



Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon

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## MARCH IS WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE MONTH

### Happy Birthday

Mar 21: Debbie MacRae

### Happy Anniversary

### Upcoming Speakers:

Mar 18: Dan Ruimy  
Mayor of Maple Ridge

Mar 25:

Apr 01:

### LAST WEEK'S MEETING

President **Laurie Anderson** presided.

#### Guests:

Our speaker **Andy Barrisford** and his wife **Yvonne Barrisford**.

**Pauline Forster** (wife of Mark).

Program: **Andy Berrisford** - disabled children international project in South Africa – the Island House

About our speaker:

**Andy Barrisford** and his wife **Yvonne** were both born in Cape Town, South Africa. 24 Years ago they came to Canada; and six months ago they moved to Maple Ridge. Andy is an electrical engineer where he worked for years in South Africa. Prior to "mostly retiring", he provided technical direction for the Customer and Energy Analytics team at BC Hydro in Burnaby.



Andy has a brother Michael whose wife is named Coreen Berrisford. Andy, Yvonne, Michael and Coreen were all members of the Port Moody club; but Michael and Coreen are now members of the Chilliwack Rotary club.

#### Andy's Presentation:

In 2019 Andy and his brother Michael and their wives all went to South Africa, and visited the Cederberg wilderness area which is located about 300 km north of Cape Town.



the Cederberg area

After hiking in the Cederberg area for about a week, they went to St. Helena Bay where he and his brother grew up as children in the 1960s. The area is known for its fishing and fish processing factories.



While there, he went down to a building that he knew as a child to be a grocery store known as the "Bester's shop", but it was now a building with a protective fence around it. He knocked on the door and told the occupant that he had lived in the area in the 1960s, and inquired what the place was used for now. He learned that the man who now lived there with his disabled daughter was a man by the name of Jimmy Duncan, who had occupied the abandoned building and had fixed it up.

He and a small staff looks after many disabled youngsters there – approximately 14 to 15 residents – many who cannot walk and some who cannot even speak. They were just looking after the kids as best they could.



Andy decided to help them. His father had passed away and left him some money, and Andy decided to use that money for this purpose. He also asked Jimmy Duncan for a list of things which they needed, and that list included such basic items as commodes, bed screens to give the children privacy, and a mobile blood pressure machine. The cost of the items on the list came to about \$10,000 Dollars in Canadian funds.

He contacted the Rotary Club of Melkbosstrand in Cape Town, South Africa, for help, and between 2022 and 2024 had discussions about this project. They also learned of many other things that the Island House was in desperate need of, such as electricity backup. Electrical blackouts are in common in South Africa, and some of the children were on electrical machines that help them breathe – so when the power went out, the caregivers had to help the patients breathe as best they could by manual methods. They also needed help with better fencing to prevent thieves from stealing their bare necessities. With money from Rotary clubs and with the help of Global Grants, they were able to raise \$47,175 US funds. They are now in the process of getting quotes from suppliers in South Africa and when the money comes in later this year, they will be able to proceed with the purchases and installation of the new equipment and supplies.

[Unfortunately, due to technical difficulties, Andy was unable to show us a video of the Island House care facility, but this video will be shown at a future Rotary Club meeting (and in the meantime can be viewed online by this link: <https://youtu.be/0QqJEEV6-00>)

The Island House is a safe haven for children and young people with severe disabilities ranging from cerebral palsy to Angelman syndrome.



#### Happy and Sad Dollars

**Mike Davies** visited **Doris Gagel** recently, and was sad to report that she no longer has any recollection of former acquaintances.

MWB (Most Worshipful Brother) **Mark Forster** has been extremely busy travelling in the United States and Canada in connection with his duties as the Grand Master within the Grand Lodge of the Masons of British Columbia and the Yukon. Grand Master is the Highest Office a Mason may acquire in any particular Jurisdiction. His wife **Pauline** has travelled with him on these journeys. They have travelled as far north as Alaska, and as far south as Savannah Georgia and Myrtle Beach in South Carolina. They will be next visiting Victoria, Port Alberni, Burns Lake, Smithers, Kelowna, and other places during the next two months in connection with his Mason work.

"See below a poem written by Mark as a tribute to a fellow Freemason who had been a member of Freemasons for 75 years."

#### Club Announcements

**District Assembly** at Kwantlen Polytech University in Surrey, April 5, 8 AM to 3 PM. Our club must pay for at least five members to attend.

**District Conference** in Tulalip, Washington - May 2 – 4 (our club will pay for registration fee).

**Winefest** - we still need Silent Auction Items for this event which will be held on May 14 at the sky hangar, at Pitt Meadows Airport.

**Duck Race:** we need sponsors for the 2025 duck race – if you know anyone who could sponsor this fundraiser, please let the club know

**Board of Directors meeting** – Tuesday March 18, 5:30 PM Via Zoom

Today's Quote: (very apropos to today's speaker **Andy Barrisford**)



**Submitted by Laurie Anderson**

## **The Magic is You!**

A Masonic Tribute to Right Worshipful Brother Stephenson

Seventy-five years—a journey so bright,  
A beacon of wisdom, a shining light.  
Through columns of faith and arches of truth,  
You've guided the Craft since days of your youth.

The square and the compass, steady and true,  
Yet the real magic, dear Brother, is you!  
Not just in symbols or lessons well told,  
But in kindness and virtue more precious than gold.

You've walked through the lodge with honor and grace,  
Building a legacy time won't erase.  
By the light of the East, you've shown us the way,  
A brother, a mentor, by night and by day.

With hands ever ready to lift and to share,  
With words full of wisdom, both gentle and fair,  
Through seasons of service, unwavering, strong,  
Your heart beats with Masonry's ageless song.

So as we reflect on the years you have sown,  
The seeds of your labor, how brightly they've grown!  
A Master of Craft, a leader so true,  
But most of all, Brother—the magic is you!

Right Worshipful Brother Stephenson, we honor your years,  
With gratitude deep and resounding cheers.  
For all that you've given, for all that you do,  
We stand here in tribute— for the magic is you!