

Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon

President: Alex Pope  
Secretary: Debbie MacRae  
Editor: Peter Boekhorst

Phone: 604-465-1535  
Phone: 604-649-8962  
Phone: 604-476-0010

[E-mail the President](#)  
[E-mail the Secretary](#)  
[E-mail the Editor](#)



**MAY IS YOUTH SERVICE MONTH**

**Happy Birthday**

May 28 Chantal Despot

May 31 Susan Pynn

**Happy Anniversary**

**Upcoming Speakers:**

May 26 Calvin Johnson  
To be confirmed

June 2 Birgit Schroeder  
Senior Services Society

June 9 Tanyss Munro  
Amarok Society

**LAST WEEK'S MEETING**

President **Alex Pope** presided.

Guest: Helen Ferris

Cheque Presentation: PLEA – Pride in the Park



**Valerie Hutton** and **Kat Sergeeva** accepted the cheque in the sum of \$500, which was in support of Pride of the Park, an annual community celebration supporting LGBTQ+ individuals and allies. They noted that the event is entering its 11th year and has grown significantly from a small local gathering into a major community celebration, with nearly 1,000 attendees last year and expectations for continued growth. The speakers expressed appreciation for Rotary's financial and community support, emphasizing the importance of inclusive spaces and continued solidarity with LGBTQ+ communities. They highlighted the ongoing challenges faced by these communities and the importance of visible support from civic organizations.

Program: **Gordon Hobbis** –  
The "TwoWheelTimeMachine" Bicycle Museum



Gordon Hobbis is a former owner of Cap's Bicycle Shop in New Westminster and current president of the Royal City Rotary Club. He is also the founder of the Two Wheel Time Machine Bicycle Museum.

Gordon opened with personal reflections on his family's deep roots in the bicycle business. His father, Cap Hobbis, began working at age 14 in 1932 and quickly developed an entrepreneurial drive, eventually founding the family's bicycle business. What began as a small operation evolved into a multi-generational family enterprise involving several siblings and later Gordon himself.

The bicycle shop became more than a retail business; it evolved into a cultural space featuring a private collection of historical artifacts and bicycles that attracted visitors from schools, community groups, and cycling enthusiasts. Gordon described the evolution of Cap's Bicycle Shop from a modest basement operation into a well-known regional business. His father's approach combined entrepreneurship, promotion, and storytelling, often using creative marketing and public displays to attract customers.

A key feature of the shop was its informal museum collection, which included historical artifacts such as early transportation tools, household devices, and pioneer-era objects. This collection served as both an educational resource and a community attraction. Over time, the family expanded operations and multiple branches of the business were developed. Eventually, Gordon took over the New Westminster location and operated it for approximately 20 years before selling the business in 2022. Following the sale, Gordon entered retirement but soon returned to his lifelong passion for bicycles and history.



Gordon Hobbis is pictured at his store Caps Bicycle Shop in New Westminster, B.C.

After retirement, Gordon pursued his goal of creating a dedicated bicycle museum. This vision became the Two Wheel Time Machine, located in a renovated barn in Maple Ridge. The museum features a curated collection of historic bicycles spanning multiple eras, along with interpretive displays explaining the technological and social evolution of cycling. Gordon described the museum as both educational and experiential. Visitors can view rare bicycles, learn about their historical context, and in some cases interact with or sit on display models for photographs. The museum also includes event programming, including high tea experiences hosted in partnership with his wife, who contributes to the hospitality side of the operation. The museum is designed as a community space as much as a historical exhibit.



Gordon's museum displays 150 years of bicycle history. located in Whonnock.

It is Western Canada's only dedicated bicycle museum .

Gordon provided an overview of the bicycle's origins, beginning in the early 19th century. He referenced early "running machines" developed in Europe which required riders to propel themselves with their feet. This design eventually evolved when inventors added pedals, leading to the velocipede and later more advanced designs.

The development of the "penny-farthing" or "ordinary" bicycle marked a significant stage in bicycle evolution, although it was eventually replaced by safer and more practical designs. By the late 19th century, the "safety bicycle" emerged with equal-sized wheels, chain drive, and improved stability—forming the foundation of the modern bicycle.



Gordon emphasized that bicycles were not only technological innovations but also catalysts for social change. He highlighted their influence on transportation independence, allowing individuals unprecedented mobility outside of fixed schedules such as trains or stagecoaches. He noted the bicycle's role in advancing women's independence in the late 19th century. Cycling contributed to changes in fashion, including more practical clothing such as split skirts and bloomers, and challenged traditional social norms restricting women's mobility. Bicycles played an important role in women's emancipation during the Victorian era. Cycling allowed women to travel independently without chaperones, which was highly unusual at the time. Changes in women's clothing, including split skirts and bloomers, were partly driven by the practical needs of cycling. Gordon also shared humorous examples of period criticism, including fears that women riders would develop "bicycle face," a supposed condition caused by excessive riding. At the same time, bicycles faced opposition from horse owners, the clergy, and conservative social groups. Many critics believed bicycles were dangerous or disruptive to traditional society. The bicycle also influenced later technological developments. The Wright brothers, pioneers of aviation, were bicycle mechanics, and their understanding of balance and motion was shaped by cycling.

The presentation concluded with discussion of modern cycling trends worldwide. Gordon referenced early bicycle infrastructure developments in Davis, California, where high bicycle usage led to the creation of dedicated bike lanes. He also discussed China's historical relationship with bicycles, noting that they were once central to daily life before being temporarily displaced by automobile expansion. More recently, China has heavily invested in cycling infrastructure, including extensive networks of bike paths. Similarly, cities such as Paris have adopted aggressive cycling infrastructure programs, building extensive bike lane networks to encourage sustainable transportation.

Gordon concluded by reinforcing the continued relevance of the bicycle as both a practical transportation method and a symbol of independence, innovation, and social change.

Gordon invited members to organize a future Rotary group tour of the museum and indicated that he would be pleased to host the club.

**He also encouraged donations of unwanted bicycles to support the society's refurbishment program, and noted that bicycles unsuitable for repair can still be recycled responsibly for parts.**

#### Club Business and Events

**May 21** – Thursday - Duck Race Meeting at 4 PM via Zoom

**May 28** – Thursday - Pub Hub at 5 PM (Place TBD)

**June 20** – Club Installation Dinner - Golden Eagle Golf Club, Pitt Meadows - 6 PM

**August 9** – Duck Race

#### President's Closing Quote



#### Last Week's President's Quote was:

*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".*

**ERRATUM:** We forgot to attach this accompanying picture and its caption to go along with it:

**Always make sure your loved ones are buckled up.**



**Submitted by Laurie Anderson**