Rotary Club of Meadow Ridge

The Four Way Flasher

ROTARY CLUB MEADOW-RIDGE BRITISH COLUMBIA CANADA

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Website: MeadowRidgeRotary.ca

Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon

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UNITE FOR GOOD

JUNE IS ROTARY FELLOWSHIP MONTH

Happy Birthday	Happy Anniversary

Upcoming Speakers:

June 30 Jordin Rayne and Nilofar Rezaie Our two RYLA students	July 7 Kristi Maier – Executive Dir. Ridge Meadows Chamber of Commerce	July 14

JUNE 20 – INSTALLATION OF 2026/27 EXECUTIVE

Meadow Ridge Rotary Club Dinner and
Installation of New Executive for the 2026/2027 year,
held on Saturday June 20, 2026 at the Golden Eagle Golf Club.

Master of Ceremonies: **Clint Callison**

Guests
(in addition to spouses, family and friends of Club members)

Maple Ridge **Mayor Dan Ruimy** and partner **Debora Carr**, together with **Councillors Judy Dueck and Korleen Carreras**.

David Meunier and his wife **Kaitlyn**, community volunteers and leaders with the 1st Haney Scout Group.

Helen Ferris – a great friend of Rotary who has for many years helped us with our Winefest.

Peter Tam, Assistant District Governor

Introduction of Special Guest Peter Tam, Assistant District Governor – by Lynda Lawrence

Peter was born in 1961 and spent 9 Years living in Hong Kong before moving to Canada and becoming a Canadian citizen. He grew up in Burlington, Ontario before moving west and settling in Maple Ridge. Peter and his wife share three children, a daughter and two sons. Peter's journey is as unique as his sound. For over 30 years he worked as an aviation data engineer and analyst for NAV Canada. When the 2020 pandemic disrupted the aviation industry, Peter chose to follow his true calling and pivot entirely to embrace his lifelong passion for music. Since then, collaborating with JUNO award-winning musicians, he has developed a signature style of Jazzy Adult Contemporary music drawing inspiration directly from nature and humanity. His first studio album was "A Walk in the Woods". Peter also helped compose a hybrid Cantonese opera "The Prop Master's Dream" that was performed at the Orpheum Annex and Queen Elizabeth Playhouse theatres. He has taken his "General Man" tribute show, highlighting the music of Billy Joel and Elton John, on tour, raising money for both local community projects and projects benefiting Rotary. He performs well over 200 shows per year and now has four published albums and the number of singles. A dedicated community advocate, Peter is driven by a "Think Global, Act Local" philosophy. He ran as a candidate for both the provincial BC Green Party and the Federal Green Party advocating for green technology investments and small business innovation. Peter created the Albion Scout Group and served as the Area Commissioner for Scouts Canada from 2007 – 2010. He then served as an Auxiliary Constable with Ridge Meadows RCMP from 2011 – 2013. Peter joined Rotary in 2008 as a member of the Haney Rotary Club, and since then he has embodied the Rotary model "Service Above Self". In 2017 he stepped up to serve as Club President for the 2018 – 2019 year, and continues to expand his impact in Rotary currently serving as our Area Governor and Assistant District Governor. Peter is recipient of both the Paul Harris Fellow award and the Rotary International Blue Metal for leadership during the pandemic.

Paul Harris Fellow Awards, and Recognitions – by **Alex Pope**, assisted by **Mike Davies** and AG **Peter Tam**

The presentation of a Paul Harris Fellow is The Rotary Foundation's way of expressing its appreciation for a substantial contribution to its humanitarian and educational programs. It is named for Rotary's founder Paul Harris, a Chicago lawyer who started our organization with three business associates in 1905. The recognition was established in 1957 to encourage and show appreciation for substantial contributions to what was then the Foundation's only program, Rotary Foundation Fellowships for Advanced Study, the precursor to Ambassadorial scholarships. When Rotarians donate US $1000 to the Rotary Foundation, they receive 1000 points towards their own Paul Harris award, and 1000 points that they can use to acknowledge another person with the Paul Harris award.

Rotarians often designate a Paul Harris Fellow as a tribute to a person whose life demonstrates the shared purpose with the objectives of The Rotary Foundation to carry out the many programs we know are benefiting people and communities around the world through improved living conditions, better healthcare, educational opportunities, and new channels for the flow of international understanding. Notable recipients of the Paul Harris Fellow include Mother Teresa, Nelson Mandela, Jimmy Carter, Prince Charles, Indira Gandhhi, Luciano Pavarotti, and Pope John Paul II, all of whom have been recognized for the devotion to the ideal of goodwill, peace and understanding. The number of Paul Harris Fellows reached 1 million in 2006. Prior to today's ceremonies, the Meadow Ridge Rotary Club has awarded 71 Paul Harris Fellows since it was chartered in 1990.

In addition Certificates of Appreciation given by Pres. Alex to a number of Club members to acknowledge their efforts and support during his year as president, the following special awards were presented by Alex:

To David Meunier – a Paul Harris Fellow

"I am pleased, this evening to present a Paul Harris award to a non-Rotarian, David Meunier. Dave is a leader of the First Haney Scouts and has facilitated volunteer support for both the Duck Race and the Winefest, contributing to the success of both events. Dave has always been quick to answer our call for help, whether it be to set up a ticket booth, sell tickets, or to organize Scouts and venturers to assist with the many tasks required on race day and set up and take down of the Winefest. Dave regularly demonstrates Rotary's core value of "Service above Self". Dave, I am honoured to present you with a Paul Harris pin and certificate and thank you for your service".

To Lynda Lawrence and Debbie MacRae – a Paul Harris

"As co-chairs of the WineFest committee, Lynda Lawrence and Debbie MacRae led a team of volunteers to our most successful WineFest to date, raising $33,000, which allows us to support a variety of organizations and initiatives in our community. This year's Winefest earned rave reviews from both attendees and volunteers thanks to their leadership. Linda is receiving her PH +8, which has three rupees on the pin. Debbie is receiving her PH +1, which has one blue sapphire on the pin. It gives me great pleasure to present you both with your new Paul Harris pins."

To Barbara Pope – a Paul Harris

"Having a supportive spouse makes a big difference in being willing to accept new roles and responsibilities. Barb Pope has been my support in a variety of endeavours, including my time as President of the Meadow Ridge Rotary Club. She joined Rotary as a member last year, volunteered at both the Duck Race and Winefest, accompanied me to District Conferences and the International Conference in Calgary, and most importantly has been a sounding board for the Quote of the Day.

I acknowledge that there are a lot of my quotes that don't make the cut. This is Barb's first Paul Harris so she is receiving both the pin and a certificate. I am pleased to present you with your Paul Harris award."

To Libby Nelson –
Rotarian of the Year

"The Marco Terwiel Rotarian of the Year Award is presented annually to a club member who demonstrates outstanding contribution and dedication to the club. I monitored to announce that our Rotarian of the Year for 2025/26 is Libby Nelson. Libby has been a Rotarian since 1993 and joined the Meadow Ridge Rotary Club in 2014. She has served in a variety of roles in the club and on the board, including President in 2017 – 2018. Currently Libby is the chair of the Duck Race Committee. Under Libby's leadership, the Duck Race set a new record of over $98,000 in ticket sales for the 2025 race, and is targeting a new record this year by adding another 1000 ducks to the race. The proceeds from the Duck Race support close to 30 local youth and seniors organizations. Libby, thank you for your service to Rotary."

<u>Outgoing President's Report – Alex Pope</u>

"I've been asked by a few people over the last month if I was looking forward to being finished my year as president. After noting that as of now there 245.5 hours left in my term as president (including one more Tuesday meeting) I must admit that I have enjoyed my role as president and I'm not really looking forward to being finished. But don't get any ideas Eric, I'm not agreeing to continue, either.

As is clear from the awards and recognitions we handed out this evening, the reason for me having an enjoyable year as president was having a knowledgeable and effective team supporting me all year. We had success in our fundraisers during this year with the Duck Race in August 2025 and the Wine Fest in May 2026 both setting new fundraising records. But more importantly, we had a positive impact on our community with financial support for local organizations and events, bursaries for graduating students, and participants in Rotary Youth programs. I'm not going to list them all, because I don't want to make us all eat for dinner, but I will point out two of our larger contributions. In November 2025 we contributed $10,000 to the Ridge Meadows Hospital Foundation for purchasing two vital sign monitors for the Urgent and Primary Care Centre for our local hospital. This adds to our previous contributions to the Hospital Foundation of over $78,000 since 1992. And just last month, in May 2026, we contributed $20,000 to the Friends in Need Food Bank which is being used towards the purchase of refrigerated van for their food recovery program.

Thanks to Ineke's work, we have been approved for a US $2,300 matching District 50-50 grant for a project in Banos, Ecuador. The project is to build and install reading corners, also known as book notes, at 5 Schools in Ecuador. There will be an opportunity for Rotary members to participate "hands on" in this project in early 2027.

Of course, we've had some fun together this year, too. Our annual Rotary Camping trip was in September 2025. For those who haven't participated yet, you don't need to camp to enjoy the festivities… Just drop by the campground anytime for food drink and social time. We are all booked and ready to go for

2026. Also in September 2025, we had a friendly Frisbee golf competition hosted by Dave Rempel. I'm reminded that I have a trophy from that event on my mantal at home - I suspect I owe some thanks to my son Casey for being the ringer on our team.

In October 2025, Adrienne Dale and Warren hosted our international Thanksgiving dinner where we had an ample spread of food representing the cultural heritage of our Rotarians. They gave us an opportunity to share our favourite traditional food with each other.

In November 2025, we entered a dance team in the Maple Ridge Community Foundation's "Dancing in the Ridge". The dance we performed was tap dancing to "Singing in the Rain" …. complete with yellow duck T-shirts, duck hats, and umbrellas. They may have also been some non-dancing Rotarians distributing hundreds of squeaky ducks to the audience during the event.

In December, Clint Callison and Cheryl hosted our Christmas Dinner. It was well organized and enjoyed by all. February's Valentine dinner was courtesy of Mark and Pauline Forster, including Mark's infamous rum cake. Throughout the year we had our monthly Pub Hubs, where we visit old and new drinking and eating establishments in Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows for some social time. So far, we have mostly behaved ourselves and have not been kicked out.

I'm proud of our accomplishments this year. We ae finishing the year with a strong, engage club that will continue to have a positive impact. I'm looking forward to seeing what the new Rotary year brings. Thank you all for a fantastic year."

Installation of Eric Mollema as the new Club President, and the other Board members, by AG Peter Tam

"It is a distinct privilege for me, as your Assistant Governor, to stand with you today and install Eric as your 2026 – 2027 club president, and also to install your Executive/Board of Directors. Eric is a proven Rotary veteran. He has already served as your president for the 2014 – 2015 year, and he is also a past president of the Pretoria East Rotary Club in South Africa. The power of Rotary's mission, and how to turn service into action. Today, we are not just installing a president; we are reaffirming our commitment to the values that make Rotary stronger everywhere: *service above self, integrity, diversity, and the belief that one person can make a difference when joined by others.* Eric, as you accept the gavel, I ask you to lead with courage, to listen with humility, to inspire your members to see Rotary not just as a club, but as a movement. Fellow Rotarians, your new president has already shown with dedication service looks like. Now it's your turn to give Eric your full support, energy, and partnership a president can guide the way, but a club must move forward together".

Remarks of our new Club President - Eric Mollema

"Distinguished guests, fellow Rotarians, friends, and family—thank you for being here today. It is an immense honor to stand before you as your incoming president. As I look around this room, I don't just see colleagues or acquaintances; I see a collection of individuals who have as a group decided that making a difference in our community is not just a hobby—it is a responsibility. When I first joined the Rotary in June 1999, I was drawn by the mission. But I stayed because of the people. I stayed because I saw what happens when a group of committed individuals aligns their talents toward a common good. Today, as we embark on this new year, my message to you is simple: We have a remarkable foundation, and together, we are going to build upon it.

I know this for a fact – During the PELS training I was dumbfounded by the issues and challenges other Clubs are facing. Nearly every issue raised by the Presidents Elect was running smoothly in our Club. To be sure, we are not perfect, but we are doing the basics, and we are doing it well. Now we solidify and move forward. We all know the Five Avenues of Service. They are our compass. Over the past few years, our club has demonstrated incredible resilience and innovation. We've tackled large and small projects, always with outstanding commitment and excellent results that benefited our community. However, leadership is not just about sustaining what exists; it's about asking, "What is next?"

My vision for this Rotary year focuses on three pillars:

- **Normalizing the base from which we operate**

We are going to return to what we know works and are comfortable with. From there, we are going to build with a newfound vigour. Whether it's leveraging new tools to streamline our speaker programs or finding fresh ways to involve potential professionals and business leaders, our goal is to make every member feel that their time at Rotary is the most high-value hour of their week.

- **Deepening Community Connections**

Rotary is, at its heart, about fellowship. We will focus on creating more opportunities for us to learn from one another, grow our networks, and strengthen the bonds that make our club a family.

- **Strategic Growth**

We are a hub of expertise. By aligning our internal talents with the needs of Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows, we will ensure that our service projects are not just well-intentioned, but highly effective, meaningful, and sustainable."

I want to be clear: The board cannot do this alone. The beauty of Rotary is that the President is merely a facilitator who, with the Board, can utilize the collective genius of our membership and Rotary as a whole. I am asking each of you to bring your 'something.' Maybe it's a connection you have to a local business, an hour of time for a project, or simply a new idea that you've been hesitant to share. We are a space where innovation is encouraged. I'm also particularly excited to lean into our collaborative strengths. Working with knowledgeable members, we are already planning to optimize our operations so that we spend less time on administration and more time on the ground, serving where we are needed most.

In closing, I am reminded of why we call this “Service Above Self”. It isn't just a slogan; it’s a commitment to look outside of our own lives to see where we can be the catalyst for positive change. I am genuinely humbled by the trust you have placed in me. I promise to listen, to work hard, and to ensure that this year is one where we not only meet our goals but have a great time doing it. Let us make this a year to remember. Let us work with purpose, lead with empathy, and serve with heart. Thank you, and let’s get to work."

The evening concluded with a great meal and dancing, with live entertainment by Bobby Bruce's “Nearly Neil” tribute to Neil Diamond.

LAST WEEK’S MEETING

President **Alex Pope** presided.

Guests

Caroline Nelson (daughter of Libby)

Noreen Moss is a past president of the Maple Ridge Concert Band (MRCB), and is currently a director, and plays the clarinet.

Gale Yip is the current President, and plays the euphonium (a member of the tuba family, specifically known as the "tenor tuba").

Cheque Presentation to the Maple Ridge Concert Band

The bandstand in Memorial Peace Park was built and gifted to Maple Ridge by the Maple Ridge Concert Band and officially opened 1994, and serves as a dedicated venue for local outdoor performances.

Noreen and her husband Ken Moss (who plays the trumpet and flugelhorn) together with **Gale** have been heavily involved with the local music community, and have been with the band for 50 years now! They joined the ensemble together as young adults, and Noreen is the longest standing musician member of the band.

Gale spoke to us and advised that the MRCB provides education and entertainment to be enjoyed by all age groups from students to seniors. Each summer in the month of July, they performed for Twilight Tuesdays Pops in the Park series in the bandstand. Many members of the MRCB circa 1992 to 1994 donated many hours of labour towards the building of this bandstand by hand with laypeople labour. They currently have the entire band group fundraising and selling tickets for the Duck Race. They have been fundraising with the Duck Race for the past nine years. This is year marks the 80th anniversary of the MRCB.

The funding ($500) donated by Rotary will help with monies to be spent on specialized celebration items that do not fall within their normal operational budget. Gale thanked our Rotary club for its donation towards the 80th anniversary celebrations for the Maple Ridge Concert Band.

Program

Our **incoming President Eric Mollema** presented a summary of his plans for the coming Rotary year.

Happy and Sad Dollars

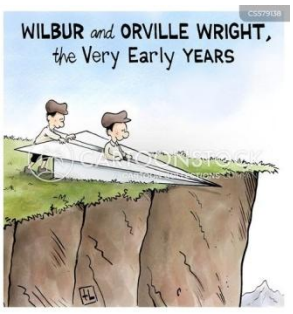
Eric Mollema was happy about the Installation event on Saturday; everyone agreed, it was an awesome event and everybody really enjoyed themselves.

Andy Berrisford was sad to see that his cat seemed quite sick, so he took it to the vet.... only to find out it was "constipation"....and O yeah, he was not pleased to pay the vet a bill of $1,050!

Yvonne Berrisford was happy that she will be travelling to Ontario next week and stay with her daughter for one month!

Libby Nelson was happy that her condo in Pitt Meadows sold (and sad she had to leave the meeting early today because the final paperwork is being completed today).

President’s Closing Quote

“We’ve all heard that two wrongs don’t make a right. I found out recently that two Wrights make an airplane.”

Submitted by Laurie Anderson