agreed to lead a project to raise \$21,725 USD to provide microloans averaging \$395 USD each to support the 55 women waiting to be enrolled in the program under the Global Grant.

Through the goodwill of Rotary Clubs around the globe, we reached our goal! Victoria Harbourside kicked off the fundraising and was joined by four other clubs from District 5020 (Port Hardy, Campbell River, Nanaimo Daybreak and Sooke). The Project Unity Committee, representing the International Service Committees of nine clubs in Greater

Victoria, also contributed. As did our long-time partner the Portland Rotary Club.

Our project was promoted widely by the Rotary Action Group for Community Economic Development (RAGCED). Through RAGCED connections, Rotary Berlin Germany heard about the project and made a substantial contribution.

As the economy resumes and women are able to rebuild their businesses, they will repay their loans to Namaste. Those funds will continue to be used by Namaste to support entrepreneurship through microfinance to clients well into the future.

Victoria Harbourside Rotary Club would like to thank all those who contributed to the success of this project. Together we have made a life-changing difference to the women of Guatemala.

Please contact Mary Coward (marycoward@shaw.ca), Chris Dysart (cdysart@shaw.ca) or Michele Parkin (michelemparkin@hotmail.com) for further information.



STRATHCONA SUNRISE SUPPORTS LITHUANIA REHAB CENTER

BY RAY WINDSOR

“About five years ago, Strathcona Sunrise stepped up to support a dolphin assisted research and therapy center in Lithuania,” says Sunriser Richard Clarke. “This international collaborative effort led by Klaipeda Adite Rotary Club is changing lives for young children with disabilities in Lithuania.”

The center takes a holistic approach to help children and adults living with disabilities. With support from a number of Rotary clubs, the Dolphin Assisted Therapy Center can offer a two-week program that includes a sensory element with dolphins in a pool, augmented by such innovative methods as Sherborn movement therapy, structured learning, sensory integration and guiding, as well as speech therapy all individually designed and applied to meet the unique needs of each child.

This program is costly and not every family with an autistic child can afford to attend the program, even when the need is great.

“Last year, we received another significant donation from Strathcona Sunrise Rotary and

we were able to use these monies to establish a new self-sufficiency room including specialized appliances and equipment,” says Dr. Brigita Kreivinene, Executive Director of the Center. “With the support from Rotary, we were able to provide a complex two-week therapy program that created amazing results for a 5 year old boy with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Without this help from Rotary, the family of this young boy could not afford to attend the center.”

After 10 days of a multi-disciplinary approach, this young boy became more focused, smiled much more easily and regularly and opened up more readily to social communication. He also got structured, clear instructions for his life at home. According to Dr. Kreivinene, the primary goal of the center is to provide their clients with skills and techniques for coping when they return home.

Often parents who reach out to the center do not have the training or background to help their children achieve some level of self-sufficiency. And they do not know how to introduce new learning skills for children with Autism. The

center has developed two laboratories and two ‘home environment’ rooms designed to serve as an ideal learning and practice place to allow each child to reach their potential for living independently.

“As well as helping young people with Autism to better adjust and adapt for their home environments,” says Dr. Kreivinene. “We want them to practice their adapting skills for other settings and to develop routines to increase their flexibility in a variety of other environments.”

The laboratories and home environment rooms include specially designed evaluation kits to support specialists and education professionals as they follow up with clients when they return home.

“This is such a specialized area and the need is great everywhere,” notes Richard Clarke. “Our Strathcona Sunrise club has provided modest funds for this center in Lithuania, but our small input is making a real difference. And that is what Rotary is all about.”



Rotary's involvement with the Center has helped integrate movement therapy, structured learning, speech therapy and sensory guidance among other techniques to help prepare young children with disabilities to live more independently.

ROTARY RECONCILI-ACTION GROUP

BY EV BOEGH

In 2019 mid-Island Rotary clubs were invited to help sponsor a Youth Leading Reconciliation Conference (YLR), an annual November event hosted by the Nanaimo Aboriginal Centre (NAC) and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Vancouver Island. This is a 'Day of conversation, social and cultural activities between Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth.' Rotarians were asked for financial as well as volunteer support. The word went out, and Rotarians from central Vancouver Island responded with enthusiasm and commitment.

Experiencing the YLR event helped us realize the necessity for sharing the meaning and reasons for educating people of the history and impact of colonization on Indigenous Peoples. As a result, the Rotary Reconcili-Action Group was formed – the name came from the t-Shirt handed out by NAC to all participants.

Rotarians have questions about what we can do to be true allies to the First

Peoples whose lands we live on. We need to know the best ways of being respectful and inclusive to all.

Rotary Reconcili-Action Group now meets monthly via Zoom. We have developed a list of Indigenous reading resources and have established a Speakers series of Indigenous writers and knowledge keepers. All Rotarians and their networks are encouraged to share invitations to listen to the speakers. With the speaker's permission to record their presentations, we share them with as many people as possible.

The Rotary Reconcili-Action Group has hosted Dr. Robert Joseph and Susan Leslie. Our next guest in the speaker's series will be Dr. Andrea Walsh from the University of Victoria Department of Anthropology and will take place on Zoom on Sunday, April 25, 2021, at 10:00 am. Please contact Ev Boegh, Nanaimo Daybreak Rotary Club, at rotaryev@boegh.ca if you want to attend.



1905/GEAR

END POLIO NOW COLLECTION

For every "End Polio Now" item purchased, 1905 Gear will donate \$5 towards Rotary International's End Polio Now campaign!

www.1905gear.com



A STORYBOOK TALE OF COLLABORATION AS TOLD BY PARTICIPANTS

BY BRIAN KING, PAUL WILLIAMS AND THE LADYSMITH INTERACT CLUB

The first time we heard of Storybook Walk was last September when Melissa Bond, Program Manager, and Tanya Reid, Program Coordinator, both from the Ladysmith Resources Centre Association (LRCA), came to our Rotary zoom meeting to tell us about the concept... the pages of a children's storybook, displayed on a series of signs that are set up at a local community park, so families could walk along and read the story together. A new story every week. It sounded as though it fit perfectly with LRCA's mandate to encourage children's literacy safely during the pandemic. I think they convinced us Rotarians it was a great concept, but at that point, Melissa and Tanya were still in the planning stages. It was unclear how our Club fit into their project.

A few weeks later, we had received a copy of LRCA's preliminary budget. It seemed something was not fitting together. Bond and Reid were talking about using temporary realtor signage, but the budget seemed to be geared toward something more permanent. As it turned out, the Town of Ladysmith was reluctant to allow permanent signs on their park properties until the concept was proven. The temporary nature of the project made it difficult to attract potential sponsors... a bit of a dilemma. At Bond's request, a zoom meeting was called with LRCA, the Town, and a few of us Rotarians; Paul Williams, Peter Pardee, and Brian King.

We thought Rotary was being invited to the meeting to find out more about the project and how much of a grant LRCA would be requesting from us. You could tell right away that Chris Barfoot, Town Director, and Sue Glenn, Town Community & Programs Supervisor, liked the Storybook



concept and were highly supportive. Chris and Sue advised that they had discussed the project with Bob Simpson, Town Parks Supervisor, and they had come up with the idea that the signs could be mounted on large screw anchors so that they could be easily removed but enabled more permanent-type signs. It was a great idea, but we still were not sure how we could help until Melissa Bond said, “we are hoping Rotary can design and build the signs.”

Within an hour, Williams and King had discussed the project with Bill Hutchinson and Ken Bosma, both talented wood craftsmen and longtime Rotarians. Bill was headed off on vacation, but Ken felt he could spare some time. Right away, Ken had a lot of design questions involving safety, waterproofing, vandalism, etc. Within a couple of weeks, Ken, with the help of Peter Pardee, had designed and built a prototype. Meanwhile, Bob Simpson, from the Town of Ladysmith, had ordered in a few screw anchors, which he passed along to Brian King, who, in turn, delivered them to Ken. After Ken installed the prototype on his lawn, Bob, Melissa, and Tanya came by to provide their advice or approval. That allowed Ken and Peter Pardee to start sourcing the various components for the additional 20 signs to be built (and paid for by Rotary).

In mid-December, LRCA reached an agreement with the Town of Ladysmith to set up Storybook Walk at Brown Drive Park, which triggered Rotary to go into production of the signs. Bill Hutchinson was back from vacation. He and Ken set-up in Bill’s shop, and within a couple of weeks, all the signs were built and being stained by a team of Rotarians



that consisted of Paul Williams, Michael Furlot, Brenda Clarke, Suzanne Otterson, Ray Stokes, and Brian King... operating out of Peter Pardee's shop. By the third week of January, the signs were passed to Bob Simpson, who looked after installation at Brown Drive Park.

Storybook Walk is now up and running and has been a smashing hit! Several other sponsors are now involved, including Ladysmith & District Credit Union, Vancouver Island Regional Library, Margot Ney, LaRosa Gardens, Child Care Resources and Referrals, and PacificCare. It's a great collaborative community project offering something educational, fun, and safe to do!

STORYBOOK WALK CONSTRUCTION DETAILS - PAUL WILLIAMS

The three Ladysmith Rotary, wood and metal workers, who designed and constructed the frames, mounting apparatus, and support posts were Bill Hutchinson, Ken Bosma, and Peter Pardee. They made a prototype which was approved by the LRCA and the Town of Ladysmith. The 20 units were then assembled at Bill's Shop.

The reusable frame is mounted solidly on a 4x4 pressure-treated wooden post attached to a sleeve in the ground. The top of the post is at the correct height and angle for young children as well and adults to look at and read. The base of the frame is plywood with a wooden frame on top. Clear acrylic is held in place with an aluminum frame. The panel underneath can be removed, and a new picture or storybook



page can be inserted.

Bill, Ken, and Peter donated some of their material to the project. The team was able to get some material at reduced rates due to the generosity of Home Hardware Ladysmith, Lowes Nanaimo, Nanaimo Industrial Plastics, and AJ Forsyth steel.

The picture frames had three coats of oil base stain applied by Rotarians, Michael Furlot, Brian King, Suzanne Otterson, Ray Stokes, Brenda Clarke, Paul Williams, and Peter Pardee. Total Rotarian hours for painting, construction, sourcing materials, meeting project partners, planning, etc., were approximately 150 hrs.

Club Treasurer Brian King managed the project's finances and organization, eventually reducing the initial cost projection from around \$8000 to under \$5000 for all 21 stands.

STORY WALK - INTERACT CLUB OF LADYSMITH SENIOR SECONDARY

Interact Club is a Rotary-sponsored club that works to raise funds for our town and communities all around the world. We participate in certain fundraisers and initiatives annually, and we also promote community involvement by volunteering at the local senior's centre, reading to youth, and helping during community events.

In March, the Ladysmith Secondary Interact Club paired



with the Storybook Walk Project to showcase some of the members' favourite children's books. Tanya Reid created the Storybook Walk Project in order to get children learning while being out in nature. Each week, a different book is featured across 20 panels at Brown Drive Park in Ladysmith, and families with children are invited to walk the park and discover the book.

Our Club chose the book *Have You Filled a Bucket Today?* by Carol McCloud because we believe it encourages positive behaviour and teaches how simple and rewarding kindness can be. This book accomplishes this by using the concept of an invisible bucket to explain that you can either "fill" or "dip into" others' buckets with your actions. In addition, the colourful pages of this book allow children of any age to follow along. We thought that this book would best represent our Club as it demonstrates how small acts, like the ones we do in our Club, can have a great impact on others. The book will be featured from April 6th-13th.

SUMMARY

The Story Book Walk was an excellent hands-on Rotary Community Service Project and a good collaborative project involving many organizations in town.

It leaves a long-lasting, beneficial, and educational legacy for the Community of Ladysmith. The project has attracted a lot of parents, grandparents, and children and has also received interest from other Rotary Clubs.





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Proceeds benefit Rotary's support of local community organizations.

Sidney by the Sea
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SPRING SHREDDING EVENT

April 24
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

**Mary Winspear
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