

Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon, Bella Vita Restaurant

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SEPTEMBER IS BASIC EDUCATION AND LITERACY MONTH

Today (Sep. 25): Brenda Jenkins - Who's Who

Next Week (Oct. 02):

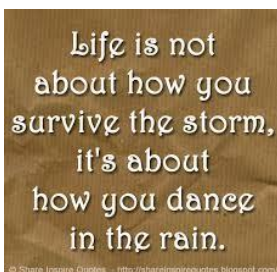
Happy Birthday	Happy Anniversary
Sep. 23: Mark Vosper	Sep. 25: Adrienne & Warren Dale Sep. 26: Mark & Linda Vosper

CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Dec. 16		Christmas Party at Adrienne's	10295 248 St, Maple Ridge

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

Presidents Opening Quote:



Guests: Ineke & Peter's daughter Marjolein Lloyd from Kelowna

Cheque presentation:

Mike Davies, chair of the Community Services Committee, presented a cheque in the amount of \$1500 (from the proceeds of the Wine Fast) to **Curtis Pendleton**, who has occupied the position of executive director of the **Maple Ridge Pitt Meadows Arts Council** for the past seven months.



These funds will go towards supporting elementary student access to specially programmed school performances in the ACT Theatre and tours and hands-on learning activities through our Art Gallery during the 2018-2019 school year.

Over 2,500 students a year attend events with their classes at the ACT each year, and we have increased the number of opportunities this year to

continue to meet an overwhelming demand.

Program: Special Olympics participant **David Stevenson** and his mother **Diane Stevenson**

Firstly, David gave an impressive talk about why he likes the Special Olympics:

Good afternoon. Thank you for inviting me here today to talk about Special Olympics and why it is important to many people. My name is David Stevenson. I'm from Pitt Meadows and have lived here all my life. I'd like to tell you more about Special Olympics. Special Olympics offers year-round sport for people with intellectual disabilities. It is an organization that provides training and competition in 18 different individual and team sports. Currently the Ridge-Meadows local offers 11 sports. It also provides a variety of programs for youth ages 2 and up. Special Olympics is worldwide with approximately 5 million athletes today, 4 600 in B.C. In the Ridge-Meadows local there are about 85 athletes.



I first found out about Special Olympics in 2011 from a friend of my parents. The first sport I joined was 5-pin bowling. Since then, I've participated in curling, basketball, ten-pin bowling, bocce, floor hockey, and power lifting. Our bowling practices are at Rev's in Maple Ridge and powerlifting practices are at Champion Athletic Club in Maple Ridge. One favourite sport is 5-pin bowling because not only are there competitions, I have made new friends and had fun. Another favourite sport is powerlifting because I've noticed a difference in my arm muscles and my strength and power.



*David Stevenson, left, Special Olympics athlete, and Const. Tana Goode with the Ridge Meadows RCMP, head up the Law Enforcement Torch Run as it leaves the RCMP detachment downtown Maple Ridge for the two kilometre run.
(Colleen Flanagan / Jun. 7, 2018 / THE NEWS)*

I've also helped out at Special Olympics fundraisers at Safeway, Staples, Tim Hortons, and the Law Enforcement Torch Run. During these fundraisers I've talked to lots of people about Special Olympics and helped them understand what it's all about. I have given some public speaking presentations and taken an Athlete Speakers Bureau workshop.

Since I first started in 2011, I have been to 2 provincial games for 5-pin bowling, and I will be going to my third provincial games in Vernon in February. One of my favourite moments was when I won a trophy for men's high single in our local. I scored 272 one game! It made me feel proud. There are lots of things I like about Special Olympics. I've made new friends and have had lots of laughs and great conversations with them. I've learned new skills in different sports that I wouldn't have a chance to try otherwise. I won a medal for high score in 5-pin bowling at the Kamloops provincial games.

There are many reasons why Special Olympics is great. I can be part of a team where everybody supports me and makes me feel accepted. Everyone can participate and feel successful regardless of their ability. I feel proud knowing that I represent my local at competitions. It has been exciting to travel to new places. The cost is low — for my \$30 registration I can participate in as many sports as I like, take part in competitions, and get any equipment and uniforms I need.

I would like to share the Special Olympics athletes' oath with you:



To me, this means being supportive and if I don't win, don't feel hurt inside, and be bold!

Thank you for inviting me here today to talk about my involvement with Special Olympics. I hope you know a bit more about Special Olympics now. Thank you again for your caring.

Following David's presentation, Diane showed us some slides about the Special Olympics and how it changes the lives of so many people.

Submitted by Laurie Anderson