



Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon

President: Eric Mollema Phone: 778-242-2288
Secretary: Debbie MacRae Phone: 604-649-8962
Editor: Peter Boekhorst Phone: 604-476-0010

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

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AUGUST IS MEMBERSHIP AND NEW CLUB DEVELOPMENT MONTH

Happy Birthday

Happy Anniversary

Upcoming Speakers:

Aug 04	Dan Ruimy Mayor of Maple Ridge	Aug 11	Gordy Robson Who's Who	Aug 18
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RI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Peace does not happen by accident. It must be pursued deliberately, built strategically, and woven intentionally into everything we do. That is the challenge I am placing before the Rotary world this year.

Rotary recognizes peace building as one of our areas of focus. But I believe peace must be more than a category of work we set aside for certain projects. It must become a lens, one we choose to look through every time we plan, every time we serve, every time we ask what kind of impact we truly want to leave behind.

The Institute for Economics and Peace has identified eight Pillars of Positive Peace: well-functioning government, a sound business environment, equitable distribution of resources, acceptance of the rights of others, good relations with neighbours, free flow of information, high levels of human capital, and low levels of corruption. These pillars describe the conditions that make lasting peace possible. And when I look at them carefully, I see enormous potential for Rotary. Not because our work automatically advances peace but because it can when we are deliberate about it.

That is the key word: deliberate.

A water project does not build peace on its own. But a water project designed with the Pillars of Positive Peace in mind — one that asks how equitable access to resources strengthens community trust — can begin to lay that foundation. A vocational training program does not guarantee reconciliation. But one that intentionally brings divided communities together around shared economic opportunity can start to build it. The project does not change. The intention does.



In Colombia, Rotary's Pathways to Peace and Prosperity program shows us what this looks like in practice. Working in communities shaped by decades of armed conflict and displacement, the program combines economic empowerment with conflict resolution training and community-led reconciliation. Peace was not a hoped-for side effect. It was central to the design. That is the standard I am calling all of us to follow.

As you plan your next project, whatever the focus area, I want you to pause and ask one question: How does this create the conditions for peace? Consult the Pillars of Positive Peace. Find where your work connects. Then, make that connection intentional. Share what you discover with your club, your district, and your community. The more we talk about peace as a practice rather than a destination, the more naturally it will shape everything we do.

This is not about doing different work. It is about doing our work differently, with greater awareness, greater purpose, and a clearer vision of the world we are trying to build. Every Rotary project carries potential. Our task is to unlock it, not by chance but by choice.

Olayinka H. Babalola
RI President 2026-27

LAST WEEK'S MEETING



President **Eric Mollema** presided.

Invocation – Walter's invocation exhorted members to continue to serve humanity, embrace Rotary's ideals of service, caring, and sharing with those less fortunate, and make these principles a lifelong commitment.

Cheque Presentations

Mike Davies, our Community Services director, presented two community grants of \$500 each.



One cheque (presented to **Christina Shearme**) supports the **Intergenerational Garden**, which is a joint project between (1) the Maple Ridge, Pitt Meadows, Katzie, Seniors Network; (2) the Ridge Meadows Seniors Society; (3) the District of Maple Ridge; and (4) School District 42.

[Note: the Senior's Network and the Senior's Society are not the same thing although they work closely with each other. Christina Shearme took over the helm of the Seniors Network as its coordinator in 2024 and is a seasoned professional with more than 18 years of dedicated service to communities.]

Christina spoke about the Intergenerational Garden Program, which Rotary has supported for several years. Students from Eric Langton Elementary School and St. Patrick's School participate in the program. Senior volunteers mentor children in gardening, and students learn about how food is grown, soil health, beneficial insects, and environmental stewardship. Produce grown in the garden is shared throughout the community, including local food security programs. Approximately 250 pounds of produce were donated during the previous growing season. Christina thanked Rotary for helping sustain a program that connects generations while teaching valuable life skills and improving food security.

The other cheque was given in support of the **Family Education & Support Centre**, represented by **Nikki Neveson** and **Wendy Cendeno**. The Centre is a multi-service non-profit organization located in Maple Ridge. The organization supports many vulnerable local families through educational programs, parenting support groups, and resources. Nikki serves as the Community Development Coordinator for the Centre, and acts as a main point of contact for the facility's parent education programs and workshop registrations, managing courses designed to help children and adults build healthy life skills. **Wendy** manages administrative coordination, handles public inquiries, and helps oversee community initiatives. **Niki** explained that demand for services continues to grow. She noted that many families remain on waiting lists and emphasized that Rotary's contribution will directly help provide support services throughout the coming year.

Banner Exchange Report

Yvonne Berrisford reported that she attended the meetings of three different Rotary Clubs while visiting her daughter and two grandsons (ages 16 and 12) in Guelph, Ontario, and presented our Club's banner to each of the clubs (and received two banners back which she gave to our club). Yvonne learned of one club's particularly memorable project that involved shipping bikes to Cambodia to provide for kids so they can get to school. The project called "Wheels for Learning"; it says online that Rotary Wheels for Learning is an international humanitarian project now in its thirteenth year. The project builds, repairs and distributes bicycles to impoverished rural children in Cambodia, helping them travel safely to school. It also funds critical education and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene projects at rural schools so children can remain healthy and continue their education."



Program: Kris Harrison's Who's Who



Kris was born on September 13, 1957, at St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver to Finnish parents, and grew up in Burnaby. Chris and her husband Paul met following high school at a graduation celebration and have now been married for more than forty years. They have two daughters. She spoke proudly of their accomplishments, and she shared family photographs, including their daughters' wedding and first home.

Kris spent more than 30 years working as a Special Education teacher with School District No. 42. Paul also worked in education, giving them both lengthy careers serving local students and families.

Part of Kris's presentation focused on Finnish culture. Her Finnish heritage became an important part of her identity. Topics included:

- The importance of family traditions;
- Finnish language and customs;
- Annual summer celebrations;
- Finnish foods, especially traditional cardamom coffee bread;

The concept of "Sisu," (inner strength, perseverance and resilience despite life's challenges).

Kris explained how Finnish values have shaped both her personal and professional life. We also learned about Finnish sauna traditions, including the use of birch branches and the cultural importance of the sauna experience (and how to pronounce "sauna"!).

Since retiring, Kris has become active in volunteer work, including Emergency Support Services. She explained that fellow Rotarian Clair Viktora encouraged her to join Rotary after repeatedly crossing paths during community volunteer work. Kris concluded her presentation by introducing (via pictures) her two beloved dogs.

Attendance

Lynda Lawrence (who reports our club's attendance to Rotary International) said that 23 of our 33 members attended today's meeting, which is about a 70% attendance rate. However, she reminded us all that attendance at committee meetings, Board meetings, Duck Race activities, and other Rotary events all qualify as "Rotary make-ups". Our club president Eric would like us to get our attendance rate up close to 100%, which is a goal we could easily achieve if members reported make-up attendances to ensure accurate club records.

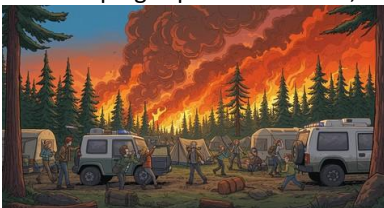
Happy and Sad Dollars

Yvonne celebrated visiting her daughter and grandsons during her recent trip to her daughter's home in Guelph, Ontario.

Walter reported that the club's banking arrangements are progressing well, including new signing authorities and establishment of a District Grant account.



Sharon said that wildfire smoke forced an early return from their camping trip in the Cariboo,



but happily announced her granddaughter's engagement



Ray expressed appreciation that recent rainfall should improve conditions for the upcoming Duck Race.



Ineke said that her stolen wallet was found and returned by some good Samaritans after being missing for a few weeks. Although her credit cards had been used fraudulently to the tune of about \$8,000, all important identification was recovered, and she expressed gratitude for the honesty of those who returned it.

Duck Race Update



Ray Peterson provided an update on preparations for the annual Rotary Duck Race, and encouraged members to assist wherever possible.

Key points included:

- Only 11 days remained until race day.
- Additional volunteers were still required, particularly for river positions.
- Family and friends are welcome to volunteer.
- A mascot costume is available, but a volunteer is still needed to wear it during the event.

Members were reminded of the preparation schedule:

- August 6: Duck loading (3:00–4:00 p.m.)
- August 7: Help numbering the ducks at **Claire's residence** - 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM - 24408 110th Avenue. (free pizza provided; members asked to bring lawn chairs if possible).
- Race Day: Volunteers are required for morning setup, gate operations, river duties and cleanup.

Upcoming Events and club business

- August 4 - Next Meeting: Guest speaker Mayor Dan Ruimy.
- August 8 – "Hands Across the Border" event. Peace Arch Park Heritage Building, Time: 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm

President's Closing Quote

"Then there is this joke about women and equal rights."

Submitted by Laurie Anderson