



Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon, Virtual Meeting

President: Patrick Dobbyn
Secretary: Lynda Lawrence
Editor: Peter Boekhorst

Phone: 604-356-0923
Phone: 604-868-4674
Phone: 604-462-0377

[E-mail the President](#)
[E-mail the Secretary](#)
[E-mail the Editor](#)



OCTOBER IS ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MONTH

Happy Birthday

Happy Anniversary

UPCOMING SPEAKERS:

| | | |
|--------|--|--|
| Oct 5: | Oct 12: Stuart Palmer / Julia Heemstra Global Grant Water Project, Grahamstown, South Africa | Oct 19: Larissa Franklyn Bronze Medalist Softball, 2020 Tokyo Olympics |
|--------|--|--|

RI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



A quarter of the Rotary year is now behind us. I am sure you are helping Rotary to *grow more* and *do more*. And I hope you have already done your part for the Each One, Bring One initiative by introducing one person to Rotary.

Do you ever think about your earliest days as a Rotarian? I often do — because those first moments of discovering the power of service shaped

who I am today. When I joined my Rotary club, our efforts focused on India's rural communities, where people were living without toilets, getting their drinking water from the same pond they bathed in, and sending their children to outdoor classrooms set up under a tree. The nearest health care provider often was miles away — and the services were inadequate. But after Rotary clubs carried out some service projects, the villages had toilets, clean drinking water, a classroom for early learning, and a nearby health care center.

The spark that Rotary kindled within me forced me to look beyond myself and embrace humanity. It made service a way of life and led me to a guiding principle I still stand by: Service is the rent I pay for the space I occupy on Earth.

If you feel the need to reignite the spark of service in yourself or your club, October — Community Economic Development Month — is a great time to do so. When we work to improve the lives of people in underserved communities — through, for example, projects that provide vocational training and access to financial resources — we help build and sustain local economic growth.

The need is great. According to the United Nations, 9 percent of the world's population — that's 700 million people, a majority of them in sub-Saharan Africa — live on less than \$1.90 a day. By supporting strong community development as well as entrepreneurs, we can help improve conditions for people in that region and others.

Your club can also promote economic development in your own community by expanding vocational training opportunities through local schools and community colleges, partnering with lenders to improve access to financial services, or working with a nonprofit that provides resources to entrepreneurs and connects them with the business community.

Of course, developing strong communities is impossible without strong public health. On 24 October, World Polio Day, we'll celebrate our tremendous progress in the effort to eradicate polio. But we also know the fight is not over. We still need your help raising funds and awareness to ensure that all children are immunized against polio. Please don't forget to activate your clubs on that important day and encourage them to donate here: endpolio.org/world-polio-day.

Service has been rewarding for me throughout my life. I know the same is true for many of you. Join me this month in becoming a good tenant of our planet by helping others to better themselves and their communities. Together, we can *Serve to Change Lives*.

Shekhar Mehta
President 2021-22

OUR CLUB LAST WEEK'S MEETING:

President **Patrick Dobbyn** presided.

Invocation:

Laurie Anderson read a shortened version of the following "Nun's Prayer":

17th Century Nun's Prayer

Traditional, author unknown

Lord *Thou knowest better than I know myself that I am growing older and will someday be old. Keep me from that fatal habit of thinking I must say something on every subject and on every occasion. Release me from craving to straighten out everybody's affairs. Make me thoughtful but not moody; helpful but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom, it seems a pity not to use it all, but Thou knowest Lord that I want a few friends at the end.*

Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details; give me wings to get to the point. Seal my lips on my aches and pains. They are increasing, and love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by. I dare not ask for grace enough to enjoy the tales of others' pains, but help me to endure them with patience.

I dare not ask for improved memory, but for a growing humility and a lessing cocksureness when my memory seems to clash with the memory of others. Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken.

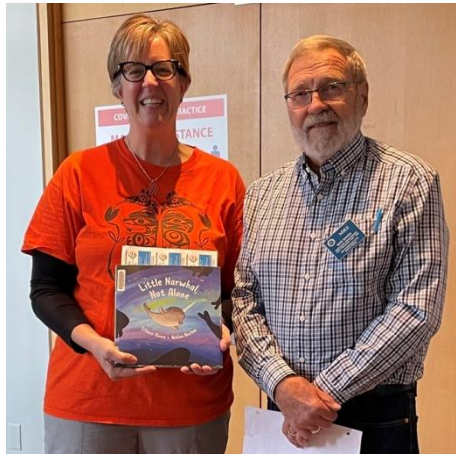
Keep me reasonably sweet; I do not want to be a Saint - some of them are so hard to live with - but a sour old person is one of the crowning works of the devil. Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places, and talents in unexpected people. And, give me, O Lord, the grace to tell them so.

AMEN.

Club Grant Presentation

Mike Davies introduced **Janet Smith**, a teacher Librarian at c̄asq̄anel̄ Elementary School in Albion (an indigenous name), and advised the Club that we were awarding the school the sum of \$1,500 to help pay for a literary program for students. It involves a collaboration with a local author named Tiffany Stone. The school is working together with Tiffany as well as her marine biologist partner, Marie Noel (UBC) as well as Black Bond Books on a celebration of her newest book "Little Narwhal Not Alone".

Tiffany and Marie are volunteering their time with the school and Black Bond Books is subsidizing the cost of the books. Students will also bring a toonie each so it's a good collaboration between multiple parties and funding sources.



Program: The Hometown Heroes – a brief history

Speaker: **Mary Robson**

Back in 1997 Maple Ridge was being known as the home of some well-known athletes, including such persons as **Brendan Morrison, Greg Moore, Jim Robson, Larry Walker, Debbie Brill and Karina LeBlanc**.

A TV sports broadcaster commented, "What is it about Maple Ridge? It must be something in the water".



It was about this time that **Mary and Gordon Robson** (who were then members of the Meadow Ridge Rotary Club) got the idea of starting the Sports Banquet to honour Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows athletes as "Hometown Heroes" and inspire local youth.

The criteria was set as follows: they have to have come from Maple Ridge or Pitt Meadows, attended school in the Ridge Meadows area and to participated in minor youth sports either on school teams and/or minor league sports teams. *If they went on to international success, they could be candidates for Home Town Heroes.*



Greg Moore

Maple Ridge's Greg Moore attended both Meadowridge School and Pitt Meadows Secondary School. Greg began his racing career driving go-karts in the Lower Mainland. His talent at driving karts allowed him to climb through the ranks quickly, ahead of much older drivers. Greg was a sensation on the Indy Lights circuit, winning 10 out of 12 races in 1995. When he was promoted to the Indy series, he became the youngest driver ever to win a CART race. Greg was famous for his skill on the oval circuits in CART. His win at the Michigan 500 is among his most impressive.

Greg started the 1999 season by winning the season-opening race in Miami. At the final race of the season at Fontana, California, Greg died when his car went out of control and hit the wall. Over the next few days the outpouring of love for this Home Town Hero was felt throughout the world. A public service in Maple

Ridge drew a standing room only crowd of over 3000 people, including fans from around the globe. Greg was inducted into the BC Sports Hall of Fame in the year 2000. His number was retired by CART as a tribute to a young racer who made his mark in his chosen profession. The Greg Moore Foundation, continuing the legacy of generous support for causes that were near and dear to Greg's heart, is a legacy to the community that he loved so much. He will be missed by us all.



Dare to Dream



At the inaugural banquet in 1998, 12 Hometown heroes were announced and posters for each of them which were posted in the schools so that the students could see that these world-class athletes had started in their own schools, and hopefully be inspired by them. These posters (which had the Rotary logo on them) were sponsored and paid for by Paul Rose who owned the local McDonalds franchises. A number of these athletes attended the banquet and signed their posters.

As the years progressed a number of persons who qualified increased and members of the public could nominate candidates, to the point where six or seven nominees were given in one year. As it continued to expand, and became more known and the level of attendees that were able to be attracted to the banquet increased and improved, it was felt that in order to protect the Home Town Heroes Program (if something happened to the sports banquet) it would be a good idea to form a society. So in 2006 the Meadow Ridge Sports Heroes Society was incorporated. The name "Hometown Heroes" was not available, because that had already been taken by the Lottery. Although the Sports Banquet was ended, the society continued with a small Board of Directors and has maintained its nonprofit and charitable status. A couple of years ago, the city of Maple Ridge came on board and took the responsibility of storing the banners and taking care of the Society's website. To date there are 46 hometown heroes to date (two of which are yet to be inducted because of the hiatus caused by COVID), 12 of whom have become Olympians. Some Hometown Heroes have commented that the posters that they saw in their school inspired them, as they saw that if the person from my school and community can make it, then so can I. The current directors of the Society would like to see the program continue, but members of the board who have been there a very long time are becoming tired, and some new blood is needed. Mary noted that it is not necessarily a big obligation because the sports banquet is no longer held, but they have maintained the annual dinner, and they have switched the focus to be a smaller dinner involving more of the youth. The dinners are being held at Maple Ridge Secondary School or Pit Meadows Senior Secondary, involving the student councils and youth as volunteer groups. The main sponsors of the Home Town Heroes program are: McDonald's Restaurants, Westminster Savings, The Maple Ridge Pitt Meadows Time and P&L Speedprint. School District 42 supports the program and each all of the schools are given a smaller version of the inductees' banners.

Mary said she doesn't know of any other relatively small-town community that has produced so many Olympians. It wasn't the water. It was and is the minor league sports organizations and school athletic programs which were and are responsible, and the thousands of volunteer hours of coaches, teachers and parents. The combination of these forces is the reason for so many renowned athletes from Ridge Meadows.

Question: if the Rotary club was to take on this program, what would be the approximate cost? Answer: the income from the sale of the tickets for the annual dinner has so far always broken even or even made a bit of a profit. But there is the cost of producing the banners which cost approximately \$500 per annum. There would also be the need to find a sponsor for the reproduction of them (perhaps four or five per year). The News interviews the inductees and prepares the story that goes on the banners. Since the Sports Banquet ended, Rotary has not been

involved and their logo has not appeared on the banners, but would do so if they became the new sponsor.

Happy and Sad

Matt and **Brenda** would be happy to see the Hometown Heroes Program come back to our Club.

Guest **Mike Murray** (of the Haney Club) thanked the club for its financial support of the former exchange student **Jhon**. Mike's wife Nancy has kept in touch with Jhon, and Jhon wishes to let everyone know that he very much appreciates the help that he has received from the two clubs. He is working when he can, doing such things as bricklaying, etc. Mike also thanked our club for our support for the Haney Club's golf tournament, especially **Brian Bekar**, who was a corporate sponsor through Mark's. They hope to earn \$30,000 from the tournament and their 50/50 is still open until October 18. Lastly, he enjoyed very much our in-person meeting where we can get together, socialize, have a few laughs, and sing O' Canada.

Ineke - for all those who have supported Jhon, our former exchange student.

Dave - for supporting the schoolbook program.

Mystery Greeter:

Clint had to pay five dollars because he went out of his way to shake everybody's hand (or bump elbows) because he didn't know that he was the mystery greeter.

Announcements:

The packing of the bags for the **Starfish program** starts today right after our meeting.

The club received a Thank You card from the **4H Club** signed by all of its members, thanking the club for the opportunity to raise money through the Duck Race.

This year the club will again be selling **Christmas plants**, so if you are buying plants for customers, clients, family members or friends, consider buying them through the club. Order forms will be distributed shortly.

Paul Harris Presentation:

Mike Davies surprised **Brenda Jenkins** by presenting her, on behalf of the Club, a Paul Harris recognition for the great work that she did for the club in 2020.



President's Quote for the Day:

If you are still following the career path that you decided upon as a young person, ask yourself this question: "Today would I seek out the advice of a teenager for vocational guidance?"

Submitted by Laurie Anderson