



Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon



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**MARCH IS WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE MONTH**

Happy Birthday		Happy Anniversary	
Mar. 18 Barb Pope	Mar 21 Debbie MacRae		

**Upcoming Speakers:**

Mar. 17 BC MLA Lawrence Mok	Mar. 24 Brian Lott Personal Chef to Nelson Mandela	Mar. 31
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**LAST WEEK'S MEETING**

President **Alex Pope** presided.

Invocation/Inspirational Thought

As the member who was assigned to give the Invocation/Inspirational Thought for the day was unable to attend the meeting, **Libby Nelson** volunteered to fill in extemporaneously. She expressed gratitude for the fellowship and purpose of Rotary, acknowledging the privilege of gathering together in service and friendship. Her reflections emphasized appreciation for Rotary's ability to bring people together to serve the community and support one another. Special mention was made recognizing the contributions of women in Rotary, particularly in light of International Women's Day occurring earlier in the week. Members noted that the inclusion of women in Rotary marked an important step forward in the organization's history and strengthened the spirit of service within the club.

[A member noted the coincidence that International Women's Day occurred on the same day as start of daylight savings, resulting in a 23-hour day—suggesting it seemed slightly unfair.]

Club Business and Announcements

**New Member Installation March 17**

Members were reminded that Kris Harrison will be formally installed into the club on Tuesday, March 17. Members were encouraged to attend and welcome Kris to the Rotary family.

**Club St. Patrick's Day Activity is being considered.** Further details about locations and times will be circulated by email so members can determine if they would like to gather socially for the event.

**Executive Meeting of the club** (originally scheduled for March 17) may be postponed by one week. Confirmation and a reminder will be provided once the revised date is finalized.

**Wine Fest** - Approximately 100 tickets have already been sold, with roughly 150 tickets remaining. Members were encouraged to purchase their tickets soon as the event is expected to sell out. Early ticket purchases assist organizers in planning and ensure members do not miss the event.

**Rotary Duck Race Sponsorship** - members were encouraged to assist by identifying potential sponsors from within their personal or professional networks. Sponsors receive logo placement on the Duck Race tickets, which provide significant exposure in the community. This year, 11,000 tickets will be printed, increasing sponsor visibility compared to previous years while the sponsorship cost remains unchanged.



### WorkBC Centre – Maple Ridge

170 – 22470 Dewdney Trunk Road Maple Ridge, BC V2X 5Z6  
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**Aminah Khan** is the Business & Community Liaison officer serving Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows.



WorkBC is a provincially funded employment services program that supports both job seekers and employers across British Columbia. It provides services free of charge, including employment support, workforce development assistance, and employer recruitment assistance.

### Services for Job Seekers provided by WorkBC Centre

WorkBC assists individuals seeking employment through:

- Career coaching and one-on-one employment planning
- Resume and interview preparation
- Skills development workshops
- Access to training programs and apprenticeships
- Job search resources and employment placements
- Certification assistance (e.g., First Aid, FoodSafe)

Support is available to individuals at all career stages, including entry-level workers, professionals seeking career transitions, and individuals with barriers to employment.

### Eligibility Criteria

To receive full WorkBC services, clients must generally meet the following criteria:

- Be unemployed, underemployed, or precariously employed
- Be a resident of British Columbia
- Be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident (with some exceptions for refugees)

Individuals currently employed full-time are typically not eligible unless they have received notice of impending job loss.

### Services for Employers

WorkBC also supports employers by assisting with workforce recruitment and retention.

Employer services include:

- Access to qualified job candidates
- Promotion of job postings through WorkBC networks
- Hiring fairs and recruitment events
- On-site interview space at WorkBC offices
- Wage subsidy programs for hiring eligible candidates

### Wage Subsidy Program

One of the most popular employer supports is the Wage Subsidy Program, which provides financial assistance to employers who hire WorkBC clients and provide structured training. The program helps offset training and onboarding costs and encourages employers to hire individuals who may need additional support transitioning into the workforce. Subsidies may run for up to 24 weeks and in some cases longer depending on the circumstances of the candidate.

### Customized Employment

For individuals with employment barriers, this approach helps create opportunities for people who may not fit traditional job descriptions but have valuable skills.

Fine Master - Quiz Questions: Members who answered incorrectly contributed small fines.

- **When were women first admitted into Rotary?**

[The 1989 Council on Legislation vote to admit women into Rotary clubs worldwide remains a watershed moment in the history of Rotary. The vote followed the decades-long efforts of men and women from all over the Rotary world to allow the admission of women into Rotary clubs, and several close votes at previous Council meetings.



The response to the decision was overwhelming: By June 1990, the number of female Rotarians had skyrocketed to over 20,000. By July 2016, the number of women worldwide had surpassed 250,000.]

- **What special day was being recognized today, March 10?**



[Mario Day, celebrated annually on March 10, is a holiday for fans of Nintendo's iconic plumber, Mario. It originated from the date "Mar 10" looking like the name "Mario". Nintendo uses this day to host special events, launch sales on games, and announce new projects.]

### President's Closing Quote:

**I am going to return this bottle of wine. They said it would last a month after opening, but it only last an hour**



Submitted by Laurie Anderson