

Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon

President: Chili Yalamanchili
Secretary: Libby Nelson
Editor: Peter Boekhorst

Phone: 604-463-4851
Phone: 604-868-4674
Phone: 604-462-0377

[E-mail the President](#)
[E-mail the Secretary](#)
[E-mail the Editor](#)



MAY IS YOUTH SERVICE MONTH

Happy Birthday

Happy Anniversary

May 25: Alex & Barb Pope

UPCOMING SPEAKERS:

May 23: Ranjit Kingra
Restorative Justice Program for youth offenders

May 30: Sharon Kyle
Who's Who

June 6:

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

President-elect **Brenda Jenkins** presided.

Guests: (apart from speaker)

Isabelle Hayer - member of the Surrey Rotary Club and DG-Elect for 2024-2025 year.



Happy and Sad Dollars included:

Dave Rempel – his wife **Sharon** will be receiving in June a Community Leadership Award from the city of Port Coquitlam for her many years of work in support of the Port Coquitlam Skating Club of which she is currently the president.

Brenda - Mike Davies is still away and has no further symptoms from his bout with Covid, but he is still testing positive so we are missing his company for another week.

Ineke and and Peter are going camping for a few days to Leavenworth, in the Cascade Mountains of central Washington State, famous for its Bavarian-styled buildings and restaurants and Nutcracker Museum (not to be confused with Leavenworth Penitentiary in north east Kansas famous for the enforced encampment of the likes of George "Machine Gun" Kelly and "Bugs" Moran).



Adrienne and Warren are off cruising to Alaska (but won't be camping, or will they?).



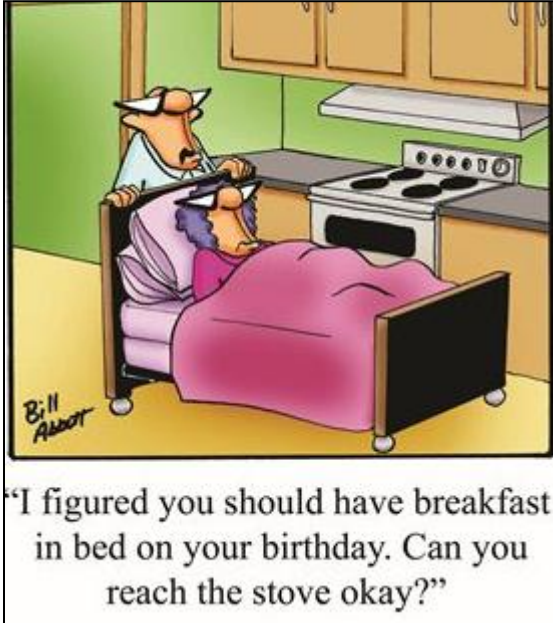
Ken's sister is forgoing camping, but hoofing it on one of Portugal's popular hiking trails (having hiked in Spain previously).

Meanwhile, **Leslie Michael** (who is happily ensconced at home) told us he can tell what time it is simply by playing his magical piano. For example, just the other morning when he was playing it, he heard it call out, "Don't you know it's 2 o'clock in the morning?"



Fine Master – Dave Rempel

Dave fined every man who didn't serve his wife breakfast in bed on Mother's Day. Dave didn't fine himself because he had made sure Sharon had breakfast in bed on her last birthday.



Program: Michael Van Dop - Maple Ridge Fire Department



Michael Van Dop is the Fire Chief for the City of Maple Ridge and has been a member of the fire department for 20 years. Michael started his career in the fire service as a Paid-on-Call member stationed at Firehall No.3 on 203rd Street. As part of the Fire Department's growth strategy in the mid 2000's, he was hired as a full-time firefighter in 2008 and progressed into fire department management roles quickly as a result of having previous experience in construction project and human resource management. Michael completed a Masters degree in Business Administration in 2017 and was promoted to Fire Chief in 2021.

The first Haney Volunteer Fire Department was formed in 1946, prompted by a fire that resulted in the death of two children. The department's first fire truck also arrived in 1946 (the original truck can currently be seen fully restored in the lobby of Firehall No. 1).



Until 2003, most of the department was made up of volunteers who would be called an emergency from their homes or places of business. Over the last two decades the City of Maple Ridge has transitioned from a volunteer-based Fire Department to a hybrid service delivery model that uses highly trained Career Firefighters and Paid On-Call Firefighters to respond to a wide variety of incidents that include fires, rescues and high level medical emergencies.

The Department has four divisions:

1. Administration: this is where Michael spends most of his time, organizing overseeing their \$14 million budget.
2. Operations and Training: the recruit training is comprised of classroom theory, home study, and practical training related to fire, medical calls and other emergencies. In this regard, Michael noted that for years our Meadow Ridge Rotary Club has provided a bursary to enable young people to attend the Youth Academy, where students receive instruction on personal protective equipment, basic firefighting skills and equipment, along with CPR, first aid, and fire prevention. A number of graduates from that Academy have gone on to make a career in firefighting.
3. Fire prevention: provides a regular system of inspections of hospitals, business premises, schools, day cares and other facilities.
4. Emergency Planning: including flooding, earthquake, and other emergencies.

Fire Chief Michael noted that Maple Ridge has experienced increased call volume, which has been associated with community population growth. He says that it is known that when a community's growth passes 100,000 people, the calls to the fire department increases dramatically. The Fire Department is currently developing a Fire Services Strategic Plan that will guide the sustainable delivery of essential fire services over the next 15 years.

Although the charitable endeavours of the Maple Ridge Fire Department has been organized since at least 2001, the Maple Ridge Firefighters Charitable Society was formed in 2020 as a registered charity. Through fundraising, payroll deductions and direct donations, they support various charitable causes in Maple Ridge. They raise thousands of dollars for causes such as the Burned Fund, the local hospital Foundation, Muscular Dystrophy Canada, the Food Bank and the Ridge Meadows Christmas Hamper.

They also support our Duck Race, wading into the river to help set up and take care of the booms.



Today's Quote:

**“
Never let the fear
of striking out keep
you from playing
the game
”**

Submitted by Laurie Anderson