

Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon, Bella Vita Restaurant

President: Ineke Boekhorst Phone: 604-467-2420 [E-mail the President](mailto:ineke@meadowridge Rotary.ca)  
 Secretary: David Riddell Phone: 604-406-8882 [E-mail the Secretary](mailto:david@meadowridge Rotary.ca)  
 Editor: Peter Boekhorst Phone: 604-465-3392 [E-mail the Editor](mailto:peter@meadowridge Rotary.ca)



## NOVEMBER IS ROTARY FOUNDATION MONTH

**Today:** Gordon Kirkland - Organ donation and his new book

**Next Week:** AGM & Election of Officers

**No meeting on Dec. 27**

<a href="#">Happy Birthday</a>	<a href="#">Happy Anniversary</a>
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### CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Dec. 3	5:00 – 8:00 pm	Santa Parade; need your assistance for the Friends in Need	
Dec. 6	Noon	AGM & Election of Officers	
Dec. 7	6:00 pm	Haney Club Christmas Party: Adults \$35, Children 5 - 12 two options Buffet \$15 or Chicken Strips and Fries \$10, Kids 4 and under are free	Meadow Gardens Golf Course
Dec. 10	6:00 pm	Christmas Social – Theatre in the Country; Dinner & “Miracle on 34 <sup>th</sup> St.” Pre-Social at Angie’s home at 4:00 pm	<a href="#">9975 272 St., Maple Ridge</a>
Dec. 16		Christmas Train; “get together” at the Billy Miner before the event	
Dec. 20	Noon	Christmas lunch / Gift exchange (Fun “stealing gifts from each other)	

### CYCLAMEN SALE:



We will have our annual Christmas plant sale again this year with all proceeds towards the Starfish Backpack Project.

The order forms are available online at [meadowridgerotary.ca/Downloads](http://meadowridgerotary.ca/Downloads)

When using Google Chrome browser, download the form pdf-file and open in Acrobat (Reader). From here you can submit it.

### JOB OPPORTUNITY: A FACEBOOK ADMINISTRATOR

We urgently need somebody to keep our Facebook Page up-to-date. For that, most information can be found on our website or this bulletin.

Please contact Peter if you can help.

### LAST WEEK’S MEETING

Our club president **Ineke Boekhorst** welcomed everyone, and gave her “quote for the day”, by Winston Churchill:

*MP asks: Mr. Churchill, must you fall asleep when I’m speaking...Churchill’s reply “NO, it’s purely voluntary”*

#### Cheque Presentation

Mike Davies presented to **Vicki Kipps**, the Executive Director of Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows Community Services, a cheque in the amount of \$1,500 in support of **Meals on Wheels**.

Vicki advised that Meals on Wheels offers the delivery of hot, nutritious meals to seniors, many of whom live alone and at risk of isolation, and to others in need who are unable to prepare meals on their own. Seniors who live alone, eat alone. Volunteers delivering the meals to seniors, provide social connection and safety check for seniors, which is proven to be critical for seniors’ health and wellness. Some volunteers even go in and visit the recipients, and often the volunteers are the only persons that the recipients have contact with.



**Ineke** reminded us again that we are looking for a host family for our incoming Rotary exchange student.



**Ineke** also had good news about the Starfish Backpack Program.



Firstly, a local mother gave to our program \$140 which was given by her young daughter who was inspired enough by this program to give all her birthday money that she had received.

Also, the Westminster Savings Credit Union is continuing to support the program by setting up a booth at their 224 St. location, where they will accept donations.

And last but not least, the program received \$750 back from UNITEX, the supplier of the backpacks, being 50% of the cost of supplying them.

### Happy and Sad dollars

**Dave Rempel's** daughter was very sad as she had to put down her dog which was in poor health.



**Laurie Anderson** gave \$5 in appreciation of the club's singing "happy birthday to you", but wasn't sure whether it was happy or sad that this meeting day was his 74th birthday; but as they say, "every day above ground is a good one". In an unsuccessful attempt to get another \$5, they put a candle in his desert and sang to him again.

**Angie Blanco** said this was the last meeting that she would be able to attend for a while as she was starting at the Surrey office with her new job promotion at the BMO.

**Brian Bekar** was happy to be back after his cruise up the East Coast.

### Guest speaker: Sylvia Russell

- Superintendent of School District 42



We are pleased to invite Superintendent Sylvia Russell, who took the time out of her busy schedule to come and talk to us about the goings-on in our School District #42. Sylvia said that she had a strong connection with Rotary, because her husband was a Rotary Graduate Scholar in Sydney Australia. While he was "Down Under", she attended school in Paris, following which they both went back to

Quesnel, BC. She traveled with her husband to various Rotary clubs in northern British Columbia where he spoke of his experience in Australia.

Sylvia said she was proud to be the Superintendent, and noticed that this School Board is the strongest Board that she has worked with (and includes Rotarians David Rempel and Mike Murray).

She reviewed with us the school district's Strategic Facilities Plan, which may be described as a Plan that "identifies and rationalizes current and future capital requirements for school sites, new schools, and facility upgrades based on building condition,

seismic vulnerability and ongoing maintenance/life cycle costs; as well as new education initiatives. This completed plan provides the critical context for discussions with the municipalities regarding eligible school sites, the Ministry regarding high priority project requests, and the community regarding the board's vision and priorities surrounding district facilities."



One exciting proposal is the construction of the South Albion School, which may comprise an elementary school, a neighbourhood learning centre and a potential community centre in the Albion area of Maple Ridge. Sylvia stated that more future school sites are needed, but one problem which the school district faces is that the government will not let them purchase future land sites until families have moved in to an area and demonstrate the need for a new school; but this, of course, increases the cost of purchasing the land after the neighbourhoods have developed.

School district 42 has a vibrant Trades Program. There are currently approximately 145 students in this career and technical program which affords students the opportunity to get a head start on their chosen careers. Future programs in this regard include auto collision repair, horticulture and a Fine Arts Academy.

The district does face a number of challenges. The government funds school districts on the year-by-year basis, which makes it difficult to plan ahead. Our school district is trying to set up a funding program on a three-year basis ("stable predictable funding") which will allow for better planning. Salaries for school administrators have been frozen since 2008. The recent Supreme Court of Canada decision, which restored the 2002 collective agreement of teachers, will require some constant work and attention as the 2002 collective agreement is now outdated, and not necessarily a 2016 solution.

Elementary schools are already over capacity, with approximate more 1000 elementary school children than had been anticipated. Secondary schools, on the other hand, are underpopulated.

### 50-50

All that **Walter Volpatti** was able to treasure was the 8 of Spades.

### President's Closing Quote of the Week by Churchill:

*To improve is to change ..... to be perfect is to change often.*

**Submitted by Laurie Anderson**