

## Press Release

### Haiti Relief Event

#### “Service Groups and Entertainers Gather to Assist Haiti”

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When - Friday January 22<sup>nd</sup> starting at 5:00 p.m. and ending Saturday January 23<sup>rd</sup>

Where - Memorial Peace Park, 224<sup>th</sup> Street, Maple Ridge, BC

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Local Rotary, Kiwanis and Scouts Canada groups have joined hands to help raise funds for a Haiti earthquake relief. They will gather to build a ShelterBox village to show what can be done to effectively help the Haitians who have lost everything.

A “ShelterBox” is a large container packed with a large tent, sleeping bags, water purification, cooking aids and tools – enough to help support 10 people in emergency situations for 6 months or more.

The “village” of 10 tents along with displays and entertainment will take place on Friday, January 22 and Saturday January 23 in Memorial Peace Park and at the ACT.

“We want you to come out and see the shelters. You will see how you can make a tangible difference to the people of Haiti. Bring your generous spirits, bring a drum for the drum circle on Friday evening and show up.” says Alphonse Seward, the organizer who is from the Meadowridge Rotary club. “The event was inspired by the Ecuadorean Minga: a Minga is an urgent call to community to work for the benefit of others. So, we invite you to join us, bring your tents for the night, share your time, money or music in support of Haiti. Everyone has a gift to share. Please contact us.”

The Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows Arts Council has offered up the Arts Centre and Theatre on Saturday, Jan 23. A wonderful variety of entertainment will be featured in the lobby starting at 12 noon, and the main event will take place at 2:00 p.m. on The ACT main stage featuring: Bruce Coughlan from Tiller’s Folly, New House, Lava Lights, Mike Kalanj, James Badger, Modern Republic, Randy Clarke of the Mojo Stars, Leslie Harris and Curtis DeBray from lessismore. Also James Rogers will be performing with local musicians. James’s latest project is a new band with Tom Lavin (from Powder Blues),

Emcee and monologue by Gordon Kirkland. All are welcome to attend by donation at the door. Program is subject to change. Check out <[www.theactmapleridge.org](http://www.theactmapleridge.org)> for details.

There will also be entertainment at the outdoor bandstand and the Greg Moore Youth Centre — music, storytelling, and magic.

The Kiwanis will provide simple food and drinks by donation, plus there will be ShelterBox exhibitions, drum circles, stories and more.

All donations will be given directly to the ShelterBox program <<http://www.shelterbox.org>> which has provided emergency support for over 800,000 people worldwide since 2000. A simple green box that can easily be carried by two people anywhere will provide shelter for ten people. When opened it not only has a ten person tent, but also an “all fuel” stove, utensils, basis tools such as a hammer and saw, a supply of water purification tablets and many more essentials for a minimum of a six month stay. In one delivery, a family has all they need to get their life back together.

Your donation will not go astray. ShelterBox delivers directly to the recipients by Rotarian volunteers instead of going through a myriad of bureaucracies. Teams from around the world are deployed to train, distribute and set up the ShelterBox systems.

“The emergency in Haiti is of a historic magnitude and we must dig deep, change our plans and be in the moment.” Says Dr. Marco Terwiel and Bonnie Telep presidents of Meadowridge Rotary and the

Haney Rotary. "The need is now and the time to respond is now and your support is needed now. This is a call to community to come together for the benefit of the people of Haiti."

Further details and times will be announced on the Meadow Ridge Rotary website at <<http://MeadowRidgeRotary.ca>>.

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