

Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon, combined Real-Virtual Meeting

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APRIL IS MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH MONTH

Happy Birthday

Happy Anniversary

Apr 14: Dave & Sharon Rempel

UPCOMING SPEAKERS:

Apr 12: Brad Ashton "The job of a laughtime"	Apr 19: Video presentation "My Enemy, My Brother"	Apr 26:
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OUR CLUB LAST WEEK'S MEETING

Ineke Boekhorst presided.
 Guests: Jim Michals (former member)

Cheque presentation to the Maple Ridge Pitt Meadows Agricultural Association:

Community Services Chair **Mike Davies** presented a check in the amount of \$1000 to the Maple Ridge Pitt Meadows Agricultural Association.

Accepting the cheque was **Lorraine Bates**, the manager of the Association. Lorraine advised that our local Country Fest is the largest in British Columbia, followed by the one in Armstrong, BC. The Association was formed on June 15, 1901. Prior to COVID, she said they had 97 volunteers, and felt that the volunteers do not receive enough recognition for the valuable work that they do.



The 2022 Country Fest, which is free to the public, will be held on July 23 and July 24. Among the fun events for the 4H kids held previously, was a costume party where the participants dressed up the animals. This year the kids will be given washable felt

pens so they can use their imagination in decorating their pigs for the show.



Program: The Community Resource Hub

Speakers: **Chad Cowles**, the City of Maple Ridge manager of the Community Safety Initiative, and Community Safety Officers **Blair** and **Dan**.

What is the Community Resource Hub?

Previously, Community Safety Officers ("CSOs") were made up of RCMP auxiliaries. Now, the program is operated out of the bylaws department and part of the money to run it was reallocated from the RCMP to address community safety needs, focused on the downtown core and the commercial district of Maple Ridge.



The officers tackle social issues like homelessness, drug addiction, and mental illness, said Cowles.

The Hub started in November, 2021, to support people living on the street. Chad said that their goal is to help vulnerable people by providing a low barrier, supportive environment where participants can access a range of services, while staff and volunteers work collaboratively to address the needs of the participants. A main attraction is a pair of mobile showers, where people who are homeless can get cleaned up. It's located in the parking lot at The Ridge Church, at the corner of Lougheed Highway at 222nd Street.

The Hub operates three days a week for three hours each day. Visitors can also eat there, and access other community services. They can also obtain a free haircut. It's mostly powered by volunteers. Clean towels, facecloths, soap, toiletries and clean socks are handed out to people coming for a shower. They can also get donated clothing, a naloxone kit, and other items. These things help to give people dignity which they need if they are to recover. And, if visitors are ready, they can have conversations about referrals for addiction treatment programs.

Dan advised that 2200 participants (including repeats) have participated in the program to date, there have been almost 390 individuals connected to health services and mental health referrals.

All of the CSO's and volunteers are very committed to the work (as was obvious in the emotional presentation by Blair who related a story of one of the participants who they were able to help).

Francis Cowles (who is the father of Chad Cowles) is a volunteer who greets the visitors with a smile and a hot chocolate. They also are served a breakfast donated by Starbucks, instant oatmeal, cups of instant noodles, slices of hot pizza and water bottles. There are also bag lunches courtesy of the Salvation Army.

When it first opened, The Hub would get seven or eight visitors per day, but now gets 45-55 per day, and recently surpassed 1,500 visitors. Chad Cowles said when his Community Safety Officers ask a homeless person to move away from a busy storefront, or a place that has caused a complaint, the Hub is a place where they can go. It's a positive place for them to be. It changes the conversation between CSOs and people on the streets.

Announcements:

District Conference - May 13, 14th and 15th 2022 in Blaine Washington. Club members participating will have their registration fees paid by our Club.

Sunday morning walking group - club members are asked to consider joining our club walking group every Sunday morning at 9 AM at the Kanaka Creek Park along the Fraser River (always followed by tea or hot chocolate at the Kanaka Creek coffee shop just minutes away off of 240th Street on 102nd Avenue).

Ukraine Community Committee - Ineke and Walter Volpatti are on this community initiative committee. Thanks to Walter, our club has taken on the major task of receiving donations and providing tax-deductible receipts (through our Club's charitable foundation) to support this project.

Today's Two Quotes:



Submitted by Laurie Anderson