



Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon

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SEPTEMBER IS BASIC EDUCATION AND LITERACY MONTH

Happy Birthday

Happy Anniversary

UPCOMING SPEAKERS:

Sep. 5:	Sep. 12:	Sep. 19: Lynda Lawrence My trip to Greece
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RI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The International Day of Peace takes place 21 September. The United Nations General Assembly declared this a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace through observing 24 hours of non-violence and cease-fire.

It is not enough, as People of Action, to simply avoid making war. If we are to *Create Hope in the World*, we must aggressively wage peace.

Where can we begin? There are countless armed conflicts around the world, and the global population of displaced people is higher than ever. The opportunities are nearly limitless, but the cycles of violence and hardship seem endless.

My advice is to start small but think big. I look to Rotary members in Pakistan and India for inspiration.

In March 2020, about 50 Rotary members from Pakistan met about 50 Rotary members from India at Kartarpur Sahib, a shrine in Pakistan. The sanctuary honors Guru Nanak, the founder of Sikhism, a religion practiced in both countries. Tensions between the two countries barred many religious pilgrims from India from visiting the shrine. That is, until Pakistan opened a visa-free pathway to them in 2019.

Earlier this year, Rotary members from opposite sides of the border again met at the shrine, this time with about twice as many participants.

Any work toward building peace needs to be brave and bold. What these Rotary members have done is just that. The Pakistani government took an important step toward peace when it admitted Indian pilgrims to the Kartarpur Sahib shrine, but Pakistani Rotary members took the next step when they welcomed Rotary members from India as friends and family. That is Positive Peace at work.

These peacebuilders did not stop there. Club representatives at this year's meeting signed twin club certificates to recognize their long-term commitment to continue to learn from each other and to work together on more peacebuilding efforts, and they have held joint meetings via video chat.

The importance of communicating with and learning from another culture cannot be overstated, and Rotary is making it even easier to do so. One way of engaging in cross-cultural dialogue and building relationships across borders is through virtual international exchanges that build on our current programs and make them more accessible.

A virtual exchange uses online platforms to connect people from different parts of the world so they can share their traditions, priorities, values, and more. Virtual exchanges can serve as a window to another part of the world through activities such as teaching a digital cooking class, learning a new language, or even designing service projects with a global impact.

These online chats have the potential to inspire new connections and more respect between societies. Taking that knowledge and using it to better the lives of our fellow human beings is the next step.

Let's see where it takes us.

R. Gordon R. McInally
President 2023-24

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

President **Brenda Jenkins** presided.

Messy start with broken water pipes, late start for lunch, and only an outhouse for relief – it was different, but we are adaptable!

Guests: **Juan Penarrieta** from Peru,
Kerri Reid - Christmas Hamper
and **Courtney Thane** - Centre Stage Dance Ltd.

A big THANK YOU to Adrienne and Warren Dale for opening their home to us for "Sip and Nibble with a View" on Sunday,



and to Matt for bringing his wonderful **Central Fraser Valley Fiddlers** to play for our entertainment. And what a talented group they are!

Mike Davies Presented a cheque for \$500 to **Kerri Reid for Christmas Hamper.**

Kerri mentioned their Society offers a free Christmas Dinner on Christmas Eve, for anyone who is alone and/or chooses to join in the celebration, and guests receive gifts. They serve about 300 people, and this will be their 25th year!



Banner exchange: **Juan Penarrieta from the Rotary club of Pachacamac in Peru, District 4455, presented us with his Club's banner, and ADG Ken Holland presented a Meadow Ridge Rotary Club banner to Juan.**

Happy and Sad Dollars with Matt De Bruyn

Today, Club members' happy and sad dollars included the following:

Mike's boat got loose at the lake, and took a lonely trip but luckily it was hog-tied and brought to shore.

Eric suffered the consequences of being ordered to shop for (cheap) Marmite at the Aussie store and is now \$500 poorer. No doubt Rotary campers will be happy at the BBQ though!

Brenda was happy to have enjoyed Sunday at Dale's, including the nibbles and fiddlers.

Matt is just happy with Pres. Brenda's enthusiasm – aren't we all!

Ken's not sure if he's happy or sad, but will be embarking next year on a YES trip possibly to Guatemala. Considering his history there, he couldn't answer the question – are you just brave... or foolish?

Mark Vosper hit us hard in the wallet with his fines, and **mystery greeter Leslie Michael:** late to the party and caught about everyone (hope that wasn't intentional!!)

Club news:

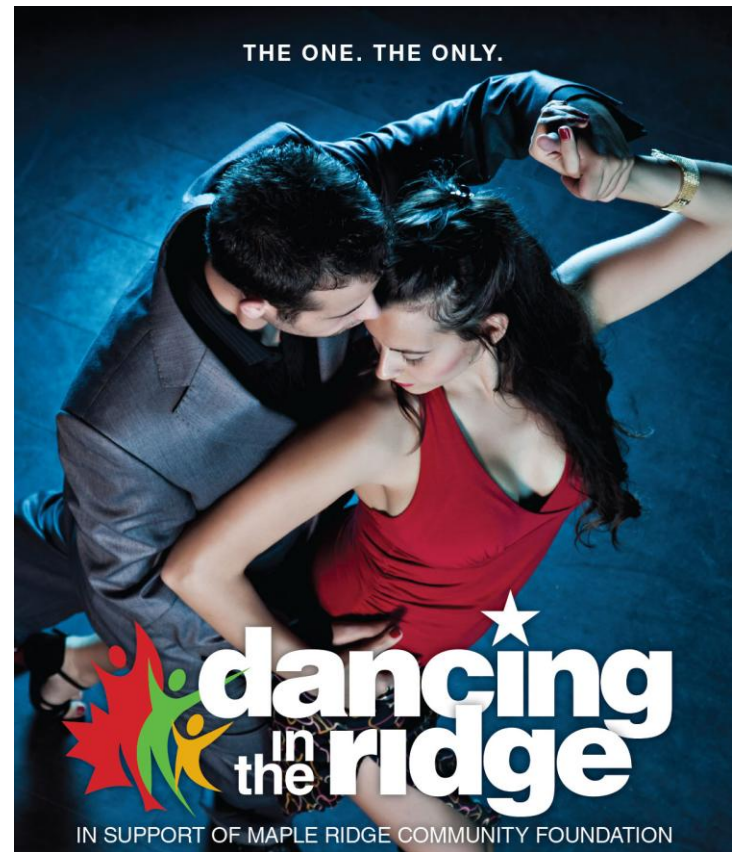
Sharon Kyle presented information about an event that the Rotary Club of Abbotsford is supporting – to send one, or more

Rotaractors to the Young Professional program at the Zone Learning to Lead conference in Toronto Sept 27 - Oct 1. Phoenix is the interim president of the Rotaract Club of the Fraser Valley, which is sponsored by our club, and she mentioned that, for the past 6 months, their club has focused on service and getting back on their feet after a hiatus of almost a year. The opportunity to send a member to Toronto for Learn to Lead is an incredible opportunity for the future of their club as well as the individual(s). She says they have two amazing individuals who have expressed interest in attending, and are looking for our club's support.

In response to Sharon's recommendation, our club unanimously supported a donation of \$1,000 to the Rotaract Club.

Our Program this week:

President Brenda pulled a surprise on her Rotarians with the announcement of our entry into the Maple Ridge Community Foundation fundraiser: "Dancing in The Ridge" – a fun competition on November 23.



Brenda introduced our Speaker,
Courtney Thane from Centre Stage Dance Ltd.



Courtney has established herself in the dance community for the past 30 years as a highly successful choreographer and instructor. Her extensive dance training encompasses the disciplines of Ballet, Modern/ Contemporary, Jazz, Lyrical, Tap and Musical Theatre. Courtney's life has been dedicated to her love of dance. Courtney believes in bringing out the best in her students with fun, lively and yet challenging classes.

Courtney has offered her services free of charge, to help our club put together a dance number by our very own Rotarians.

She talked with great enthusiasm that it won't be difficult or complex, but it will be visually effective and super entertaining! We are going to have a lot of fun.

The more we can get choreographed soon, the better. We want to have a lot of time to clean it up, so it's more beneficial to do some longer sessions to get it ready so that we can then focus on perfecting it. And hooray – I'm sure I heard... the boys are ready to be girls...

She suggested some Studio times she has right now and would like to get bookings set up – at the studio, or some other venue and they include:

Tuesday, September 5th 7:00-8:30

Thursday, September 7th 3:30-5:00

Sunday, September 17th 2:30-4:00

Sunday, September 24th 3:30-5:00pm

Hopefully these times will work to get started. Once the number is done, she'll shorten that up to only an hour. She'd like to get the number of participants, ages etc to make sure she has the music edited and some choreography ready to go to start right away.

This is a generous offer from Courtney for free lessons for Meadow Ridge Rotary. Let's get into it!

Closing quote: "One for all and all for one." This is a quote from Alexandre Dumas who wrote Three Musketeers.

Submitted by Libby Nelson

CLUB CALENDAR:

Sept 4-11 Rotary Camp Weekend at Fort Brae Campground at Fort Langley

Sep 13 1:00-5:00pm BBQ at Chances Maple Ridge. All money raised is for Starfish Pack

Sept 16th Saturday - **Charity Cricket Game** (per Chili) at Selvey Park, 27000 106 Ave. in Whonnock

Sept 23 6pm - Gala Event at Albion Community Centre, to Donate Cricket Game proceeds to MR Rotary

Sept 24 at 4pm Frisbee Golf at Rempel's – BBQ and potluck

Oct - Hometown Heroes

Oct 20 - Oktoberfest Hospice

Oct 24 - End Polio Day

Oct 31 - David Lukov - District Governor's Visit

Nov 18 - Foundation Dinner - Bellingham Golf & Country Club

Nov 23 - Dancing in the Ridge competition

Dec 2 - Pre-PETS - Silver Reef Casino Resort

Jan 27, 2024 - Grants Management Seminar
Rotary Fieldhouse, South Surrey

Mar 2, 2024 - Grants Management Seminar
Silver Reef Casino Resort

Apr 13, 2024 - District Assembly - Kwantlen Polytechnic
Langley Campus - new location!