

Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon, combined Real-Virtual Meeting

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MAY IS YOUTH SERVICE MONTH

Happy Birthday

Happy Anniversary

UPCOMING SPEAKERS:

June 14:	June 21: Kim Day Maple Ridge Recycling Society	June 28 @ 6:00 PM: Installation of new MR Rotary Board.
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RI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



What a year it has been for Rotary.

You have lived up to every challenge, including to *grow more, do more*, and Rotary has grown in a way that we haven't in many years. This year saw life-changing new projects across all areas of focus, as we took up important work at the highest level — with UNICEF, the Commonwealth, and global leaders. Our efforts opened opportunities to empower girls, improve the environment, and advance literacy and health.

I want to thank each of you for your proactive service. I also want to thank the wonderful Rotary staff for ensuring that we can work with care for our fellow human beings, with peace in our hearts.

Personally, this has been an extremely enriching year for Rashi and me. We've met with thousands of Rotarians and been inspired by their great work around the world. We were also able to showcase Rotary's work at the highest level, meeting with heads of state, leaders, and bureaucrats and offering to work with them to show that Rotary cares and brings peace in this world. With our swan song, Rashi and I wish you the very best as you *Serve to Change Lives*.



Shekhar Mehta
President 2021-22

OUR CLUB LAST WEEK'S MEETING

Sharon Kyle presided.

Guests:

Al Hogarth - immediate past President of the Chamber of Commerce and former mayor of Maple Ridge (in 1999 – 2002)

Jim Michals – former club member

Cheque Presentation

Mike Davies presented a cheque from our Club in the amount of \$10,000 in support of the HUB Program for the purchase of a tent or tents which will have the Rotary logo on them. Accepting the cheque was **Chad Cowles**, the manager of the Maple Ridge Community Social Safety Initiative, and **Blair Berkner**, the Maple Ridge Crime Prevention Unit Supervisor. When thanking the club, Chad pointed out that 80 to 85 persons per day use the services of HUB, and that 3,500 persons have been served. About 700 meals per month are also provided at the location.

[As reported in our April 12, 2022 Four Way Flasher: 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.]

Guest speaker: **Gary Bizzo** - the new Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce of Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
of MAPLE RIDGE and PITT MEADOWS

Gary Bizzo took over the position of executive director from Rotarian Mark Vosper on May 2, 2022. Sharon Kyle read to us his abbreviated bio:

"Gary has vast experience in C-level positions and multinationals as well as a business owner with a global presence. He is recognized as a Key Opinion Leader by numerous multinationals including Microsoft, PayPal, IBM and others.

He is a Digital Marketing/Communications expert having written seven books and is the Adjunct Professor, Digital marketing, as well as, Consumer Behaviour at the New York Institute of Technology, MBA School Management in Vancouver. He is a mentor and Board Advisor to the Richard Branson Centre for Entrepreneurship. His expertise includes private equity financing, investor relations,

project management, management consulting for mainly start-ups in the biotech, high-tech and resource industries."

[FYI, a "C-level" executive is a leader of the top of an organization's hierarchy who makes essential strategic decisions for a business. "C" stands for "chief," as in chief executive officer and chief operating officer.]

Gary has said that some of us may be in disbelief considering that he has six corporations, but "I found my dream position when I took the Board of Directors offer on May 2, 2022 to be the Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce serving Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows". As he said on Facebook, "it's something I wanted to do for many years and is a chance to pay it forward. I have lots of ideas, wish me luck!" [Gary has never been to a Rotary meeting before, so we were very privileged to witness his first presentation since becoming Executive Director!]

Gary talked to us about the makeup of the Chamber of Commerce, including the fact that it is a non-profit, non-aligned, association that advocates for, and is the voice of, business. He advised that only 15% of new businesses in Canada succeed after the first year, and that the Chamber can be a source of help for new businesses. The many values of Chamber membership include:

- advocacy on behalf of business communities
- health, dental and disability benefits packages (no matter the size of the business enterprise)
- member-only discounts and perks
- educational seminars and the Chamber's newsletter (which is an important source of news)
- advertising through member directories (online and print)
- networking at events and tradeshow (with cross-Canada promotional opportunities)
- And much more

The chamber operates from 8 AM to 4 PM on weekdays and is open all day by appointment, but their office is open for walk-in visits only between 1 PM and 4 PM daily.

Happy and Sad dollars included:

Clint - happy to advise that the Ukrainian welcoming committee currently has more people willing to give accommodation to Ukrainian refugees than there are refugees within our community.

Jim Michals - (who is an associate member of the Legion) was happy to be able to assist in getting a 102-year-old World War II veteran a certificate recognizing his service.

Ineke - she and **Peter** went to Kelowna to attend their grandson's graduation from high school. The Kelowna Rotary club meets weekly for coffee at various coffee shops, while Ineke is happy that she is able to attend our own club's weekly Sunday morning (9:00 a.m.) walk along the Kanaka Creek Regional Fraser Riverfront Park followed by tea or hot chocolate at the Kanaka Creek coffee shop on 102nd Ave.



The litter-picker-uppers and supervisors on patrol at Kanaka Creek Regional Fraser Riverfront Park

Fine Master Walter – fined everyone who missed going to the “Bonfire and Buns” social at the home of **Matt and Lynda** on May 31. Those who attended not only missed paying the fine but also had a great time eating (and sitting on their) buns around the bonfire. A special thanks to Lynda and Matt, as well as **Adrienne**, for organizing the event and preparing the food (and to our wood-cutters **Ineke and Jim**).



Adrienne, Mark, Pauline, Chili, Ron, Sharon, Lynda, and Matt (behind the camera)



Peter, Ineke, Susan (friend of Brenda), Brenda, Walter, Laurie, Eric, and Lynda's feet.



Jim and Ineke hard at work.

(How much wood can a Rotarian cut, if a Rotarian could cut wood?)

Oktoberfest Report

Chili reported that he has met with the other two Rotary clubs, **Golden Ears Sunrise Club** and **Haney Club**, regarding our club's participation in this important fundraiser. Due to an unfortunate misstep in communication on the part of our club, our club was not involved in the organization of this event. Both the Rotary Oktoberfest and the one being put on by the Hospice Society will be held in October, but will be approximately two weeks apart.



In addition, the Rotary Oktoberfest will be held outdoors at the equestrian Centre, whereas the Hospice Society event will be in a different format and feature a sit-down dinner. The other two clubs have generously agreed to divide the proceeds of the event between the 3 Rotary Clubs in Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows. The fundraiser is already well organized by the other two clubs, and the only thing that our club needs to do is to advertise and sell lots of tickets, and to have eight volunteers on site to help out on the evening of the event.



Motion to support the Starfish Back Pack Program

Ineke reported that at the last executive meeting, our Board of Directors were in favour of supporting the Starfish Back Pack Program once again for the coming Rotary year. The amount of money needed to fund the program will be between \$70,000 and \$90,000. Currently 180 packs are given out each week. In the past, 85% of the money for the program was donated from members of the community, but in our current Rotary year a significantly reduced amount was donated. Supporting this program will mean that we will not have as much money left to support other programs, and we will have to turn our minds to a fundraising event for this purpose. Ineke noted that the Wine Fest earned the club \$14,000 which could go to support the Starfish Program.



A motion to support the starfish program for the Rotary year 2022 – 2023 was put before the meeting, and approved unanimously.



Quote for the day:

Ability is what you're capable of doing.

Motivation determines what you do.

Attitude determines how well you do it.

Submitted by Laurie Anderson