

Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon

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MAY IS YOUTH SERVICE MONTH

Happy Birthday		Happy Anniversary	
May 22	Ineke Boekhorst	May 23	Brenda & Al Jenkins
		May 25	Alex & Barb Pope

Upcoming Speakers:

May 19	Gordon Hobbis Maple Ridge Bike Museum	May 26	Calvin Johnson To be confirmed	June 2	Birgit Schroeder Senior Services Society
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LAST WEEK'S MEETING

President **Alex Pope** presided.

Guests

Jennifer Schroeder, Director of Development and Marketing at Maple Ridge Pitt Meadows Community Services (MR/PMCS).

Jaclyn Evers, manager of Community & Family Programs at MR/PMCS.

Darren Watts, the Restorative Justice Coordinator with MR/PMCS (who is today's speaker).

Cheque Presentation

Abby Lizee, who is the Community Engagement Coordinator for the **Maple Ridge Historical Society**, accepted a cheque in the amount of **\$750** in support of Music on the Wharf.



Since 1997, this concert series has taken place on the historic Port Haney Wharf. Every year the Society selects four bands or performers to entertain the residents of Maple Ridge and beyond. These concerts are free to the public, but donations, like ours, help offset the cost of the event, and directly support one of the featured performers. The dates for the concerts in 2026 are July 13th and 27th, and August 10th and 24th. Bring a chair and enjoy the event.

Program – **Darren Watts** - Restorative Justice

Restorative justice is used as a court diversion program in BC, often operating as an alternative to the traditional court system for both youth and adults. These programs allow for cases to be handled outside of court, aiming to resolve charges without a criminal record, places the harmed individual at the center of the process, and focus on:

- Repairing harm
- Accountability
- Healing relationships
- Community restoration
- Victim-centered outcomes

Darren emphasized that one of the key requirements of the program is that the person responsible for the harm must accept responsibility for their actions, participate voluntarily, and be willing to engage in dialogue and repair. He described the process as one that seeks to answer deeper questions often left unresolved in court proceedings, such as "why did this happen, what impact did this have, how can trust be rebuilt, and how can this person make things right". Darren outlined several core principles guiding restorative justice:

1. Repairing Harm Rather Than Punishment

The process focuses on addressing the impact experienced by victims and communities instead of concentrating solely on penalties.

2. Voluntary Participation

All parties must agree to participate willingly. Consent is essential throughout the process.

3. Accountability

Participants are expected to acknowledge their actions and understand the real-world consequences of their behaviour.

4. Dialogue and Understanding

Restorative justice provides a structured opportunity for people to speak openly, ask questions, and be heard.

5. Community Involvement

The process recognizes that harm affects not only individuals but also families, schools, workplaces, and the broader community.

Darren contrasted restorative justice with the traditional criminal court process, where victims often become merely witnesses, little opportunity exists for dialogue or emotional closure, proceedings are adversarial, lawyers speak on behalf of participants, and outcomes may not address emotional harm.

Restorative Justice Process

- Gives harmed individuals a voice
- Allows offenders to hear directly about the impact of their actions
- Encourages empathy and personal accountability
- Creates opportunities for meaningful repair
- Often leads to reduced repeat offending

Darren noted that many critics mistakenly view restorative justice as "soft on crime." However, he argued that the process can actually be more difficult for offenders because they must face those they harmed directly, express remorse, and engage emotionally rather than simply appearing in court. Statistics show that approximately 80% of participants report greater satisfaction with restorative justice compared to the traditional justice system, and research indicates reduced rates of reoffending among individuals who complete restorative justice processes. Restorative justice is no longer viewed as applicable only to minor offences such as graffiti or vandalism. Modern programs are increasingly used in more serious matters where healing and accountability remain important goals.

Work Within Schools

The restorative justice team regularly visits classrooms to conduct discussions that address bullying and conflict, teach communication skills, and encourage accountability among students. The goal is to create healthier school cultures and prevent harmful behaviours before they escalate into more serious incidents.

Happy and Sad Dollars



Lynda – happy - only one more sleep and "its showtime for the best WineFest ever".

Alex – Seconded that motion.

Mark Forster – Made EVERYBODY happy, with his bright multicoloured "Yabba Dabba Doo" Fred Flintstone shirt!



Clint – Happy and Sad – it's Peyton's 18th birthday today, May 12.....but she will leave home July 18th, joining "bootcamp" in the Canadian armed forces!

Club Business and Events

May 13 – Wine Festival – 6:30 at the SKY Hangar

May 14 – Executive meeting at 5 PM. Centra Law office

May 20 – Hometown Heroes Banquet at 5 PM

May 21 – Duck Race Meeting at 4 PM via Zoom

May 28 – Club Hub at 5 PM (Place TBD)

June 20 – Club installation of new executive at 6 PM

Aug. 9 – Duck Race

Presidents Closing Quote (sponsored by WineFest)

I was having wine with my wife when she said "I love you so much, you know. I don't know how I could ever live without you". I said, "Is that you or your wine talking?" She said, "it's me talking to the wine".



Submitted by Laurie Anderson