

Fellow Rotarians

Its amazing how quickly time passes. Jan and I have visited 35 clubs. Since we meet for two hours with each club board, we have participated in 70 Rotary Meetings. Hmm, I wonder if we can count those as make ups?

What continues to amaze us is the devotion and passion for service that each of these clubs and their members exhibit. No matter the size of the town, the number of projects, or the number members, each has a passion for service.

For all of our lands beauty and grandeur, we would be remiss in mentioning tragedy of the fires we have witnessed first hand in district. The cost has been horrendous including to some fellow Rotarians. Our hearts are with you.



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Our month started in Summerland, where President Roch



Fortin who is seen preparing lobster. Roch not only held his board meeting at his home, but hosted his whole club for this backyard lobster fest. The view you see is similar to what the Okanagan Lake looks like from Roch's backyard! Summerland Rotary Club has helped coordinate local vendors for a very successful



Sunday Market on the main street downtown.

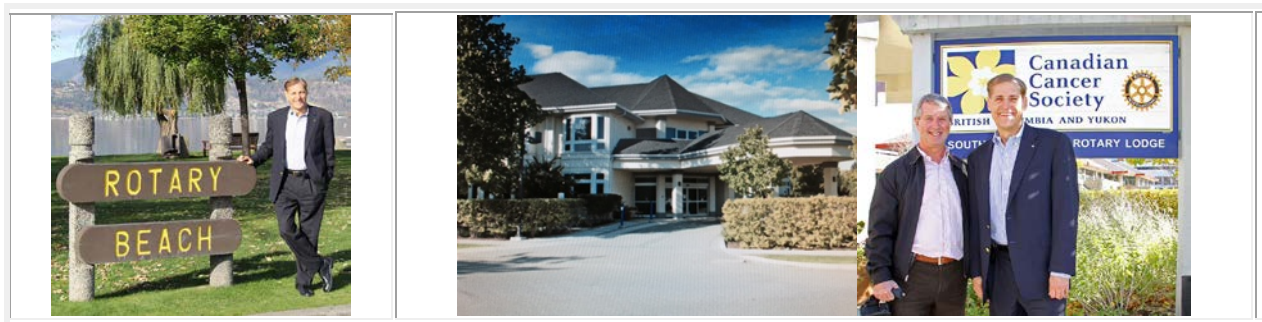
We had a very special experience with the Peachland Rotary Club as President Chris Boyle secured the City Council Chambers for our meeting with the board!

The whole community in Peachland makes great use of the beautiful pavilion that was built by the Peachland Rotary Club, which you can see below. The floor features a large Rotary "Mark of Excellence" (the gear!) right in the middle. The pavilion is the site of Rotary Peace Concerts every Sunday all summer long.





Our travels often take us to Kelowna, with 9 clubs in Area 4. Kelowna is the home to several major projects that generally involved all the clubs in the area. The pictures shown below feature the Rotary Centre for the Arts, two pictures of the Rotary Cancer Lodge, and the Rotary Beach Park. In two of these photos you can see Rotary International General Secretary John Hewko who came to visit Kelowna.



To the right you see us enjoying a board meeting over dinner with the West Kelowna Daybreak club, led by President Sheila Ehlert with Area 4 Assistant Governor Marjolein Lloyd seen in the foreground.



Revelstoke is one of our more northern cities, and the local Rotary Club here is very active in many different projects. For serious skiers the Revelstoke Mountain Resort boasts 30-40 feet of annual snowfall, and North America's greatest vertical drop at 5620 feet! Every December the Revelstoke Rotary Club host all of our exchange students for the popular "Weekend in the Snow". The photos here show a huge train snowplow that we saw when we visited a local museum, and a Rotary monument dedicating a park at the museum.

This brings us to the neighboring city of Salmon Arm and 3 clubs visits. Below are some of the great Rotarians we met. In the lower right frame we are being treated to another outdoor BBQ in the backyard of Area 2 AG Sterling Land and his wife Megan with the Presidents for all of the Area 2 clubs. In the upper right frame you see me at Salmon Arm (Shuswap) club having the honor of presenting Bill Pringle his Paul Harris Fellow +6 pin. Bill is a delightful man, and at 90+ he is an expert agronomist known

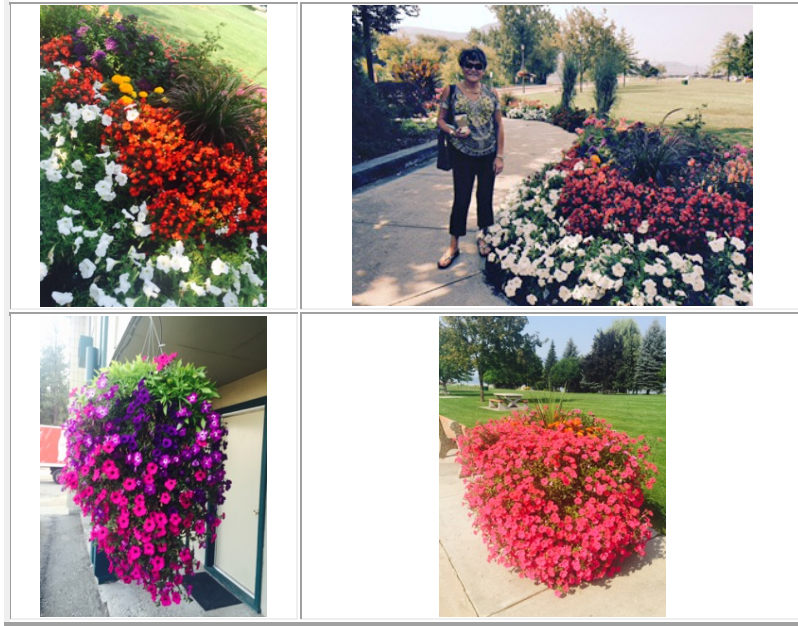
around the world! What, you don't know what that is?? It is the science of producing and using plants for food, fuel, fiber and land reclamation!



Moving to the upper left frame you see me meeting two past District Governors from the Salmon Arm club. Ken Arthur (to my left) said there were not enough hotel rooms in Salmon Arm to accommodate the 900+ attendees to his 1996-97 District Conference, so they rented 40 houseboats on the Shuswap Lake for visiting Rotarians to stay! On my right is Jeff Den Biesen who was Ken's conference chairman, and exactly 10 years later he became District Governor (2006-2007). BTW I checked with four different people and it was indeed common to have 800-900 attendees at district conference back in those days. The final picture in this group, in the lower left frame, is Jan and I with AG Sterling Land and Salmon Arm Club President Warne Lynd. The Salmon Arm Daybreak club took us to one of their projects, a "Spray & Splash" park.



One of the more interesting service projects we discovered was the Salmon Arm Club receives a \$10,000 grant from the city every year to plant 325 hanging baskets of flowers all over the city! All of the cities we visited in British Columbia this summer have an abundance of hanging baskets and flowers everywhere you turn. Cities compete for awards for having the most beautiful flowers. The net results are absolutely incredible, as a few examples below will show you!!



We made one more swing through Kamloops and toured the Rotary Bandshell on the Riverfront Park. What makes this project so valuable, much like the Kelowna Rotary Center for the Arts pictured above, is that events are frequently announced in the paper they are always identified as being

and on the radio, and "at the Rotary Bandshell"!! Great PR.

I hope you can see from all the pictures and descriptions that Jan and I have been thoroughly impressed with the talented and dedicated Rotarians in our district, it's beauty, and the many projects that your hardworking clubs do. We certainly believe there is no other organization quite like Rotary that exemplifies service above self!

Warm Regards

Greg Luring

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