



Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon

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MARCH IS WATER AND SANITATION MONTH

[Happy Birthday](#)

[Happy Anniversary](#)

UPCOMING SPEAKERS:

Mar 14:	Mar 21:	Mar 28:
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LAST WEEK'S MEETING

President **Chili** presided.

This luncheon meeting on March 7, 2023 was held in the board room on the second floor of Chances Casino, in downtown Maple, so that our club members could view the facility and be better able to decide on a future venue for our regular Tuesday meetings

Program: A video recording of a talk by **Rotary International President Jennifer Jones**

The following are some of the highlights of the talk by RI President Jones (we can call her Jennifer).

Jennifer spoke about a Rotary Peace Fellow whom she reached out to (as a "long shot") some years ago for some help in getting a young woman out of Afghanistan at the time of the takeover of the country by the Taliban. Jennifer said that somehow he "worked his magic" and was successful in this endeavour.



Jennifer gave this as an example of the "Power of Rotary", saying "when the right connections are made, the world aligns and our stories merge, our differences dissolve and the only limit to our impact is the barrier of our imagination". (Thus, our current Rotary theme: "Imagine Rotary").

Jennifer also related that on November 9, 2014, she and her husband were in Berlin on the rooftop of a hotel watching over 1 million people in jubilant celebration of the 25th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin wall (the end of the Cold War). Earlier that day Jennifer had been at a Rotary meeting where she met a woman who, 25 years earlier, was a young radio reporter in East Berlin. This young woman was at her workplace when she heard about all the commotion, but "had no idea what was going on". So, she travelled to the wall to watch this momentous event, and later went back to her newsroom and filed her story. She said to Jennifer, "When you want to grab history, you have to grab history".

On the exact same day 25 years earlier, Jennifer had been a rookie reporter at her own workplace in her hometown of Windsor Ontario when the alarm bells went off that something important was happening somewhere in the world. She raced over to the newswire to learn that the Berlin Wall was coming down. Said Jennifer, "when I heard her relate this story, I felt that the power of Rotary was once again weaving its magic. Imagine the two of us back then being over 4,000 miles apart and sharing in the same experience. I don't know whether the newswire story was hers, but I choose to believe it was. Only when we live in shared experience like this can we create world peace through understanding, and that world can only manifest when we commit ourselves to equity, human rights, and fairly allocated community resources. Or, perhaps as we all best know it, being 'fair to all concerned' as we strive to weave diversity, equity, and inclusion into Rotary. Removing barriers is the key to inclusion and inclusion is the key to membership. While this may seem like a new call to action, it is not new thinking."

We then heard an actual recording of Paul Harris speaking in 1933 at Rotary's 24th annual convention in Boston, Massachusetts, where Paul Harris said:

"Rotary is thrown open to representatives of all walks of life. To representatives of all countries and all forms of religion. Herein lies the genius and the glory of Rotary. While Rotarians differ in many respects, in two respects they are in perfect accord."

Jennifer also said, "We don't have a problem bringing members into Rotary. We struggle to keep them. We are a revolving door in every part of the world. We need to ask our members what they want out of their experience and then we need to provide them with meaningful responsibilities. It is our offer of hands-on service, leadership development, personal growth, and life-long friendships that create purpose and passion. These are our responsibilities."

Announcements and Club Business

Wine Fest

This year's major fundraising event will be held at the Haney Place Mall on May 10, 2023 between 7 PM and 9:30 PM. Tickets will sell for \$55 per person or \$100 for two tickets. A silent auction is necessary to make this event a financial success. Therefore, each Club member is asked to obtain or donate two silent auction items. If everybody puts forward the effort to do this, this will add over 50 items to the auction. All Club members are asked to get working on this right away, and to let Lynda Lawrence know how many items you will be contributing.

Paul Harris Committee

At the installation celebrations of our new executive (which this year will be held on June 27, 2023), it has been the Club's practice to award a Paul Harris Recognition to a non-member person who has done outstanding work in the community and/or for Rotary. **Mike Davies**, chair of the Paul Harris Committee, is asking all members to think about who might be a worthy recipient, and to advise Mike as soon as possible of your suggestions.

Note: a Paul Harris committee meeting will be held this coming Tuesday, March 14, 2023 at 11:15 AM immediately prior to our regular noon meeting at the Meadow Gardens Golf Club.

30 Year Celebration of our Club's Charter

This Celebration will be held in conjunction with the installation of our new executive on June 27, 2023. A Pub Night (or other event) is being considered in order to raise money to help defer the cost of this special night. Among other persons who will be invited to attend will be all former members of the Meadow Ridge Rotary Club. In order to track down those former members with whom we have lost contact, a list will soon be circulated to all current members with the request that, if you can help locate those former members, you provide that information to **Laurie Anderson**. A copy of the Anniversary Book is now being printed, and a sample copy will be available for review at the next regular Club meeting.

Also for the 30 Year Celebration, **Ineke** is gathering information and photographs about facilities within Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows that our Rotary Club has paid, or contributed to, the cost of its construction. Such facilities may include such things as buildings, parks, playground equipment, sports fields, etc. If anyone has any photographs or written material about such facilities, please give them to Ineke.



Ineke recently visited the site of one such facility now owned by the City, namely "Rotary House" (located on the site of the Maple Ridge Lawn Bowling Club at 11445 232 Street, to the south east of

Thomas Haney Secondary School on 116th Ave.), but unfortunately the Rotary House sign had been taken down.

Ugadi Celebrations

Shashanka and Chili have invited us all to attend with them at the Ugadi Celebrations, where there is lots of fun and great food to enjoy. Chili is reserving a table or tables for us to attend. The tickets are only \$25 and will be going fast, so if you are interested in attending, then get your tickets early (but be sure to contact Chili first to make sure that there is still room at the table. Tickets can be ordered as follows:

RSVP at <http://evite.me/MWGVnnXfk4>.

Get your tickets at

<https://ugadi2023celebrationsbyvata.square.site/>

ఉగాది వేడుకలు / UGADI CELEBRATIONS - 2023

WHEN

Sunday, March 26, 2023 - 5:00 PM PT

WHERE

Punjab Banquet Hall
8166 128 St, Unit 215 (in Payal Business Centre)
Surrey, BC V3W 1R1

Shashanka and Chili are from the state of Andhra Pradesh in India, where UGADI is festively observed in that region (as well as in the states of Karnataka, Telangana and Goa).

Ugadi (literally, 'Beginning of the Year') is New Year's Day according to the Hindu calendar.

Find more information online, where the following (among other information) can be found.

*The day is observed by drawing colourful patterns on the floor called **Muggulu**, mango leaf decorations on doors called **torana**, buying and giving gifts such as new clothes, giving charity to the poor, oil massages followed by special baths, preparing and sharing a special food called **pachadi**, and visiting Hindu temples. The **pachadi** is a notable festive food that combines all flavors – sweet, sour, salty, bitter, astringent and **piquant**. In Telugu and Kannada Hindu traditions, it is a symbolic reminder that one must expect all flavors of experiences in the coming new year and make the most of them. Followers of the Souramana calendar system observe Ugadi in Karnataka, when the sun transits into the **Aries** Constellation, which is also the festival of **Baisakhi**, and is locally known as Souramana Ugadi or Mesha Sankranti.*

*Ugadi has been an important and historic festival of the Hindus, with medieval texts and inscriptions recording major charitable donations to Hindu temples and community centers on this day.^[7] The same day is observed as a New Year by Hindus in many other parts of India, such as **Gudi Padwa** in **Maharashtra** and is a national public holiday in **Mauritius**.*



Happy and Sad Dollars included:

Dave Rempel. Like our Rotary President Jennifer Jones (but not as good looking), Dave Rempel also remembers that day on the 25th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin wall. Dave recalls that he was at his home in Maple Ridge (5,000 miles from Berlin, but sharing the same experience as Jennifer) in the midst of a Russian student exchange, when he and seven students and/or teachers in his house all watching the event on television. There was much jubilation and emotion among his visitors.

Eric Mollema was happy to advise that his and Adrienne's firm Centra Lawyer LLP were donating \$500 to the Duck Race.

Dave Macpherson advised that **Robert Field**, long-serving cook and Food Services Manager at the Salvation Army, is retiring at the end of March, and will be missed. However, they have hired another person to replace him, and they will also be "well served" by the replacement.



Laurel Hickman was sad to advise that her sister-in-law, who is ill and only 50 years old, will be registering with the MAID program. On a happier note, laurel is going to Cancun, Mexico this coming Tuesday for a week.

Ineke Boekhorst was happy to risk her neck walking on the ice at a recent ice hockey game of six and seven-year-olds held at the Pitt Meadows ice arena if that meant accepting a cheque in the amount of \$1,180 for the Starfish Program.



One of the mothers of these future Wayne Gretzkys (who works at Chances Casino) heard about the need of funds for the Starfish Program, and spread the word among the other mothers.

Fine Master

"Let the Fine Fit the Crime"

Clint's fines included the crimes of not wearing a name tag or Rotary pin, and not helping out with the Duck Race.

"Long Live Rubber Ducks"

And speaking of big rubber duckies, Clint pointed out that rubber ducks have become a symbol of democracy in Thailand.



On the frontline of Thailand's pro-democracy protests a new and unlikely mascot has emerged: a giant, inflatable duck. When demonstrators who are calling for democratic reforms including curbs on the power of the monarchy, tried to get past concrete barricades and gather outside parliament last Tuesday, they faced a police response and were repeatedly fired at with tear gas and water cannon. Some of the water blasts contained chemical irritants. Amid the chaos, a collection of giant ducks, initially brought to the protest as a joke, were promptly repurposed as shields. They have since been celebrated as heroes of the movement.



Photos taken of battered looking ducks, saggy and coated in purple dye fired from the water cannon, were shared widely on social media. The ducks were initially brought to Tuesday's rally to mock the authorities, who had blocked access to the parliament building. Protesters joked that the only way to reach parliament, where possible changes to the constitution were under discussion, would be to send rubber ducks along the river. They wanted MPs and senators to approve a proposal that would undo changes that were made to the charter under military rule, but this was rejected.

Joshua Wong, a prominent Hong Kong activist who has supported the Thai pro-democracy movement, praised the protesters' inventiveness. "Creativity wins," he said on Twitter, "Long live rubber ducks."

Submitted by Laurie Anderson