

Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon

President: Brenda Jenkins
Secretary: Libby Nelson
Editor: Peter Boekhorst

Phone: 604-816-6961
Phone: 604-868-4674
Phone: 604-462-0377

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



MARCH IS WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE MONTH

Happy Birthday

Happy Anniversary

UPCOMING SPEAKERS:

Mar 12: Glenn Laughlin	Mar 19: Tara Brandolini Sunwood Retirement Community	Mar 26: Shelly Shmdov & Sharon Pathipati YAIL Students
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LAST WEEK'S MEETING

President **Brenda Jenkins** presided.

Cheque Presentation

Community Services Chair **Mike Davies** presented a cheque in the amount of **\$2,000** to **Trevor Taylor**, (who attended with his wife **Elaine Taylor**), in support of the installation of a lift at the front of the **Ruskin Community Hall**.



The entrance to the building is 4 feet off the ground, with the stairs being hard to negotiate for some citizens. The installation of a lift will therefore be very much appreciated. Trevor has been president of the Ruskin Community Hall Association (which owns the building and gets no government funding) for eight years. He grew up in the Ruskin and Whonnock areas, and for 32 years was with the local fire department. He retired, and subsequently accepted the position as president of the Association.



In 2017, the pockets of the Ruskin Community Hall Association were almost empty. The cost of insuring and running the hall, coupled with declining interest in booking events, had been chipping away at its ability to keep the doors open, and the future did not look bright. Luckily, they had an influx of new members joining the Association and with new blood came new ideas. They had not only a Go Fund Me campaign, but a successful fund-raising drive, and obtain donations that were collected and sold by weight to Value Village. With Covid, the hall had to close, but they took advantage of the closure and had the floors refinished, which gave them a fresh, new look.



A little history:

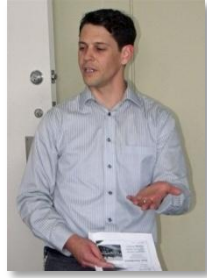
in 1896 – 1897, a short-lived cooperative gave Ruskin its name and its status as a distinct community. When residents of the area congregated frequently for social gatherings, they may have assembled in the schoolhouse. In 1916 the old schoolhouse was replaced, and the residents pulled the old structure across the street and modified it for their purposes. Sadly, the original Ruskin Hall burned down in 1922, and the present hall took its place, constructed through volunteer subscriptions and donations.

The property on which the Ruskin Hall stands was owned by a man named William Laing, a carpenter, who in 1927 decided to donate the land to the people of Ruskin. In order to accept Laing's gift, the Ruskin Community Hall Association was incorporated and took ownership of the land and the hall on December 4, 1930.

Program: Community Garden – Chad Neufeld

Chad Neufeld is the Manager of Parks Planning & Development with the City of Maple Ridge.

The City of Maple Ridge has an updated Park Gift Amenity Program that identifies opportunities and a framework for individuals or groups to contribute gifts that provide community benefits and for the enhancement of parks and recreation facilities.



There are two categories of donations. Firstly, individuals wishing to donate park assets such as benches, drinking fountains, picnic tables and park trees may do so by paying a fixed fee. These types of donations typically would be less than \$5,000, and are reviewed annually along with other park fees and charges. The fees include the cost to purchase and install the amenity with an inscribed plaque, as well as the cost of life cycle maintenance to ensure the gift remains in good condition for a ten-year term

The second category is for "Significant or Legacy Donations". This category applies to individuals, businesses, or service clubs wishing to donate or contribute to more specialized park or facility assets such as playground equipment, picnic shelters, outdoor fitness equipment, or other types of park amenities. These types of park amenities are generally valued above \$5,000.

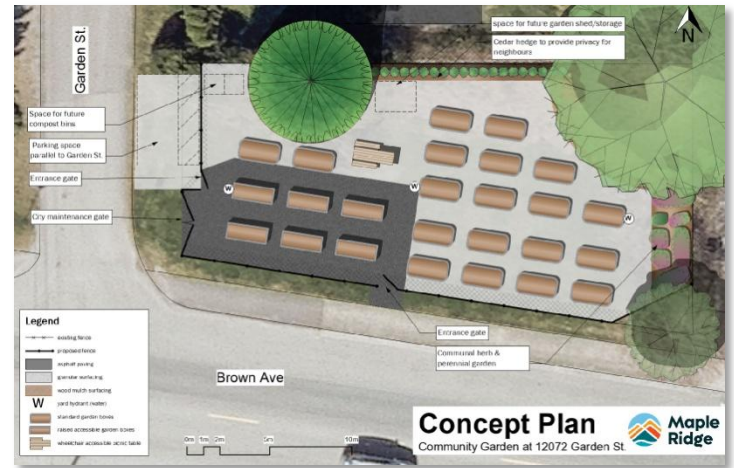
As part of this second category, the City is planning to build a new community garden located at 12075 Garden Street in the town centre, just west of the Legion building, on the corner of Garden Street and Brown Avenue, in 2024.

Our Executive, led by President Brenda, is considering making a major contribution to this project, and asked Chad to present information about it to our Club members for their consideration.

This location, which is owned by the city and is vacant land, will have 25 garden plots, 6 of which will be a raised wheelchair accessible garden box.



A communal garden bed will also be provided for a shared perennial and herb garden.



Please see the [community garden concept plan](#) for further details.

To support gardeners, this location will include multiple points to access water, an accessible picnic table, accessible surfacing and routes, and space for future initiatives, such as compost boxes and onsite storage, and fencing.

The City will contribute to the capital cost by providing the land and will receive a grant from the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM). The total cost will be about \$75,000. This will leave a funding shortfall of about \$30,000 to be funded by service clubs or others wishing to contribute to this project.

Chad said that (as with the first category of donations below \$5,000) a gift in the Significant or Legacy Category would include the cost to purchase and install at the amenity an inscribed plaque recognizing the donor, as well as the cost of maintenance to ensure the project remains in good condition for a 10-year term. It was noted by Ineke that although Rotary in Maple Ridge has over the years donated serious money to various capital projects (such as Rotary House and Field for Kids), the signs and plaques recognizing Rotary's lasting contributions to the community are now gone. Chad responded that nowadays these programs typically last for 10 years, but there is no specific policy to wind up the project or remove the donor's recognition plaque at the end of that time period. Also, the modular garden boxes in this project are designed so they could be removed to a new location in the event that the land was used for a different purpose.

When asked about protection from vandalism, Chad noted that these types of projects tend to attract less graffiti or vandalism than buildings and other public amenities, and that the City is trying to be more proactive to prevent these types of problems. In the short term, the FEAST Maple Ridge (which stands for Food Education and Action Strategy Table) will manage the community garden and, said Chad, the City is looking at a longer-term plan because they are aware of the need for continued operation.

(FEAST Maple Ridge is "a revision of Golden Ears Feast, a community organization that has been working towards increasing and encouraging community engagement to review the community needs and priority action areas to address food insecurity".)

Happy and Sad Dollars

Walter Volpatti enjoyed evening of south Asian food and entertainment, on March 2, 2024, when he attended the annual Charity Gala and dinner hosted by the Ridge Meadows South Asian Cultural Society.

He also advised that donations to Katie's Place from our club members, in memory of Deborah Hyslop, has reached \$350 so far, and reminded any of us who wish to donate to do so by giving the money to Walter.

Laurie Anderson noted that in last week's 4- Way Flasher, there were two photographs of our club member Deborah Hyslop who passed away recently. One was a recent picture, and the other was a picture of Deborah taken out of her high school graduation book. In both pictures, Deborah had that great smile on her face we are all familiar with.

In case anyone missed the little 4-line rhyme that Deborah had posted below her high school photograph, Laurie commented "I think it tells us a lot about Deborah and her attitude towards life, and is great advice to each of us". Deborah's rhyme said:

*Don't be sad cause your sun is down,
You can rise above it.
Don't be sad cause you're on your own;
Ya have to learn to love it!*

Club Business – Announcements/Reminders:

Brad Kirkland has nominated the Meadow Ridge Rotary Club for match funding through his employer, Edward Jones, so any donations Brad makes to the Club will be matched, giving us double value. Asks Libby, do any of us other Rotarians have employers who offer a similar advantage?

March 16, 2024: We are having a Saint Patrick's social at Patrick O'Briens 's place – please let Adrienne know if you will be attending.

April 6, 2024 - District Assembly at Kwantlen Polytechnic - Langley Campus. New club officers, especially, are encouraged to attend the Assembly, which includes breakout sessions to educate us on being good efficient Rotarians. It is a good event for those of us who want to network, develop relationships and learn from other Rotarians in our District. If you are planning to attend, please be sure to get registered. (Our club must pay for five tickets, no matter how many actually attend the function.)

The **Belize Project – Ineke** reminded us that the Port Moody Rotary Club is collecting good used men's clothing to ship to a prison in Belize to help clothe inmates who are being released from prison, so that when they are looking for jobs they can be dressed in appropriate attire. If you have any such donations, bring them to the next meeting and give them to Ineke (who will be heading off to Belize herself with members of the Port Moody Club in a few weeks time).

President's Tip of the Day:

"Don't wear
perfume in the
garden — unless
you want to be
pollinated by bees."

- Anne Raver

LearnBees®

Submitted by Laurie Anderson