



The Four Way Flasher

Meadow Ridge Rotary Club

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Website: www.MeadowRidgeRotary.ca

Meetings: Tuesday 12pm, Bella Vita Restaurant

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OCTOBER IS VOCATIONAL SERVICE MONTH



TODAY: Denis Boyd & Sean Hogan - Rotary Leadership Institute

NEXT WEEK: District Governor Jane Helten

Happy Birthday

No Birthdays this week

Invocation

Oct. 11: Brian Johnston	Oct. 18: Ken Knuttila
Nov. 01: Melissa Kramer	Nov. 08: Sharon Kyle

CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT 5050 EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Oct. 18	noon	DG Jane Helten - District Governor's Official Visit	
Oct. 25		NO REGULAR MEETING!	
Oct. 26 (Wed)	6pm	Sports Banquet	Meadow Gardens Golf Club
Nov.1	6pm	Fireside – Adrienne Dale’s home	10295 248th St. Maple Ridge
Dec. 13	noon	AGM & election of Officers for 2012/13	

LAST WEEK’S MEETING

President Terry Becker opened the meeting with Sharon Kyle leading a stirring rendition of “O Canada” followed by Brian Bekar’s invocation reminding us to remember the 4 way test and putting it into application everyday in our work.



Prior to lunch Patrick “Farm Boy” O’Brien was assisted by farmhands Marco “Hayseed” Terwiel and Melissa “Milk Maid” Kramer in an End Polio Now fundraiser for the Rotary Foundation. Patrick and his family harvested wheelbarrows of pumpkins and, rather than make a million pies, they sold them to the Rotarians present and gleaned over \$320 from the breeches of those present.

Guests for the day were Irena Shantz, Sandy McDougall and Michael Hayes.

After a fine lunch “Happy & Sad’s” were presented including visitor Sandy McDougall thanking the club on behalf of his grandkids and the community for the great results of the Duck Race and the event day.

Members shared news items:

- President Terry: District Governor Jane Helton is coming Oct. 18
- Adrienne Dale: A joint Christmas party with the Haney Rotary club will be happening early/mid December.
- Mike Davies: Club Archives Project – our records, both physical and digital are going to be housed / managed by the

Maple Ridge Museum and Archives. All members and past presidents especially, are asked to assemble any Rotary 'stuff' and forward to Mike. This can be minutes, notes, papers, banners, digital information on CD's or ???

- Mary Robson: Sport Banquet meeting after lunch Oct. 11th
- Ken, a visiting Haney club member, announced the Haney Rotary Club Men's Stag at the Pitt meadows Hall coming up. Tickets are available from Haney members.

Gord Robson introduced **our speaker, Ed Villiers**, an active community member, retired accountant, writer and speaker. Ed has resided in Maple Ridge for over 65 years and has an extensive large scale model train on his acreage in East Maple Ridge.

Ed shared stories about Kelly Irving, a long standing member of the BC Police force (and then RCMP local detachment) who served Maple Ridge from 1944



Here are some of his stories:

At 3:00 o'clock in the morning on a Monday in February, 1951, Corporal Kelly Irving got out of bed to see what had caused a dog to bark outside his window. Kelly lived with his wife and three kids in a pink stucco house down on St. Anne Street in what we now call Old Haney. The building still stands. Across the street was nothing but bush, but in the dim glow of a corner streetlight he saw a car parked right opposite his house.

He recognized it.

It belonged to one of three strangers who had been hanging around Haney for the past several days. They had brought attention to themselves the day before, Sunday, when they walked out of the Baptist Church part way through the service. Kelly made it his business to take a good look at the trio, and then scanned his rogue's gallery. One of the men was a 32-year-old career safecracker.

Back in 1951 we were still a cash society. Except for a couple of gas companies credit cards were unknown and neither of our two Haney banks --- the Montreal and the Royal --- had overnight depositories because they had not yet been invented. To safeguard their sales returns after three o'clock when the banks closed, owners of little businesses took their cash home and hid it under mattresses.

Larger firms, like Mussallem Motors, the Hammond Cedar and Fuller Watsons stored their money in steel safes that were adorned with a lot of fancy gold scroll work around a big combination lock. These strongboxes were a challenge to a special kind of thief known as the safecracker who was an expert in the use of nitro-glycerine. In the social structure of criminals he ranked somewhere up there between a cheque forger and a stock market manipulator.

Kelly realized that one of Haney's businesses was about to have its safe blown. He immediately telephoned the other member of

the Maple Ridge police force, Ron Sommerville, and the two stood watch hidden in bush behind the car until the yeggs --- as the "Vancouver Province" called them --- finished their job.

Under a distant street light three figures could be seen emerging out of brush from a gully at the far end of St. Anne Street and running toward them. As they ran they were throwing away a trail of paper--- the cheques stolen from the Fuller Watson safe. When they reached their get-away-car Kelly with his revolver in hand, stepped out of his hiding place with Sommerville and yelled, "Drop that bag and put your hands up!"

They turned and fled.

Kelly fired a warning shot in the air and the man with the bag fell to the ground. For an instant Kelly thought he had killed him but the guy had dropped out of sheer fright. When the other two glanced back and thought their leader had been shot to death they surrendered.

After they were safely locked up Kelly took his flashlight and picked up discarded cheques all the way back to Fuller Watson's store. Later someone found the safe's dial out on the Lougheed Highway where it had been blown through a window.

The three men, all from Vancouver were tried in County Court at New Westminster. Recently Owen Fuller told me that thirty years later a customer came into the store and said he had seen the leader of the Fuller Watson safecrackers on television making a public appeal to be freed of a habitual criminal charge. He had blown 46 safes in his career but because of Kelly Irvine the safe at Fuller Watson's would be his last. Now useless for storing cash and too heavy to move, that safe still sits in its same place at Fuller Watson's store sixty years after it was blown.

One day he was driving across Kanaka Creek Bridge east of Haney when he noticed three men tending an illegal set net. He arrested them immediately, but because there were three of them and he had no backup and no radio, he marched them down River Road to the old jail on Callaghan Street at gun point.

Kelly did not like frivolous complaints. Bob Stinson remembers one Sunday after a baseball game at Telosky Stadium when Kelly joined the players for a beer in someone's house west of the Haney Hotel. Pete Telosky was so anxious to get inside that he parked his truck right on the highway. There wasn't much traffic but presently a stranger passing through town, saw the truck and decided to call the police. He knocked on the door of the party house and asked to use their phone. He said he wanted to call the police.

"You don't need to call the police. He's here. Hey Kelly!"

Kelly came to the door. "What's the problem?"

"There's a truck parked right out there on the highway."

"Did you notice if the keys are in the ignition?"

"Yes, as a matter of fact they are."

"Well don't stand there telling me about it. Go move it."

Submitted by Robert Campbell