

Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon

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AUGUST IS MEMBERSHIP AND NEW CLUB DEVELOPMENT MONTH

Happy Birthday

Aug 13 Gordy Robson

Happy Anniversary

Upcoming Speakers:

Aug 11 Gordy Robson
Who's Who

Aug 18

Aug 25

LAST WEEK'S MEETING



President **Eric Mollema** presided.

Guests

Dan Ruimy, Mayor of Maple Ridge.

Keagan Nagy, Curator of the Pitt Meadows Museum.

Cheque Presentation

A cheque in the amount of **\$1,000** was presented to **Keagan Nagy** in support of the **Pitt Meadows Heritage and Museum Society**.

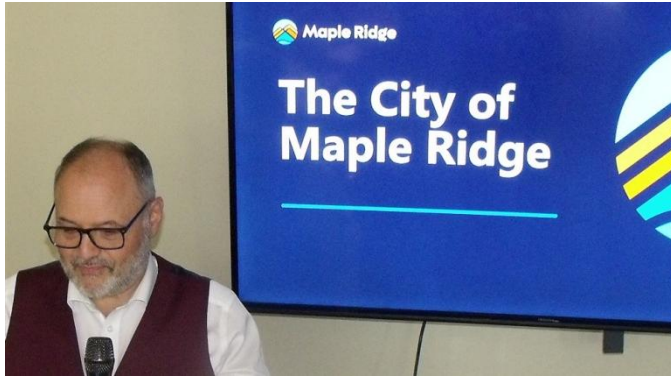


Keagan said that the funding will assist the museum in upgrading its collections management software, allowing easier public access to historical information and improving the museum's ability to catalogue and share local history. She noted that Rotary had previously funded replacement of outdated computer equipment, and that the new software upgrade is the next logical step in modernizing the museum. The upgraded system will:

- Improve public access to historical records.
- Modernize museum collections.
- Better preserve local history.
- Enhance visitor experience.
- Allow staff to continue expanding community engagement.

She expressed sincere appreciation for Rotary's ongoing commitment to preserving Pitt Meadows history, and also gave our club a Thank You card containing this message:

"Thank you again for supporting the Pitt Meadows Museum and Archives. Every day we use the computers that you helped us purchase last year, and they have really helped increase our productivity. With this year's donation we are hoping to increase public access to our collections and to Pitt Meadows history. We are extremely thankful for your continued support and hope that we can live up to the Rotary's example of caring for one's community and its people."



Mayor **Dan Ruimy** reviewed the City's strategic vision developed during the past three and a half years, and said the guiding principle remains: **"Community driven. Rooted by nature."** The vision reflects Maple Ridge's identity while balancing growth with preservation of the community's natural environment.



Digital Permitting Improvements

Improvements to the City permit application process include: Complete digitization of permit applications, online applications for demolition permits, online residential building permits, digital tracking of permit status, and improved accountability through electronic file management. The staff can now locate virtually any permit file within 24 hours rather than searching through paper records.

Faster Development Approvals

Several initiatives have been introduced to accelerate development approvals. These include: the Certified Professional Program allowing qualified professionals to conduct inspections; Online permitting; Concierge or "Velocity" service for qualifying projects, that allows developers meeting established criteria to pay an additional fee for dedicated project management from application through completion.

Housing Initiatives and Construction Activity

Housing initiatives have been introduced to meet Provincial housing targets. He noted that approximately 80% of outdated municipal bylaws have now been modernized. Maple Ridge has been assigned Provincial housing targets of approximately 3,954 new homes by June 2029. The City met its first-year target, and fell short by only twelve units during the second year. Mayor Ruimy emphasized that housing construction ultimately depends upon market demand and private investment. Despite reports suggesting slowing construction elsewhere in Metro Vancouver, Maple Ridge continues experiencing strong development activity. Construction value during the first six months of 2026 totaled approximately \$136 million.

North 256 Industrial Area and Transportation Projects

Construction has been completed on Abernethy Way between 224 Street and 230 Street. Planning continues for the extension toward 256 Street, with funding now secured after several years of advocacy with senior governments. The improvements will provide an important transportation corridor and improve truck access to the 600 acres of future industrial land off of 256 St. The Mayor noted this planning required extensive coordination with Metro Vancouver and represented years of work.

Members received an update regarding the Lougheed Highway Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) corridor, whose key features include dedicated transit lanes, stations with buses stopping approximately every 10–12 minutes, connections to Langley SkyTrain, and transit-oriented redevelopment along the corridor. The Mayor explained that similar projects in other jurisdictions have attracted medical clinics, businesses, higher-density housing and additional commercial investment along such corridors.

Climate and Environmental Initiatives

The Mayor summarized several environmental initiatives including heat pump requirements for new construction, tree protection bylaws (approximately 1,500 new trees have been planted), and the continued goal of increasing urban tree canopy from 38% to 40%. He emphasized lessons learned from the 2021 heat dome and the importance of ensuring homes contain at least one climate-controlled room.

Parks and Recreation

Several park improvements are underway including Maple Ridge Park upgrades and Volker Park improvements, and additional park enhancements throughout west Maple Ridge. He noted that three referendum questions that will appear during the October municipal election, including a new aquatic centre and new arenas. (Current aquatic facilities are operating beyond capacity and swimming lesson demand far exceeds available space; and plans include two additional NHL-sized ice sheets, one practice arena and one 2,000-seat arena that would accommodate community event space, graduation ceremonies, concerts and community gatherings. Although municipal staff separated the referendum questions, the projects remain interconnected; and even if all referendum questions succeed, the next City Council must still approve subsequent bylaws and funding.

Key Takeaways from Mayor Ruimy's talk:

- The City is focused on streamlining permit processes through digital solutions.
- A certified professional program was introduced to help developers expedite approvals.
- The city is modernizing its policies and bylaws to accommodate a broader mix of housing types.
- Tenant protection measures have been implemented to support residents affected by housing changes.
- Environmental initiatives include tree protection and the adoption of a zero-carbon building code.
- The city's capital investment plan is to enhance transportation, utilities, and community facilities.

Duck Race

Members were reminded of volunteer requirements.

Thursday August 6 – help load event gear and ducks onto the transport truck; – 3 PM until 4:30 PM.

Our truck will be there at about 3:00 PM, but the committee is planning for the move to start no later than 3:30, and to stay until the job is done. We need some strong volunteers to be there to help out!

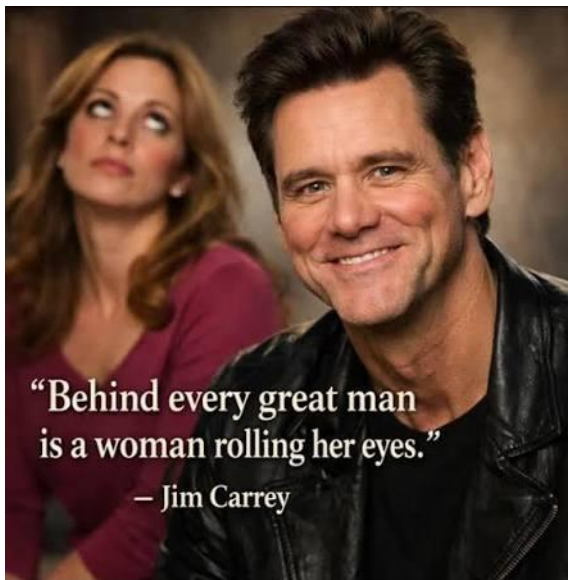
Friday August 7 – Numbering ducks at Clair's property, 24408 110th Ave. 4:00 until 7 PM. Pizza and beverages provided to all volunteers. Members to bring own lawn chairs if possible.

Sunday Event August 9 - all hands on deck (duck) – Arrive early for setup, starting at 8:00 am. Help unload the truck and set up.



- Bring your own lawn chairs.
- Assist with event setup and teardown, large and small jobs throughout the day.

President's Closing Quote



Submitted by Laurie Anderson