



Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon

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MAY IS YOUTH SERVICE MONTH

Happy Birthday

May 9: Walter Volpatti

Happy Anniversary

Upcoming Speakers:

May 6: Selina Robinson
Leadership requires Courage

May 13: Ruth Lee
Pathfinders Youth Society

May 20: Al Stjernegaard
RACHEL, the next phase

RI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



No matter how long we've been with Rotary, we all benefit from the energy and fresh perspectives of our young leaders. It is my privilege to place this month's presidential message in the capable hands of one young leader, Vitor Joventino. In his column, Vitor reminds us how teamwork and inclusivity can spark transformative change. As you read his message, I encourage you to reflect on its insights, share in his excitement, and

embrace new opportunities to learn. — Stephanie Urchick

I remember the exact moment when I realized the power of Rotary's youth programs. It was a Saturday morning in Australia during my year as a Rotary Youth Exchange student. I stood among a group of young leaders at a Rotary Youth Leadership Awards event. The organizers challenged us to stand on a large tarp spread across the floor and, without stepping off, find a way to fold it in half.

At first, the task seemed simple. But as we moved, strategized, and adjusted, the reality set in — it required teamwork, agility, and constant communication.

Rotaractors and Rotarians guided us, but no one dictated how to succeed. The decisions were ours to make. And then something remarkable happened. Without being instructed, we collectively decided that no one would be left behind as our space on the tarp shrank.

One of our teammates was a person who uses a wheelchair, giving us an opportunity to adapt, ensuring that he was fully part of the experience. We shifted, lifted the tarp, and reconfigured our positions, using our time to think, plan, and act as a team. In the end, we successfully completed the challenge together.

As we celebrated our success, one participant said, "Society works the same way — challenges will come, but instead of leaving people behind, we must find ways to include everyone." It was such a profound thought for someone so young, yet it perfectly captured the essence of our experience.

Interact empowers young people to create service projects with real and lasting impact. Youth Exchange builds global citizens who return home with broader perspectives and stronger leadership skills. RYLA develops young leaders equipped to inspire and mobilize others. All of this is *The Magic of Rotary*, emerging through the actions of youth. These programs are the heart of Rotary's ability to grow and adapt in a changing world.

But the success of these programs depends on more than young leaders — it requires Rotary members who believe in their potential. I encourage you to sponsor an Interact club, host an exchange student, and support a RYLA participant. Your involvement does more than sustain these programs; it multiplies their impact and ensures that young leaders are not just beneficiaries of Rotary but active contributors.

To those already supporting youth programs, thank you. Your mentorship and commitment make all the difference. And to those considering getting involved, now is the time! Because youth leadership isn't just Rotary's future, it's Rotary's present.

VITOR JOVENTINO
Rotaract Club of Penápolis, Brazil

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

President **Laurie Anderson** presided.

Guests

Andy and Yvonne Berrisford, both currently of the Port Moody Club and now living in Maple Ridge.

Bobby Motamed, owner of Mindhouse Consulting Inc. (his second visit to ur Club).

Cheque Presentation



Mike Davies, chair of our Community Services Committee, presented two cheques to **Shea Henry**, executive director of the Maple Ridge Museum. One cheque in the amount of **\$1,000** was given towards the purchase of a **camera to take archival photographs** of records and other collectibles at the Maplaea Ridge Museum. In requesting the funding, the Museum said:

"The Maple Ridge Museum & Community Archives has approximately 16,500 artifacts in their collection. Only a very small percentage of these artifacts have ever been photographed, and those that have were done poorly. We have started an ongoing project to photograph our artifacts so that we can make them, along with their records, searchable by the public on our online database. We are also photographing newspapers as part of the Maple Ridge Japanese Canadian History Revitalization Project. We are seeking support to purchase a digital SLR camera in order to meet these goals. We are asking for \$1,000 to put toward the cost of a camera, plus an additional battery and memory card. Through our own operational funding, we have already purchased a light box, photo backdrops, photo stands, and a tripod. We would like to recognize the Rotary Club of Meadow Ridge for your prior support of the Maple Ridge Museum & Community Archives. It is the support of community groups like yours that allow the Museum to thrive."

The second donation in the amount of **\$750** was given in support of the annual **Music on the Wharf** events that will take place this year on July 14, July 28, August 11, and August 25. Since 1997, this concert series is an annual tradition that has taken place on the historic Port Haney Wharf, drawing in large crowds and showcasing local talent in the community. These concerts are free to the public.



Music – on the Port Haney Wharf

The Maple Ridge Historical Society (of which our club members **Mike Davies and Alex Pope** are Directors) is the operator of the Maple Ridge Museum and Haney House Museum, and sponsors the Music on the Wharf series.

Program: Claire Viktora – Who's Who



On February 25, 2025, Assistant Governor Ken Holland installed Claire as a member of our club. Claire has assisted our Club for years with the Starfish program, and since 2016 has played a major role in organizing our annual Rotary WineFest, and continues to do so for the 2025 Rotary WineFest to be held on May 14, 2025.

President Laurie researched her name online, which revealed Claire Viktora is a bright, clear, refined and successful winner.

It says:

"The name "Claire" is of French origin, and means "bright" or "clear". The name also has connections to the Latin word "clarus" which means "clear, bright, famous", making it a name associated with distinction and refinement. The name Viktor, primarily of Russian or Latin origin, means "victor" or "winner" or "conqueror". Throughout history the name has been associated with triumph and success. In early Christianity, the name "Victor" was used to symbolize Christ's victory over sin and death, and there are numerous saints and popes named Victor."

Claire's presentation:

Claire came into this world on May 2, 1957. She has two children, a son Cameron and a daughter Hailey. She is also a grandmother. Her parents emigrated from Austria to Canada in 1954. Claire has three sisters, two of whom live here in British Columbia and one in Québec.

Claire said that her dad wanted a son but, having only girls, Claire got to work with her dad in constructing and building things, and learned how to use all sorts of tools. In 1972, her dad established the Blarney Stone Inn, a bar in a heritage building in Gastown, in Vancouver (when at that time you could buy a beer for \$1.40). Her mother and father ran this bar for a number of years and then sold it. Claire was married to a Vancouver cop for about 15 years; and Claire's mom is now 93 years old and still living on her own. Her father is deceased.

The Blarney Stone is still going strong today, and its website states:

"The building that houses the Blarney Stone went up in 1888, and was built as the Klondike Hotel" (Claire said that back in those days of yore, it housed a brothel on the upper floor).

"Established in 1972, the Blarney Stone is the longest running Irish Pub City of Vancouver and arguably the most recognized pub in British Columbia. Located in the heart of Vancouver's historic Gastown District, it is more than just an Irish pub - the Blarney Stone is Vancouver's institution for Irish inspired food,

Irish entertainment, and Irish atmosphere. Voted best Irish pub in Vancouver, the Blarney stone is both a local favourite and popular tourist destination."

Claire 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, where she got to meet **Christopher Plummer**. When Covid struck, she finally retired. Claire loves volunteering for her community. She volunteered for the 2010 Olympics. She has also volunteered at the ACT, BC Summer Games, Maple Ridge Christmas Festival and Parade, and of course at the Rotary WineFest, among others.

Claire has enjoyed travelling, having visited Japan, Spain, Alaska and other places of interest. Besides her volunteering, she lists as her hobbies: Family, Gardening, and Hiking.

Happy and Sad Dollars included:

Lynda Lawrence went to the ACT on April 27 and enjoyed the show put on by the Canadian Rock 'n' Roll band of the 1970s – **The Stampeders**.

Lynda and others also thanked **Eric** for bringing cookies for everyone at today's meeting.

Adrienne noted that **Kevin Nosworthy** received a **King Charles III Coronation Medal** that was handed out to well-deserving community members from Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows. [The News reported, in February:

"Guests of honour, family members and friends, packed a room at the Maple Ridge Public Library for the special event that was hosted by Pitt Meadows-Maple Ridge MP Marc Dalton..... One by one the award recipients were introduced and their community contributions listed before Dalton presented each of them with the medal, which features an effigy of King Charles III, as well as the royal monogram.... Kevin Nosworthy, who heads up the Maple Ridge Community Foundation, said he was overwhelmed to be included with so many amazing citizens. "]

We were all glad that **Claire** did not follow the advice of **Groucho Marx** who reportedly said:



But instead followed the advice of **Margaret Mead**, who said:



Submitted by **Laurie Anderson**