



Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon

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**OCTOBER IS ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MONTH**

[Happy Birthday](#)

[Happy Anniversary](#)

**UPCOMING SPEAKERS:**

Oct 04:	Oct 11:	Oct 18: Malcolm Kennedy Rotary District 5050 Foundation
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**RI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**



In August, I was proud to visit Pakistan and highlight Rotary's top goal, eradicating polio. It was also a tremendous opportunity to spotlight female health workers who are playing a critical role in protecting children from this vaccine-preventable disease.

This month, as we celebrate World Polio Day, we are shining a spotlight on our more than 30-year effort to

lead the first global polio eradication campaign and our success in forming partnerships capable of completing this massive goal. We all know that this is one of the most ambitious global health initiatives in history and that we've reduced polio cases by more than 99.9 percent worldwide.

Pakistan is one of only two countries in the world where wild poliovirus remains endemic. (The other is neighbouring Afghanistan.) I was able to witness and take part in vaccination campaigns in Pakistan, and soon after I left, a monumental nationwide immunization campaign took place, focused on 43 million children under the age of 5. I saw the incredible work of Rotary members on the ground. More than 60 percent of vaccinators in Pakistan are women, and they are doing a remarkable job building trust and convincing mothers to vaccinate their children.

Seeing it all firsthand, I know that the will exists across the Rotary world to end polio, and I'm confident that we have the strategy. The Pakistani media has been very supportive of our efforts as well, and this is making a difference. This month, a new global pledging moment at the World Health Summit in Berlin promises to pull together more resources to fund these time-sensitive eradication efforts. Now it is up to us to do our part and raise \$50

million this year to earn the full 2-to-1 match from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

There's great cause for optimism on the polio front — but also some staggering new events that have further raised the stakes. Over the past few months, new polio outbreaks have occurred in Israel, the United Kingdom and, most recently, in the New York City area. These stories are frightening, but in every case, the response is clear — vaccines work, and if polio is spreading, we need to make sure the most at-risk people have kept their vaccinations up to date.

Most importantly, we need to eradicate this virus now. If polio exists anywhere, it can spread everywhere. What I saw in Pakistan convinced me that we can and must finish the job, but it will only happen if we remain committed to a strategy that's working and back it with all necessary resources.

Through our commitment, generosity, and sheer determination, we will #EndPolio.

**JENNIFER JONES**  
*President, Rotary International*

President **Chili** presided.

### Guests:

**Max Weselowski**, Director of Operations for Inner Visions Recovery Society, which operates the residential alcohol and drug rehabilitation centres in Maple Ridge, one for women at Hannah House, and one for men at Miller House.

**Andy Jaques** (who visited us previously) and his mother **Ginny Jaques**. Andy is the president of a Rotary club in the Dominican Republic where he does business, but he and his family have resided in Maple Ridge for a few years now.

**Lisa Couture**, previous volunteer and now office manager of NFTRA, our guest speaker.

**Lisa Parker**, Facility Manager of NFTRA, who has been a volunteer for about 25 years.

### Program: North Fraser Therapeutic Riding Association (NFTRA)



The NFTRA is a non-profit charitable organization which enriches the lives of children and adults who experience physical, mental, emotional or social challenges by providing safe and professional therapeutic equine programming.

**Lisa Couture** (hereafter, “Lisa”) is a passionate advocate for NFTRA as she has first-hand knowledge of the great work that this organization does for disabled children and adults. She first became involved with the Association when she put her own young son, who is autistic, into the program when he was 6 years old. When she came to the program, Lisa said they had no connection with the program or the community. Because of his autism, her son had difficulties with communication and interacting with other pupils in his school. Lisa related that when she took her son out of school to go riding, his fellow pupils then became interested in him when they learned that he had been horse back riding. Said Lisa, “The staff and volunteers of NFTRA made me and my son feel at home.” “The clients who ride and bond with the horses are hugely impacted.”



The Association has horses that are trained to handle unusual situations and are not easily startled. They only purchase horses that have been exposed to unusual circumstances. One horse is owned by a private owner, who allows them the use of the horse. The riders have varying degrees of disability; some are completely nonverbal, but the Association caters to the individual needs. One such rider would be on the horse for 30 minutes. Each horse has three persons attending during each ride.

The NFTRA gets no federal or provincial funding, and relies on fundraising, grants and donations, and must remain focused on funding to keep their organization afloat. “We are hoofing it for money all the time”, says Lisa. Prior to Covid, the Association would have more than 100 riders, but this number has been significantly reduced because of Covid due to lack of volunteers, thus resulting in a decrease in the number of riders who are able to bond with the horses they love. “The bulk of our operation revolves around volunteers, so we have to have volunteers to operate, and without them we actually cannot give lessons”. They currently have about 45 students and have riders on the waiting list.

Although it is a Maple Ridge-based Association, it has people from all over the Lower mainland who come for these therapeutic sessions. The clients are also learning while riding; each rider has their own specific goals during the riding sessions. The cost of each lesson is about \$40 which by no means covers the cost of the program. The NFTRA operates out of the property situated at 13345 Park Lane in Maple Ridge, just to the west of the Maple Ridge Equi-Sports Centre off of 132<sup>nd</sup> Ave.

### Happy and Sad Dollars

Our newest member, **Dave Macpherson**, was happy that he was able to work at a Salvation Army men’s camp at Sechelt (Gibsons), but sad to have missed the last two meetings as a result.

Our other David, **Dave Rempel**, was happy to recently have hosted a large group of friends and associates at his home for a celebration.

**Brenda** advised that we have now sold 380 tickets, which is 76% of the tickets available, for our Oktoberfest.

### Fine Master Eric (and what a great Fine Master he is!)

**Eric** had such a plethora (i.e., multitude, heap, abundance, horde, large number) of innovative “offences” to fine people for that no one in attendance escaped without coughing up some dough (aka, clams, ducats, loot, bones, folding stuff, dosh, and even lampshades).

### Club Announcements

The **Starfish Backpack program** will resume next Tuesday at the food bank following the Rotary meeting where 160 packs will be prepared for distribution to the schools in Maple Ridge in Pitt Meadows.

The date for the **Seniors’ Christmas lunch** has been set for December 15, 2022, at the Maple Ridge Alliance Church. The Salvation Army will cook the meals for an expected 300 guests (up from about 200 last year).

**Submitted by Laurie Anderson**