

Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon, Bella Vita Restaurant

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## MARCH IS WATER AND SANITATION MONTH

**Today:** Dr. Biju Mathew - Charitable School in India  
**Next Week:** Elizabeth Bachman - Etiquette

Happy Birthday	Happy Anniversary
March 30: David Riddell	

## CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Apr. 16	7 pm - 10 pm	Rotary Wine Festival	ValleyFair Mall, Maple Ridge
Apr. 30 - May 1		District Conference	Semiahmoo Resort in Blaine, WA.
May 12-15		RYLA	WA, United States
Aug. 7		Rotary Duck Race	Maple Ridge Park

### DON'T FORGET TO SELL TICKETS FOR WINE FESTIVAL!

**Wine Festival**  
*and Craft Beer Tasting*

**MEADOW RIDGE & HANEY ROTARY**  
Join us for international wine & beer tasting, silent & live auctions, great live music and a culinary showcase featuring local restaurants!

**Saturday, April 16, 2016**  
**7:00 - 10:00 pm**  
**ValleyFair Mall, Maple Ridge**

**Tickets \$45 ea.**

For tickets call  
Ineke Boekhorst: 604-467-2420  
or Deddy Geese: 604-467-5535

[www.MeadowRidgeRotary.ca](http://www.MeadowRidgeRotary.ca)  
[www.HaneyRotary.org](http://www.HaneyRotary.org)

Proceeds to support Youth, Culture and other Rotary Charities in Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows.  
*Thank you to all sponsors who make this event possible!*

### LAST WEEK'S MEETING

**Angie Edmonds** conducted the meeting, in the absence of our President **Mark Forster**.

Rotary Moment by Adrienne Dale - Tolerance of Differences

*Occasionally there is a temptation to criticize the laws, customs and traditions of another country that may seem strange or contrary to our own. In some instances illegal practices or customs of one nation are completely lawful and acceptable in another.*

*As members of an international organization dedicated to world understanding and peace, it behoves Rotarians to exercise restraint in judging our Rotary friends and citizens from other countries when their behaviour seems unusual to us.*

*Rotarians should be guided by this admonition of tolerance: "Rotarians in all countries should recognize these facts and there should be a thoughtful avoidance of criticism of the laws and customs of one country by the Rotarians of another country."*

*As we strive to strengthen the bonds of understanding, goodwill and friendship, these policies still provide good advice and guidance.*

Guests:

**Neil Smith** - from the Haney Rotary Club, who spoke for a few moments about the Duck Race.



**Phoenix McLaren** - President of the Fraser Valley Rotaract Club - who announced their fund raiser to be held at the Equestrian Centre in Maple Ridge on March 31, at 6:00 pm, to raise money for the support of the Mission Youth House. The price of only \$25 will get you a steak buffet.

**Brenda Sieg** - assistant to our guest Dr. Doug Byng, MLA.

Happy and Sad

**Dave Rempel** - hearing of the problems in other countries makes him happy to be a Canadian and living in this community and being a member of our Rotary Club.

**Libby Nelson** - had a recent trip to Victoria (where she enjoyed a glass of wine?), while **Ineke Boekhorst** had a trip on the sidewalk - fortunately neither of them were inebriated, and both of them survived relatively unscathed.

**Clint Callison** as Fine Master, and **Betty Levens** as our Mystery Greeter, did their best to extract some loonies.

Guest Speaker - our local Liberal MLA Dr. Doug Byng



**Dr. Doug Bing** was elected MLA for Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows on May 14, 2013. He is a member of the Cabinet Committee on Strong Economy, the Select Standing Committee on Health, the Select Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs, the Special Committee to Review the Personal Information Act and the Special Committee to Review the Independent Investigations Office. Doug

was serving in his third term as a City Councillor in Pitt Meadows prior to his election to the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia. Born and raised in Vancouver, Doug attended the University of British Columbia, earning Bachelor of Science and Doctor of Dental Medicine degrees. It was at UBC that he met his future wife and partner, Dr. Helen Henderson. Doug's interest in politics started early when he successfully ran for student council president in high school, continued at university where he served as a student representative on the UBC Senate, and carried on to his professional life where he served on committees and the council of the College of Dental Surgeons of BC. For the past 33 years, he and his wife Helen have called Pitt Meadows home. They established Pitt Meadows' first dental practice in 1980 and have been providing dental care to thousands of people from Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows ever since. They have three sons.

Doug opened his talk by quoting the phrase from the famous opening paragraph of Charles Dickens' novel, A Tale of Two Cities: *"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times..."*

***"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us..."***

Fortunately, we live in British Columbia.



He then gave us an update on British Columbia and some of the programs of the provincial government:

- BC is leading the country in its economic activity, with 50,000 jobs being created in British Columbia last year.
- The government is borrowing funds to build a better economy, with \$20 billion capital spending, including 8 billion for the BC Hydro project. Government estimate is that it will create 71,000 jobs over a three-year period.
- MSP premiums: in 2016, 2 million British Columbia residents will not pay any MSP premiums. 335,000 BC residents will get a reduction. The plan is to hire 1600 new nurses.
- The government will provide a \$1200 RESP grant for families who start a RESP account for any child who was born 2007 or later, with a plan to expand this to any child born 2006 or later.
- With respect to housing, first-time home buyers purchasing new homes with a value of \$750,000 or less will be exempt from Property Transfer Tax.
- The Government is planning to collect data about property transactions, requiring purchasers to disclose their citizenship.
- The BC Government will contribute \$100 million to the Prosperity Fund, with 50% of the funds going to service debt, 25% to establish endowments, and 25% going to investments.
- 13,000 Canadians have moved to British Columbia from other parts of the country, and 37,000 new immigrants from other countries have come to our province.
- We are enjoying relative labour peace in the province, with 80% of unionized employees having a contract, and a six-year contract with the teachers union which will guarantee no disruption in our education system for that period.

Doug Bing then talked about the Quality Inn proposal, whereby the provincial government plans to spend \$5.5 million to purchase and convert the Quality Inn on the Lougheed highway as a facility for the "homeless". Doug does not support the project, which puts him at odds with his own government. The facility is not simply to house homeless persons who already live in Maple Ridge, but will house persons from other municipalities also. One of Doug's (and our Club members') concerns is the lack of public consultation on the issue. Members of our Club expressed the view that this type of a facility will not solve the problem, because what is needed are the resources and a plan to assist those with mental problems, provide treatment for drug and alcohol dependent persons, and to help those that are in neither category but simply "down and out" financially. No one at the meeting spoke in favour of the project.

50-50

The looser left the pot untouched, and with the deck now missing the 10 of Diamonds.

**Submitted by Laurie Anderson**