

BULLETIN



Meeting date: July 18, 2023

Virtual or In-Person: In Person – Monterey Centre Pine Room

Visitors / Guests:

Margaret Black

Oak Bay Mayor and Honorary Member Kevin Murdoch – guest speaker

President's Welcome:

President Chris acknowledged our presence on unceded First Nations Land

Announcements:

President Chris gave us an update on Membership. OBR currently has 49 members. Members who did not renew their membership for this Rotary year include: Doris Lewis, Janet Power, David Fieldhouse, Ceci Diemecke & Anne Sims. In addition, there's been a 'switch' in members from the Mustard Seed. We say good-bye to Treska Watson and Steve Bell and hello to Emily Palimaka.

RI President Ian McNally is in Victoria August 8th for the Foundation Dinner – register through the District 5020 website.

Celebrations Master:

CM Dave Maxwell managed to stump most of us with his quiz – note Mental Health, Empowering Girls and Peace Keeping Through Exchange are President McNally's initiatives for 2023-24. The RI Convention in May is in Singapore. In September there will be a never done before collaboration of Service organizations including Rotary and Kiwanis. A few happy and sad \$ along with birthday announcements – Lorna, Joan P. and Ron.

Wendy won the 50/50 - \$45!

Next Meeting:

August 1st – Hybrid meeting at Monterey Centre (Pine Room). Brian Crockford and Sonnet Force will do Vocational Talks.

Program Overview:

Oak Bay Mayor Kevin Murdoch, began his talk, letting us know that as Mayor he wears many hats and today he would speak to us about Policing. A topic he's very passionate about. He is certified through the Institute of Corporate Directors/Rotman School of Management in Police Board Governance.

Kevin serves as the Oak Bay Police Board Chair, as the Greater Victoria Integrated Police Units Regional Governance Council Co-Chair, and as the Director of the BC Association of Police Boards.

Kevin sees the primary duty of the police is to establish trust in the community that it serves. Trust has eroded over the last number of years for various reasons one of which is the focus on policing tends to be on what we've seen on television. Police in the community, established trust has been Oak Bay's focus over the past 10 years.

Kevin also talked about the structure, reporting and oversight of police. In Canada (unlike the U.S.) the body overseeing the police is civilian – Kevin is part of this.

In Oak Bay the police are 100% responsible for all day to day policing. Some of the areas Oak Bay contracts out to Saanich Police are lab work, detective services and sex crimes. In Oak Bay the police are working to build trust, aiming to takeaway barriers. Changes in uniform, biking and walking around the community rather than driving are some of the ways in which they're doing this.

Kevin talked about the Victoria and Esquimalt amalgamation and the Integrated Police Unit which is responsible for traffic and crowd control. Both these 'experiments' are challenging as it's difficult to provide civilian oversight given their structure.

All in all a very interesting talk. As a last comment Kevin noted that recruitment has become a challenge given the negative imagine of police. Creating a positive culture will hopefully make a difference.

Dustin thanked Kevin with our infamous OBR coffee mug.