

Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon, Bella Vita Restaurant

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JANUARY IS VOCATIONAL SERVICE MONTH

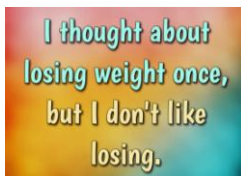
Happy Birthday		Happy Anniversary
Jan. 27: Sharon Kyle	Jan. 28: Mike Davies	

CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Apr. 27	7 pm – 9:30 pm	Rotary Wine Festival	ValleyFair Mall

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

Presidents quote for the day:



Meadowridge Sports Heroes Society



Mary Robson gave a brief update on the Meadowridge Sports Heroes Society, which is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to identify and honour individuals involved in athletics in Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows within School District 42, who were members of local youth sport organizations, and who went on to achieve an international level within their chosen sport.

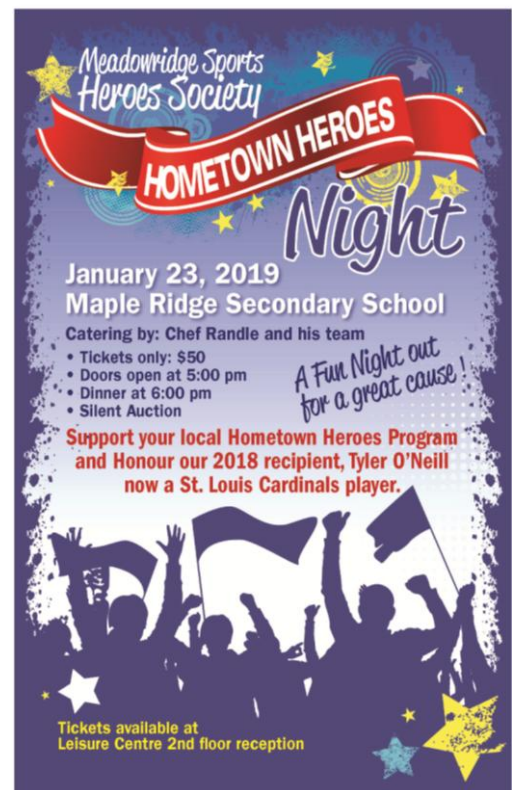
Each year nominations are accepted with selection taking place each spring/summer, being formally inducted in September at the annual fundraising dinner held at Maple Ridge Secondary School. This year, the event will be held on January 23, with dinner at 6:00 pm, and at a cost of only \$50.

The 2018 recipient is Tyler O'Neill who now plays with the St. Louis Cardinals. The Society operates on the concept that a light should be shone on the success of these athletes, and the challenge was to find a way to share the stories of their success with the youth of Ridge Meadows.

Hometown Heroes posters are displayed in all our schools, so that our youth could realize "Wow! He went to my school! He played on my team! She was in my league!" and "If I work hard enough, I can get there from here!"

The criteria is quite simple: Nominees have to have come from Maple Ridge or Pitt Meadows, attended school in the Ridge Meadows area and participated in minor youth sports either on school teams and/or minor league sports teams. If they went on to international success, they could be candidates for Home Town

Heroes. In 1998 the first 12 Home Town Heroes were inducted. Twenty years later in 2018 the roster of inductees stands at 43. The MeadowRidge Rotary Club ran this program for many years through the inspiration and leadership of Mary and Gordon Robson. The Program is now run by the newly formed Sport Network (through the city of Maple Ridge Parks and Recreation Department, comprised of representatives from Maple Ridge sport organizations, School District 42, Health Authority and other key individuals who are passionate about sport and physical activity. The group will provide leadership, provide an advisory function and will foster an inclusive sport and physical activity community.



You can purchase tickets online at

mapleridge.ca/1738/Our-Sport-Community

Happy and Sad

Our Sergeant-at-Arms **Brian Bekar** (who, despite being drilled at the dentist today, is happy that he “doesn’t hurt”) says that the position of Sergeant-at-Arms “is being upgraded next week” because he is heading south for awhile. (We would no doubt disagree with his assessment, even though we know his replacement will do a good job).

Ineke Boekhorst is back (“broke”) from an enjoyable 3 days in New York with her daughter and son-in-law where they saw “The Lion King”, the Brooklyn Bridge, and other interesting sites.

Mary Robson put a \$20 bill in the cup, and hopes that some of us will buy tickets the Hometown Heroes dinner (for which she has tickets -also on sale in the Leisure Centre 2nd Floor Reception).

Fine Master

Matt Debruyn said that some Rotarians asked him “are you back again?” while others said “when are you leaving?” so he used that as an excuse to find us all because we apparently didn’t know his busy schedule by heart !

Guest Speaker: Urma Mollema introduced our guest **Kevin Hilgers**



Kevin Hilgers has been a Rotarian since 1997 with the Rotary Club of Grande Prairie, Alberta, transferring to Rotary Club of Victoria Harbourside in April, 2018. His wife and best friend is Janice McNeice. Their 2 daughters have both been Rotary Youth Exchange Students. Kevin’s background is radio; he was in broadcasting for 15 years hosting radio shows in Edmonton, Grande Prairie, Saskatoon and other centers. Kevin is an entrepreneur with

an ad agency in Grande Prairie, Alberta, with rental properties in Victoria, British Columbia. While business remains in Alberta, Kevin and Jan now call Victoria home. 10 years ago Kevin took on the role as a raffle manager for a dream home type lottery, a professional position to operate a lottery for the Rotary Club of Grande Prairie. Since then the lottery has turned into a fundraiser profiting well over a million dollars annual for the Club.

Kevin has been District 5370’s PR and Marketing Chair, was Assistant Governor and active in the Youth Exchange program. He is a multiple Paul Harris Fellow, and he and Jan are Bequest Society members of the Foundation. Kevin was Rotary Friendship Exchange chair for 3 years.

Kevin was District 5370’s youngest Governor in 2012/13. Highlights from the year as Governor include the Million Dollar Dinner where four million five hundred thousand dollars was raised for the Rotary Foundation. Following 2012/13 the District received two awards at the Zone Institute in Philadelphia; District with highest membership increase in the Zone, and District that formed 2 or more clubs. Kevin was honoured to represent Rotary International President Ron Burton at District 5320 Conference at Temecula, California, in May, 2014 Kevin has assisted Rotary International Zone 24/32 with several Zone Institutes including Toronto, Winnipeg and Philadelphia. Here, he focused on communications for the Institutes and hosted several workshops on social media and tips on running successful District Conferences.

Kevin says “My family and I have received so much from Rotary I don’t think I could ever pay it back. But I’m certainly going to try”. He is now in a new Rotary Club, a new Rotary District (5020) and even a new Zone (25/26) and excited to take on fresh, new challenges and opportunities to serve and inspire.



Topic: “It is time to share”

- Attracting and retaining new Rotary members

Kevin asked us to think about all the good that our Rotary club does in the community, then asked, “think of how much more good it could do the club had more members?, if it had half as many members again?, how much more good could it do if it had twice as many members? Attracting new members is everyone’s responsibility – it is your responsibility and in his mine. Think of all the good things that you get out of Rotary. The least you can do is share the gift of Rotary by sponsoring someone. In fact, try for sponsoring two new members every year. How did I try to achieve that goal? The answer is, “I got off my ass”, and always keep my eyes open for potential members. Ask people, “what do you know about Rotary?” But don’t just ask anyone. Look for “keeners”. Look for someone who has control over their own time. Look for someone who have skills that can give back.

What matters most is why a person stays in Rotary, not why they joined. When you ask someone, you want to tell them what it costs to be in Rotary, and what the benefits are. Make sure they are a great fit. Rotary international has some good suggestions as to how to attract members. Look on Shop.Rotary.org or Rotary.org. Businessmen know about the growth of their business. Rotary is in the “business of doing good in the world and having fun at it”. Remember, we all have a responsibility of sharing the gift of Rotary. Ask yourself, who are we looking for? Why do we want to grow? Why do we need more Rotarians? It is time to share.



Maintain the habit of sharing!

Submitted by Laurie Anderson