

Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon

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JANUARY IS VOCATIONAL SERVICE MONTH

Happy Birthday

Jan 28: Mike Davies

Happy Anniversary

Jan 20: Clint & Cheryl Callison
Feb 02: Eric & Urma Mollema

Upcoming Speakers:

Jan 28: Leslie Norman
Curator at the Pitt Meadows Museum

Feb 04: Andy Berrisford
Disabled Children - International project

Feb 11: Gail Kaufmann
Volunteer Cancer Drivers

Note: Next meeting on Jan 28th is to be held at La Trattoria Restaurant – 22214 Dewdney TR

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

President **Laurie Anderson** presided.

Today's special meeting was held at the La Trattoria Restaurant. We had 18 members in attendance and 22 guests, including members of the RCMP, the city, local business persons and other guests. The restaurant staff did a great job with prompt and excellent service, and a good time was had by all members and guests. (A special thank you goes out to **Lynda Lawrence** for her help inviting our many guests for this special occasion, and helping to make this event a successful and enjoyable one.)

Program: Wendy Mehat - Past Superintendent of the Maple Ridge RCMP Detachment



Wendy Mehat has steadily risen through the ranks of the Mounties in her twenty years with the service. A turning point in her career occurred in 2017 when she worked for the Surrey RCMP detachment in a role called "community safety and support officer", and was responsible for a number of programs including ones overseeing police response to

mental health calls, tent encampments, and dealing with vulnerable residents. She said that prepared her for her role in Maple Ridge - Pitt Meadows. She served as the Maple Ridge Detachment's Officer-in-Charge for four years (up until December 2024) when she received her promotion to Chief Superintendent and transfer to the BC RCMP's Provincial Operations Support Team to oversee the Surrey Policing Transition – including the oversight of the remaining RCMP operations to support the Surrey Police Service. In her new job, there will be 400 police officers working under one roof. So Wendy has now "gone full circle" back to Surrey.

During her tenure as Officer-in-Charge of the Ridge Meadows RCMP Superintendent starting in 2020, Wendy was instrumental in implementing community-focused policing initiatives such as the Ridge Family and Youth Resources Support Team (Ridge FYRST) to work with youth, and Project C.O.R.E. (Community Policing, Outreach, Response and Enforcement). She was instrumental in establishing or supporting police on foot patrols, and also the volunteer program which worked with the police to

help cleanup various problems in our city. Superintendent Wendy's compassion and strength guided the detachment through a time of immense hardship - the on-duty death of Constable Rick O'Brien - ensuring that members and staff had the supports needed to heal together.

Wendy stated that Ridge Meadows stands out as being one of the best and most memorable places she has ever worked in. "It has been an honour to serve the communities of Maple Ridge, Pitt Meadows and the Katzie First Nation," she said. Wendy said that the lesson she has learned is that the police need to stay connected with their communities, and listen to what the community members say they want and need, and to work towards those goals. (Wendy's husband is also an RCMP officer, and they are raising daughters in North Langley.)

Paul Harris Recognition

On behalf of all of our Rotary Club, **Mike Davies** explained to Wendy and our guests about the Paul Harris Recognition, and presented her with the pin and certificate in recognition of her leadership and service during her four-year tenure in our community.



Happy and Sad, Fine Master and Mystery greeter

Laurie explained to our many guests the purpose of Happy and Sad, Fine Master, and Mystery Greeter. **Debbie MacRae** acted as Sergeant at Arms as Matt Debruyn was still away down south. **Eric Mollema** acted as Fine Master (fining all members of our club who are not married - saying "why should we suffer alone?"); and all of our members shook hands with our mystery greeter (**Mike Davies**) and thereby avoided being levied a fine.

Club Announcements and Reminders

Our next regular Rotary meeting, to be held on January 28, will also be at the La Trattoria restaurant. All of our members are asked to make a special effort to attend. Our speaker will be **Leslie Norman**, who is the curator of the Pitt Meadows Museum. She will give us an interesting talk on the history of Pitt Meadows. Leslie has been the Curator at the Pitt Meadows Museum and Archives since late 1995. During that time, the Museum has grown from a few rooms in an old ranch style house to two heritage buildings on Harris Road.

Submitted by Laurie Anderson