

TEN AFRICAN COUNTRIES LAUNCH JOINT NIDS TO HALT POLIO OUTBREAK

About 63 million children are targeted in synchronized [National Immunization Days \(NIDs\)](#) across west and central Africa. Launched on 23 February, the massive campaign is part of Africa's response to an October 2003 outbreak of polio that spread from Nigeria's Kano state to several countries in the region.

Ten countries — Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Niger, Nigeria, and Togo — are participating in the joint NIDs. Political, religious, and traditional leaders have teamed up to launch the activities, and tens of thousands of vaccinators are going house-to-house to administer the vaccine directly to every child over three days.

Although the recent polio outbreak has paralyzed children in seven previously polio-free countries — most recently Côte d'Ivoire — and put millions more at risk, the partners in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative say that if upcoming campaigns reach every child, polio in Africa could be stopped in its tracks in 2004.

"After eight years of incredible collaboration and investment, Africa is standing on the verge of a well-deserved triumph in public health," says Dr. Ebrahim Samba, WHO Regional Director for Africa. "But the disease is now threatening to make a comeback, and the whole continent is on the brink of re-infection unless these campaigns stop the further spread of the virus. Africa has proved it can stop polio — now is the time to finish the job."

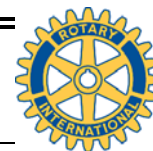
Progress in polio eradication has been one of Africa's greatest achievements in public health. The campaign to "Kick Polio Out of Africa" was launched in 1996 by Nelson Mandela and other African leaders. "Before this new wave of cases, Africa had made the most rapid progress of any continent to secure a polio-free future for its children," says Rima Salah, UNICEF's Regional Director for West and Central Africa. "It would be an unspeakable tragedy to allow the virus to slip back in now. National and community leaders must take a stand to stop the spread of this disease and ensure a victory over polio for the entire continent."

The recent outbreak was sparked by the suspension of immunization activities in key northern Nigerian states, especially Kano, the epicentre of the resurgent [poliovirus](#). Fuelled by rumours that the oral polio vaccine contains harmful substances, the suspension remains the greatest challenge for a quick end to polio in Africa.

Until mid-2003, Nigeria was part of Africa's polio success story, with only a few northern states still endemic with the virus and Lagos, Africa's most densely populated city, polio-free for more than two years.

With global eradication in sight and as west and central Africa embark on their most critical immunization campaigns ever, RI President Jonathan Majiyagbe has appealed directly to communities to immunize their children.

"The Secretary General of the United Nations called polio eradication 'a shining model of how we can come together against a common enemy of mankind,'" says Majiyagbe. "Polio is our common enemy, but in some African communities, fear and misinformation about the polio vaccine has become as deadly as any disease. The polio vaccine is a safe and essential protection for children. We must not allow unfounded rumours to come between our children and their health."



The Four Way Flasher

Rotary Club of MeadowRidge Newsletter

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Web-site: www3.telus.net/MeadowRidge_Rotary

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INVOCATION

Mar. 09	Carol Bartolomie	Mar. 16	Brian Bekar
Mar. 23	Ineke Boekhorst	Mar. 30	Peter Boekhorst

BINGO SCHEDULE

	6:15-8:15	8:00-10:00
Mar. 25	Doris Gagel	Stan Wade
April 22	Laurie Anderson	Alan Graveson

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



Lend a Hand

TODAY'S PROGRAM: Inspector Fraser MacRae, Meadow Ridge RCMP

NEXT WEEK: Randy Hawes, MLA

Happy Birthday

March 12: Caro O'Kennedy

Happy Anniversary

March 10: Marco & Lila Jane Terwiel

CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT 5050 EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
March 11	12:30	WineZest Meeting	Vernon & Thompson (Laurie's office)
April 3		District 5050 Assembly	Kwantlen University-College, Surrey
April 17		WineZest 2004	ACT, Maple Ridge
May 13-15		District 5050 Conference	Skagit Valley Casino Resort

50 / 50 draw - Jackpot at \$1,460 + 1/2 of today's sales, 4 cards, Jackpot on "Queen of Hearts" only!

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

All members were delighted to note the beautiful décor and food courtesy of Tim and Marie from Crumbs Bakery. A list was distributed outlining the proposed menu items that will be available. Tim and Marie thanked the club for the invitation to meet our catering needs and asked for anyone with specific food allergies and/or dietary restrictions (such as vegetarians) to let them know.

Guests of today's meeting included Tim and Marie from Crumbs Bakery and Shane James from Curves fitness for women.

The queen of clubs was pulled by Debbie MacRae, leaving only 4 cards left for the 50/50 draw next week!

Ineke reminded us of her recent visit, representing our club, to the official ribbon cutting ceremony of the new scout hall at 276th and Dewdney. She was very impressed with the facility and suggested we all should have a visit and/or organize a club tour or meeting there in the future.

Bill Neale was our guest speaker for today's meeting. Bill is the manager of the Pitt Meadows airport. He gave us an enlightening talk on the history as well as many interesting facts about the airport that many of us did not know. Among them included the fact that the Pitt Meadows airport was the busiest airport in Canada in 1973 with over a ¼ million movements (ie. takeoff and landings) in 1 year!? Bill was hired as a consultant in 2000 to help the airport overcome some of its challenges since it was taken over from the Crown in 1998. His proposed business plan includes exciting plans to diversify the use of the land by building a industrial park to generate alternative sources of income for the airport. Plans are also in the works to build a marina and provide increased services at less cost to attract the air traffic and the flight schools. The airport has recently undergone some renovations and now houses a brand new terminal. Both Bill and Sharon are very excited about the changes at the airport and invite all of us to come for a tour of the facility!



Submitted by Johanna Reed

Thank you Bill.

OFFICIAL OPENING NEW SCOUT HALL

Last week we had only place for one picture of the new scout hall. Here are some more.



DECLARATIONS OF ROTARIANS IN BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS

The Declaration of Rotarians in Business and Professions was adopted by the Rotary International Council on Legislation in 1989 to provide more specific guidelines for the high ethical standards called for in the Object of Rotary:

As a Rotarian engaged in a business or profession, I am expected to:

- Consider my vocation to be another opportunity to serve;
- Be faithful to the letter and to the spirit of the ethical codes of my vocation, to the laws of my country, and to the moral standards of the community;
- Do all in my power to dignify my vocation and to promote the highest ethical standards in my chosen vocation;
- Be fair to my employer, employees, associates, competitors, customers, the public, and all those with whom I have a business or professional relationship;
- Recognize the honor and respect due to all occupations which are useful to society;
- Offer my vocational talents: to provide opportunities for young people, to work for the relief of the special needs of others, and to improve the quality of life in my community;
- Adhere to honesty in my advertising and in all representations to the public concerning my business and profession;
- Neither seek from nor grant to a fellow Rotarian a privilege or advantage not normally accorded others in a business or professional relationship.