

## Women in Rotary: The Other Half

As active members, women bring strength and vitality to Rotary clubs.

For most of the 850,000 active Rotarians who joined the organization after January 1989, it's hard to imagine Rotary clubs without women. That was the year the Council on Legislation enacted the measure, advanced by current RI President Jonathan Majiyagbe, to allow Rotary clubs worldwide to admit members of both genders. Two years earlier, a U.S. Supreme Court decision cleared the way for women to join U.S. clubs.

Like the rest of society, Rotary was changing with the times. Was the change overdue? Few today would say it wasn't, but no more overdue than the overall movement toward gender equality that saw women advance into professions and positions of authority previously controlled by men. Once that happened, it was totally appropriate for women to be considered for membership in a vocationally classified organization like Rotary. Other major volunteer service organizations, such as Kiwanis International and Lions Clubs International, opened their ranks to women at about the same time.

But it's less important to rehash how and when women first became Rotarians than to examine their status today and reflect on their contributions and accomplishments.

"I believe that the addition of women represents the single greatest force for Rotary growth since the chartering of the first international club in Winnipeg, Canada, in 1912," says Samuel L. Greene, who will chair RI's 2004-05 Membership Development and Retention Committee. "Not only have women added to our membership growth, but they've helped inject new life into Rotary clubs through their ideas and enthusiasm."

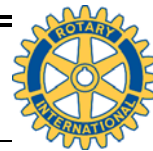
The committee's vice chair for next year, Alana Bergh, a past governor of District 5010 (Alaska, USA; Yukon Territory, Canada; and Eastern Russia) says that admitting women was Rotary's way of "recognizing that women today make up a major part of the business and professional circles in most communities."

In 1995, eight U.S. women reached a milestone when they assumed the office of district governor. By unofficial count, 48 of this year's class of district governors-elect are women, representing 16 countries. Rotary's senior leaders are unequivocal in encouraging clubs to aggressively recruit qualified women and are leading by example as they consider candidates for committee appointments and other positions at the international level. Above all, they agree, women must have the opportunity to succeed based on their qualifications.

"I try to look at who is the best person for the job, not at the gender," says RI President-elect Glenn E. Estess Sr., who appointed Bergh to the vice chair's slot on the membership committee, positioning her to chair the panel in 2005-06. "I don't think women want to be selected or judged on the basis of gender, but rather on their qualifications."

Providing leadership opportunities to women has been a recurring theme for President Majiyagbe, who included women wherever possible as he assembled his committees and task forces for this year. At the club level, Majiyagbe's Family of Rotary Initiative aims to make the organization more comfortable and accessible to women who want to participate with their husbands, brothers, and fathers.

Of course, major challenges remain. While gender is no longer an issue for thousands of successful Rotary clubs, differences in cultural values and societal norms in certain regions of the Rotary world impede the formation of dual-gender clubs. In some areas, women have formed their own clubs and have successfully demonstrated that they can be as effective in volunteer service as men. Perhaps such clubs represent an interim step toward full gender integration in those regions.



# The Four Way Flasher

Rotary Club of  
MeadowRidge Newsletter

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

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PLEASE TURN YOUR CELLPHONE OFF OR USE VIBRATION MODE

## INVOCATION

April 27	Mike Davies	May 4	Brenda Exner
May 11	Brian Fox	May 18	Doris Gagel

## BINGO SCHEDULE

	6:15-8:15	8:00-10:00
May 20	Alex Kempenaar	Peter Boekhorst
June 17	Tim Lowes	Marco Terwiel

Call Peter at 604-465-3392 for assistance or e-mail [peter.boekhorst@telus.net](mailto:peter.boekhorst@telus.net)



Lend a Hand

**TODAY'S PROGRAM:** Hugh Burke, Meadowridge School

**NEXT WEEK:** Carmen Zajac Foundation

## CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT 5050 EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
April 21		Executive Mtg. current & incoming	Robson and Assoc. 22359 Lougheed Hwy
May 13-15		District 5050 Conference	Skagit Valley Casino Resort
June 17		Ladies Night – Haney Club - \$100. <sup>00</sup>	Swan-E-Set
June 19		Haney Rotary Club Installation	Pitt Meadows Golf Course
June 22		MeadowRidge Rot. Club Installation	Gourmet Hideaway

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

April 28: Peter Boekhorst

April 29: Hendy Lindsay

May 1: Harvey Exner

50 / 50 draw - Jackpot at \$39 + 1/2 of today's sales, 50 cards left, Jackpot on "Queen of Hearts" only!

### LAST WEEK'S MEETING

We had two cheque presentations this week. The first one for \$1,500 went to the Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows Food Bank, and was graciously received by their President Mirek Kwasny. The second one was a joint presentation with Gordon Kirkland. Gordon generously donated the net proceeds of this performance at the ACT to us and to the North Fraser Therapeutic Riding Association. Each group received \$250 and our President Laurie promptly donated our funds to the Riding Association as well.

We also had another installation. This week we installed Shane James of Curves Fitness. Shane was proposed by Mary Robson, who has known him for about a year and is greatly impressed with his entrepreneurial spirit. As well as managing his business he has been involved in coaching Minor Hockey. He joined Rotary because he wants to "help make the world a better place to live and assist people towards a better life". Sounds like a Rotarian to me. Please join us in making Shane welcome to our club.

Ron Goldfinch was our guest speaker and he spoke on his favourite topic "Rotary Youth Exchange. Ron is the District rep for the Youth Exchange and has been for many years. He joined Rotary in 1991 and hosted his first of many Exchange students in 1992. Those students are always visiting Ron and he and his family get a lot of joy from this ongoing experience.

Our Club is sending out Eric Wright and he is going to enjoy the culture and lifestyle in France. Our incoming student will be a young German girl and she will arrive in August. We are still looking for host families and if you would like to be considered for this honour please let Mary Robson know and she will inform the incoming Exchange Student Chair.

The goal of the Youth Exchange program is to foster Good will and Peace in the world through our youth.

Ron related a story of an exchange that took place in Alaska a few years ago. After the young Russian girls exchange was completed, her father traveled to spend time with her. A Rotarian was showing him a map of Alaska to get the lay of the land and he responded, Sir, you do not have to show me this, I am a missile tech in Russia and I know all of these landmarks. The pleasure of this exchange and our times is that I can send you my daughter instead of missiles. How true!

The Wine Zest was a success and an update from the committee is in the works. Approx 250 people attended.

**Submitted by Debi Pearce**

### MEADOWRIDGE ROTARY ESTEEM TEAM

#### Visitation Schedule

The Esteem Team's visitation is scheduled for Tuesday, April 27, May 4 and May 11, 2004 with the following itinerary:

April 27 - 10:00am	Garibaldi Secondary School 24789 Dewdney Trunk Rd., MR	Jen Dowdeswell – Field Hockey
April 27 - 10:30am	Harry Hooge Elementary 12280 230 <sup>th</sup> St., MR	Angus Reid - BC Lions

April 27 - 1:15pm	Pitt Meadows Elementary 11941 Harris Rd., PM	Jen Dowdeswell – Field Hockey
April 27 - 1:15pm	Alexander Robinson Elementary 11849 238B St., MR	Angus Reid - BC Lions
May 4 – 10:30am	Webster 's Corner Elementary 2554 Dewdney Trunk Rd., MR	Megan Gordon Parker
May 4 – 10:30am	Davie Jones Elementary 12030 Blakely Rd., PM	Justin Abdou
May 4 – 1:15pm	Eric Langton Elementary 12138 Edge St., MR	Megan Gordon Parker
May 4 – 1:30pm	Laity View Elementary 21023 123 <sup>rd</sup> Ave., MR	Justin Abdou

Rotarians are welcome to accompany these athletes for the presentations. Please contact Kevin Nosworthy, if you can assist.



Jen Dowdeswell

Jen began competing in a variety of sports at a young age. She danced in the Pacific Northwest Ballet production of the Nutcracker for two seasons, played soccer on a provincial championship team, was ranked second in Canada for Table Tennis, and was named MVP for her school basketball team. At 15 years old, Jen began to focus on field hockey and was soon named to the Junior National Team and played in the Junior World Cup Qualifiers, the Junior World Cup and a Four Nations Tournament. She then moved on to play for the Senior National Team, while also captaining UBC's Varsity team to two national championships. In her graduating year, Jen was awarded one of the Top Twenty Undergraduate awards for academics, one of the Top Ten Academic All-Canadian athletes across Canada as well as the Female University Athlete of the Year. Jen coaches at all levels of field hockey and is involved in the National Coaching Certification Program. Currently, Jen continues to play field hockey, but is pursuing a career in outdoor education, while also keeping up her other interests such as sailing, kayaking, hiking, and travel.



Angus Reid

Angus was born and raised in Richmond, BC. He played high school football for Vancouver College and was named as the Provincial All-star Lineman of the Year. From there, Angus went to Simon Fraser University on a full scholarship and in his last year, he was voted as the Team Captain and earned status as an NAIA All-American. In the year 2000, he turned pro and was drafted 4<sup>th</sup> overall in the Canadian Football College Draft. He joined the Montreal Alouettes Football Club, and in the middle of his rookie season was traded to the BC Lions. He will head to training camp later this year and start on the Offensive Line.



Megan Gordon Parker

Diving into her athletic career at the age of eight, Megan spent seventeen years as a National team springboard and platform diver. Megan and her younger sister Paige were affectionately known around town as "The Gordon Sisters" and Vancouver's "Diving Duo". Megan's career highlights include being ranked the number one Canadian on the FINA World Grand Prix, attending three World University Games, the Pan American Games, placing fifth at the 1994 Goodwill Games, and chosen as an alternate for the 1992 Olympic Team. Megan is a UBC Commerce graduate and currently advises Global clients on their Internet Marketing and Brand Strategies. She has served on the board of many sport organizations over the years. During her spare time she enjoys traveling, yoga, ultimate frisbee, snowboarding, golf, rock climbing, theatre and coaching all levels of diving.



Justin Abdou

As a young wrestler growing up in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, Justin would go down to the National Training Centre in Regina to watch the Olympic wrestling team train, dreaming of one day being a part of the national wrestling team himself. Justin achieved that goal and was a member of Canada's National Wrestling Team for thirteen years. He is an accomplished wrestler, representing Canada at numerous World Championships and such events as the Pan American Games, the Goodwill Games, the Commonwealth Games, and most recently the 2000 Olympic Games. His career highlights include being a nine time Canadian Senior Champion, winning a Gold medal at the 1994 Commonwealth Games, earning a business degree from Simon Fraser University in 1995 and placing eleventh at the Sydney Olympics. Justin coached the 2002 World Cup Wrestling team and is currently the coach for the Canadian Junior Wrestling Team and the SFU Wrestling Team.