



Website: MeadowRidgeRotary.ca

Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon

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JULY IS MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH MONTH

Happy Birthday

July 10: Eric Mollema July 10: Ray Peterson

Happy Anniversary

Upcoming Speakers:

July 7 Kristi Maier – Executive Dir. Ridge Meadows Chamber of Commerce	July 14	July 21
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RI PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Rotary has a way of surprising you.



It surprises you when a stranger across the table becomes a lifelong friend. It surprises you when a small project in one neighbourhood ripples outward in ways you never imagined. And it may surprise you when you realize that the person Rotary has changed most ... is you.

That is why this year we are called to harness the change within ourselves, to look to the future, and to *Create Lasting Impact*.

Now, I want to be clear about what those words mean. Change is only the beginning. Impact is what endures. We must think of the long-term impact of every project. How can a new water system contribute to the long-term health of a community? Can residents help other communities build their own? How can a new classroom be part of a wider strategy to improve education in the area? That is the sort of thinking we need.

As we prioritize impact, we must also consider how our actions can contribute to peacebuilding. Peace does not happen by accident. It must be built deliberately and strategically. As you plan your next project, ask yourself: “How does this create the conditions for peace?” Consult the Pillars of Positive Peace to learn how we can bring the world one step closer to peace in everything we do.

The more you change your community and the world, the more you will change. Don’t just tell people about the projects you have run or the funds you have raised. Tell them how Rotary has shaped who you are. Those personal stories open doors, inspire new members, and remind all of us why we are here.

Storytelling is also an excellent way to recruit new members and raise funds. We need more people standing with us and more resources if we are to end polio, spread peace, and have a lasting impact on the world. We have set a goal of increasing membership to 1.25 million Rotarians and more than 125,000 Rotaractors by 2030, just in time for Rotary’s 125th anniversary.

Sit down with your club and look back over your accomplishments in the last few years. Find your best year. Maybe it was a record year for new members. Maybe you reached a fundraising milestone. Maybe you completed a project that the whole community is still talking about. Once you find that year, I challenge you to do better than your best.

In these ways and more, we will *Create Lasting Impact* across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.

Thank you, my dear friends. Now let’s get to work.

Olayinka H. Babalola
RI President 2026-27

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

President **Alex Pope** presided the last meeting as a President.

Guests

President Alex welcomed everyone in attendance.

Ineke asked Debbie to introduce her special guests:

- **Madison**, her granddaughter from Chilliwack.
- **Zoe**, her granddaughter from Maple Ridge.

Members warmly welcomed them as "future Rotarians."

Additional guests were introduced later during the meeting.

Community Donations / Cheque Presentation(s)

Pitt Meadows Agricultural Association



Mike presented a **\$500 donation on behalf of the Community Services Committee** to 2 representatives of the **Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows Agricultural Association**.

Representing the Annual Country Fair were:

- Lorraine Bates & Graham Vanstone

The representatives expressed sincere appreciation for the club's ongoing support over many years. Highlights included:

- Recognition of Rotary's longstanding partnership with the Agricultural Association.
- Appreciation for members' continued volunteer support at the annual Pitt Meadows Fair.
- Celebration of the Association's **125th Anniversary**, making it one of the oldest organizations in Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows.
- An invitation for Rotary members to participate again at this year's fair.

Humorous comments regarding "g"old cards," hearing aids, and Graham's thinning hair drew considerable laughter from the membership.

Mike shared that he had worked with Lorraine during his years with the municipality, joking that the minutes should accurately reflect that he had "done time" with the municipality.

Fire Department Youth Academy Bursary Presentation

Sharon introduced representatives from **Pitt Meadows Fire & Rescue Services**.

Special guests included:

- Assistant Fire Chief Ben Wilson

- 2026 Youth Academy graduate **Makaio Stammer**

Ben Wilson conveyed regrets from Fire Chief Goulet and Deputy Chief Miley, who were unable to attend.

Assistant Chief Wilson spoke highly of Makaio's performance during the Fire Department Youth Academy training, highlighting:

- Exceptional dedication
- Leadership abilities
- Positive attitude
- Teamwork
- Strong work ethic
- Genuine curiosity and desire to learn

He also spoke about Makaio's Capstone Project and his aspirations toward becoming a biomedical engineer while maintaining an interest in the fire service.



On behalf of the MeadowRidge Rotary Club, a **\$1,500 educational bursary** was presented to Makaio to assist with his future education.

Members congratulated Makaio on his accomplishments and wished him every success in whichever career path he ultimately chooses.

Program

RYLA Presentation

Chair of the New Generations Committee, Sharon introduced **Jordin Rayne**, one of this year's Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) participants.

Jordin delivered an engaging multimedia presentation describing her experience at the May 2026 RYLA camp held near Chilliwack.

Highlights included:

Leadership Development

Jordin explained that the weekend emphasized:

- Leadership through service
- Effective communication
- Listening skills
- Teamwork
- Applying Rotary's Four-Way Test in everyday decision-making

She reflected that leadership requires trusting others and allowing everyone the opportunity to contribute.

Personality Assessment

Participants completed personality assessments using animal profiles.

Jordin discovered she fit the "Lion" personality, recognizing both its strengths and its challenges, particularly her tendency to assume leadership and make decisions quickly.

She noted this exercise encouraged greater self-awareness and appreciation of differing leadership styles.

Team Challenges

Jordin described numerous leadership exercises including:

- Icebreakers
- Helium Stick challenge
- Spider Web challenge
- Tire obstacle
- Team walking boards
- Silent communication exercises

Many challenges became progressively more difficult through added restrictions such as:

- No speaking
- Removal of team leaders
- Limited movement
- Changing rules midway through activities

Jordin emphasized that these activities reinforced:

- Trust
- Adaptability
- Respect for differing viewpoints
- Creative problem solving

Community Service Project

Participants completed a hands-on community project constructing disc golf tee boxes for the camp.

Jordin noted:

- Teams naturally identified individual strengths.
- Members worked cooperatively despite unfamiliar groupings.
- Everyone assisted groups experiencing difficulties.
- The project demonstrated Rotary's emphasis on service through action.

Networking

Jordin spoke enthusiastically about the friendships formed throughout the weekend and reported she continues to stay in regular contact with several participants.

She also enjoyed reconnecting with former Rotary youth program facilitators.

Lessons Learned

Jordin summarized several personal takeaways:

- Leadership means listening as much as directing.
- Professional leadership influences personal relationships.
- Every team member contributes valuable ideas.
- Trust and collaboration produce better outcomes than individual control.

She thanked the club for sponsoring her attendance and expressed sincere appreciation for the opportunity.

Members thanked Jordin with enthusiastic applause.

Letter from Second RYLA Participant

Sharon read a letter from **Nilo**, who was unable to attend because of school commitments.

Nilo described the weekend as:

- An incredible and memorable experience.
- Her first camping experience.
- A welcome break from an extremely busy schedule balancing work and studies.

She reflected on:

- Forming close friendships.
- Enjoying peaceful mornings around the campsite.
- Working on a humanitarian project proposing clean water wells for Indigenous communities.
- Feeling that her fellow participants had become like family.

The club appreciated hearing about her positive experience.

Update on ShelterBox and its involvement in Venezuela:

Ineke presented information regarding **ShelterBox**, Rotary's international disaster relief partner.

Members learned that ShelterBox provides:

- Emergency shelter
- Essential household supplies
- Recovery assistance following disasters, conflict, and climate emergencies

Key statistics included:

- Assistance provided in approximately 180 countries.
- More than three million people helped worldwide to date.

Ineke highlighted the recent earthquakes in **Venezuela**, where two major earthquakes measuring approximately **7.2** and **7.5** struck within seconds of one another.

ShelterBox has already established partnerships in the region, allowing for a rapid humanitarian response. Members were encouraged to make personal donations.

Encouraged to let either Walter or Ineke know, if you want to make a donation

Donations received will qualify for charitable tax receipts, which Walter will provide.

Happy & Sad Dollars:

- **Libby: \$20:** so happy to hear today's RYLA presentation by this year's participant Jordin. Libby remembers her daughter participating many years ago..... she learned so much!
- **Alex & Barb \$20:** so happy with the beautiful gazebo, Laurie Anderson offered to any of the club members last week! Alex & Barb took him up on the offer, had a cement pad constructed and hired a company to move the gazebo from Pitt Meadows to their back yard! It looks amazing! Thank You Laurie!
- **Brenda \$5 :** Brenda forgot her Rotary name tag in the car and was about to "pay the fine" for this! BUT, Andy came to the rescue and handmade a "facsimile" copy for her.....well done, Andy! Rotary Service Above Self in action!

- **Ineke \$2:** Happy she made it to the airport this morning at 6am, to drop off Yvonne, who is visiting her daughter for one month in Ontario.....Have a great time Yvonne, we will miss you!

Fine Master: Debbie (who brought her 2 grand daughters to the meeting today! Welcome Zoey and Maddison)

- **\$1 fine for Brenda.....**for her "counterfit" badge!
- **No Badge pay \$1:** Dave Rempel
- **\$1 if you haven't volunteered for the Duck Race yet (list going around today!):** Andy, Lynda, Susan
- **\$1 if you have NO plans for Canada Day yet:** Lynda, Michelle,

Mystery Greeter - Claire:

- \$1 each. If you didn't shake Claire's hand: Ineke, Peter, Brenda, Dave

The session generated considerable laughter.

Club Business

President Alex reminded of several upcoming events.

Executive Meeting

Date: Thursday, July 9 **Time:** 5:00 p.m....Centra Law Office

Duck Race Committee Meeting

Members were advised that meeting details would be confirmed by email.

Duck Number Sticker Application

Volunteers are invited to assist with duck sticker application Aug 7 at Claire's home. This annual activity is very enjoyable, please bring additional volunteers Pizza & drinks provided!

Annual Duck Race

Members were reminded of the upcoming Duck Race, Aug. 9 and encouraged to volunteer for the event.....sign up list circulated every week!

Closing Quote

President Alex concluded the meeting with the following humorous quote:

"My wife thinks it's strange that I stare through the window during heavy rainstorms.

It would be a lot less strange if she'd simply let me back inside."



Submitted by Ineke Boekhorst