

BULLETIN



Meeting date: **September 5, 2023**

Virtual or In-Person: **In Person – Sports View Lounge Oak Bay Rec. Centre**

Visitors / Guests:

Vince Dicarolis – Guest of the Club & Speaker
Louise McGee – Guest of Renate & prospective member
Bryan Westby – Guest of Peter & assistant flag installer

President’s Welcome:

President Chris opened the meeting with an acknowledgement of our presence on unceded First Nations Land.

O’Canada was sung Editor’s note * – as many of us are musically/tone challenged actual music to accompany us would be a marked improvement.

Innovation given by Perry....an ancient verse on the powers of mankind.

Introduction of guests by Peter.

Announcements:

1. \$2,000 was approved and sent to the BC Wildlife Recovery Fund
2. Sonnet reminded us about our fundraising efforts for 1000 x 5 Literacy as this is literacy month. We have collection boxes for books for ages 1 to 5 in several locations in Oak Bay. A challenge out to the other clubs to raise funds. And a book sale at our meetings over the course of this month. We combined a book drive with the Sept 2nd bottle drive and are planning a Beer & Burger fundraising event.
3. Joan Firkins reminded us of the final Oak Bay Night Market this Wednesday (the 13th) and asked for a volunteer – Peter stepped forward.
4. Joan P updated us on the amount to date (August) raised from the bottle drive which is \$8,981.78.

Celebrations Master: Sonnet

Birthdays: Shawn Aug 28th, Terry Aug 30th

Club Anniversaries: Ron – Sept 1st 1996

Anniversaries: Peter and Jean – Aug. 30th – 52 years

Ben noted that he’s been married 3 times to the same woman....in Japan, a Civil Service in Victoria and Kona, Hawaii – 10 years on Sept 2nd.

Plenty of happy and sad dollars and Atam won the 50/50 draw - \$35 richer.

Next Meeting:

September 12th - John Jordan will give a short presentation on a Mexico project, followed by Club Committee breakout groups. Note – in person meeting.

Program Overview:

Vince Dicarolis – Why I Will Always Be a Rotarian

Vince recounted a harrowing story about how a small detour to the Las Perlas Islands on a sailing journey from Seattle through the Panama Canal by a fellow Rotarians' daughter, son-in-law and two friends in the end showcased the generosity of Rotarians and their willingness to step forward and make a difference. Below is an abbreviated version of the events:

- Out for a walk on a sunny day in March President Vince gets a call from a scared and agitated fellow member Bob.
- Bob's daughter and son-in-law are sailing down the coast towards the Panama Canal
- Joined by friends who will help get them through the Canal they decide to make a side trip to the beautiful Las Perlas Islands (off the coast of Panama).
- They've anchored and saw a fishing boat approaching – before they know it the boat has crashed into the side of them at full speed.
- 4 men with machetes and machine guns board the boat, hit Chris and proceed for the next 1.5 hours to ransack the sailboat, cutting communication and hacking up the interior of the sailboat. They leave stealing their dog Stella.
- Everyone is o.k. but everything, money passports etc. has been stolen.

What Next:

- The group manages to get hold of Bob who calls Vince – can Rotary help.
- Vince calls RI in Chicago – spoke to a woman who says she can help.
- Name & phone number of the Panama East Rotary Club given...and a connection to Rotarian Nick Taylor. Vince gives information to Bob. Nick's setting up a team, he's called Bob 'we'll take care of it.
- Rotarian Marco (from Panama), was on an island a half hour away – he goes and picks up the group gets them to emergency, a store to get staples and a hotel.
- Panamanian Rotarians with connections to marine suppliers get a work group together to repair boat
- A call to Allen Sellers – District Governor in Panama results in an improved attitude in the Panamanian authorities and a Coast Guard escort through the Panama Canal.
- More help on the home front in securing a delayed passport in 30 minutes by calling a Rotarian who is a congressman and has connections at the U.S. Embassy.
- Last but certainly not least – Stella (the dog) was found abandoned on an Island alive and well!

**THE IMPACT OF ROTARY - ONE PHONE CALL - INFLUENCE, CONNECTIONS,
PASSION, BELIEF**

