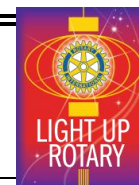


Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon, Bella Vita Restaurant

President: Eric Mollema Phone: 778-242-5549 [E-mail the President](#)
 Secretary: David Riddell Phone: 604-406-8882 [E-mail the Secretary](#)
 Editor: Peter Boekhorst Phone: 604-465-3392 [E-mail the Editor](#)



February is World Understanding Month

Today: No regular meeting on Feb. 10; instead Fireside on Feb. 13

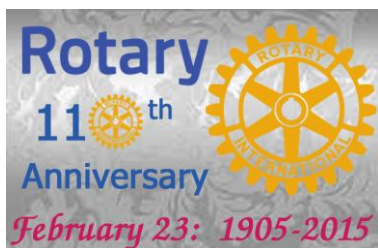
Next Week:

Happy Birthday	Happy Anniversary	Invocation
		Feb. 17: Laura Cherrille Feb. 24: Jim Coulter

CALENDAR OF CLUB EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Feb. 13	6pm	Fireside at Mark Forster's home (Feb. 10 regular meeting cancelled!)	11439-234A Street M.R.
Feb. 17	noon	Membership Meeting	Bella Vita Restaurant
Feb. 18	6pm	Parent's Night: Your kids & Drugs... at Pitt Meadows Secondary	19438 – 116B Ave. P.M.

MESSAGE FROM OUR DISTRICT GOVERNOR



Our 1.2 million-member organization started with the vision of one man, Paul P. Harris. The Chicago attorney formed one of the world's first service organizations – the Rotary Club of Chicago – on

February 23, 1905. This was a place where professionals of diverse backgrounds could exchange ideas and form meaningful, lifelong friendships. The Rotary name came from the group's early practice of rotating meetings among the offices of each member.

We are truly international. Just 16 years after being founded Rotary had clubs on six continents. Today we are working together from around the world both digitally and in person to solve some of our world's most challenging problems. Our commitment to service is ongoing. We began our fight against polio in 1979, with a project to immunize 6 million children in the Philippines. Today only three countries remain polio-endemic – Afghanistan, Nigeria and Pakistan. Until polio virus transmission is interrupted in these countries, all countries remain at risk of importation of polio.

Rotarian's are your neighbours, your community leaders and some of the world's greatest history makers, who come together to create positive, lasting change in our communities and around the world.

So on February 23rd we celebrate our 110th year as an organization. Thank YOU all for the GREAT things you have done in our communities and the world and even more than that the things that YOU WILL DO!

Yours in Rotary –
Lyle & P.J. Ryan

GRAND OPENING OF GLENWOOD'S PLAYGROUND – FEB. 5

On Thursday, February 5 Glenwood Elementary had a grand opening of their new playground. The Meadow Ridge Rotary Club contributed \$13,000 towards this project through the Sports Banquet Legacy Fund.



LAST WEEK'S MEETING

Visitors

Due to a movie shoot at the Bella Vita restaurant, our luncheon meeting was held at Chances Casino. Partially due to the City's Mayor being the guest speaker, we had several visitors which included the following city councillors:



Kiersten Duncan, Bob Masse, Craig Speirs and Jim Rule, Chief Administrative Officer of the City of Maple Ridge.

Also in attendance were:

Pauline Forster (wife of Mark Forster and [co-]host of our February 13 Fireside), **Jillian Bradley and Matt Baillie.**

Happy and Sad

Deborah Hyslop (who drove from her work in Coquitlam) was happy to have made it to the meeting; **Ineke Boekhorst** was happy to tease a friend in snow country that we have plants already spiking through the dirt; and **Sharon Kyle** wasn't sure whether she was happy or sad to be going to a Canucks Hockey game.

Guest Speaker

Clint Callison introduced our guest speaker, **Nicole Read – the Mayor of Maple Ridge**, and advised us as follows:

Nicole has been a resident of Maple Ridge for the past eight years. Among those sharing her home are Cooper, Molly, Benjamin, Kiwi and William [*can you guess which two are her children*]; and we won't forget her mother and husband.

She has a Bachelor of Arts in History and a Master of Arts in History, both from Simon Fraser University. Before founding her own company, THG The History Group Inc., she worked as a Historical Research Consultant for Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. THG has grown to be a foremost provider of project management and historical consulting services in Canada.



Nicole Read has completed several key volunteer projects, including work for the Carnegie Centre at Main and Hastings, and the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre. She served for a year on the Maple Ridge community Heritage Commission, and is currently serving her second term on the

Yennadon Elementary School Parent Advisory Committee.

Mayor Read did a bit of travelling on the Internet and learned about our *Rotary Four Way Test*. She said that the Test fits well into her way of doing things:

Is it the TRUTH?

Nicole said that she is direct in what she says, and will not shy away from saying it if it is the truth.

Is it FAIR to all concerned? and

Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

Nicole said that it is her goal when making decisions on Council to apply these two tests to the decisions that are made. For example, she said, take the Translink Referendum [*please!*] At a meeting of Mayors, she voted "no" to the PST increase because in her opinion it did not meet the fairness test – she concluded that Maple Ridge was not getting a fair share of the new transportation services compared to the money that the citizens of the City of Maple Ridge would be contributing towards the costs resulting from a 0.5% increase in the PST; and that Translink needed to "up" what they were prepared to give it to the residents of the City.

Two of her priorities are community safety and development. In order to encourage development, she feels the City needs to improve the way services are given, including shortening the time taken to process applications for development within the community.

Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIP?

To comply with this Test, city needs to engage with Metro, and endeavour to develop partnerships with the provincial and federal governments in cost sharing. She believes that the senior levels of government may be downloading too many costs that have to be borne by the civic governments. For example, how much time is spent by the RCMP in taking indigent people to the hospital and waiting for them there? And at what cost to the city?

In conclusion, she said Maple Ridge is an amazing community, with great environmental attractions and amenities, and with citizens who are passionate about their city and who want to retain its unique character. We need to "celebrate our successes", and work towards "re-branding" the city of Maple Ridge within the region and the Province to bring in much-needed investment.

In answering questions from the members, she said, among other things:

- On becoming the Mayor, she had kudos for the great staff support at City Hall led by Jim Rule, and said that all Council members are invested in making a better community
- On the abuse suffered by downtown businesses and their premises at the hands of some members of the homeless community, she said she "knows it is a significant issue".
- On "re-branding", she is not satisfied that bringing in big box stores to Maple Ridge is the way to go. With more and more online shopping, perhaps a better approach is to encourage distribution centres. The city also needs to make sure there is the necessary space to accommodate those businesses and professions that we want to encourage.
- On Translink and the upcoming referendum, we need to have better information on what we are getting and when we are going to get it.

50/50

Sharon Kyle drew the ticket, but with no deck of cards to search out the Queen of hearts, the outcome of today's draw will be determined at the Fireside Meeting to be held on February 13 at the home of Mark and Pauline Forster.

Submitted by Laurie Anderson