

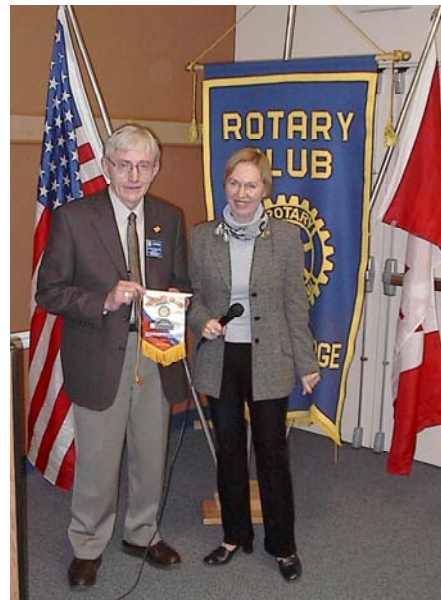


D.G. Rob Martin welcomes our Russian guests.

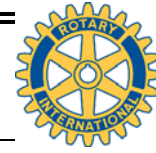
President Laurie presents the MeadowRidge Rotary Banners,



And receives a Novosibirsk Banner.



Boris presents a better way to collect 'Happy & Sad' dollars.



The Four Way Flasher

Rotary Club of
MeadowRidge Newsletter

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Web-site: www3.telus.net/MeadowRidge_Rotary

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BINGO SCHEDULE

	6:15-8:15	8:00-10:00
Dec. 4	Cheryl Johnson	Diane Kirkland
Jan. 1	Liz Attarmigirian	Peter Boekhorst

A no-show will result in losing our Bingo licence (\$25,000/yr)
 Call Peter at 604-465-3392 for assistance or e-mail peter.boekhorst@telus.net



Lend a Hand

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Dec. 2: Lance & Gail Harris

TODAY'S PROGRAM: **New member installation.** These are the new members:
 Walter Volpati, Tim Lowes, Brenda Exner and Lee Weber
Election of 2004/2005 Executive
Guest Speaker: Joan Hamilton from Meals on Wheels

NEXT WEEK: Road trip to Mission-Midday Club
 Bellevue Hotel 32998 1st Ave, Mission

CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT 5050 EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Dec. 9	noon	Road trip to Mission-Midday Club	Bellevue Hotel 32998 1st Ave, Mission
Dec. 16	7:30pm	Christmas Party	Mary & Gordy Robson's Home

50 / 50 draw - Jackpot at \$891 + 1/2 of today's sales, 14 cards, Jackpot on "Queen of Hearts" only!

CAT SCAN ISSUES

At our recent fireside, the question was raised about the CAT scanner, and some of our members were left with the mistaken impression that the machine was not being used at this time. This issue has also been the subject of some discussion in the local press. Those attending the fireside expressed the wish that we look into the matter and report back to the club.

In my capacity as a member of the board of directors of the Meadow Ridge Hospital Foundation (RMHF) to whom our club made a contribution to support the purchase of the scanner, I attended a meeting of the board of the RMHF on November 26, 2003 at which time our club's question was raised and discussed. Among those in attendance were Dr. Ward Tinny, Medical Director of the hospital, Dr. Frank Irvin (who spear-headed that CT campaign), and Valerie Spurrell, the hospital Administrator. I have also spoken individually to Frank and Valerie, and the RMHF chairman Bob Thompson. As you may be aware, the RMHF is a charitable society whose board is made up of local volunteer citizens, distinct from the hospital, with the limited purpose of raising money to purchase equipment for our hospital to enhance patient care by giving our doctors and health care staff the necessary equipment to do the job. The RMHF has no mandate to provide operational funding, which is the responsibility of the Provincial Government.

I requested Dr. Frank Irvin (a former member of our club) to put this matter in perspective, and he has advised me as follows:

"The CT scanner at Ridge Meadows hospital is indeed installed and working to serve the health needs of our patients. Originally funded by the Provincial Government as a 'single slice' scanner, the community undertook an ambitious fund raising drive to upgrade to a state of the art 'multi-slice' scanner. My personal contribution to the upgrade campaign, entitled 'We Can CT Clearly Now' remains one of the high points of my medical career. This is and remains a 'good news story'. The CT scanner has become an indispensable part of our hospital, with patients benefiting daily from the information gleaned from the scanner.

The recent article in the Maple Ridge News was a result of some frustration experienced by some local physicians close to the CT program in having problems relating to technical staffing of the CT scanner addressed.. Although the scanner is located at Ridge Meadow Hospital, the scanner is part of a large regional radiology department administered by regional personnel. It is understandable that local concerns are not always addressed by the directors of these regional programs to the satisfaction of the locals. We felt that the public should know of the serious concerns we had. It was not our intent to involve the Ridge Meadows Hospital Foundation (RMHF) in this debate. The Foundation was instrumental in the fund-raising required to upgrade the scanner in the first place, and continues to have funds available for further upgrades as required. In this era of extremely limited funds for healthcare, the contributions made by the members of the Meadow Ridge Rotary Club to the Foundation are more needed than ever.

One way of thinking about this issue is to divorce the fund raising for equipment from the operating of the equipment. That is exactly what the RMHF does. It raises the money (to buy the equipment), and the hospital/health authority buys the equipment and staffs and runs it. So, if physicians or others performing a health care advocacy role speak out the intent is to improve the operation of the system. We are raising concerns to be addressed by the Hospital or the Health Authority. We don't for a minute want to upset the very people, the Foundation donors, who made the debate possible in the first place! After all, without the donors such as your Rotary Club we wouldn't have the sophisticated scanner we have today.

Should complex issues such as staffing levels of CT scanners be matters for public debate? If you believe the issues are too complex for the 'common' person then let the 'experts' within the health authorities make

those decisions for you. My belief is that there is a necessity for debate both within the smaller health care community and in the community at large when important health care issues are raised. Rather than de-politicizing health care, the move to Regional Health Boards has made citizen involvement in health care decision making even more important.

So stay tuned, keep donating your time, efforts and funds to the Ridge Meadows Hospital Foundation. Above all, speak up for what you feel is important for the health of the citizens of Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows.

Dr. Frank Ervin

The Hospital Foundation is about to launch a \$3.5 million fund raising campaign to expand our emergency hospital facility. I urge all our club members to continue to support the RMHF and to be a positive influence on this important fund-raising campaign.

Laurie Anderson

RUSSIAN VISITATION

On behalf of our club, I (Laurie Anderson) wish to give Dave Rempel a hearty Rotarian "thank you" for his hard work and dedication in arranging the recent visitation by our Russian guests. The following is a letter of greeting which I received from the president of Rotary Club "Novosibirsk":

November 23, 2003

Dear Mr. Laurence and fellow Rotarians!

Our Rotary Club "Novosibirsk", one of the first Rotary Clubs chartered in Russia, is sending greetings to our friendly club of Meadow Ridge.

The founding father of our club was Dave Kerr from Rotary Club "Vancouver-South". The Rotary Club "Novosibirsk" participated in founding of the clubs "Novosibirsk-Ob", "Novosibirsk-Academgorodok", "Barnaul", "Kemerovo" and "Gorno-Altaiisk".

Since that time friendly contacts between our countries and clubs are strengthening from year to year. We realized some projects together and are willing to continue developing of our relationships.

The new project is supposed to be a professional exchange program. Six members of the team, going to Vancouver, are civil engineers, running the companies in Novosibirsk, three of them are Rotarians of our club. The team consists of:

Vladimir Molodin, Past President, who initiates the project	Boris Aronov, Past President
Konstantin Jeleznov, Rotarian	Galina Joulidova, Candidate Rotarian
Sergey Pigarev, Wiring Engineer	Vladimir Romanyuk, Builder
Tatiana Kopylova, Rotarian of Novosibirsk-Ob Rotary Club, Architect and Organizer of the visit	
Valery Gruk, a spouse of Tatiana, Translator	

It's known from the club working experience that involving the Russian Rotarians into the mutual activities with their more developed foreign Rotary partner-clubs is what leads to rising the activities of our clubs.

So, as President of the Rotary Club "Novosibirsk", I'm sure of the fact that the program and the activity of the inviting clubs leads to both the development of interclub contacts and the popularization of Rotary on the whole.

We appreciate for your invitation of our group members and hope on developing our friendly contacts in future. Thank you to Dave Rempel, Rotarian of your club, who helped to make the visit real.

"Novosibirsk" Rotary Club President Victor Sheaffer