



Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon

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## MARCH IS WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE MONTH

### Happy Birthday

### Happy Anniversary

### Upcoming Speakers:

Mar 04: Andy Berrisford  
Disabled Children - International project

Mar 11: Selina Robinson  
"Truth Be Told"

Mar 18: Dan Ruimy  
Mayor of Maple Ridge

### RI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



March is here, and for Rotary International, that means celebrating Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Month — a time to shine a spotlight on one of the most transformative areas of our work.

This month is an opportunity to reflect on The Magic of Rotary and the profound impact we create when we come together with determination and purpose.

Years ago, I experienced this magic firsthand in the Dominican Republic. When a group of members helped people install water filters, three children watched with amazement as dirty water entered one end of a filter and clean water emerged from the other. When we paused the demonstration, one child tugged at my sleeve and pleaded, "Show me the magic again."

To them, it felt magical. It was also the result of countless hours of effort — planning, transporting, and installing the filters — alongside local partners who were dedicated to making clean water accessible. In that moment, I realized that what seemed like a small act could change residents' lives. That is *The Magic of Rotary*.

This story is a testament to the incredible potential of our global family to create change. Water projects exemplify our reach, our partnerships, and our unwavering commitment to improving lives. Consider Rotary's work with USAID. That partnership has enabled us to work with communities and governments to improve access to sustainable water and sanitation services for thousands of people in the Dominican Republic, Ghana, the Philippines, and Uganda.

Partnerships remind us that Rotary's impact is amplified when we work together. Through our strategic alliance with the United Nations Environment Programme, we're advancing the Community Action for Fresh Water initiative. This program equips Rotary members with the tools and resources to protect, restore, and sustain freshwater ecosystems.

When we make use of Rotary grants and advocate for clean water in our communities, we create a ripple effect that extends far beyond individual projects.

As we embrace the spirit of the month, I encourage every Rotary member to seek out new partnerships. Collaboration multiplies our efforts and helps us reach more people in need.

Whether it's joining forces with local organizations, forming alliances with international agencies, or mobilizing your community, every step we take together brings us closer to a world where everyone has access to clean water and safe sanitation.

*The Magic of Rotary* shines brightest when we work in harmony with others to create lasting good. Together, we can turn dreams into realities that transform lives and communities. The result may feel like magic at times, but we know it's from the power of our collective commitment and compassion. Let's harness this magic to make a difference this month and beyond.

**STEPHANIE A. URCHICK**

*President, Rotary International 2024-25*

## LAST WEEK'S MEETING

President **Laurie Anderson** presided.

Guests (apart from our speaker):

**Warren Dale**

**Kevin Nosworthy**

(President of the Maple Ridge Community Foundation)

**Debbie Nosworthy**

**Ron Langley** (Husband of Sharon Kyle)

**Daniel Baxter** (Owner of Maple Ridge Funeral Home)

**Lindsey Willis** (Executive Director of the Hospice Society)

**Thomas Northeast** (nephew of Alex Pope)

### Cheque Presentation

On behalf of Adrienne Dale (who had to be absent from today's meeting), Warren read **Adrienne's message regarding today's presentation** of a cheque in the amount of \$500 to Lindsey Willis, ED of the Maple Ridge Hospice Society.

(from funds donated to Rotary by Kevin and Debbie Nosworthy):



"The Centra (Law Office's) Cottage at Cultus Lake has not only proved to be my happy place, but even a sanctuary for many. It is also the gift that keeps giving back to this community. In December 2024, Kevin and Debbie Nosworthy needed a home away from home, where they could spend just a few days, not too far away, over the Christmas holidays to rest, and somewhere where they could take their pups with them. I was delighted to be able to offer them the cottage. In return, Kevin and Debbie donated a gift of \$500 to Rotary. I asked them if I could elect to donate the funds to a charity close to both of our hearts and that was Hospice. Kevin and Debbie have been generous supporters of the Hospice Society for many, many years, both personally and through their business. More importantly, Kevin even emceed their Oktoberfest several times. So, I asked Lindsey Willis to come and talk to us about new developments in McKinney Creek since COVID, which I thought the funds could be applied to. Finally, the cottage has been donated for several live auction prizes for several organizations in addition to Hospice since 2019, such as the Meadow Ridge and Haney Rotary Clubs, Alouette Addictions, Maple Ridge Community Foundation, etc. We have been able to raise thousands of dollars to give back in this way. The partners of Centra Lawyers will continue to do this as long as we are able."

Installation of new member Claire Viktora by Assistant Governor Ken Holland

### About **Claire Viktora**

Claire's sponsor is **Sharon Kyle**. Claire, who has been an active supporter of our Rotary Club, is well known to many of our Club members. She has assisted and played a major role in organizing our annual Rotary WineFest for many years, and continues to do so for the 2025 Rotary WineFest. Claire was also a weekly participant in our Starfish Pack Project, packing the packs with the food and delivering them to multiple schools in our SD42 on a weekly basis, to feed hungry children on the weekends.

Claire is now retired, but worked for many years at Meadow Gardens Golf Course as the Wedding and Event Planner, where she met Sharon Kyle who was then the manager of the facility. Additionally, Claire worked as a "prop manager" for a large number of movie productions.

Claire loves volunteering for her community; she volunteers at the ACT, BC Summer Games, MR Christmas Festival, Rotary WineFest, etc. Claire lists her "hobbies" as: Family, Gardening, Hiking and.... Rotary WineFest! Claire has 2 adult children (40 and 34) and has resided in Maple Ridge for most of her life.



The induction ceremony included the following words of welcome: "We welcome you, Claire, as a member of Rotary, not only for the fine fellowship that we shall share, but also for your strong arms that will help us to carry out our many projects to make our Community, our Country and the World a better place in which to live. Rotary is not a Political Organization, but all Rotarians are vitally concerned with everything pertaining to good citizenship and the election of good men and women to public office. Rotary is not a Charitable Organization, yet its activities exemplify the charity and the sacrifices that one should expect from people who believe they have a responsibility to help others. Rotary is not a Religious Organization, but it is built on those eternal principles that have served as the moral compass for people throughout the ages. Rotary is an organization of people pledged to uphold the highest standards in their professional and personal lives. Rotarians believe that worldwide fellowship and international peace can be achieved when people unite under the banner of service above self."

Program – **Shea Henry**, curator of the Maple Ridge Museum



### About Our Speaker:

Shea Henry is the Executive Director of the Maple Ridge Museum & Archives. Shea and the Museum staff collect and preserve, and educate the public on, the history and heritage of Maple Ridge and of the Katzie and Kwantlen First Nations on whose territory we are privileged to now live.

Shea is passionate about the history of Maple Ridge and telling the fabulous and diverse stories about the community's past.



This was Part Two of Shea's presentation of on the history of Maple Ridge (Part One was given to us on November 26, 2024). The following is only a few highlights of Shea's excellent presentation:

Maple Ridge was incorporated as a district municipality on September 12, 1874. This was 12 years before the City of Vancouver, making it British Columbia's fifth-oldest municipality (after New Westminster, Victoria, Langley, and Chilliwack). Up to incorporation, early settlers lived along the Fraser River, and used mainly paddle wheelers for their transportation to get up and down the river.



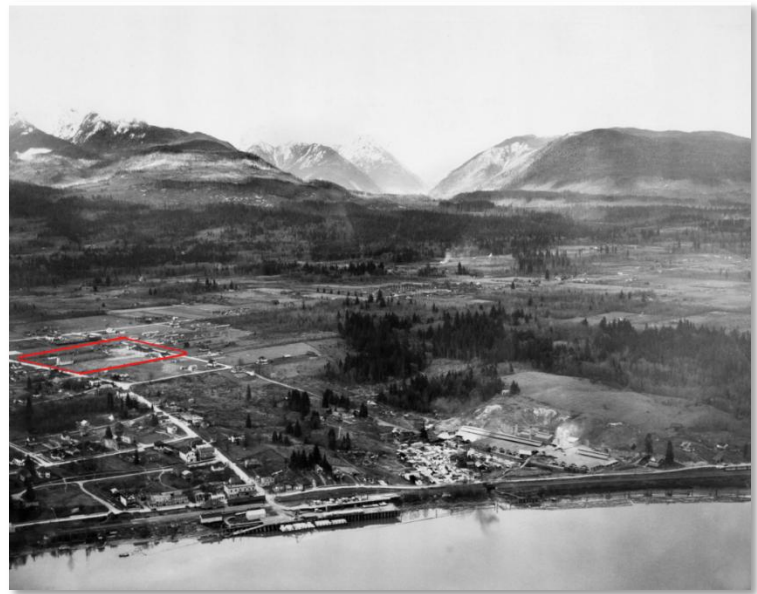
**Sternwheeler – the workhorse of the river**

The earliest Townships in Maple Ridge were Hammond, Haney, Albion, Whonnock and Ruskin, and farther north, Yennadon and Webster's Corners. Webster's Corners was a Finnish community. [A former member of our Club was Ken Knuttila, of Finnish descent.] Every neighbourhood had its own post office and its own community name to which the mail was addressed. (That continues until 1961). It was the need to cooperate on the construction of roads between settlements that necessitated the formation of the district in 1874. All road work in the earliest days was done by hand and using horse-drawn wagons, so it was a long slow process to transport all the needed material. In 1885, the CPR was completed. Before World War II, 35% to 40% of the population in Maple Ridge were Japanese people.



**Japanese farmers**

The Japanese citizens in Maple Ridge were mainly involved in farming, although they also were loggers, fishermen and orchard growers.



**Aerial view of Port Haney and Haney Brick and Tile company. Future spot of Memorial Peace Park highlighted, 1929.**



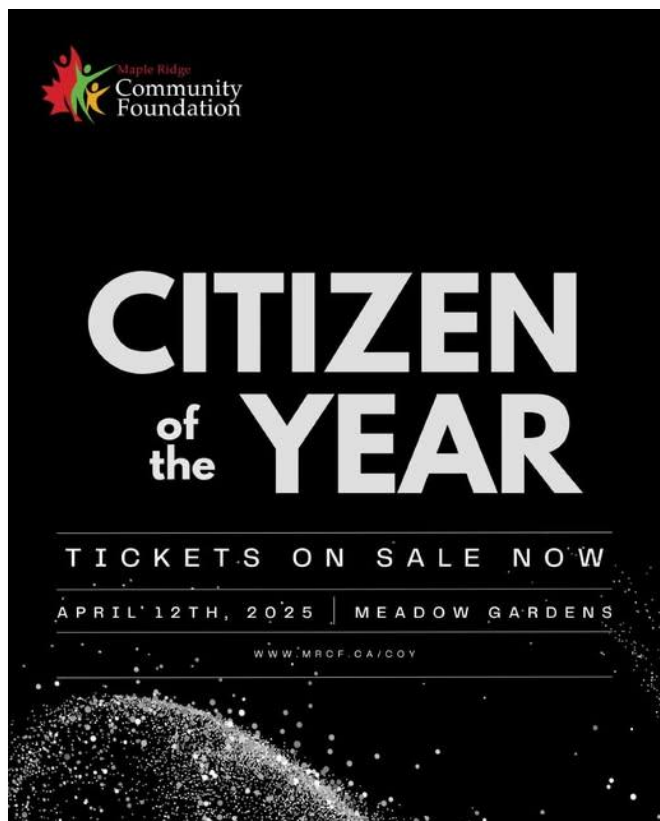
**Aerial view looking down between 224th and 225th Streets toward the Fraser River. The Aggie grounds/future spot of Memorial Peace Park highlighted, 1948.**

In 1931, the Lougheed Highway was constructed, and the impetus to consolidate the various communities under one postal address was started. Pitt Meadows ceded from Maple Ridge in 1896, later becoming a district municipality itself in 1914.

#### Maple Ridge Community Foundation Citizen of the Year Awards

**Kevin Nosworthy** invited us all to the Maple Ridge Community Foundation Citizen of the Year Awards on **Saturday, April 12, 2025**, at Meadow Gardens Golf Club. Those attending will enjoy a wonderful dinner, live and silent auctions, entertainment, and, most importantly, a celebration of our nominees and award presentations. This award recognizes three categories of exceptional volunteerism:

- a) Citizen of the Year,
- b) under age 40, and
- c) a youth aged 18 or younger, who has positively impacted Maple Ridge's quality of life or reputation in the larger community through their volunteer endeavours.



Clint distributed the gifts, sent from the **Scandicci Rotary Club** in Florence, Italy to our members.



#### Quote for the Day:

EVERYONE MAKES A MISTAKE FROM TIME TO TIME,  
SO DON'T GIVE UP:



**Submitted by Laurie Anderson**

#### Club Announcements:

1. **"Grants Management Seminar":**  
Cost \$55 per person (Club pays),  
Sat. March 8, 2025, Rotary Field House, Surrey - 8:30 - 2pm  
Sign up to go with Alex or Walter.
2. **2025 RYLA:** Happening May 29 - June 1, 2025, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) is an intensive training program for community youth leaders. Young people 18 - 30 years old, residing in the communities from Hope to Port Coquitlam. If anyone knows of anyone who would like to attend, PLEASE connect with Sharon Kyle.
3. **Duck Race:** We need sponsorships for 2025 Rotary Duck Race, to be held August 10, 2025.
4. **WineFest:** We need Silent Auction items for the 2025 Rotary Wine Festival, May 14 at Sky Hangar in Pitt Meadows.