

Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon

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SEPTEMBER IS BASIC EDUCATION AND LITERACY MONTH

Happy Birthday		Happy Anniversary
Sep 17:	Adrienne Dale	

UPCOMING SPEAKERS:

Sep 13:	Sep 20:	Sep 27:
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LAST WEEK'S MEETING

Guest: Brad Kirkland

Today's meeting was an informal, social one, as we had no speaker and only about nine members in attendance, partly due to the fact that a number of our members had already gone to the club's campout at Fort Langley.

Although our club is committed to the Starfish Backpack Program for this coming Rotary year, there was a discussion as to whether the club should continue with this program in the 2023/2024 year. Although the need is great and much appreciated, this program has no end date, and is a huge financial commitment (approximately \$90,000 per year is required to fund the program), and there are now a number of service providers in the community providing food to needy families. The thought was expressed that these various programs should be consolidated, and that this is something that needs to be investigated.

Ineke Boekhorst reminded us that the Hometown Heroes Banquet will be held on October 12 at the Garibaldi Secondary School, which is supported by our Meadow Ridge Rotary Club, School District 42, and the cities of Pitt Meadows and Maple Ridge.



Monika Eggens, Olympic Water Polo Player - inducted 2020

The following is the history of this Hometown Heroes program.

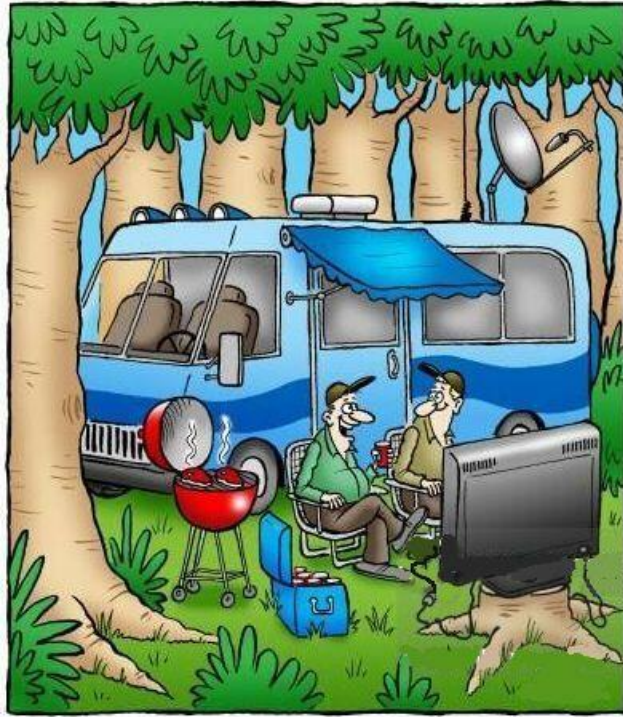
In 1997 a TV sports reporter referred in a broadcast to the many international sports heroes who came from Maple Ridge. In the on air banter with the host of the program the two concluded, "It must be the water." The obvious lack of an answer led a couple of Rotarians to the conclusion that it wasn't the water. They determined it was the minor league sports organizations and school athletic programs which were responsible, and the thousands of volunteer hours of coaches, teachers and parents. The combination of these forces was the reason for so many renowned athletes from Ridge Meadows.

This led to the birth of the concept that a light should be shone on the success of these athletes, and the challenge was to find a way to share the stories of their success with the youth of Ridge Meadows. If our youth could realize that; "Wow! He went to my school! He played on my team! She was in my league!" and "If I work hard enough, I can get there from here!" The criteria was set and is quite simple: Nominees have to have come from Maple Ridge or Pitt Meadows, attended school in the Ridge Meadows area and 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 Hometown Heroes.

In 1998 the first 12 Home Town Heroes were inducted.

Those to be inducted at the upcoming banquet will include Brian Malfesi, a paddler who most recently competed at the 2020 Beijing Olympics held in 2021. The 2021 inductee, who will also be celebrated at this year's banquet, is track cyclist Maggie Coles-Lyster who is currently a member of the Canadian National Track Team.

Our Thoughts go out today to our Glamping Rotarians:



"There's nothing like roughing it in the woods to make a man feel alive!"

Submitted by Laurie Anderson