

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](#)



## MARCH IS WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE MONTH

### Happy Birthday

### Happy Anniversary

### Upcoming Speakers:

Mar 25: Tyler Craig  
Whonnock Society

Apr 01:

Apr 08:

### LAST WEEK'S MEETING

President **Laurie Anderson** presided.

Guests: **Andy Barrisford**, of the Port Moody Rotary Club

Cheque Presentations – by Mike Davies (Community Services Chair)



\$500 to **Volunteer Cancer Driver Society** whose volunteers transport individuals to and from cancer treatments and other medical appointments: presented to **Gail Kaufmann**, Communications Director.



\$2,000 to **Alouette Men's Shed** to help support the expansion of the shed programs, to promote men's mental wellness through social interaction and the giving back to the community: presented to **Everett Crowdis**, chairman of the Board of Directors.

Program: Daniel Ruimy, Mayor of Maple Ridge



Daniel Ruimy - MP



Daniel Ruimy - Mayor

### About Our Speaker

Dan represented the riding of Pitt Meadows / Maple Ridge in the House of Commons of Canada from 2015 until 2019. He was elected mayor in Maple Ridge in 2022 by over 2,000 votes more than the next highest candidate (Mike Morden). Dan was born in Montréal in 1962, and has Jewish ancestry. His parents ran a bakery and a grocery store at **Habitat 67\***.

After 27 years working for various food and beverage companies, Dan settled in Maple Ridge where he opened the book cafe, called **Bean Around Books\*\***. When elected mayor in 2022, he gave his café to the **Pathfinder Youth Centre Society** which now operate the establishment. After being sworn in as an MP, Mayor Ruimy said that his major priorities involved "homelessness, affordable housing, helping struggling seniors, and providing assistance to youth trying to find jobs".

*[\*Habitat 67, or simply Habitat, is a housing complex at Cité du Havre, on the Saint Lawrence River, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, designed by Israeli-Canadian-American architect Moshe Safdie.]*



\* Habitat '67, Montreal, Quebec

## Maple Ridge Park

*[\*\*Bean Around Books is a charitable organization which promotes opportunities for young adults and families, by guiding them along the pathways of education, life skills, employment training, and recreation; mentoring one young adult at a time.]*



\*\* Bean Around Books '25, Maple Ridge, BC

### **His Presentation (in part)**

**Mayor Ruimy** gave us an update on the plans and priorities of the City of Maple Ridge which, he said, is one of Metro Vancouver's fastest-growing communities, with a population of more than 106,000 - projected to reach 150,000 in 15 years. Mayor and council are creating the conditions for a strong, diversified, and sustainable economy. The City has approximately 33,000 dwellings, and the average age of its residents is 49 years.

The city has established an Engaged, Healthy Community Advisory Committee made up of citizens who provide strategic advice, guidance, and recommendations to Council on matters related to various areas matters such as:

- the diversity and accessibility of recreation opportunities;
- community pride and sense of belonging in the community;
- arts and culture;
- safety and well-being of residents; and
- community engagement.

The City's Parks, Recreation and Culture Plan is being used by staff and Council to inform decision making and priority setting with the goal of providing all residents with optimal, sustainable and accessible parks, recreation and culture services.



Maple Ridge Park (situated on the corner of 232<sup>nd</sup> St. and 132<sup>nd</sup> Ave. and straddling the Alouette River) is one of the best parks around. Its new playground is now complete, with an official grand opening event to be held in the summer of 2025 together with the opening of the new spray/water park. New playground features include 30-foot tree house with slides, bridges, and climbing obstacles and a side-by-side zip line, and a Rubber playground safety surfacing. A new park is being planned in Silver Valley; and another ice-skating arena is planned beside the existing one in Albion

While there is some petty crime in the downtown core, Dan encouraged residents not to downplay what a great place Maple Ridge is to live in and visit. Shoplifting has been cut in half as a result of the institution of a police-walking-patrol. In 2024, on the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the incorporation of Maple Ridge, more than 50,000 people came downtown to celebrate without any unsafe incidents reported. Public Safety is the number one priority for the City.

There have been complaints about the complexity and time that it takes to obtain building permits, and this is being worked on. There is now an online portal for new homes which will enable builders to upload documents to speed up the process. A Certified Professional Program offers a voluntary alternative route for obtaining building and occupancy permits for large, complex builds, helping to streamline the approval process while ensuring the highest safety standards and conformity with the British Columbia Building Code. The Program allows applicants to hire a Certified Professional (CPs) to assist with the City's building permit review and approval process. As third-party building code specialists, CPs support both the applicant and City building officials by providing impartial design review, advice and recommendations to ensure a project's design and construction comply with the Building Code and the related development permit and other relevant safety enactments. The City's Senior Building Official relies upon the CP's assurances in issuing Building Permits and Occupancy Permits for projects constructed under the CP Program, and thereby speed up the process. Applicants may opt into the program.

Dan said the City is taking a series of steps to improve the community's housing supply and affordability. The City, for instance, has a new "concierge service" to guide building applications through the process and fast-tracking approvals, and more.

93% of the city's revenue comes from taxation on private homes, which Dan says is unacceptable; the City plans to open up 600 acres that can be developed to include commercial properties.



**Adrienne** went away with her sister on a vacation (happy) and returned to find a water leak in her house (sad).

**Ineke** is off to Belize at the beginning of April on a Rotary project, and will tell us all about it upon her return.

Our guest **Dan Ruimy**, who loves history, will be off this summer on a 10-day cruise in Europe, that will include a side trip to Rome and other historical places of interest.

#### Club Announcements:

##### **District Assembly**

at Kwantlen Polytech University in Surrey, **April 5, 8 AM to 3 PM.** Come and join us. Our club must pay for at least four members to attend, so there is still room to come, eat, and learn about Rotary (carpool ride is available).

##### **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.

All Rotary members are asked to either donate a bottle of wine (or to donate \$20 to purchase a bottle of wine) for wine baskets to be sold at the event as a fundraiser.

Also, if any members have one or more of the square-shaped spaghetti sauce glass jars, please bring them ASAP to a club meeting (as these jars are used for flower arrangements).

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

**Pub Hub** - Thursday, March 28, 5:30 PM at the Jolly Coachman pub in Pitt Meadows - come by yourself or with family and friends, and enjoy a meal and good fellowship with your fellow Rotarians.

Today's Quote: (by Lyndon B. Johnson, President of the USA, with a nod to today's speaker Daniel Ruimy)

WHEN THE BURDENS OF THE  
PRESIDENCY SEEM UNUSUALLY  
HEAVY, I ALWAYS REMIND  
MYSELF IT COULD BE WORSE. I  
COULD BE A MAYOR.

- LYNDON B. JOHNSON -

**Submitted by Laurie Anderson**



**March is Women's History Month**, a time to celebrate and reflect on the vital roles that women play in our communities. I want to use this occasion to recognize women in Rotary -- like you-- for their tremendous contributions to our organization. Rotary and Rotaract clubs thrive when they create a welcoming and inclusive environment and enable women to foster meaningful connections, serve our communities, and lead.

I said yes to joining a Rotary club in 1991 because I wanted to meet new people. Many years later, I can attribute the amazing experiences I've had, people I've met, and places I've visited because I continued to say yes. I tell people, "Life is always more interesting on the other side of yes." That has certainly been true in Rotary.

Over the past three decades, the number of women joining Rotary has grown significantly. Women are responsible for some of Rotary's most innovative and impactful service activities. We also hold leadership positions at all levels, from club president to Rotary International president.

Rotary provides women with opportunities to do extraordinary things. We are immunizing children against polio on the front lines in Pakistan, working to eliminate cervical cancer in Africa and Latin America, stopping sex trafficking, and empowering girls and women through education programs in the communities where we live. We are helping to reshape our organization, bringing new perspectives and ideas to Rotary's service projects and global initiatives.

March is not only a month to celebrate women. It is also a time for us to welcome more women into Rotary. Will you join me and share the gift of Rotary with other people of action, who are yet to be a part of us? Say yes, and let's share the Magic of Rotary!

##### **STEPHANIE A. URCHICK**

*President, Rotary International*

P.S. Celebrate Women's History Month with Rotary by learning about this year's [Sylvia Whitlock Leadership Award recipient](#) and viewing the [Advancing Women, Building Peace webinar](#).