

Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon

President:	Laurie Anderson	Phone: 604-816-6961	E-mail the President
Secretary:	Ineke Boekhorst	Phone: 604-462-0377	E-mail the Secretary
Editor:	Peter Boekhorst	Phone: 604-462-0377	E-mail the Editor



JULY IS MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH MONTH

Happy Birthday

Happy Anniversary

Upcoming Speakers:

July 23:	Leslie Michael Who's Who	July 30:	Stephane Doulet Pitt Meadows Fire Chief	Aug 06:	Sean Hogan 2025 Rotary Convention in Calgary
----------	-----------------------------	----------	--	---------	---

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

Laurie Anderson presided.

Guests:

Gordon and Mary Robson

Clint Callison and daughter **Peyton**

Shawna – friend of Clint

Warren Dale

Program: **Bruce Pitt-Payne – Investigative Interviewing**

About Bruce:



Bruce honed his skills as a major crime investigator, interview specialist and advisor over his 26-year career with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. He is a subject-matter-expert on investigative techniques including interviewing adults (witnesses and suspects) and children. For several years he was the Program Manager of Investigative Interviewing Training for the RCMP in British Columbia where he was instrumental in designing the RCMP model of interviewing which is a scientifically-supported interview process based on trauma research..

Bruce says he is a “recovering interrogator”, but since retirement from the RCMP, Bruce has dedicated his time to consulting and teaching both public and private sector organizations the science/art of investigative interviewing. He is currently a training instructor with the Pacific Region Training Centre in British Columbia, that is structured to provide members with ongoing development opportunities and techniques throughout their career rather than one course early in their service.

Bruce also enjoys playing guitar and recording music in his home studio. He is also a licensed Private Investigator in B.C. Bruce and his family live in Maple Ridge, with their dogs **Frenchton Murphy** and **Bugg Frankie**.



[Wikipedia says that “The Bugg (a cross between the Boston Terrier and Pug) is an intelligent, loving, and spunky companion dog. The Bugg's combination of unique Pug and Boston Terrier traits results in a dog with a comical appearance and an entertaining, affectionate personality”.]

['Intelligent, loving, and spunky', with 'an entertaining, affectionate personality' could very well describe our speaker!]

Bruce's Presentation: Conversations over Confessions

Bruce joined the RCMP in 1991 and not long thereafter was stationed in Brooks, Alberta. He learned that he was good at talking to people, and also learned about how it was to be on the other end of the conversation – on what is what like to be interrogated. He learned the difference between an “interrogation” and an “interview”.

An incident occurred just seven months after Bruce became an RCMP officer that made him want to study about how to be a good interviewer. He was called out on a domestic violence incident involving a 21-year-old who had an AK-47 rifle, and who injured his partner or girlfriend and came to finish off the job. The 21-year-old held Bruce at bay for a couple of hours with the rifle pointed at him, and threatened to kill him, and Bruce did not know whether he was going to be shot at any moment. After a two-hour ordeal, Bruce said he learned how to converse and communicate with the gunman. Bruce learned that if he was asked a simple question, such as ‘what was the colour of the young man’s eyes’, he might not know the answer to what may seem like, at first, an easy question. But that is not something that someone in a stressful situation is likely to know the answer to – they are more likely to be focusing on the gun that was pointed at a them.

In those days there was no formal training given to the police on how to conduct an interview, and he soon learned that his passion was to study and learn how to conduct an effective and ethical interview with persons involved with the law. Back then (and still today in some places in Canada but particularly in the United States) the thought was that the purpose of questioning a person suspected of a crime was to try to get the suspect to confess.

Walking into an investigative interview with a suspect, it's up to the police officer to set the tone. Bruce learned how the procedure that an interviewer uses and how he treats the person being questioned greatly affects the outcome. There are a number of interviewing techniques, with varying combinations of accusatory and non-accusatory components. But for the RCMP, when Bruce joined the force, the national standard leaned towards the accusatory. One of the big criticisms of the accusatory model was that it was guilt presumptive. It didn't leave interviewers the option to be flexible. This had the potential to spur on tunnel vision. Although the interviewer might believe he or she is being open-minded in the search for truth, the inherent biases in that method could overpower the intended goal of neutrality, ultimately resulting in potential miscarriage of justice. The new model, that Bruce championed, allows police officers to go into the interview with a simple goal of gathering information, with an emphasis on engaging in dialogue and conversation. It should be about gathering information to advance the investigation, with a focus on getting to the truth, instead of simply getting a confession. Getting away from the focus on obtaining a confession ensures police officers keep their minds wide open.

There is a concern over the use of deception detection strategies. Following the accusation, the interviewer would offer the suspect potential ways to rationalize or justify having committed the offence. Should the suspect choose to be accountable to for his actions, he could choose to confess in a face-saving manner.

He could accept responsibility yet minimize the moral gravity through projecting the moral blame onto either someone or something else or rationalize in that his intentions were less nefarious than they appeared. Denials would be frowned upon and efforts would be made to stop denials early in the investigation process. The investigation would continue until either the interviewer gave up or the suspect confessed. If a confession was received, its reliability or accuracy might not be heavily scrutinized, partly due to the overwhelming confirmation bias of the interrogator.

In the United States officials are elected – sheriffs, district attorneys, judges, etc. – and to get elected and stay in office, they want to show that they are getting convictions and sending people to prison; so, it encourages interviewers to use unfair means to try to get a confession. An interviewer might say to the person, ‘do you want to be seen as a Robert Pickton or just to be seen as someone who made a mistake?’ He might tell him he was giving him an opportunity to save face, and hope that they confess. It may have worked well, but it increased the possibility of false confessions. The interviewers often said things which weren't true, in order to trick a person into confessing. In court people and juries tend to believe confessions and disregard evidence that the person didn't do the crime.

Polygraphs (lie detector tests) were once commonly used but Bruce says that they are “bullshit” - that lie detectors are based on pseudo-science – that lie detectors don't work. You can't tell whether a person is lying or not by his reaction to questions – rather you should be looking at the person's words and actions to determine whether he is telling the truth.

Bruce says there should be more ethics in interviewing procedures. In one incident, the police actually got the suspect's shoes and made an impression of them, and then told the person that they were the impression that had been found at the scene and had been matched up by a professional. This resulted in the person confessing. But it was found by the court not to be voluntary because it was given by deceitful means, and the confession was not admitted into evidence. In Canada, a person has the right to remain silent and if this right is taken away by unfair means, then the confession can be thrown out. The law requires admissions to be voluntary statements. If the confession is based on lies told to the person being interviewed, then the statement may not be deemed to be voluntary.

Project Amber Flower: Bruce works with the Fraser Health Authority on this project. If someone (particularly a victim of sexual assault) has experienced violence or harassment, they may need time to decide whether they want to initiate a formal investigation and give evidence. However, if they decide later to go ahead with it, the delay in reporting what happened to them may be used by the perpetrator to diminish the victim's credibility, as the accused's lawyer can argue that the person's memory is not as good after three years has passed, for example. Bruce therefore offers a free and confidential service whereby he will interview the victim and record her or his evidence so that if they change their mind later, then their evidence can be given as a statement made right after the incident has occurred. In this way, when a victim doesn't want to go public because of the trauma, the evidence will be preserved for future use.

Happy and Sad

Clint Callison it is on to a holiday to Italy on Thursday. Arrivederci!

Leslie Michael pointed out that “today, July 16, marks the 55th anniversary of the blast off of Apollo XI that took three courageous men, atop a pillar of fire, carrying with them the hopes and dreams of mankind on their historical journey to the moon. That was one of the most defining moments of the 20th century.”



[Leslie contributed the above photograph of Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Mike Collins that was signed by Buzz Aldrin, the second man on the moon, whom Leslie had the privilege of meeting at the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympics. Said Leslie, “he graciously signed the iconic photograph for me”].

Sharon Kyle and Ron are off, not to the moon, but to Sheridan Lake for three weeks of camping and fishing. We wonder if they are going to leave their cellphones at home so that at least they (even if not the fish) can get a break from being online everyday.



Club Announcements and Events

- Jul. 23, 2024 5:30 p.m. Board of Directors’ Meeting – every committee chairperson is asked to present their budget for the coming year.
- Jul. 25, 2024 5:30 p.m. Pub Hub - Gillnetter Pub
- Jul. 27, 2024 10:00 a.m. Deb Hyslop Memorial Service and lunch at Vancouver Unitarian Church
- Aug. 09, 2024 4:00 p.m. Race Duck Numbering at Brenda's home
- Aug. 11, 2024 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Rotary Duck Race - Maple Ridge Park
- Aug. 17, 2024 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Car Boot Sale behind Ridge Meadows Hospice Thrift Store
- Aug. 29, 2024 5:30 p.m. Pub Hub location TBD
- Sep. 06, 2024 – Sep. 08, 2024 Annual Meadow Ridge Rotary Camping Weekend at Fort Langley Campground – ask Matt for details

Quote for the Day



Submitted by **Laurie Anderson**