



The Four Way Flasher

Meadow Ridge Rotary Club

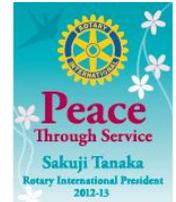
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Website: www.MeadowRidgeRotary.ca

Meetings: Tuesday 12pm, Bella Vita Restaurant

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October is Vocational Service Month



TODAY: No regular meeting: Fire Side

NEXT WEEK:

Happy Birthday

Happy Anniversary

Invocation

Oct. 23	Tom Manion
Nov. 6	Eric Mollema

CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT 5050 EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Oct. 30	6pm	Fire Side at Marco Terwiel's home	21616 River Rd. M.R.
Nov. 13	noon	District Governor Sean Hogan's official visit.	Bella Vita Restaurant

ERIC LANGTON PLAYGROUND

On Wednesday October 24 there was the official ribbon cutting for the Eric Langton playground. Our club contributed through the Sports Banquet \$3,500 to it.

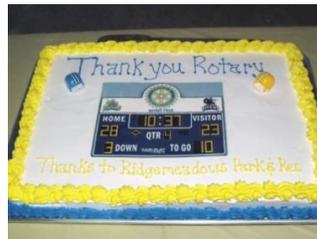
First there was a gathering of the whole school community together with guests in the gym. School principle Mr. Wheatley introduced the organizations that made this project real.

Ineke held a short speech on behalf of our club.



More pictures in the [Gallery of our website](#).

SAMUEL ROBERTSON ROTARY SCORE CLOCK



Last Thursday the Score Board at the Rotary Field – at Samuel Robertson Technical – was official put into action. This project also was funded by the Sports Banquet.

Ineke had the honours to speak to the crowd (Is she now our speaks person?) and push the power button, that caused the score board to light up.



More pictures in the [Gallery of our website](#).

50 / 50 draw - Jackpot at \$575.50 + 1/2 of today's sales, 28 cards left, Jackpot on "Queen of Hearts" only!

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

With much bravery in spite of being musically challenged, President Lindsay led the singing of O Canada and also gave the invocation. Jim Coulter acknowledged the following guests: Peter Davies, Shirley Samuth, Melissa Kuber, and the MLA for Maple Ridge-Mission, Mark Dalton.

Happy and Sad:

Our Liberal MLA gave a sad dollar (for a reason not clear to the note taker, thereby leaving much room to the imagination).

Mary Robson gave a happy dollar as Mary and Gordon are going to Dubai to see their new grandson.

Rotary Moment was given by Peter Boekhorst.



Peter pointed out that it is the 50th anniversary of Interact, which stands for "International" and "Action", and is open to youth between the ages of 12 and 18. The first Interact club chartered outside of the United States was in India in January, 1963 followed by Africa in April of the same year. In the first year after Interact was organized, there were 290 clubs in 25 countries. Today there are 13,500 members in 138 countries.

When President Lindsay discovered that Brian Bekar was Fine Master, he was tempted to abuse his executive privilege and cancel Brian's duties for the meeting, but thought better of it - and was duly fined. In honour of our guest speaker for the day, Brian fined anyone who hadn't taken a TRANSLINK means of conveyance during the last seven days. Everybody who was present paid a fine.

Mary Robson advised that on October 26 the Maple Ridge Football Association would be holding a dedication ceremony at the Samuel Robertson Rotary field for their new score clock which was purchased from our club's donation. In recognition that our club always does everything on a large scale, the dedication was delayed so that a Municipal Zoning Variance Permit could be obtained due to the size of the structure. (Who says that size doesn't count?) Mary also noted the upcoming meeting to recognize the completion of the Eric Langton playground for which the club donated \$35,000.

Guest speaker:

Our guest speaker was Bob Padden, who is the Executive Vice President of Strategic Planning and Public Affairs for Translink. His talk was entitled (or should have been) "Who Said It Was Going To Be Easy?" Gordon Robson introduced Mr. Padden who has held the past positions of: head of the Environmental Department of BC Hydro, followed by a position with the BC Department of Highways, and now with



Translink. Although Gordon suggested that Bob need not hold back in telling us about when we would get an express bus from Vancouver to Maple Ridge, and was free to talk about any disagreements he may have with our Premier, Mr. Padden (with good humour and like a wise old fish) failed to take the bait. After stating that he hoped "Gordon would hold back", he thanked Gordon for his "thoughtful and kind introduction".



Mr. Padden gave us some interesting facts about Translink:

-Because of the large geographical area served by Translink, which is criss-crossed with rivers, inlets and other physical challenges, not to mention the fact that there are 21 different municipalities within the GVRD, costs are high compared to the population base and revenues are a challenge. Major cities such as Toronto, Montréal and Chicago have a much smaller geographical area but larger populations. Chicago, for example has about 4 million people but only about 20 to 25% of the area to cover. With these challenges, to think that Translink could afford a transportation system like these other major cities is unrealistic.

- The GVRD is unique in North America in that use of the public transport system is increasing, and this is not happening in other areas. Between 2008 and 2011, population within the GVRD has increased by 6%, while cycling has increased by 26%, use of transit by 17%, and Shank's Pony by 6% - but car use by only 4% - so car use is growing at a pace slower than the population growth.

- Although the Golden ears Bridge was built by a private corporation who was to be repaid the cost of the construction by the tolls, Translink guaranteed the number of crossings and therefore currently subsidizes the Bridge to the tune of \$2 million per year as the number of crossings is less than anticipated. Notwithstanding, the level of use of the Golden ears Bridge today is the same as during the first month when the bridge was opened and crossing was free; and the bridge will serve our area for the next 100 years.

In conclusion, Bob Padden assured us that Translink is taking steps to be more efficient and generate more revenue, and drawing down on their reserves to a level of 12% against expenditures - which in laymen's language means it has enough reserves to run the system for one month without the use of revenues.

Although Eric Mollema drew the winning 50-50 ticket, he also drew the 9 of hearts.

Submitted by Laurie Anderson