

State-of-the-art polio surveillance lab opens in Pakistan

On 11 September, Rotary Foundation Trustee Fumio Tamamura and Pakistani Rotarians celebrated the opening of a key polio surveillance laboratory in Pakistan, one of seven remaining polio-endemic countries.

The PolioPlus Partners program supported a US\$357,075 Rotary Foundation grant for the laboratory at the National Institute of Health in Islamabad. Some of the funding was contributed by District 5240 (California, USA), which raised \$156,728 for the project in 2001-02. The Japanese government also provided high-tech equipment worth \$115,568.

At the opening ceremony, Japanese Ambassador Minoru Shibuya praised Rotary International and the World Health Organization for their work in supporting the new facility, which is expected to dramatically reduce the amount of time required to accurately diagnose the poliovirus in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

"With the opening of this new facility, the stool samples which had been sent to the CDC [U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention] lab in Atlanta could be examined locally, saving much time and expense," says Tamamura.

In mid-September, Pakistan had recorded 58 cases of polio in 2003, disheartening news in the effort to eliminate polio. "The remaining focal areas of transmission require extraordinary efforts to reach all children," Abdul Haiy Khan, chairman of RI's National PolioPlus Committee in Pakistan, who also attended the opening, observed earlier this year.

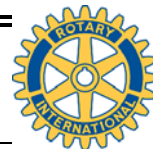
Pakistan borders two of the seven remaining polio-endemic nations, Afghanistan and India, which were respectively hit by 10 and 1,600 cases last year. Together, India, Pakistan, and Nigeria represent more than 95 percent of the world's polio cases. The remaining polio-endemic nations in order of transmission risk, from highest to lowest, are: Egypt, Afghanistan, Somalia, and Niger.

In May, the World Bank approved a US\$20 million concessionary loan for the purchase of oral polio vaccine by the government of Pakistan. The loan was provided by an innovative financing partnership that included the World Bank, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Rotary International, and the United Nations Foundation.

On 1 September, Tamamura administered polio vaccine drops outside of Islamabad to mark the start of four days of national immunization. Pakistan's fourth and final NID of the year is scheduled for 14 October, with two more planned for 2004. During his visit, The Foundation Trustee also visited a school in Karachi's slums, one of 15 such schools supported by the Rotary Club of Karachi and Japanese Rotarians.

Since 1996, Japan — Pakistan's largest donor country — has provided \$38.5 million in polio vaccine. Japan has pledged to provide \$9.6 million in grant aid to assist with immunization activities in December. The grant, made available through UNICEF, will help immunize more than 30 million children.

Also attending the opening of the polio lab were Nobuyuki Yamamura, representative of the Japan International Cooperation Agency, WHO and UNICEF officials, and Robert Keegan, deputy director of the Global Immunization Division at the CDC.



The Four Way Flasher

Rotary Club of MeadowRidge Newsletter

Vol. 10 Issue 13
Sept. 30, 2003

Web-site: www3.telus.net/MeadowRidge_Rotary

Meetings: Tuesday 12pm, Maple Ridge Library
President: Laurie Anderson Phone: 604-465-4364
Secretary: Kevin Nosworthy Phone: 604-467-8507
Editor: Peter Boekhorst

laurenceanderson@shaw.ca
kevinnos@telus.net
mrrotary@telus.net

INVOCATION Sept. 30: Craig Vernon Oct. 14: Andrea Vevers

BINGO SCHEDULE

	6:15-8:15	8:00-10:00
Oct. 9	Irena Shantz	Chad Reed
Nov. 6	Mary Robson	Gordy Robson

Call Peter at 604-465-3392 for assistance or e-mail peter.boekhorst@telus.net

The Bingo proceeds for the month of August were \$2,466.14



Lend a Hand

TODAY'S PROGRAM: Gordon Kirkland - Never Stand Behind a Loaded Horse

NEXT WEEK: Sports Banquet

CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT 5050 EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Sept. 30	1:15pm	Sports Banquet Meeting	Library
Oct. 1	6:30pm	Community Services Meeting	Meadow Gardens / Board Rm
Oct. 7	6:30pm	Sports Banquet	Meadow Gardens Golf Club

☞ Next week October 7: Sports Banquet, ☞

☞ There will be NO regular meeting ☞

50 / 50 draw - Jackpot at \$717 + 1/2 of today's sales, 19 cards, Jackpot on "Queen of Hearts" only!

LAST WEEKS MEETING

This weeks meeting was our annual Membership Drive held at La Trattoria restaurant. We had a good turn out of members and we had five possible candidates for membership in attendance.



Gord and Mary brought Lee Webber, Tim Lowes and Nancy Olson. Debi brought Brenda Exner and Ken Paterson brought Walter Volpatti.



Gord MC'd a very informative, quick meeting impressing everyone by finishing the meeting 10 minutes ahead of schedule. The food as usual was excellent and all in all I think it can be deemed a successful campaign.

Mary also announced that there are only a limited amount of seats (not tables) left for the Sports Banquet and if you are interested in attending it is now time to make that known to her. Gord and Mary anticipated 100% participation from the club either by

attendance or assisting on the evening of the event. It too promises to be a successful evening.

Ineke announced that the golf tournament proceeds were exactly what we needed to complete our commitment to Polio Plus with us netting \$3,500

All in all a great week for Rotary and promising to continue. We can be very proud of our club and its accomplishments and we should be always looking for new and excited people to share in our pride and join us in Rotary.

Submitted by Debi Pearce

AUTHOR USES HUMOUR TO HELP LOCAL CHARITIES

Gordon Kirkland is not necessarily a household name in his hometown, but the Pitt Meadows resident is well known in other parts of North America as one of Canada's premiere humorists.

His weekly syndicated humour column appears in newspapers in both Canada and the United States, and his first book, *Justice Is Blind - And Her Dog Just Peed In My Cornflakes*, was awarded the Stephen Leacock Award of Merit for Humour in 2000.

His neighbours can see what the rest of the continent already knows during Gordon Kirkland At Home On The Road, an evening of humour at the Maple Ridge Arts Centre and Theatre in March. The event will be the British Columbia launch for his new book, *Never Stand Behind A Loaded Horse*, released by ThistleDown Press in late February.

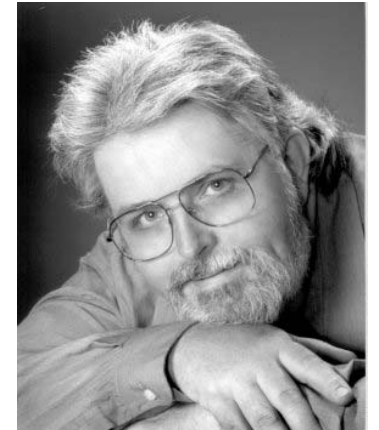
The Canadian launch will take place Feb. 28 in Banff. The U.S. launch will be held in Dayton, Ohio March 24, the evening before Kirkland becomes the first Canadian writer on the faculty of the prestigious Erma Bombeck Writers' Workshop at the University of Dayton.

The net proceeds of the event will go to The North Fraser Therapeutic Riding Association (formally the Pacific Riding for the Disabled Association – Maple Ridge Branch) and [the MeadowRidge Rotary Club](#). "I feel very strongly about the two charities that will be receiving the net proceeds from this event," Kirkland said. "The North Fraser Therapeutic Riding Association recently put me back on a horse for the first time since my spinal injury in 1990. The MeadowRidge Rotary Club provides a great many services and financial support to worthy causes in the community."

Gordon Kirkland At Home On The Road will include two sets divided by an intermission. The first will feature Kirkland's storytelling in a monologue format. The second will include readings from his new book. After the show he will be available in the lobby to sign copies of the book, with sales handled by Black Bond Books.

"We came up with the title for this event from the fact that I will be spending most of 2004 on the road doing similar appearances," he said. "So, for one night I can be at home and on the road, too." Kirkland's 2004 schedule will take him to a wide variety of cities, including Atlanta, Washington DC, Philadelphia, San Diego, Orlando, and Toronto.

Tickets for his local show are available from the box office of the ACT. Ticket prices are \$15 in advance and \$18 at the door (or, for seniors, \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door.). For more ticket information call 604-476-2787.



From the Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows News Sept. 24, 2003