



## News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows Honour Their Amazing Volunteers

**Maple Ridge, BC:** Volunteers donate the valuable and 'non-renewable' thing they have, their time, to the communities of Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows. Hundreds of your neighbours and friends give their passion, expertise and labour in donating thousands of hours to our community each year. To celebrate the remarkable contributions of volunteers in our community, Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows each hosted a 1950s themed "Our Volunteers Rock" BBQ to honour the people who dedicate themselves to community service.



At both events all the volunteers received a pin and certificate and there was a special presentation for volunteers celebrating the milestones of 5, 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30 plus years of service to the community. With some volunteers getting close to a half century of volunteerism, the age of attendees ranged from pre-teens to seniors.

On Friday, May 25 Mayor Walters, the Pitt Meadows Council and members of the Parks & Leisure Services Commission gathered at the South Bonson Community centre for an evening of 'Rock and Roll' and 'Recognition' attended by 125 local volunteers. Mayor Walters paid tribute to three long time volunteers:

Joe Antalek – 54 years of service  
Dave Douglas – 40 years of service  
George Simpson – 30 years of service

The Maple Ridge event, attended by 200 local volunteers, was held on May 31 at the Greg Moore Youth Centre and featured a vintage 1950s truck that Councillor Judy Dueck and her husband brought along to serve as a backdrop for the event. Mayor Daykin, members of Council, and the members of the Parks & Leisure Services Commission honoured the milestone volunteers with their pins and framed certificates. Some of the long service volunteers honoured at the event included:

Bill Archibald – 49 years of service  
Lorraine Bates - 30 years of service  
Tom Cameron – 30 years of service  
Bernice Gehring – 45 years of service  
David Koehn – 40 years of service  
Julie Koehn – 40 years of service  
Shelia Nickols – 30 years of service  
Dave Smith – 37 years of service

Both events featured a burger BBQ served by staff members from Parks & Leisure Services and prepared by the local Kiwanis. Both events featured ‘root beer floats’ and a giant cake dedicated to the amazing volunteers in our community. There were trivia contests and door prize draws, in addition to the presentation of the commemorative certificates and pins.

Both Mayors and many of the Council members attended both events recognizing that many of the people in attendance dedicate their volunteer hours to Community Policing programs, Emergency Social Services, festivals and events and other organizations whose work transcends the borders between Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows. Mayor Daykin and Mayor Walters spoke at both events as a sign of the importance that volunteerism plays in our communities.

“It is humbling to see how many years some citizens have devoted to volunteering in our community. People care deeply about our community, and take the time to make a difference by rolling up their sleeves and getting involved. Whether it’s amateur radio operators to support our Emergency Operations Centre or the dedicated folks who man the barricades at the Pitt Meadows Day Parade, everyone who volunteers in our community are our heroes,” noted Mayor Walters of Pitt Meadows. She continued, “It is so nice to see friends and neighbours that share a passion for our community that is an inspiration to all of us on Council. I thank you all for your service.”

Mayor Daykin of Maple Ridge said, “I have said it before and I’ll say it again, volunteers give the most valuable gift that they have, their time, to a wide variety of organizations in our community. I also know that some volunteers tell us that they don’t want any recognition, that they don’t want a certificate or pin. They volunteer because it gives them a sense of purpose and connects them to the community in a special way. That’s the humbling part that Mayor Walters talked about. This event is just a small way that we can thank these people for their contribution to making our two communities great.”

Kathryn Baird, Recreation Coordinator Volunteer/Special Events for Parks & Leisure Services, noted that the long service recognition was based on information supplied from the volunteers themselves. “This was our first year providing milestone awards to our volunteers, and we were pleased to have so many of these special people come forward and provide information with regards to their years of service and the types of roles they have served. Some volunteers asked to remain anonymous and didn’t supply their years of service, but we know of their amazing contributions and they are truly and fully appreciated for their community service. We are going to continue this new tradition and look forward to hearing more stories of people’s efforts in the two communities,” said Kathryn Baird. She continued, “What’s always great is to see the look on the faces of some of our youth volunteers when they see someone like Bill Archibald, who has dedicated close to 50 years of volunteer service to the community. I also know that our Council members and Commission members also have a long list of volunteer hours under their belts, as was evident as they visited their friends at both events. It’s clear that volunteerism is an important aspect of community engagement and that the health of our community is reflected in the commitment that people have made to volunteering.”

If you would like more information about becoming a volunteer, please visit [www.myvolunteerpage.com](http://www.myvolunteerpage.com) or call the Parks & Leisure Services Festival and Volunteer Office at 604-467-7325 or the Community Volunteer Centre at 604-467-6911.