

Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon



President: Alex Pope Phone: 604-465-1535 [E-mail the President](#)
 Secretary: Debbie MacRae Phone: 604-649-8962 [E-mail the Secretary](#)
 Editor: Peter Boekhorst Phone: 604-476-0010 [E-mail the Editor](#)

MARCH IS WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE MONTH

[Happy Birthday](#)

[Happy Anniversary](#)

Upcoming Speakers:

Mar. 24	Brian Lott Personal Chef to Nelson Mandela	Mar. 31	Apr. 7
---------	---	---------	--------

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

Pres. **Alex Pope** presided.

Guests

Lawrence Mok, Conservative MLA for Maple Ridge East, and the Official Opposition Critic for Skills Training and International Credentials.

Chris Logie, constituency assistant to Lawrence Mok

Induction of new Rotary Member – **Kris Harrison**



Kris was introduced by her sponsor, **Claire Viktora**, who shared a personal connection dating back to high school. She highlighted Kris' long-standing involvement in the community, including:

- Support of local initiatives such as Wine Fest
- Participation in community programs like Starfish
- Strong reputation for service and engagement

Kris was described as an excellent fit for the Rotary Club due to her demonstrated commitment to community service and leadership.

Membership Chairman **Mark Forster** welcomed Chris into the Rotary Club of Meadow Ridge, emphasizing:

- The honour and responsibility of Rotary membership
- The importance of the Four-Way Test:
 - Is it the truth?
 - Is it fair to all concerned?
 - Will it build goodwill and better friendships?
 - Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

Kris expressed her appreciation for being invited to join the club. She shared:

- Her background as a long-time elementary school teacher
- Her recent retirement
- Her desire to become more actively involved in volunteer work

She noted her enthusiasm for joining such a positive and community-focused group.

Program: Guest Speaker - **Lawrence Mok**, MLA

A summary of his talk

Thank you very much for inviting me this afternoon. It's a pleasure to be here. This is actually my second visit -I was here about a month ago - and I've really enjoyed getting to know this group. I'm not a member yet, but I hope to become more involved. By way of introduction, I'm a relatively new MLA, elected in October 2024 for Maple Ridge-Mission.



My constituency office is located at the corner of 230th Street—across from Tim Hortons, next to the ICBC office—so please feel free to drop by anytime. I'm also joined today by my constituency assistant, Christopher.

A bit about my background: I was born and raised in Singapore. In the 1970s, I moved to Ontario to study engineering, then returned to Singapore for about 10 years. In 1988, I immigrated to Canada with my young family. I have a son and a daughter, both graduates of Trinity Western University—my daughter is now an accountant, and my son works in kinesiology. Professionally, I spent 35 years in the crane and hoist industry, working across sectors such as mining, manufacturing, and municipal services, and traveling throughout BC. Over the last 15 years of my career, I also trained approximately 1,500 to 1,800 crane operators, with a strong focus on safety and certification standards.

So how did I get into politics? In 2023, a close friend encouraged me to consider running. After a great deal of thought, prayer, and discussion with my family, I decided to seek the nomination. I was honoured to be elected, despite having no prior political experience. It's been a steep learning curve, but I've always had a strong interest in public issues—from local governance to global affairs. As an MLA, my time is split between Victoria and the constituency. In Victoria, I'm involved in legislative work—learning procedures, participating in debates, delivering statements, and contributing to committees. I've also introduced a Private Member's Bill aimed at improving access to shingles vaccinations for seniors. I recently served on a special committee reviewing the Public Interest Disclosure Act, which protects whistleblowers within government organizations.

Back in the constituency, my focus is on helping residents navigate a wide range of concerns. We've assisted individuals with professional certification processes, families searching for affordable housing, and residents with questions about local development projects. Every day brings new challenges, and my team and I do our best to support people and connect them with the right resources. I've lived in Maple Ridge since 1988, and it is truly home for me. It's a beautiful community—with mountains, lakes, and an exceptional quality of life—and I feel very fortunate to represent it.

Rotary Recognition

Lawrence shared that on March 2, 2025 (following his recent visit to our club) he delivered the following statement in the Legislature recognizing the Rotary Club of Meadow Ridge for its contributions to the community:

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to pay tribute to an organization that has quietly and consistently shaped the character of our community for decades, and that is the Meadow Ridge Rotary Club. In Pitt Meadows, Maple Ridge and across the province, service clubs form the backbone of civic life. But what sets Meadow Ridge Rotary Club apart is not just what they do, but it is how they do it – with humility and dedication. And with an unwavering belief that strong communities are built through service above self. Rotary's a global model, "Service Above Self", is more than a slogan. It is a lived principle. The members of the Meadow Ridge Rotary Club have dedicated countless volunteer hours to initiatives that strengthen families, support youth, and uplift those facing hardship. They are motivated not by recognition, but by responsibility. Over the years, this club has supported local schools, youth leadership programs, food security initiatives, and community events that bring neighbours together.

They have invested in the next generation, understanding that mentorship and opportunity are among the greatest gifts we can offer to young people. Whether through scholarships, sponsorships, or hands-on volunteerism, you have demonstrated a steadfast commitment to building brighter futures. Rotary brings together business leaders, professionals, retirees, and community advocates, all united by a common purpose. I want to thank the past and present members of the Meadow Ridge Rotary Club for continuing to make Pitt Meadows in Maple Ridge a place we are proud to call home. Thank you.

Happy and Said Dollars included:

Eric Mollema, our President-elect (to serve in our 2026-2027 year) circulated 2 lists, and asked all members to complete each of them and return them to Eric. (If you missed this meeting or failed to complete them, be sure to talk to Eric.)

The first list was to specify the number of members and their guests who will be attending our Club's annual Installation Night (of the club executive for the 2006 – 2007 Rotary year) to be held in June. Eric noted that the venue has the capacity for 110 persons, and he needs to have this list completed in order to arrange for the catering.



The second list sets out the names of all of the club members, and everyone is asked to indicate (a) what jobs they currently do in our Club, and (b) what club positions they currently occupy and what committees they want to participate in during the coming Rotary year.

Sharon Kyle was very happy to report that her niece and niece's husband together with their children returned home safely last night from Qatar where the husband had been working. As reported by Sharon two weeks ago, they had been sequestered in their apartment in the city of Doha, Qatar, in the midst of the current regional instability in the Middle East, and were unsure how there were going to make it home.

Yvonne Berrisford is finally finished putting together her 1,000-piece jigsaw puzzle.



Alex and Barbara Pope had a happy time visiting Alex's mother on Vancouver Island, followed by a three-day mythological experience visiting, where else, the Mythology Winery in Osoyoos.



Fines

This week's Fine Master Adrienne issued fines for:

- Attempting to avoid badge requirements
- Using phones during the meeting
- Not attending club events such as pub nights

A special exemption was granted to our newly inducted member.

Club Business

- Executive meeting - March 24th
- March 26 – 5:30 Pub Hub – location to be announced.
- Duck Race Committee – Chair **Libby nelson** urged all club members to make some donation to the club for this event, even if only a few dollars. There is an urgent need for additional sponsors.

Have your logo on 11,000 duck tickets for 2026. Any amount of sponsorship would be very welcome, and it does NOT need to be \$1,000. Amounts of \$250 and up will qualify for ticket logo recognition.

The crunch is that by Wednesday, March 25th, your logo needs to be sent to Ineke, iboekhorst@telus.net and your payment given to Walter (cheque or e-transfer to wvolpatti@telus.net).

President's Closing Quote



Driving Tip for the Day

Be careful when driving – watch for warning signs (thank goodness for the protective canvas cover!)



Submitted by Laurie Anderson