The Rotary Club of Richmond celebrates 50 years of Friendship and Community Service 1962-2012
As we celebrate our 50th Anniversary, the members of the Rotary Club of Richmond wish to acknowledge the generous financial support of Milan Ilich. Milan, a successful and respected businessman, believed in giving back to his community. Through their Foundation, Milan and his wife Maureen support many charitable organizations in Richmond, Vancouver and beyond including Richmond Caring Place and Richmond Hospital. Milan was always faithful in his support of the Rotary Club of Richmond’s fund-raising endeavours. He made substantial contributions to all of our golf tournaments, reverse draw dinners, the Seniors Gala and Rotary Hospice House.

Milan showed exemplary leadership as a philanthropist in our community and although he never sought public recognition, was twice awarded the Paul Harris Fellow by the Rotary Club of Richmond. Recently, he received the Rotary Certificate of Appreciation from Rotary International and was accorded the 2010 Order of British Columbia.
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RI President Kaylan Banerjee

Kalyan Banerjee, a businessman from Gujarat, India, is the current president of Rotary International. As president, Banerjee leads a global network of 1.2 million business and professional leaders from more than 200 countries and geographical regions who, through volunteer service, help meet the needs of communities worldwide.

Banerjee, a member of Rotary since 1972, and the international organization’s third president from India said, “I am honored to lead Rotary as its 101st president.” Banerjee added that Rotary’s strengths include its ability to attract leaders from different vocations around the world, as well as its role in promoting peace. “My goal is for Rotary to become the preferred organization for today’s generation to join and participate in, to make the world better, safer and happier,” he said.

As president, Banerjee will oversee Rotary’s top priority of eradicating polio, a crippling and potentially fatal disease that still threatens children in Africa and Asia – including India. Since 1985, Rotary club members worldwide have contributed more than US$800 million and countless volunteer hours to the effort, and Rotary is now working to raise an additional $200 million to fulfill its commitment for a $355 million challenge grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Great progress has been made, and the incidence of paralytic polio infection has plunged worldwide from 350,000 cases in 1988 to fewer than 2,000 in 2008.

Banerjee has served Rotary as a director, Rotary Foundation trustee, committee and task force chair, International Assembly group discussion leader, president’s representative, and district governor.

The chair of the Southeast Asia Regional PolioPlus Committee, Banerjee has served as a member of the International PolioPlus Committee for many years and has attended international meetings with the World Health Organization and UNICEF in that capacity.

Banerjee is a Major Donor, Benefactor, and Bequest Society member, and has been awarded the Foundation’s Citation for Meritorious Service and its Distinguished Service Award.

Banerjee also serves as a trustee of Rotary club-sponsored trusts that support many educational and community development programs in India, including a 250-bed hospital. Banerjee is a director of United Phosphorus Limited, the largest Indian agrochemical manufacturer, and the chair of United Phosphorus (Bangladesh) Limited. He is a member of the Indian Institute of Chemical Engineers and the American Chemical Society, a past president of Vapi Industries Association, and former chair of the Gujarat chapter of the Confederation of Indian Industry. He earned a degree in chemical engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur. Banerjee and his wife, Binota, have two children and four grandchildren.
January 24, 2012

To the members of
the Rotary Club of Richmond, British Columbia, Canada

My dear brothers and sisters in Rotary:

I am pleased to offer my congratulations to you as you celebrate your club’s 50th anniversary.

Fifty years ago, your club’s charter members came together to begin a Rotary club—to share their enthusiasm and their vision to make Richmond a better place.

Today, Richmond is a better place, because it has a Rotary club—where men and women of talent, ability, caring, and compassion come together to share their strengths with others. It is my belief that we Rotarians are pragmatic idealists, who bring our ideals to life through our Rotary service. We aspire to live our lives ethically, honestly, with the Four-Way Test to guide us, as we work to elevate ourselves and thereby, to elevate the world.

All the lights of the world cannot be compared even to one ray of inner light of the self. And when Rotarians come together in love and service, those rays of inner light burn more brightly together. In the years to come, this is my wish for your club: that the flame of love and devotion burn in your hearts, that the light of understanding shine in your minds, that the warmth of harmony glow in your homes, and that the bright rays of service shine forth ceaselessly from your hands.

Sincerely,

Kalyan Banerjee
President, 2011-2012
I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to all those marking the 50th anniversary of the Rotary Club of Richmond, B.C.

This special milestone gives you an opportunity to reflect upon your proud history and achievements, while honouring the ties of fellowship that have contributed to your success as part of one of the world’s foremost voluntary community service organizations.

I would like to commend each one of you for responding to humanitarian concerns with generosity and compassion. Our entire country benefits from the spirit of giving and service to others that is a hallmark of the Rotarians.

Please accept my best wishes for a most memorable anniversary celebration.


OTTAWA
2012
The Hon. Alice Wong  
Member of Parliament for Richmond  
Minister of State (Seniors)

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GREETINGS

February 9th, 2012

I am delighted to extend my warmest greetings to the Rotary Club of Richmond on the occasion of your 50th anniversary. As a Honourary Rotarian myself, this occasion is of particular interest to me.

Over the past several years, I have had the pleasure to hear about your many accomplishments: the hospice in partnership with the Salvation Army, supporting the Refilwe Orphanage in South Africa, and fighting polio, among others. You bring hope and comfort to those who need it here at home, and share our Canadian values with others in the world. In doing so, you truly live up to your motto: “Service Above Self”.

As the Member of Parliament for Richmond, I would like to thank the Rotary Club of Richmond for your dedication to serving others, wish you every success, and look forward to hearing about your future work.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

The Hon. Alice Wong, P.C., MP
April 12, 2012

A Message from the Premier

As Premier of the Province of British Columbia, I am very pleased to congratulate the Rotary Club of Richmond on its 50th anniversary.

Over the years, your club has developed an impressive record when it comes to supporting communities close to home and abroad. Whether it is supporting students through exchange opportunities or scholarship programs, fundraising for medical and humanitarian relief projects overseas, or serving the local community through food drives or funding for charities, the Rotary Club of Richmond has truly lived up to the Rotary motto of “Service Above Self”. To all the members of the Rotary Club of Richmond, thank you for the important work that you have done and continue to do. Through your many accomplishments, you have touched the lives of many in need, and for that you should feel very proud.

Enjoy your special celebration on this milestone anniversary and please accept my best wishes for continued success in the years ahead.

Sincerely,

Christy Clark
Premier
April 12th, 2012

Rotary Club of Richmond
PO Box 94181
Richmond, BC V6Y 2A2

Dear Rotarians

As the Member of the Legislative Assembly for Richmond East, it is my pleasure to congratulate the Rotary Club of Richmond on its 50th anniversary.

I commend your organization on your many achievements such as the Salvation Army Rotary Hospice House, the Richmond Hospital Foundation, Richmond High School Scholarships, Seniors Homes and many other projects.

Richmond Rotary Club continues to live up to the motto “service above self”. I wish all the members of the Rotary Club of Richmond, well in all of your future projects.

Once again, congratulations and I wish you much success as you continue to make lives better.

Yours with kindest regards,

Linda Reid
Member of the Legislative Assembly
Richmond East
GREETINGS FROM THE MAYOR:

On behalf of City Council and the residents of Richmond, I would like to extend warm greetings, and welcome everyone to the Rotary Club of Richmond’s 50th Anniversary Celebration, being held on Sunday, April 15, 2012 at the River Rock Resort.

Since 1962, the Rotary Club of Richmond has played a significant role in our community by undertaking local and international projects that not only positively impacts the lives of many, but at the same time benefitting our community as a whole. As an example of their generosity and commitment, they helped complete a 10 Bed Rotary / Salvation Army Hospice House. Other organizations that have benefitted from their generosity include Richmond Hospital Foundation, Richmond Seniors Homes, Richmond Fire Department, Kwantlen University, and Richmond Food Bank to name a few. The Rotary Club of Richmond's contributions are immeasurable. Tonight is a celebration honouring 50 years of outstanding community service by the Rotary Club of Richmond, and recognizing their valuable contribution to our community.

Thank you to everyone who worked so diligently to make this celebration a success. Best wishes for an enjoyable and memorable evening!

Malcolm D. Brodie
Mayor
To the Rotary Club of Richmond, B.C.

District 5040 Inc., its officers, directors, and all district clubs and their members wish to congratulate your club on its upcoming 50th anniversary of your club charter dated April 12, 1962.

After being sponsored by the Rotary Club of Marpole Vancouver, the Rotary Club of Richmond has sponsored two clubs in the City of Richmond: The Rotary Club of Richmond Sunrise and the Rotary Club of Richmond Sunset, plus the Rotary Club of Vancouver Chinatown.

Your club has served the community of Richmond and surrounding area with distinction and honour, through your local and international humanitarian projects.

The dedication of your members to “Service Above Self” has shown itself in the legacy of projects and service initiatives undertaken by your club. Look to the next 50 years by building on the past success of your club and by keeping your club effective and relevant to the future needs of your community and the world at large.

Sincerely,

Hans Doge
District Governor 2011-2012