



Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon

President: Laurie Anderson  
Secretary: Ineke Boekhorst  
Editor: Peter Boekhorst

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

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



## FEBRUARY IS PEACE BUILDING AND CONFLICT PREVENTION MONTH

### Happy Birthday

### Happy Anniversary

### Upcoming Speakers:

Feb 04: Andy Berrisford  
Disabled Children - International project

Feb 11: Gail Kaufmann  
Volunteer Cancer Drivers

Feb 18: Steve McAlister  
Hand pumps for drinking water

### RI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



This month, as we come together for the International Assembly and the Presidential Peace Conference, we celebrate *The Magic of Rotary* — a unique blend of global connection, vision, and action that empowers us to create lasting change.

One of the most inspiring examples is our Rotary Peace Fellowship program, a cornerstone of Rotary's mission to build a more peaceful and just world.

For more than 23 years, Rotary Peace Fellowships have been transforming communities. Our Rotary Peace Centers, hosted at leading universities around the globe, have educated over 1,800 fellows who now work in more than 140 countries.

These centers cultivate expertise in fields like conflict resolution, sustainable development, and peacebuilding, preparing fellows to tackle some of the world's most pressing challenges. This program exemplifies how Rotary turns vision into action, creating a ripple effect of hope and change.

This month during the Presidential Peace Conference, we celebrate a significant milestone with the opening of our newest peace center in Istanbul. This center will focus on training leaders to address peacebuilding challenges in the Middle East and North Africa, further extending Rotary's impact.

Peace fellows are dedicated champions of transformation, addressing critical issues such as refugee resettlement, youth and women's empowerment, and reconciliation in conflict zones. Many founded vital organizations or hold leadership roles in governments, nongovernmental organizations, and international institutions like the United Nations and World Bank.

One inspiring story is that of Ntang Julius Meleng, a 2024 Rotary Peace Fellow at Makerere University in Uganda. Through his Social Change Initiative, Julius has worked to empower young people in Cameroon to take active roles in peacebuilding and leadership.

His project provided training in conflict prevention, civic engagement, and leadership to youths and community officials in areas affected by conflict, equipping people to drive sustainable peace efforts.

Julius harnessed Rotary's global network to overcome obstacles, including limited funding and security risks, and make a meaningful impact.

The Rotary Peace Fellowship gave Julius the tools and support to turn his vision into reality. His work embodies *The Magic of Rotary* — the transformative power of connecting people, sharing resources, and uniting for a common purpose.

As we reflect on the achievements of our peace fellows and celebrate Rotary's enduring commitment to peace, let us also recognize the role that everyone in our network of 1.2 million members plays in creating magic through service.

Together, we can amplify our impact, inspire new generations of leaders, and build a brighter, more peaceful future.

**Stephanie A. Urchick**

**President 2024-25**

## LAST WEEK'S MEETING

President **Laurie Anderson** presided.

This was the second meeting held at the La Trattoria restaurant in Maple Ridge. We wish to give a special thanks to their staff, especially the waitress/service manager **Natalie**, who went out of her way to make us feel welcome and provide such timely and efficient service. Our regular noon meeting we will be returning to Meadow Gardens Golf course on February 4, 2025.

Our guests for the meeting were:

**Kevin** (a former club secretary) & **Debbie Nosworthy**,

**Mary** (a former club president) & **Gordy Robson**,

**Barbara Pope** (wife of our president-elect Alex), and

**Claire Viktora** (a long-time supporter of our Rotary Club, who has been a constant help with our Starfish program and our Wine Fest fundraiser.)

(We even had a guest all the way from California

😊 – Mr. Matthew DeBruyn.)

Program - some history of Pitt Meadows – Leslie Norman, Curator/Manager at the PM Museum

About Leslie:



Leslie has been the Curator/Manager at the PM Museum since late 1995. We are very lucky to have Leslie speak to us because she is expecting to retire sometime this year. She grew up in West Vancouver, and graduated with a degree in Classical Studies from UBC. How long ago did she do that? Leslie's answer was "so many years ago".

Some time after graduating from UBC, she went to Prince George, where she hooked up with the love of her life – history – at the Fraser Fort George Museum, which is the largest museum in Northern BC. That love relationship lasted about 11 years, before Leslie returned to the lower mainland.

Leslie started at the Pitt Meadows Museum 30 years ago, when Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows entered into a Joint Services Agreement covering their Services, Parks and Recreation departments. This agreement provided the money to make possible the hiring of staff for the museum in Pitt Meadows. This joint cohabitation formed a basis of a marriage lasting more than 20 years, until 1995 when the two museums got a divorce (or at least entered into a separation agreement). During Leslie's time as the Museum's curator and manager, the residents of Pitt Meadows have seen the Museum grow from a few rooms in an old ranch-style house into two heritage buildings on Harris Road near the railroad tracks.

Leslie lives in Coquitlam with husband Bjorn. She has two grown daughters, and says one is an environmental engineer and the other is a spy. (Probably none of us have ever met a spy before, but then again, if we had, how would we have known - unless his or her mother spilled the beans?) We don't know whether Leslie is a grandmother yet, but she did say she is now raising two granddogs.

## Leslie's presentation

The Pitt Meadows area takes its name from the nearby Pitt River, which was named in the 1820s after William Pitt (the British prime minister) by the Hudson Bay Company's James McMillan. At that time, the area was populated solely by the Katzie members of the Coast Salish people who lived in 10 villages between Pitt Lake and the Fraser River. By the early 1800s, the area now known as Pitt Meadows was surveyed, and in 1828 Fort Langley was established. In 1868 the gold rush began, and Americans started pouring into what is now British Columbia.

By the mid-1800's, as an encouragement to the settlers, the government sold land in the area. While speculators made up a large percentage of purchasers, some settlers did arrive and formed a small community, involved in logging and particularly farming. Familiar street names we recognize in Pitt Meadows today were named after the early settlers – such as Park, Sharpe, Ford, Mitchell, McMyn, Harris, and Bonson.

Catholic families settled and named McNeil Road after Archbishop McNeil. In 1910 the Seventh-day Adventists settled, after whom Advent Road was named, and they built the church (which is situated on Harris Road) that is still used today, now called the Pitt Meadows Community Church. By 1914, Japanese and Sikh farmers settled here. Dutch settlers arrived shortly after World War II, and farmed in the Pitt Polder area; and the first truly successful attempts at dyking the lowland areas were made, thus turning the once swampy land into fertile farmland.

Up until 1885 settlers in the area arrived by boat (usually sternwheeler's), using the waterways that surround Pitt Meadows on three of the community's borders. In 1870, the Canadian government wanted British Columbia to become the sixth province, and by 1871 the building of the railway was on its way to British Columbia. By 1885, when the CPR line was completed through the area with a single-line track, Pitt Meadows had its first land transportation link from Eastern Canada to New Westminster. Two trains a day were scheduled on the same track, one towards new Westminster and one away from it. Water based transportation became obsolete in 1914 when the first Pitt River traffic bridge was put in place. In 1930 – 1931 the Lougheed highway was constructed.

Pitt Meadows was an unincorporated territory up until 1874, when it became part of Maple Ridge. Wellington Harris, who made his home in Pitt Meadows, was the first Reeve of Maple Ridge, but Pitt Meadows reverted back to an unincorporated territory in 1896 when its land owners petitioned for removal from Maple Ridge. The dykes that were built in 1894 were insufficient to hold back the floods of 1896 which over-topped the dykes and destroyed them completely. The devastated farmers decided that they would likely get more attention and assistance from the provincial government as an unincorporated district, and in 1896, Pitt Meadows formally seceded from Maple Ridge.



The old Pitt Meadows General Store, home of the Museum

Pitt Meadows became incorporated as a municipality in its own right on April 24, 1914, and John Blaney became its first reeve. Its first municipal hall burned down in 1930, and a new municipal hall (now called the Heritage Hall, situated on Harris Road) was constructed.



Municipal Hall, c1938 / Now known as Heritage Hall

The community received its first post office in 1908, its first school in 1909, first electrical service in 1928, and a water main in 1948. Its population grew to about 1600 people by 1948. Blueberry farming started in the 1930s and 1940s. Pitt Meadows got its airport in the 1960s, and its new municipal hall in the 1970s. In the same decade, the northern bridge over the Pitt River on the Lougheed Highway was completed. The population of Pitt Meadows by the mid-1970s was about 2,700 people.

The Pitt Meadows Heritage and Museum Society was founded in 1977 and incorporated in 1980. The Society is a non-profit charity that preserves and displays artifacts and archival material from the Pitt Meadows area.

### Anniversaries

Mike Davie's birthday was today, January 28, 2025, but Mike was unable to attend the meeting and thereby missed the chance of hearing all of us sing "Happy Birthday" to him.

At our club meeting on January 21, "Fine Master" Eric Mollema fined every member who was not married, saying "why should we married persons suffer alone?". February 2, 2025 is not just Groundhog Day, but also happens to be Eric and Urma's the wedding anniversary. Clint and Cheryl Callison had a wedding anniversary on January 20 and are, therefore also pardoned.

### Club Announcements

Thursday, January 30: at 5 PM: January Pub Hub at Me-N-Ed's Pizza Parlour - .... Mention "Casey Pope" and you get 50% off all food and drinks!!!!

Tuesday, February 4 meeting at Meadow Gardens. The guest speaker will be Andy Berrisford from the Port Moody Club, speaking about the Disabled Children – International project in South Africa.

We are still looking for sponsorships for the 2025 Rotary Duck Race, but the lottery license must be applied for within days. We will start selling tickets on April 1, 2025 for the race that will take place on August 10, 2025.

Our Club's fundraiser, the 2025 WineFest, will be held on May 14 at the Sky Hangar in the Pitt Meadows Airport. Silent auction items are needed.

Today's Quotes (honouring the subject of today's speaker)



Submitted by Laurie Anderson