

Last week we printed the first two of four areas of service, [RI President Glenn E. Estess Sr.](#) had chosen to lead Rotarians into a year of celebration, namely **Family of Rotary** and **Health Concerns**. Today they are **Literacy**, and **Water Management**.

### Literacy

According to the United Nations Development Programme, the combined adult literacy rate in all developing nations is below 75 percent, a sobering statistic that underpins Estess' commitment to support literacy and education initiatives.

"It's quite unfortunate that, even in the 21st Century, illiteracy is a major problem in developing countries," says Past RI Director P.C. Thomas, 2003-04 Coordinator of the Literacy and Education Task Force.

Rotarians already are working to improve basic literacy through a variety of innovative approaches. One of the most successful initiatives is the Concentrated Language Encounter (CLE) program, an immersion method introduced in Thailand in the late 1980s. The approach is now used in more than 15 countries, including Bangladesh, Brazil, and South Africa, where Rotarians have introduced comprehensive programs funded by Health, Hunger, and Humanity (3-H) Grants from The Rotary Foundation of RI.

"The Concentrated Language Encounter is responsible for providing basic literacy to thousands at a pace unbelievably quick," says Thomas.

In Ismir, Turkey, for example, a 3-H Grant has been used to educate adult learners using the CLE method. According to District 2440 Literacy Chair Esat Kardiçali, who helped coordinate the program, Turkish Rotarians hope to teach five million adults to read.

### Water management

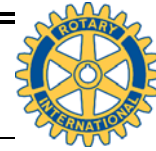
In choosing water management as an area of emphasis, Estess has targeted an essential need. More than one billion people worldwide lack access to clean water, and according to United Nations estimates, more than five million die of waterborne illnesses every year. In Africa, where the problem is most severe, only about 55 percent of the population has access to safe water.

Because the problem affects so many, water projects provide sweeping opportunities to improve quality of life. Members of the Rotary Club of Bainbridge Island, Wash., USA, encountered one such opportunity in 1998, while visiting Uganda to assist with a literacy project. They visited several communities, but when they arrived in the village of Ochero, they noticed something was seriously amiss.

"There was a constant chorus of coughing," says Bainbridge Island Rotarian Joanne Croghan. "Nearly every child seemed dramatically underweight or ill. We wondered why conditions here should be so much worse than those we had seen elsewhere. Then we realized what it was. The people in Ochero had no access to clean water."

The U.S. Rotarians teamed up with the Rotary Club of Kampala-Ssesse Islands, Uganda, to drill a safe well for the village. The project was completed in 2002, and now, Bainbridge Island Rotarians are raising money for a larger effort that would create 20 wells and provide clean water for more than 6,000 people.

"Our task is huge," says Bainbridge Island Rotarian John Walker, who has traveled to Uganda with Croghan three times to assess need and plan projects. "Things that seem so small to us, like running water and ordinary paper and pencils, are a real treat for these kids. There is so far to go, and there are thousands of villages like this out there. This is just one."



# 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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### INVOCATION

<b>August 10</b>	Debbie MacRae	<b>August 24</b>	Kevin Nosworthy
<b>August 31</b>	Mina Park	<b>Sept. 7</b>	Ken Paterson

### BINGO SCHEDULE

	<b>6:15-8:15</b>	<b>8:00-10:00</b>
<b>August 12</b>	Mary Robson	Mina Park
<b>Sept. 09</b>	Ron LePore	Laurie Anderson

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



**TODAY'S PROGRAM:** Donna Telep – Fraser Health Authority

**NEXT WEEK:** Eric, our Outbound Exchange Student

### CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT 5050 EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Aug. 11	noon	Executive meeting	
Aug. 17	7:00pm	Fireside at Bob Shantz's residence	22696 – 132 <sup>nd</sup> Ave. Maple Ridge
Sep. 21		New Members Meeting	
Sep. 28	12:30pm	Golf Tournament	Meadow Gardens Golf Course

➡ **No regular meeting next week, August 17** ⬅

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Aug. 13: Gordy Robson

**50 / 50 draw - Jackpot at \$407 + 1/2 of today's sales, 39 cards left, Jackpot on "Queen of Hearts" only!**

## LAST WEEK'S MEETING

The hot topic in the local papers is the Crystal Meth problem in town and how the Meadow Ridge Rotary is spearheading the battle to help our youth avoid this tragic pitfall. Mary has certainly been busy getting us lots of PR on our newest project. There will be a 3 prong attack on this issue: Education, Addiction Services and Enforcement. While there will be more discussion on this at our fireside on August 17<sup>th</sup>, the general feeling seems to be that we should head up or assist in the education effort. It is important to know that this is NOT a DRUG .. it is a POISON that destroys the mind of its victims.

Bob Shantz is also looking for a final push on the Hospice Society Calendar. We need to sell about 10 more to meet our goal. After that our efforts will further be needed to sell approximately 1,800 calendars at \$20 each to the general public. This portion will be the money that we can transfer directly to the Hospice Society. Hands up people and call Bob if you can help with any of this.

The Golf Tournie this year will be a Shotgun start on Tuesday September 28<sup>th</sup> at Meadow Gardens. The committee will be starting up immediately and will be looking for non-golfing volunteers to help on the day of the event. If you are interested, please let Brian Bekar know ASAP.

Bob Thompson was our guest speaker, from the Hospital Foundation. Bob has sat as the Chair of this organization for 6 years and Laurie threatened to make it a lifetime commitment. The Foundation is now fundraising for a \$8 million dollar expansion on the hospital scheduled to begin early 2005 and be completed early 2006. The Foundations goal is \$3 million dollars over 5 years. Several large donations have already come in from the community, totalling \$1.6million and there will be more concerted efforts in the near future. The expansion will include an enlarged and improved Emergency Unit as well as the Ambulatory Care Wing. Bob is hoping the Meadow Ridge Rotary can support this project and this will be discussed further at the Fireside. The Kiwanis Club has committed \$50,000 over 5 years. Bob is hoping we can match or exceed this.

It looks like it may be a VERY BUSY year everyone! But it also has the potential to be a VERY REWARDING year too. Ready...Set... LETS GO!

Submitted by Debi Pearce

## MeadowRidge Rotary & Haney Rotary Annual Golf Tournament Meadow Gardens Golf Course Sept. 28, 2004



Shotgun start at 12:30 pm.

Here is your opportunity to sponsor a hole for only \$100!

The cost for 18 Holes is \$100, that includes bbq-dinner,  
Power Cart and Driving Range Token – so come early to practice!

For those who don't golf, dinner only is \$20

## CRYSTAL METH COMMUNITY ACTION MEETING – JULY 29, 2004

Thank you to all who attended the meeting on July 29 at the ACT. The overwhelming response was very encouraging and a number of steps have been taken as a result of it.

At the meeting it became very clear that Crystal Meth in our community is “our problem”. It is not people from Vancouver East who are on our streets; they are our people, our sons, our daughters, brothers, sisters, members of our families.

We were told that not only are the people on our streets ours, but they are just the tip of the meth iceberg. Over 90% of these people are addicted to Crystal Meth. It is not as obvious how Meth is effecting our youth, but it is in our high schools. It is especially prevalent amongst school dropouts and youth in alternative educational programs.

Crystal Meth is responsible for the majority of property crimes and violent criminal activity. Car thefts, purse snatchings, break & entrees are directly related to Meth.

We also became aware that Crystal Meth is not a drug. Crystal Meth is a poison and it destroys the brain. Although recovery is possible, Meth addicts are never the same. We heard about communities where Meth addiction reached 30% of the population and caused the entire fabric of those communities to breakdown.

Although we did not get to hear from everyone who attended the meeting, the message was very clear: “Crystal Meth is an epidemic and we as a community are ready to do something about it.”

We have some well meaning people in this community attempting to deal with the Meth problem, but a coordinated action is required now.

Recent comments by the Provincial Solicitor General who has declared war on Crystal Meth and The Honourable Susan Brice, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions who announced that she is forming a provincial committee to deal with the problem are reassuring.

It is here in our community that this battle against Meth will be won or lost. Through consultation with the many community groups, organizations, government agencies and concerned citizens who attended the meeting, three task forces have been formed. They are:

1. Youth Education & Community Awareness
2. Addiction & Rehabilitation Services
3. Enforcement

Although my goal was to focus on educating our youth about the horrors of Crystal Meth, as a result of the meeting, it became very clear, that community awareness needs to be addressed at the same time. It also became clear that if we raise the level of awareness, we have to be able to provide a support system for the people who need help now. And if we as a community are going to win this battle against Crystal Meth, we need to provide an outlet for those who wish to report the people who are manufacturing or selling this poison.

I welcome the other two task forces and I truly believe that a coordinated effort can save many lives. We do not yet know how we will attack Crystal Meth in our community, but we have asked all the task forces to report back with their battle plans by September 15.

### TASK FORCE MEETINGS – DATES:

1. Youth Education & Community Awareness –  
Wednesday, August 11, 2004 @ 3:00 pm
2. Addiction & Rehabilitation Services –  
Tuesday, August 31, 2004 @ 3:00 pm
3. Enforcement  
Wednesday, September 8, 2004 @ 3:00 pm

### LOCATION:

All meetings are in the  
Blaney Room – Maple Ridge Municipal Hall

Websites for more info:

1. [www.methwatch.com](http://www.methwatch.com)
2. [www.aadac.com](http://www.aadac.com)