

Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon, Bella Vita Restaurant

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MARCH IS WATER AND SANITATION MONTH

Today (Mar. 26): **Laurie Anderson** - Who's Who
Next Week (Apr. 2): **Ruth Lee** - Pathfinder Youth Centre Society

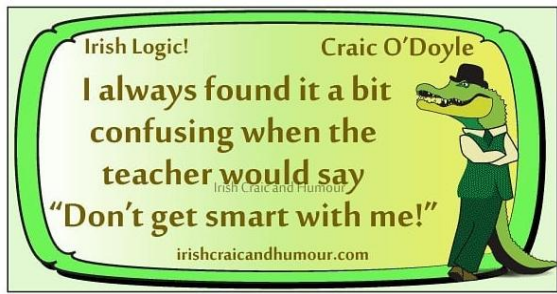
Happy Birthday	Happy Anniversary

CALENDAR OF CLUB EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Apr. 11-14		District 5050 Conference	Tulalip Casino & Resort
Apr. 27	7 pm – 9:30 pm	Rotary Wine Festival	ValleyFair Mall
Jun. 21		Installation of 2019/2020 Executive	

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

Presidents quote for the day:



Guests:

Gordon Robson
Mary Robson
Adrian Keenan

Happy and Sad to Dollars:

Libby Nelson is very happy as she has a new great-grandson, who lives close by so she can see him from time to time.

Mary Robson, executive director of the Friends in Need Foodbank, is delighted that the Food Bank has a new refrigerated truck.

Mike Morden, who has now been our mayor for about 4½ months, said he still believes in the Four-Way Test, notwithstanding.

Mike Davies had a happy and a sad dollar. His daughter with her children were in a car accident, but fortunately nobody was hurt. This occurred in Burnaby and he was very impressed with the police and Fire Department who attended the scene, because the police drove her and the children to a place where they could wait to be picked up, and the fire department took the children's bicycles to a safe place where they can be retrieved later.

Program: **Mayor Mike Morden** - The City's Strategic Plan



Eric Mollema introduced the mayor, who is a member of the Haney Rotary Club. Mike was on the city Council proximally five years ago, and this is his first term as mayor of Maple Ridge.

Mike stated that the first thing he did upon commencing his term of office, was to establish a code of conduct to define how Council will engage with other council members, staff, and the public - that is to say, to avoid civil discord and treat everyone with courtesy and respect.



Council has also created a strategic plan, the key items for which are:

- Community Safety,
- Community Pride & Spirit,
- Inter-Government Relations,
- Growth Management, and
- Natural Environment

Regarding Community Safety and the homeless camp, the city and the Housing Minister are definitely not on the same wavelength, as the Province is going ahead with establishing more low-barrier housing with or without the city's approval. The city Council is in favour of transitional housing, not simply warehousing people. Mike believes the issue is "what it is" and not "where it is".

With respect to Inter-Government Relations, the goal is to reach out to all levels of government, agencies, and service providers to establish work relationships to set the stage for the next four years of working together. Our new mayor met with all levels of government as soon as possible after he commenced his term. He went and spoke to five BC Government Ministers, so that he could open up lines of communication with them. He discussed the fact that the city wants things to happen on safety issues, etc.

With respect to Community Pride & Spirit, Mike is also a big supporter of enhancing the downtown core, including bringing back festivals (such as the Caribbean Festival) to the downtown area.

Growth management - it is expected that Maple Ridge will grow to a population of 140,000 people by the year 2024. The citizens of Maple Ridge need to have a plan as to what type of a city they want for the future, and to plan for it.

Mayor Morden (as well as councilor Gordon Robson) are very pleased with the way the new Council is working together.

President Clint Callison stated that he was interested in increased commercial development in the city. Mike advised that the commercial tax base has recently decreased from 9% to 7%, and that it is estimated that the citizens of Maple Ridge spend \$100 million a year outside of the city. The city needs to work on the right type of development which will encourage money to be spent locally.

Mike is in favour of mixed-use development. When it comes to sports and recreational facilities, he is in favour of partnering with such organizations as the YMCA, who would help pay for the capital costs as well as operating recreational facilities and thereby save the city the money of paying people to operate it.

Also on his list of priorities is the Restorative Justice Diversion program. Restorative programs are sometimes used to divert offenders from being charged (a decision made by the police or prosecutor) or tried (a decision made by the prosecutor or judge).

Closing Quip:

**History teaches us that
men and nations
behave wisely once
they have exhausted all
other alternatives.**

QUOTEHD.COM

Abba Eban
Israeli Diplomat

Submitted by Laurie Anderson