

The *West Coast Canada Rotaract Trip 2011 Committee* sends out its deepest gratitude to all of the Rotarians and Rotaractors who supported the *2011 Rotaract Trip*.

The Rotaractors of District 5040 hosted six international Rotaractors from around the world in hopes of fostering cultural exchange and understanding. The opportunity to share Vancouver's unique mix of multiculturalism and eco-friendly attitude was a welcome challenge for the Trip Organizing Committee. The participants represented Ukraine, Poland, Indonesia, France, Brazil, Mexico, and a special guest from Guelph, Ontario.

They were graciously hosted by 5 local Rotaractors in their homes for 10 days and toured around West Coast Canada - visiting the Lower Mainland, Squamish, Whistler as well as Victoria on Vancouver Island. Throughout the trip we had wonderful support from both Rotaract and Rotary Clubs across our District and even our neighbouring District, 5020. From daily driving to backyard barbecues, to Rotary meetings and even up The Stawamus Chief hike in Squamish, our Rotarians and Rotaractors were there every step of the way. Our sincerest thanks go out to all of the individuals who came out to support the project and the Clubs who donated funds so our visiting Rotaractors could have the true Canadian West Coast experience.

Adventures throughout the Lower Mainland displayed our diverse cuisine, outdoor activities, community volunteer projects and overall cultural acceptance. Some high points during their stay were hiking the Grouse Grind, kayaking in Deep Cove, wandering through Whistler Village, dragon boating in False Creek, touring the Legislative Buildings in Victoria, eco-volunteering with Rotary Burnaby and exploring the Richmond Night Market. To give a more complete picture of Vancouver, its history and current social issues, we walked across Gastown and through the Downtown Eastside. We also attended the Lil'wat Cultural Centre in Squamish to show the importance of our First Nations groups within Canada and specifically BC. Our trippers were just "a bit" tired by the end of the ten-day cultural-exchange-and-adventure marathon.

The feedback from our international visitors was the utmost praise for our District's enthusiasm and participation, as well as our multiculturalism. Many of them were greatly impressed by the Rotary-Rotaract relationship displayed by our district. The increased communication and developing relationships within our own District was a fantastic side effect. In attending Rotary and Rotaract meetings, our International trippers saw first-hand how accepting and open-minded Canada has come to be.

Overall, this year's trip brought together International Rotaractors, but also brought together our District and put it on the map internationally. We are looking forward to organizing another *West Coast Canada Rotaract Trip* next year, and hope to make this an annual event. The Trip Organizing Committee for the *West Coast Canada Trip 2012* will begin planning in February. If you are interested in helping next year, more information can be found on the Rotaract District website: www.rotaract5040.org

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Thank you District 5040 Rotaract and Rotary for making this a success!

Trip Photos are located at <http://www.rotaract5040.org/gallery/> under “District Photos”



We would like to extend special thanks to the following Clubs and Rotarians:

- Burnaby Rotary Club
- Richmond Sunset Rotary Club
- Richmond Steveston Rotary Club
- Squamish Rotary Club
- Vancouver Rotary Club
- West Vancouver Rotary Club
- Whistler Millennium Rotary Club
- Janice Froese, *Rotaract District Chair, Burnaby Deer Lake Rotary*
- Jim Renshaw, *Burnaby Rotary*
- Dave Rogers, *Richmond Sunset Rotary*
- Allan Neale, *Oak Bay Rotary, Vancouver Island (D5020)*
- Franz Gehriger, *Vancouver Rotary*
- Darlene Broadhead, *Burnaby Metrotown Rotary*
- Gord Dalglish, *PDG 2009-2010*
- Hans Doge, *DG 2011-2012*

The **2011 West Coast Canada Rotaract Trip Committee** consisted of members from:

- Burnaby Rotaract
- New Westminster Rotaract
- Vancouver-UBC Rotaract
- Vancouver-Yaletown Rotaract
- Richmond Rotaract
- UVIC Rotaract (D5020)
- Project Chair: Chris Lee (clee@rotaract5040.org), *Burnaby Rotaract*
- Project Vice-Chair: Stephanie McEwan (smcewan@rotaract5040.org), *Burnaby Rotaract*