

Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon

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DECEMBER IS DISEASE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT MONTH

Happy Birthday

Happy Anniversary

UPCOMING SPEAKERS:

Dec 13: MR Rotary Club - AGM	Dec 20: Christmas Gift exchange	Jan 10: Chili and Chinni Yalamanchili Arranged Marriages
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LAST WEEK'S MEETING

President **Chili** presided.

Guests:

Ron Langley (aka St. Nick, Chris Kringle, Sinterklaas and Father Christmas)



Laurel Hickman, outreach manager for Allouette Addiction Services (and daughter of Jan Hickman, who is a long-time member of the Haney Rotary club).

Speaker: **Nicole MacDonald**, Mayor of Pitt Meadows



About Our Speaker

Nicole MacDonald was elected mayor by acclamation during the last election in October 2022. She is only the second female Mayor ever to have served in the city of Pitt Meadows (the other one being Deb Walters who was elected in 2011, and served for only one term. Nicole served as a Councillor for the city of Pitt Meadows for the past four years, as one of five Councillors. The four remaining incumbent Councillors were also re-elected. Nicole has two "wonderful daughters" and is married to her husband Garrett. She and her family have lived in Pitt Meadows for 16 years. She obtained her Masters Degree in Applied Legal Studies from Simon Fraser University, and then opened and operated her notary practice in Pitt Meadows where she still serves as a Notary Public. Prior to becoming a Notary Public, Nicole was a Police Officer with the Vancouver Police Department for eight years.

As a Pitt Meadows Councillor, she represented the city on numerous committees, including Police Liaison, Agricultural Advisory, Economic Development Advisory, YPK Airport Board of Directors, 911 EComm Board of Directors and Metro Vancouver Indigenous Relations Committee.

Her Presentation

Nicole MacDonald said that she and her fellow Councillors have several priorities. Probably at the top of the list is public safety, so that the City will be prepared for emergencies and first response situations. Pitt Meadows is the only city in the lower mainland the does not currently have a full-time fire department, and has operated on an on-call basis. With the new fire department being constructed, the city will soon have a full-time fire department.

Another priority is autonomous policing. The plan is to have its own RCMP detachment within the City.

A third priority is improved infrastructure which will better serve not only the present, but also the future. A major, frustrating problem is the traffic congestion caused by the CPR railroad track which runs across the main roads in and out of downtown Pitt Meadows. Pitt Meadows has two of the busiest rail crossings in the Lower Mainland. The tracks are not only an inconvenience (it is estimated that the trains currently block the Harris Road tracks approximately four hours each day, and with increasing trade volumes, train traffic in Pitt Meadows is forecast to double over the next 10 years) but also a safety hazard in closing off access to first responders, such as the fire department and police. For many years the City has been working on an underpass or overpass without much progress, but Nicole is confident that they are now very close to making a deal with not only CPR but also the other levels of government. The Kennedy Road overpass is also being planned, and the City's share of the cost is estimated to be about \$110,000,000.

The fact that prior Councils allowed commercial development so close to the residential area and thereby limited the ability of the city to properly develop its riverfront to its full potential, while at the same time failing to guarantee a reasonable tax return from the commercial property, is in Nicole's view regrettable. Tax revenue for the city is divided roughly 50/50 between commercial and residential properties.

Happy and Said Dollars included:

Ineke said that **Ron Langley** did such a fabulous job playing Santa in last Saturday's Christmas parade that... (...Ineke believes in the Jolly Old Elf again?).

Adrienne is looking forward to our Club's Christmas party at her and Warren's home on Saturday, December 17 at 6 PM.

She also noted that **Patrick O'Brien** and **Centra Lawyers LLP** have each donated \$575 to the Starfish Backpack program, and that **Laurie Anderson** has agreed to be President-Elect of the Club, to serve in 2014-2015 (after Vice-President Brenda Jenkins has served her term as President).

Mark Forster had some sad dollars, noting that he has recently attended two funerals of friends and acquaintances; and was further saddened to learn that one person died and four others were injured after a giant "rogue wave" hit an Antarctica bound cruise ship (owned by the Viking travel company), breaking several windows on the ship. An acquaintance of his had been planning to go on that cruise but fortunately did not proceed with it.

Club announcement:

Ineke noted that the Seniors Christmas Lunch will be held again, this year on December 15. Volunteers are needed to help with the gift bags assembly on Monday December 12 morning (9-noon), and meal preparation by peeling potatoes and carrots on Monday, December 12 and on Wednesday, December 14 afternoon (1-3) at the Salvation Army kitchen. Contact Ineke for more details if you are able to assist.

Submitted by Laurie Anderson