

Rotary Club of New Westminster

Meets every Thursday

Time: 12:00 Noon

Location: The Bavaria House

Members are people who have an interest in New Westminster, either as residents or business people.

Rotary Club of New Westminster—Royal City

Meets every Wednesday

Time: :7:00 am

Location: Boathouse

Restaurant at the Quay

Members are people who have an interest in New Westminster, either as residents or business people..

New Westminster Rotaract Club

Meets every other Tuesday

Time: 7:30 pm

Location, please contact the club representative for details.

Members are people between the ages of 18 and 30 who have an interest in New Westminster, either as students, residents, or business people.

New Westminster Interact Club

Is open to students enrolled at New Westminster Secondary School.



For More Information please contact:

Rotary Club of New Westminster:

www.newwestrotary.org

John Berry theberrys@shaw.ca or

604.299.2532

Rotary Club of New Westminster—
Royal City

www.ropyalcityrotary.org

Lorrie Williams lorriew@shaw.ca or

604.521.3416

New Westminster Rotaract Club
Meagan Chow & Benedict Tam

Rotaract.NW@gmail.com

778.389.0261

Rotary in New Westminster



There are 4 Rotary affiliated clubs in
New Westminster:

- ☑ Rotary Club of New Westminister
- ☑ Rotary Club of New Westminister—
Royal City
- ☑ New Westminister Rotaract Club
- ☑ New Westminister Interact Club



Although no longer a threat in Canada, in the mid-1980s, polio was a much feared virus, endemic in 125 countries around the globe. Every year, approximately 350,000 children would be afflicted. Many of them died. Many of the survivors were paralyzed, crippled or disfigured for life. The consequences of polio were most pronounced in the developing world. Lack of adequate, basic sanitation and limited (or non-existent) medical care left children vulnerable to the ravages of the disease. Because resources are limited, the survivors of the disease would lose many opportunities which we take for granted. The opportunity to get an education. To obtain employment. To have a family.

In 1985 Rotary decided to start a massive program to vaccinate children in the Philippines. The procedure is simple: two drops of vaccine from an eye dropper, no medical skill is required to administer it. Because Rotary International is active in most countries in the world, the local Rotarians could organize National Immunization Days to

immunize the children. Rotarians from other countries would travel to help out. Once the children received the vaccine, their “pinky” finger would be dyed purple, to identify those who had been treated, from those who had not. The program was very successful in the Philippines, and soon was promoted by Rotary, governments and non-governmental organizations in virtually every country. While Rotary International initiated the program, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (as it is now known) has been a partnership of organizations such as Rotary, the World Health Organization, UNICEF, The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation as well as governments around the world.

In 1985 polio was endemic in 125 countries. Now only 3 countries are considered to be at risk from the polio virus. Despite many obstacles, India was declared polio-free in 2012. Africa is about to be designated as polio-free, since Nigeria last reported a case of polio over 3 years ago.



The other countries where polio is still a risk are Pakistan and Afghanistan, conflict regions where immunization programs are challenging (and dangerous) and there is suspicion of foreigners. Over the past 30 years, \$12.5 billion has been spent on EndPolioNow (\$1.8 billion raised by Rotarians). To date 2.5 billion children have been immunized against polio. The estimated savings in medical costs alone is \$25 billion, in addition to the human toll on polio’s victims. The success of the program has been amazing.

Instead of the expected 350,000 cases annually, in 2018 there were only 33 reported cases world-wide. While we can take pride in the number of children who have avoided the ravages of polio in the past 30 years, we know we cannot stop until the virus is completely eradicated from all corners of the globe, or else it will spread again. There have been some setbacks in Pakistan and Afghanistan, but Rotary and its partners in the campaign are more determined than ever to see this project through to the end, to have a polio-free world.

To make a tax deductible donation please go to: www.endpolio.org/donate

