

## RI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear fellow Rotarians,

For many of us, December is a wonderful holiday month in which we recommit ourselves to spreading goodwill and working toward the ultimate goal of achieving peace on earth. Depending on your beliefs and cultural background, perhaps your family will celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, or Kwanzaa in the coming weeks. Or maybe you have just completed your Ramadan observances.

As you may be able to tell from my attire, this month we salute the strong Rotary country of Sweden, where many Swedish families will celebrate Julen, or Christmas. On Christmas Eve, after the family has enjoyed the traditional meal of lutefisk, the children will eagerly await a visit from the *tomte*, the gnome-like fellow who delivers the presents, much like Santa Claus or St. Nicholas in other countries. Christmas Day in Sweden usually is reserved for quiet family gatherings.

Perhaps you've noticed that I've used the word *family* several times already. This is not a coincidence, because we all know that the holiday season is a family time. For that reason, I am especially proud that this particular December also marks the first time that Family Month appears on the Rotary calendar. This designation, recently approved by the RI Board of Directors, is intended to encourage Rotary clubs to *Lend a Hand* to families in their communities, particularly those in need of special assistance. It also relates directly to this year's Family of Rotary initiative, in which I have asked every club and district to form a family of Rotary committee to develop innovative ways to enhance the atmosphere of warmth and caring within our local Rotary families.

One way to do this is to extend our caring reach to include the spouses and children of our fellow members, including the relatives of deceased Rotarians, in our many service and fellowship activities. By involving our family members, we make all of our endeavours more successful and enjoyable. We also address the problem, often cited by younger members, that Rotary competes with family time. Once people realize that they do not have to decide between Rotary and family, they will be more likely to accept our invitations to join. And just as important, once they do join, they are much more likely to become and remain educated, productive Rotarians. This is critical because Rotary clubs depend on the participation and leadership of committed, knowledgeable, and seasoned members.

And we must remember that family members themselves also are potential Rotarians. We see more and more examples of wives, husbands, sons, and daughters who become members once they get a close look at what Rotary is all about. This also contributes to the gender and generational diversity necessary for our clubs to grow and strengthen.

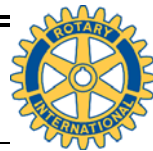
As the year has progressed, I have been pleased to see that clubs and districts worldwide have embraced the family of Rotary concept by appointing enthusiastic, creative members to chair their committees. Many exciting, family-oriented projects and events already have been carried out, and many more are in the pipeline.

Now that Family Month is on the Rotary calendar and so many grassroots projects are underway, I know that our own family of Rotary will become even stronger and more effective as we unite to *Lend a Hand* in service.



**Jonathan Majiyagbe**

President, Rotary International



# The Four Way Flasher

**Rotary Club of  
MeadowRidge Newsletter**

**Vol. 10 Issue 24  
Dec. 16, 2003**

Web-site: [www3.telus.net/MeadowRidge\\_Rotary](http://www3.telus.net/MeadowRidge_Rotary)

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## BINGO SCHEDULE

	6:15-8:15	8:00-10:00
<b>Jan. 1</b>	Liz Attarmigirian	Peter Boekhorst
<b>Jan. 29</b>	Bob Shantz	Carol Bartolomie

**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](mailto:peter.boekhorst@telus.net)

**Bingo proceeds for October were \$2,496.00**

**November results were \$2,501.33**



**Lend a Hand**

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Dec. 21: Skaron Bekar

Dec. 22: Debi Pearce

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Dec. 10: Peter & Ineke Boekhorst

Dec. 19: Vladimir & Zdenka Cukor

**Next week is the last Rotary meeting in this year.  
December 30<sup>th</sup> no meeting!**

**50 / 50 draw - Jackpot at \$919 + 1/2 of today's sales, 13 cards, Jackpot on "Queen of Hearts" only!**

**LAST WEEKS MEETING**

President Laurie and Mike Davies announced that the elections for 2004/2005 will be postponed until sometime in January 2004. We are still looking for a couple of positions. The current slate is as follows:

- President – Mary Robson
- President Elect – Vacant
- Vice President – vacant
- Secretary – Carol Bartolomie
- Treasurer – Lindsay Hendy or Ken Paterson
- Directors – Dot Ralston, Diane Kirkland, Sharon Kyle, Peter Boekhorst

Anyone who would be interested in running for any of the positions is asked to contact either Mike or Laurie ASAP, or if you would like to nominate someone for one of the positions.

We installed 4 new members this week including Brenda Exner, Tim Lowes, Lee Webber and Walter Volpatti. All great members to be and looking forward to participating in our good works. Please be sure to make them feel at home.

Mary and Lee Weber



Debi and Brenda Exner



Walter Volpatti (l) and Tim Lowes (r)



Our guest speaker was Joan Hamilton from Meals on Wheels and was very informative and certainly made our \$1,000 donation seem like money well spent. They serve over 80 meals a day to seniors and other home-bound people unable to prepare their own meals. They have been providing this service in our area for 32 years and 95% of their clients are between the ages 80-95. While the food is certainly appreciated the company and knowing someone will be checking on them at least once a day is invaluable to these people and it only costs them \$5.00 a day. Another good use of our Community Services money, provided through our volunteer hours at the Bingo Hall.

Submitted by Debi Pearce



**We will miss this guy!  
A great begin and an exit with a bang**



December 2001



December 2003

Thank you Dave for your hard work and providing us with laughter.