



Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon

President: Eric Mollema
Secretary: Debbie MacRae
Editor: Peter Boekhorst

Phone: 778-242-2288
Phone: 604-649-8962
Phone: 604-476-0010

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

**CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT**

JULY IS MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH MONTH

Happy Birthday

Happy Anniversary

Upcoming Speakers:

July 14 Colleen Morris – MR Community Services
Mental Health Services

July 21 No Speaker
A "Fun and Games" meeting

July 28 Kris Harrison
Who's Who

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

On this first meeting of the 2026-2027 Rotary year, our new president **Eric Mollema** presided.

Guests:

Kristi Maier, Executive Director of the Ridge Meadows Chamber of Commerce.

Michael Morris, Community Engagement and Membership Coordinator of the Chamber of Commerce.

Renay Bajkay – first time attendee as a prospective member. She was a senior manager with Coast Mental Health for many years and recently retired. She is also a registered nurse, and lives in Pitt Meadows.

Darrell Burnham, president of the Rotary Club of Port Moody, who brought Renay to the meeting to introduce her to our Club. Darrell is the District Governor Nominee for our District 5050, 2028 – 2029 Rotary year.

New Procedures Under the Direction of President Eric

Eric suggested that members bring any unused Rotary pins which they may have at home, and leave them with Eric for distribution to any members who may want them.

Beginning on July 14, 2026, members will be assigned seating by randomly drawing coloured numbers from a pile indicating which table they must sit at. The goal is to encourage fellowship by having members sit with different people at each meeting.

Presentation by Ridge Meadows Chamber of Commerce



The guest speakers were **Kristi Maier** and **Mike Morris**.

Our Club recently joined the Chamber as a corporate member, and the purpose of the presentation was to explain how the Chamber operates, the benefits of membership, and how the two organizations can work together.

Kristi explained that the Ridge Meadows Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit organization operating under the BC Societies Act.



While it is not a registered charity, it is a membership-based organization dedicated to supporting businesses and strengthening the local economy. Kristi has served as CEO for nearly four years after previously working with the Greater Langley Chamber of Commerce. She expressed her enthusiasm for representing the Ridge Meadows business community and acknowledged the Chamber's significant growth during her tenure.

The Chamber currently has more than **550 members** and has experienced membership growth exceeding **11 percent**, outperforming many comparable chambers across British Columbia. Approximately **16 percent** of local businesses belong to the Chamber, a figure the organization considers a strong indicator of community engagement.

A major role of the Chamber is advocacy. It represents local businesses at both the municipal and provincial levels through its membership in the BC Chamber of Commerce. Local chambers collectively develop policy resolutions that are presented to the provincial organization, allowing business concerns to be communicated directly to government.

In addition to advocacy, the Chamber organizes numerous events that provide networking opportunities and educational experiences. Members receive free or discounted admission to Chamber events, while non-members pay higher registration fees. Highlights include:

Breakfast in Business Series

The Chamber has introduced educational breakfast seminars covering practical business topics, including:

- artificial intelligence
- financial management
- understanding financial statements
- choosing between sole proprietorships and corporations
- business growth strategies

These sessions provide business owners with practical knowledge while creating additional networking opportunities. Kristi encouraged Rotary members to attend Chamber events and to share suggestions for advocacy priorities affecting the community.

Membership and Community Engagement

Mike Morris described his role as building relationships with local businesses and community organizations. He noted that recent years have seen a significant increase in support for local businesses and organizations as communities recognize the importance of buying locally and strengthening local economies.

Supporting Non-Profit Organizations

Mike emphasized that non-profit organizations are an important part of Chamber membership. The Chamber recognizes the critical role that charities and community organizations play in maintaining healthy communities and is committed to helping promote their work whenever possible. He specifically acknowledged the Rotary Club's long history of community service and international humanitarian work, noting his own previous involvement with Rotary through charitable projects in Kenya.

Listening to Business

One of Mike's primary responsibilities involves visiting businesses throughout Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows to learn about their challenges. The Chamber uses this information to advocate for practical solutions with municipal governments.

Chamber Membership Benefits

A member asked how Rotary's Chamber membership works, given that the club has approximately 35 members. Kristi explained that membership is based on the size of the organization and normally designates one primary representative. However, the Chamber is flexible with non-profit organizations and welcomes participation by different representatives at various events. Mike added that Chamber participation does not involve mandatory monthly meetings. Instead, members may choose from numerous networking events, business visits, educational seminars, and community gatherings throughout the year.

Happy and Sad Dollars - (recorded by Ineke)

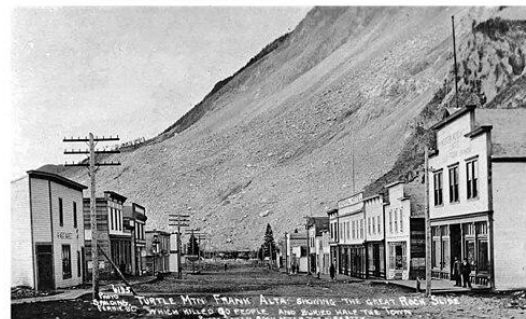


Michelle: happy that her daughter had just the perfect report card to show off, today!

Adrienne: went to a "wine tasting" party at Anika Polegate's home, which turned out to be a Fantastic early birthday party for Adrienne's upcoming 60th birthday. It included wine tasting, spa treatments, dinner, etc....and was so much fun!

Gordy: Sad to hear about the passing of well-known Maple Ridge resident and friend Alma Jones (wife of Ron Jones). Happy to announce, there will be a big 80th birthday party for Gordy at Paliotti's, all are invited to join!

Laurie: Happy to have been on a very nice road trip with his brother to Alberta. Along the way they stopped at the Frank Slide, (when 110 million tonnes of limestone broke off Turtle Mountain. that wiped out 1/3 of the town of Frank).



"Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump World Heritage Site",

and the Tyrell Dinosaur Museum that immerses visitors in the 3.9-billion-year history of life on Earth.



They visited their hometown, outside Lethbridge, and for the first time since 1950 got to see the inside of the old house in which they were both born (83 and 87 years ago, respectively); it seemed a lot smaller than they remembered it, though!

On July 6, with 4 other Rotarians, he attended the Celebration of life for Gordon Kirkland (husband of former club member Dianne Kirkland and dad of current member Brad). It was a beautiful and very moving service.

Ineke: Happy to see our speaker Kristi from the Chamber today, and for her great presentation.

Also happy to have traveled to her daughter Marjolein's home in Kelowna this last weekend, where they had "bison burgers", which were delicious and prepared by Sean, our son-in law..... so appropriate after the "buffalo head smashing" story from Laurie!

Eric: It will be "party time" at the end of the month at Eric's place...when he celebrates his Bday already stocking up on steaks!

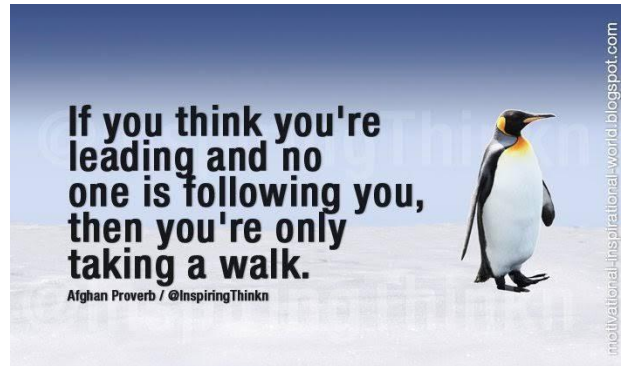
Club Business

Pub Hub - Thursday, July 30 – place TBA

August 7 - meet at Claire's house to prepare the Rubber Duckies for their race to the finish line.

August 9 – the Duck Race begins.

President's Closing Quote



[This famous leadership insight is widely attributed to civil rights leader **Benjamin Hooks** and frequently popularized by leadership expert **John C. Maxwell**. It highlights the fundamental truth that true leadership requires influence, connection, and a shared vision; without followers, you are simply an individual on a solitary journey.]

Submitted by Laurie Anderson