

Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon

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Happy Birthday	Happy Anniversary
July 30: Brian Bekar, Deborah Hyslop	

UPCOMING SPEAKERS:

July 26:	Aug 2:	Aug 9:
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LAST WEEK'S MEETING

President Chili presided.

Cheque Presentations: (from proceeds of Community Services funds)



Friends in Need Food Bank – a cheque in the amount of \$9,000 was presented to its chairperson **Lynda Lawrence**.

Maple Ridge Sports Heroes Program – a cheque in the amount of \$6,600 was presented to its chairperson **Ineke Boekhorst**.



Cheque Presentations: (from proceeds of Wine Fest)



Maple Ridge Arts Council – a cheque presented to **Lindsay MacAuley** in the amount of \$500, in support of its **Arts' Angels Program**, which provides tickets to stage performances at the ACT for children, adults, and seniors who would otherwise not have access to live cultural events.

The Emerald Pig Theatrical Society: - a cheque in the amount of \$500 was presented to **Simon Challenger**, with Rotarian **Peter Tam**.



The **EPT Society** and **Bard on the Bandstand** is presenting the play "**As You Like It**" by William Shakespeare and directed by Simon Challenger. It played for three nights in Pitt Meadows, and will be playing July 21, 22nd and 23rd in Maple Ridge on the Bandstand, with preshow entertainment starting at 6:30 PM, and the play starting at 7:00 PM.

This production features musical accompaniment provided by the **Peter Tam Quartet** (featuring Peter Tam on piano and vocals, Eduardo de la Vega on drums, Kyle Windjack on bass, and Jennifer de la Vega on trumpet and vocals). AND IT IS FREE!



[FYI: the Emerald Pig Society was founded in 2001 by John Stuart and Sharon Malone. **EMERALD PIG is an anagram of our community's name, MAPLE RIDGE.** All of its members "are volunteers who perform, produce, direct, build, staple, duct tape and sew for the love of live theatre". It is a non-profit Society with an elected board of directors and has status as a registered charity.]

Program: The Maple Ridge Street Outreach Society ("MRSOS")

Our speakers today were **Tracy Scott** and **Debbie Picco**.

Tracy Scott is the co-founding board member of the MRSOS, and president of its Board of Directors (and Peer Advocacy & Outreach Lead). She is an advocate and activist, and has been and is involved in many other organizations including as the co-chair of the Ridge Overdose Meadows Community Action Team, a member of the Overdose Prevention and Education Network, and an outreach worker with Rain City Housing, among many others. In addition, Tracy is a singer/songwriter/poet, and member of the Low Barrier Chorus, performing music written around real life experience to teach others about addiction and homelessness. As well, she is a member of **Moms Stop the Harm** (see below).

Debbie Picco, a retired nurse, is an Advocacy, Food Security & Outreach Volunteer with MRSOS.



She lost her son Tommy to toxic drugs. Her work with people with substance use disorder and homelessness maintains a connection with Tommy and honours his life. Debbie believes that harm reduction is necessary to keep people alive until they are ready for treatment and treatment beds are available. Debbie is also a "transplant advocate". When Tommy died, he was able to donate 4 organs, his heart, liver and kidneys despite 15 years of substance use.

Debbie encourages and enables others to register as organ donors. Like Tracy, she is also a member of Moms Stop the Harm, and is a member of the Community Action Table.

What is the Maple Ridge Street Outreach Society?

The MRSOS is a non-profit society that is a networking, support, advocacy and education organization ran by and for the people that use illicit drugs. They strive to help each other, and partner with other community organizations to reduce stigma. MRSOS calls for harm reduction, safe supply, decriminalization, regulation, and evidence-based drug policy. "We strive to help each other, build our capacity to advocate and support one another with non judgemental approaches, partner with allies, and reduce the stigma in our community. We have applied for grants and received support from both the BC Center Disease Control, as well as The BC Yukon Association of Drug War Survivors."

Among the many purposes of MRSOS are:

- To improve the quality of life for people who use illicit drugs by developing and implementing educational programs and training events that ensure learning opportunities about safer drug use and harm reduction.
- To develop networks and coalitions of informed and empowered people, both users and nonusers, which worked to improve the health and social conditions of people who use illicit drugs.
- To promote a better public understanding of the problems and dilemmas facing people who use illegal drugs, and thus encourage the development of saner drug policies and laws at local, regional, and national levels.
- To ensure the voices of people who use illicit drugs are strengthened and empowered so that their concerns about social, medical, and economic issues can be heard by policymakers, service providers, and the public at large.

Says Debbie, "specific ways we advocate include attendance at the Pitt Meadows and Maple Ridge Farmers Markets to provide education and naloxone training to help reduce stigma; maintain contact with the Fraser Health Harm Reduction Department; advocate for and with members who have difficult experiences in Health Care; work with the BC Nurses Union by making presentations and participating in their local activities; witness the use of substances to ensure safety; and provide late night outreach (10:00 pm - 1:00 am) three nights a week, and "Toasty Tuesdays" during colder seasons to provide a hot meals and clothing".

MRSOS also works with "**Moms Stop the Harm**" which is a network of Canadian families impacted by substance-use-related harms and deaths. It advocates for "the change of failed drug policies, provides peer support for grieving families, and assists those with loved ones who use, or have used, substances." Together, they are calling upon the government to prioritize the public health crisis of illicit drug deaths.



Debbie and Tracy answer the question:

How can our Rotary Club Help?

"In Maple Ridge, from January 2021 to May 2022, there has been almost one death per week to toxic drugs, most of which go unnoticed. **August 31st is International Overdose Awareness Day**, an international recognition of the lives lost; and the need for safety

and security in substance use. Our request for funding would create a goodwill gesture to support a pancake breakfast on that day, and to make connections between the business community and MRSOS. Because both parties have concerns, they are seen from different perspectives. Only by working together can we make Maple Ridge a safer community for everyone.

Members of MRSOS have lived experience taking substances and are in their own recovery, some are presently using substances, and some have never used substances. This is a community that supports and protects each other, does peer witnessing, volunteers to pick up garbage on our streets, volunteer with other organizations. They want to be contributing members of the Maple Ridge society. "

The Maple Ridge Street Outreach Society may be reached at 778-384-4102, and mrstreetoutreach@gmail.com and has a mailing address at 11739 223rd St., Maple Ridge, BC, V2X 5X8.

Paul Harris Pins Presentation



Three of our members (who were unable to attend the installation of our new Board of Directors and receive their pins at that time) were presented with Paul Harris pins: they were **Clint Callison**, **Lynda Lawrence** (for her work in Rotary, including acting as secretary, and in the community) and **Laurie Anderson**.

Happy & Sad Dollars

We (including Libby, who filled in for Matt on Happy and Sad while Matt and Lynda were on holidays in Alberta with his daughter and family) are happy that Matt is back. Matt had a good time at the Tyrrell Museum in Drumheller (happy), but the diesel bill cost him about \$1,200 (sad).

Club Announcements:

Duck Race: all members are encouraged to sell (or purchase themselves) 10 duck Race Tickets, and to enter the 50/50 draw. Deadline for tickets is August 7 at noon, and draw will be held August 7 at 6:00 pm.

Quote for the Day: (by Paul Harris)



Submitted by Laurie Anderson