



Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon, Virtual Meeting

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FEBRUARY IS PEACE AND CONFLICT PREVENTION/RESOLUTION MONTH

Happy Birthday	Happy Anniversary
	Feb 02: Eric & Urma Mollema

UPCOMING SPEAKERS:

Feb 02: Scott Payne Club History Report	Feb 09: Christine Payton Author of The Power Within	Feb 16: Shashanka Vangari Cancer and Rare Disease Research
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RI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



In Rotary, 23 February is our anniversary, and February is also the month when we focus on promoting peace. There is a reason for this: Contributing to peace and international understanding has been a high priority for us since our earliest days.

We are often asked: "How can we get involved in peace now?" There are many paths to peace in Rotary. Our youth programs point us in the direction of Positive Peace, as does the work of intercountry committees and the Rotary Action Group for Peace.

Another path is the Rotarian Peace Projects Incubator (RPPI), an inspirational collaboration among Rotarians, Rotaractors, and Rotary Peace Fellows and alumni. Led by Rotarians in Switzerland and Liechtenstein, RPPI has designed 48 global projects that any club can support, either directly or through Rotary Foundation global grants. Nino Lotishvili and Matthew Johnsen, alumni of the Rotary Peace Center at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand, are two of the many volunteers.

During my Rotary peace journey, I have learned how personal resilience helps build inner peace and create sustainable outer peace. This was the inspiration behind the Women Peace Ambassadors for the South Caucasus project, which is based on my field research in Georgia. The RPPI team of Rotarians and peace fellows recognized the incredible potential of women from mixed-ethnicity families who live on borderlands to be role models for peace within and beyond their communities. Through workshops on building inner and outer peace that draw on the power of storytelling, 40 participants will be sharing their stories and

reaching around 400 extended family and community members. These inspiring but marginalized women will reclaim their inner strength as peace builders at the grassroots level. In this way, we will take steps toward the sustainable, peaceful society we need so much, not only in our region, but throughout the world.

— Nino Lotishvili

I was excited to join the peace incubator project and to further strengthen my ties with Rotary's peace community by working with past and current peace fellows to develop these proposals. My team wrote five proposals — three in Bangladesh, one in Iraq, and one in Poland — that focus on the arts and on education to generate dialogue across religious divisions and avert the radicalization of young people. I was inspired by how, despite the pandemic, we came together via technology with a vision to develop, test, and strengthen ideas and to produce workable solutions that clubs across the world can support to advance peace. I am excited to work with Rotary's peace community to transform these visions into reality. — Matthew Johnsen

Here is further proof that in Rotary, we prefer action to words. This is Rotary at its best. I encourage you to visit rppi.ch to explore the projects and support them.

We have lasted 116 years because of our strong ethics, our passion for Service Above Self, and our unique approach to problem-solving. One of our greatest strengths is how we reach across our communities and across national, ethnic, religious, and political divisions to unite people of all backgrounds and to help others. This month, let's celebrate our history and the many ways that *Rotary Opens Opportunities* to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace, our ultimate mission.

Holger Knaack
President 2020-21

OUR CLUB LAST WEEK'S MEETING:

President **Clint Callison** presided.

Program:

New Era Project in Maple Ridge - Franz and Nadja Gehriger

About our speakers:

Franz U. Gehriger

A native of Switzerland, Franz graduated from the renowned Swiss business University of St. Gallen, and in Canada from the University of British Columbia. In the late 1970's he was employed by Credit Suisse with responsibilities in international financing and taxation. In the 1980's he became President of Polaris Realty (Canada) Ltd managing the entire \$1bn Canadian real estate portfolio. Franz founded and is the President of SwissReal Group (a real estate development, investment and management company based in Vancouver) in 1984 and he is also a licensed real estate broker.



Nadja Gehriger

Nadja, Franz' daughter, joined SwissReal in 2014 and is its vice president. She is involved with all the development projects at SwissReal, including the development of the original Vancouver Stock Exchange building into a hotel. After graduating from UBC with a Bachelor of Commerce, Nadja worked in London and Zurich for 14 years in the investment banking divisions of Credit Suisse and Merrill Lynch and was one of the co-founders of the European office of Qatalyst, a boutique investment bank.

Both Franz and Nadja are members of the Vancouver Rotary club, all of which Franz was the president approximately 10 years ago.

The New Era Project is the name of the development taking place on the 8 acres of land bounded by Dewdney Trunk Road, Plaza Street, Brown Avenue and 224th St. in Maple Ridge. SwissReal is partnering with Johnston Meier Insurance Agencies which is the locally owned and operated insurance brokerage. Johnston Meier was established in 1973 as a single site in Maple Ridge by Bruce Johnston (who died approximately one year ago) and Tom Meier, which they grew to over 46 locations throughout British Columbia. The site of the New Era Project is a result of the land assembly by Johnston Meier over the last 30 years, and will be their legacy.

Overview

- Located in the heart of Maple Ridge's town centre and multiple properties in a three-block area along Dewdney Trunk Road.
- Comprises residential, retail and commercial units, expansive and beautiful public spaces
- Master plan gradually increases in density as it moves from west to east.
- >1,000 residential units across all phases.



Franz and Nadja gave us an overview of the project and the long-term impact that it will have on Maple Ridge itself. Phase 1 is currently under construction on the west side of the development, and will be a mixture of residential and commercial units. They are committed to having the best of mechanical systems, and want to be energy conservative. Each unit will have its own separate ventilation system which means that the same air will not be circulated within the building. 40% of pollution in the environment is a side effect of the construction of buildings, and therefore they do not want to use concrete unless it is absolutely necessary. Approximately 1 acre of land has been given back to the City which will enable the widening of Dewdney Trunk Rd., Plaza Street and Brown Avenue. The project is currently on time or ahead of construction (at the present moment, 2 to 3 months ahead of schedule).



- Phase 1 of 7 involves the new construction of a mixed-use development with residential low rise, 3-level townhouses, ground level retail and an underground parkade.
 - 192 residential units; of which 49 rental units
 - 700sqm of ground level retail
 - 237 parking stalls, 125 bicycle stalls, and 199 storage units
- The 2.3 acres site is located in the centre of Maple Ridge, between Dewdney Trunk to the south, Brown Avenue to the north, Plaza Street to the west and 223 Street to the east.



- Approx. 200,000sf gross floor area
- 192 residential units: 30 townhouses, 93 one-beds, 57 two-beds, and 12 three-beds.

South Building – Strata & Rental



- Total – 96**
Strata – 47 and Rental - 49
- 1 bedroom – 62
 - 2 bedroom – 24
 - 3 bedroom – 10

North Building – Strata



Total - 66 units

- 1 bedroom – 31
- 2 bedroom – 33
- 3 bedroom – 2

Townhomes - Strata



30 units

Retail - Rental



700 sqm

The development will transform the centre of Maple Ridge and rejuvenate the whole area. Franz stated that Maple Ridge has been a laid-back community (compared, for example, to Surrey) and has been growing slowly but surely. He is of the opinion that Maple Ridge is one of the most beautiful areas in the lower mainland surrounded as it is by mountains, lakes and parks (which Franz and his family enjoyed over the years). They estimate that it will take approximately 10 years to develop the site, but the speed of the development depends on future market conditions. He believes the main reason the real estate market is currently so active, is the low interest rates that are now available and expected to continue for some time to come.

For more information go to <https://neweramapleridge.com> or go to the Presentation Centre at 22351 Dewdney Trunk Rd., Maple Ridge.

Happy and Sad:

Brenda Jenkins noted that a family who has financial difficulties and severe medical problems (including a son with the brain tumour) needed a new kitchen stove, and contacted our club for help. Through our network, we were able to refer them to the Community Chest who is set up to help persons with this type of need, and within the week the new stove was obtained and installed for the family.

Roger Powley contributed, just for being a “Happy Rotarian”.

Laurie, Lynda, Matt, and Adrienne gave some happy dollars in recognition of the great work Roger is doing in programming.

While **Libby** has only got “liquid snow” to be happy about,



Matt DeBruyn recently celebrated his 80th birthday, and obviously received a few bottles as birthday gifts. He is therefore feeling happy, which may have something to do with the fact that he has “not had an alcohol-free day” since the big event.



Eric Mollema has sad news. His godson contracted Covid, suffered four heart attacks, and passed away at the age of 27. He is therefore contributing to the Rotary Foundation \$1,000 to obtain a Paul Harris in the name and memory of his godson.

Fine Mistress:

Match Game: **Deborah Hyslop** imposed a fine of one dollar on everyone who could not guess the answer to the following riddle:

You measure my life in hours and I serve you by expiring. I'm quick when I'm thin and slow when I'm fat. The wind is my enemy. What or who am I?



The answer: *a Candle*

Announcements:

February 14 - **Virtual Valentine's Day** “get together”. Adrienne is arranging this event which will be on Sunday at 6 PM. Further information will be circulated in the near future.

Seniors – Ineke noted that some of our members drove around delivering meals to seniors on Christmas Eve, which was well received and much appreciated by our seniors. Drivers are now needed to deliver to seniors on Valentine's Day a gift of cookies and or chocolates, together with a Valentine card. Cards are needed to go with each delivery, and Ineke asked that we either make or purchase cards and, most importantly, hand write a greeting in the cards (it can be the same greeting as the cards are going to different seniors) and contact Ineke if you are able to help.

Duck Race - Walter confirmed that the lottery license, in lieu of this year's duck race, has been approved.

Today's quote:

Intelligence is like underwear. It's important that you have it, but there's no need to show it off.

Submitted by Laurie Anderson