

Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon

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APRIL IS ENVIRONMENTAL MONTH

Happy Birthday

Happy Anniversary

Upcoming Speakers:

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|--------|---|---------|---|---------|-------------------------------|
| Apr. 7 | Brian Lott Personal Chef to Nelson Mandela | Apr. 14 | Dr. Anshu Chandra Haiti Global Eye Project | Apr. 21 | Kirsten Munk Beavers in BC |
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LAST WEEK'S MEETING

President **Alex Pope** Presided.

Guests (all from the Maple Ridge Foundation)

Kevin Nosworthy (President), **Angela Dundas** (VP), **Siusan Kenney**, (Sec), and **Don Mitchell** (member of the Board of Directors);



and **Debbie Nosworthy**.

Program – Kevin Nosworthy – the Maple Ridge Foundation

Kevin was for many years a member of our Rotary Club, and is the current President of the Maple Ridge Community Foundation. He has dedicated nearly a decade to the Foundation, strengthening our community through leadership, volunteerism, and a deep commitment to helping others. Under his leadership, the Foundation continues to grow its impact — supporting local charities, creating opportunities through initiatives like the Community Chest, and recognizing outstanding citizens who make Maple Ridge such a special place to live. Kevin is also a proud Rotarian “at heart”, and that spirit of service really shines through in everything he does.

Kevin’s presentation (a shortened version)

“The Maple Ridge Community Foundation has been serving this community since 1976. This year marks our 50th anniversary, and

we’re incredibly proud of that milestone. Over those 50 years, many remarkable community leaders have helped shape the Foundation — names like Alma Jones, Brian Elliott, and many others — you realize that this organization has always been built on the shoulders of individuals who deeply care about this community. In many ways, it mirrors Rotary. Once you’re part of something like this, you never really leave. The values stick with you. The relationships stay with you. And the desire to give back becomes part of who you are. I’m personally in my ninth year with the Foundation, currently serving as President, and I can honestly say it’s been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life.

At our core, the Foundation exists to support Maple Ridge. We accept donations, invest those funds, and use the earnings to support local charities — meaning the money stays right here in our community. A milestone we’re especially proud of: just a couple of years ago, we surpassed \$1 million in grants distributed to local organizations. One program that’s especially close to my heart is the Community Chest. This was created to help individuals — people who may be just one unexpected event away from real hardship. For example:

- A single parent whose car breaks down and can’t get to work
- A senior who can’t afford critical dental care
- Someone facing a short-term crisis who just needs a helping hand

Each year, we distribute about \$15,000 this way. And I’ll be honest — that number should be higher. That’s why we created something called the Booster Club. Instead of asking for large one-time donations, we invite people to contribute a small amount monthly — \$10, \$25, maybe \$50. Something they won’t necessarily miss. But when you multiply that across a community? It becomes powerful. If 1,000 people gave \$25 a month... imagine the difference we could make.

Our next major event is the Citizen of the Year Awards, happening this year on April 25. There isn't just one person making a difference. So we expanded the program to also include:

- A Lifetime Achievement Award
- A Teesha Sharma memorial Award (under 40)
- A Youth Recognition Award (18 or under)

Because leadership and impact happen at every age — like a young person who simply saw people without proper footwear... and decided to do something about it. Tickets are available, and we would truly love your support — whether that's attending, sponsoring, or contributing auction items.

Now, I have to talk about one of the most entertaining things we do: Dancing in the Ridge. I was trying to figure out how to raise about \$15,000 for Community Chest... and honestly, I had no idea how to do it. Then I heard about a similar event in Kelowna that had raised millions for hospice care. So we thought — why not try it here? We pair local “amateur” dancers with professionals... give them some training... and then put them on stage. And what happens? Magic. Also... a bit of chaos. And in some cases — performances you can't see. Some of you in this room have participated — and I'll just say, the creativity has been... unforgettable.

At the end of the day, everything we do comes back to one idea: Community. Organizations like Rotary... the Community Foundation... local nonprofits... We're all working toward the same goal. To make this a better place to live. To support people when they need it most. To build something that lasts beyond us.

So, I'll close with this: Thank you. Thank you for what you do as Rotarians. Thank you for your leadership in this community. And thank you for supporting organizations like ours. As we celebrate 50 years, we're not just looking back — we're looking forward. And we hope to continue that journey alongside all of you. Thank you very much.

A quick story about Dancing in the Ridge (by Alex)



“The first year we took part, Eric actually missed the first couple of lessons—so my daughter stepped in. Now, she's about five feet tall, maybe a hundred pounds on a good day—and there she was, dancing Eric's part for those first few weeks. And honestly, she held her own pretty well. Unfortunately, she wasn't able to compete that year, but she absolutely loved the experience. In fact, she kept encouraging me for the next couple of years—so much so that we ended up going back and doing it again. She was definitely the driving force behind round two. And somewhere along the way, Eric picked up a bit of a fan base—which I don't think any of us saw coming. It really was a great experience—lots of fun, a lot of laughs, and a good way to get involved. There's even been some talk about doing it again... although I've already been told—very clearly—no tap shoes this time. So we'll see how that goes.”

Club Business

May 13 - Annual Wine Festival - at the Sky Hangar in Pitt Meadows

Claire: “We're sitting at about 70 tickets sold so far, so if you haven't bought yours yet... now's the time. We're also still looking for: Donations, Wineries and Breweries, Auction items, and, of course, volunteers. If you've got contacts or can help in any way, please reach out to the committee—we'll gladly follow up. Be sure to add your name to the sign-up sheet to state what you can do to help for volunteer shifts—mostly setup and takedown. And finally, one more ask — we're asking each member to contribute either:

- A bottle of wine (around \$20) or
- Just \$20 cash—whatever's easier

We also have sponsorship letters and donation forms available if you know anyone who'd like to support the event. There's also a volunteer sign-up sheet making its way around. Most of the roles are for setup and takedown, and if we get enough people, we'll keep the shifts short. So if you've ever thought, “I'd love to help, but not for too long”—this is your moment. At the end of the day, this event is one of our big successes each year—not just financially, but as a way to bring people together. And it really does take all of us to make it happen.”

April 10 - Friday, at 10:30 AM via Zoom - Wine Festival Committee Meeting.

April 11th - Saturday, District Assembly — be sure to come if you're on the executive, thinking about joining the executive, or just want to understand how things work at the district level. (We pay for a number of attendees whether we use the spots or not—so it's worth taking advantage of.)

Also, April 11th, between 11:30 and 2:30 - Duck Race Ticket Pickup - We still need volunteers to help give the tickets out to the various community groups. (If we don't get the tickets out to the groups, they can't sell them; and if they can't sell them... well... The current plan is that each of you will personally sell \$100,000 worth). So—no pressure—but also... a little pressure.)

April 23rd at 4:00 PM - Duck Race Meeting.

May 1st to 3rd - District Conference at Harrison Hot Springs - Quite a few members are already going, so it should be a great event—definitely worth registering if you haven't yet.

Happy and Sad Bucks

Alex - kicked things off by saying (not exactly happy or sad—more... *informational*): “I came across an interesting statistic while looking at retirement planning. We often hear that life expectancy is somewhere in the mid-to-late 70s in Canada. But that average includes everything—including childhood mortality. Apparently, if you’ve already made it to 60, you can expect to live another 25 to 30 years. I shared that information with Barb, which means she may have to put up with me for quite a while longer. Barb replied....”

Barbara’s response has been.....



Libby - first and foremost, sooo happy that she is not driving at all anymore, and happy about Alex's "life expectancy" message (even if Barb wasn't impressed).

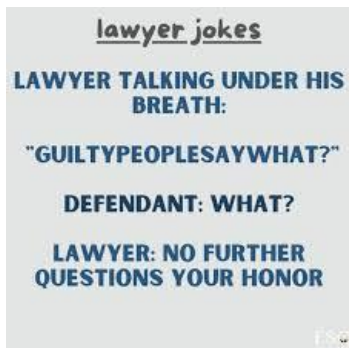
Ineke - sad to have to get gas this morning at the unbelievable cost of \$2.16! (*Note: Based on an exchange rate of approximately 0.72 USD to 1 CAD and the conversion of litres to US gallons, gas in BC at \$2.16 CAD/litre is roughly \$5.88 USD per gallon. As of April 1, 2026, the average price of regular gasoline in the USA is only about \$4.06 USD per gallon.*)



[Which just goes to prove that nobody is happy if they've got gas!]

Alex - not unhappy (that he had to “rub it in” by) saying he was happy he has an electric car!!!

Eric - very happy that their son was admitted to the bar!

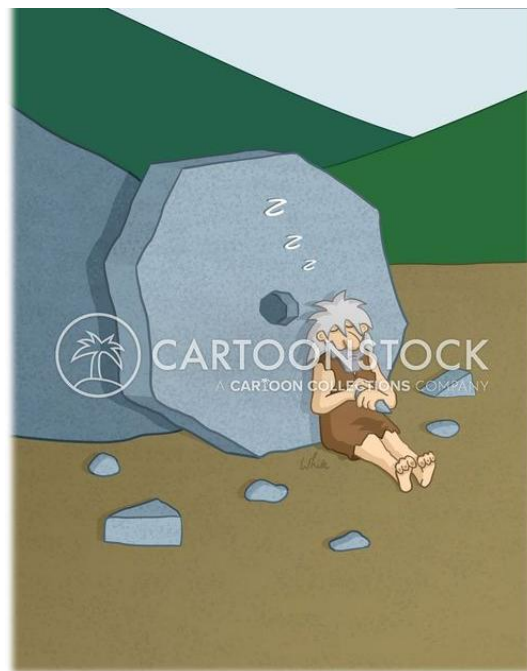


Laurie - was happy to see Kevin Nosworthy visiting today; and that Kevin was the Club Secretary for Laurie's 1st term as President in 2003-2004!

Barb - happy to have gone to Osoyoos over the weekend with Alex, where they had a great time and visited a bunch of wineries.

Adrienne – honoured to be nominated for the "Citizen of the Year award", and buying 12 tickets for the awards event encouraging everyone to attend the Community Foundation event!

Yvonne - sadly shocked by a news report that someone fell asleep while driving in their "self driving Tesla car"and was consequently stopped and ticketed by the RCMP! [“But I wasn’t driving it – it was driving itself” - said Alex! Not!! – what Alex actually said was if you close your eyes, a Tesla’s internal safety systems will immediately attempt to wake you before eventually bringing the car to a safe stop.]



OG NEVER KNEW HOW CLOSE HE CAME TO FALLING ASLEEP AT THE WHEEL..

President’s Closing Quote

A pirate walks into a bar wearing a hat made out of a paper towel. The bartender says, “What’s with the paper towel hat? The pirate says, “Arrr... there be a Bounty on me head.”



Submitted by Laurie Anderson