

Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon



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DECEMBER IS DISEASE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT MONTH

Happy Birthday		Happy Anniversary
Dec. 21	Michele Oleschak	

Upcoming Speakers:

Dec. 16	Christmas present exchange / Kevin Menic - Female Wrestlers from Samuel Robertson	Dec. 23	No meeting Pub Hub at Town Hall instead	Dec. 30	
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LAST WEEK'S MEETING

President **Alex Pope** presided.

Guests

Hooshang Askarian and his wife **Jamilex Askarian**.
 (Hooshang with his daughter Aram attended our meeting for the first time on December 2, 2025.)

Cheque Presentation

Mike Davies presented a cheque in the amount of **\$800** to **Joanne Leginus**, in support of the seniors' Christmas luncheon that will be held on Tuesday, December 16, 2025, at the Maple Ridge Alliance Church.



Joanne is a key leader at Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows Community Services (MR/PM CS), where she serves as the Director of Administration & Services, overseeing crucial aspects like senior services, which help and support approximately 500 seniors.

She is also involved with related groups like the Seniors Network and the Community Foundation. She plays a vital role in connecting community needs with resources, often featured in official communications and fundraising for seniors' programs and general community support in the Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows area.

Joanne said that many seniors feel very isolated, especially at Christmas time, and having the opportunity to meet together is important to them, especially for those who have financial instability, have lost a loved one or a pet to which they were attached, and are otherwise feeling isolated. In addition to the luncheon, each senior will receive a Christmas gift which is also supported with the work of some of our Rotary Club members who will meet at the MR/PMCS offices (located at **22722** Lougheed Highway, Unit 2, Maple Ridge) on Monday, December 15, to fill the gift bags. (Contact Ineke Boekhorst if you can attend to help out.)

AGM

Our Annual General Meeting was held today, and **Walter Volpatti** gave the treasurer's reports for the Meadow Ridge Rotary Club and the Meadow Ridge Foundation for period from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.

The following persons were elected (by acclamation) as the officers and directors of the Meadow Ridge Rotary Club for the Rotary year July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027:

- President – **Eric Mollema** (2026-2027)
- President Elect – **Mark Forster** (2027-2028)
- President Nominee – **Claire Viktora** (2028-2029)
- Past President – **Alex Pope**
- Secretary – **Debbie MacRae**
- Treasurer – **Walter Volpatti**
- Community Services Director – **Adrienne Dale**
- International Service Director – **Ineke Boekhorst**
- New Generations Director – **Sharon Kyle**
- Vocational Services Director – **Brenda Jenkins**
- Club Services Director – **Mike Davies**
- Director-At-Large – **Barbara Pope** (new position)

The Meadow Ridge Foundation is the registered charity of our Rotary Club, and as such can issue tax-deductible receipts for donations made to it. Under its bylaws, the officers and directors of the Meadow Ridge Rotary Club become the directors of the Meadow Ridge Foundation effective July 1, 2026 for a term of 12 months.

Happy and Sad Dollars

Mike Davies is happy to be halfway through the job of restoring his 1971 motorcycle.

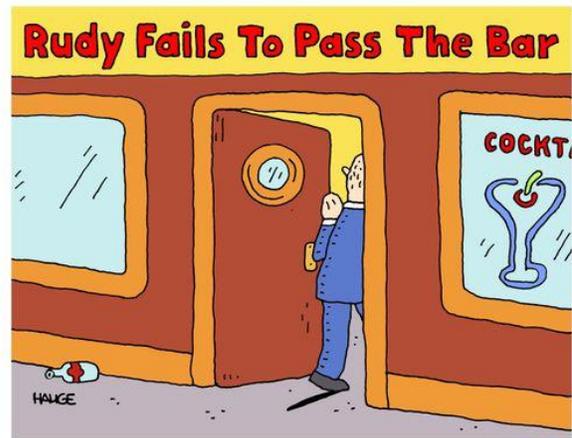


Eric Mollema, of Centra Lawyers LLP, is very happy that his son has passed the Bar exam. (He has a right to be a proud father – because not everyone can pass the Bar.)

Sharon Kyle (along with hubby Ron) had a special seat while attending the Maple Ridge Santa Parade on Saturday, December 5, and said it was “the most rewarding thing I have ever done!”.



The Real Mr. and Mrs. Claus



President Alex attended with **Assistant Governor Peter Tam** to the Abbotsford Matsqui Rotary Club to deliver the travelling peace arch (the replica – not this one) .



The Rotary Club Duck Race Committee Report, presented by the Chair Libby Nelson.

The 2026 Duck Race will be held on Sunday, August 9, 2026. All members are urged to mark their calendars, and see where we can volunteer to help out, and, of course, be sure to attend the event. The committee looked at lots of options about the form of next year's duck race, but most of those options did not seem to be viable for this next race, at least.

Firstly, finances:

We are now paying the first prize of \$15,000 (whereas when the duck race was first started, we had a car dealership donate a new car as the first prize which was a big attraction and selling tickets). And we are having increasing difficulty signing up sponsors to help with expenses. (Therefore, any suggestions or assistance in this department would be greatly appreciated).

We will be adding an additional 1,000 tickets for sale next year, so if they all sell, that is \$10,000 extra income. But...if those tickets are sold by groups, the club only gets \$2,000 (because the groups retain 80% of what they sell). The best increase in value to the club, therefore, is when we sell the tickets ourselves, because then the club gets to retain 100% of the ticket price. So, all members are urged to think about (and follow through with) how we can increase the sales for the club – for example, use tickets as gifts to clients, friends, and to recognize people for some special reason. (Libby praised Patrick O'Brien who is by far the top purchaser of tickets that he distributes to his clients and friends). We could also use Rotarians selling at various venues, such as at the Valley Fair Mall on Saturdays. Could each member of our club give a few hours of their time at least once this summer?

Secondly, logistic challenges:

We do have an active committee, and welcomed new members Ray Peterson and Michelle Oleschak to it. We meet by zoom, usually just once a month, but meetings are basically a core group. Not everyone needs to attend - although all info is circulated to all members. People take on a role and go about their business and just stay in touch for information if they need answers or help. Brenda has been an absolute workhorse doing all the ticket management control and mostly on her own. She cannot be expected to do all that again.

To reduce the workload, we have agreed all group payments to the club will be by cheque or e-transfer so there will be no cash involved this next year. We are looking for one or two Rotarian businesses which are willing to accept packages of ticket stubs from groups. Thank you, Adrienne and Clint, for offering this service – very helpful! To share the load, we would like to have three people (each one working with about 10 groups) to be responsible for giving out tickets, and recording returns. We also need to file all ticket stubs in order before the race. We are asking club members if you can help with this work. It could be done at your own convenience.

Finally, for race day:

We are having difficulty handling all the preparation, and the physical aspect for the river run, and for parking. We will be looking for workers hereto. Please try to keep some time free to help us. And this we need you to know: there could be some additional cost if we end up having to hire more helpers.

Gordon Robson (who started the Duck Race many years ago, and found the car dealership who offered for free a new motor vehicle as first prize) pointed out that to attract a car dealership, or other business who puts up the first prize, there has to be some benefit to the dealership or business in the form of exposure and advertising for the business which donated the gift. For example, the car which had signs placed on it which advertised the dealership and its generosity, was displayed at shopping centres where tickets were sold and was driven around where it could be seen. He also observed that the value of the gift (whether in the form of a physical object or prize money) had to be sufficiently large to attract ticket sales.

Club Announcements

- Dec 13: Christmas Party at Clint's home at 6 PM.
- Dec 16: Christmas gift exchange
(max \$20 value, creative wrapping encouraged).
- Dec 23: No meeting — instead, Pub Hub at Town Hall.
- Dec 30: Regular meeting will be held.
- Early registration for the 2025 District conference is Dec 15

Presidents Closing Quote

"Time moves quickly in December....."



**According to my
chocolate advent
calendar, there
are only three
days till
Christmas.**

And speaking of advent calendars:



**I may eat all my
Advent calendar
chocolates in one
sitting, but at least
I eat them in order
I'm not an animal**

And for those of you who don't have one:



**I DON'T HAVE AN
ADVENT CALENDAR
SO I'M JUST OPENING
CUPBOARD DOORS AND
EATING WHATEVER'S
IN THERE.**

And for those of you who are trying to get ready for Christmas but lacking the Christmas spirit, or you have kids who are being a pain in the "you know what":

**If anyone is alone
with no one to spend
Christmas with pls let
me know,
I need to borrow
some chairs**

**CHRISTMAS TIME IS GREAT
BECAUSE YOU CAN SHOUT
"DON'T COME IN HERE"
AND PEOPLE ASSUME YOU'RE
WRAPPING THEIR PRESENTS,
INSTEAD OF JUST WANTING
TO BE LEFT ALONE.**

**CHRISTMAS TIP:
WRAP EMPTY BOXES FOR
PRESENTS AND WHEN YOUR
CHILD MISBEHAVES OR
DOESN'T LISTEN THROW
ONE IN THE FIRE.**

A cute thing I tell
my kids when we
see a dead deer on
the side of the road
is, "Looks like
Santa lost his
temper again."

Submitted by Laurie Anderson