

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear fellow Rotarians,

Almost 100 years ago, a lonely young lawyer named Paul P. Harris decided to start a club with three of his friends. Although they represented different vocations, they all had one thing in common: they originally came from small towns. Living in the bustling city of Chicago, the four missed the warm, small-town hospitality and camaraderie of their youth. Harris wrote in *My Road to Rotary* in 1948, "To the members of the small group which came together in the big city of Chicago, Rotary was like an oasis in the desert."

In an attempt to recreate an atmosphere of caring, Harris formed a club that created a sense of family and community that would become the bedrock of Rotary. Since Rotary's beginning with the original four founders, the organization has become a "world family" with members from all walks of life in 166 countries.

During this centennial year, I would like to continue the family of Rotary initiative introduced by 2003-04 RI President Jonathan Majiyagbe. The RI Board has designated December as Family Month, an ideal time to reach out to family members and involve them in Rotary. The Family of Rotary Task Force is providing information and support to Rotary clubs and districts in an effort to emphasize the first Object of Rotary: "to encourage and foster the development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service."

Rotary offers many ways to celebrate Family Month. Members can visit Rotarians who are ill, encourage spouses and children to participate in service projects and fellowship events, and invite qualified family members to join a Rotary club. We also should make a special effort to remember the families of deceased Rotarians, who may need our care and support.

It's important to integrate our own families into the family of Rotary. Rotary should be something that brings families together – not a force that pulls them apart. Rotary clubs and districts can offer diverse service and social activities that appeal to all members. This is critical if we want to attract younger members, who may have children and other demands on their time.

I am from the [U.S.] South, where family is the highest priority. All three of my children and eight grandchildren live within driving distance. I grew up in a Rotary family – five of my brothers were Rotarians; three served as club presidents. Our son is also a Rotarian.

When I moved to new cities early in my career, Rotary helped to open doors and make the transition easier. When I joined a local Rotary club, I was welcomed and felt a sense of belonging. I was able to meet top business leaders, who asked me to call them by their first names. We were instantly part of the community. I have met many outstanding individuals during my 44 years as a Rotarian. For me, the best part of Rotary has always been the fellowship. Even when I visit clubs in other countries, I feel as though I'm among friends.

Paul Harris once said, "Friendship was the foundation rock on which Rotary was built and tolerance is the element which holds it together." Invite a relative, friend or business colleague to share in the joys of Rotary. During this centennial year, celebrate your membership in the largest family in the world.

Glenn E. Estess Sr.
President, Rotary International



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

Dec. 7	Walter Volpatti	Dec. 14	Stan Wade
Jan. 4	Laurie Anderson	Jan. 11	Brian Bekar



BINGO SCHEDULE

	6:15-8:15	8:00-10:00
Dec. 30	Brian Bekar	Mina Park
Jan. 27	Debbie MacRae	Mina Park



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

TODAY'S PROGRAM: Business Meeting

NEXT WEEK: AGM & Election of Officers

CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT 5050 EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Dec. 14	noon	AGM & Election of Officers	Regular Meeting
Dec. 21	6:30pm	Christmas Party	Robson's house
April 9	8:00am	District Assembly	Kwantlen University College, Surrey
May 12		District 5050 Centennial Conference	Victoria, BC
May 28		WineZest 2005	
June 18-22		RI Centennial Convention	Chicago

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Dec. 11 – Donna Campbell Dec. 13 – Fraser MacRae

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Dec. 10 – Peter & Ineke Boekhorst

50 / 50 draw - Jackpot at \$732+ 1/2 of today's sales, 26 cards left, Jackpot on "Queen of Hearts" only!

LAST WEEKS MEETING

Bob Shantz shared an excerpt from “Death Sentence 1881”.

Kevin advised us that the Christmas Party would be at the Robson’s home on Tuesday December 21 at 6:30 pm. He then passed around an attendance/gift exchange sign up sheet.

Gordy spoke about the upcoming Christmas Parade, as the volunteer sheet circulated. The parade is Saturday December 4th and we’re meeting on the corner of 119th Avenue & 224th St at 5:30 pm. Gordy advised that Rotarians would be shaking cans and collecting money while other volunteers pushed buggies collecting food.

Alex introduced our guests – guest speaker Jim Rule, RCMP Officer Hilton Haider, Sandy Wakeling (who was about to be inducted), Marco’s guest Matt DeBruyn and Gord’s guest Greg Stewart.

Mary then introduced our newest member for installation, Sandy Wakeling. Sandy was born in Montreal in 1970. He grew up in southern Ontario. He met his wife Ali at Carlton University. In 1999 he moved to BC and married Ali. He has two sons William and Sebastian. He began working for MLA Ken Stewart’s Constituency Office in 2001. Stan performed Sandy’s induction.

Our guest speaker was Jim Rule, member of the Haney Rotary Club and Chief Administrative Officer for the District of Maple Ridge.

He advised that the job of the City Manager is to provide the reports to council. His Two Way Test – has to be legal and has to be ethical. Council’s vision statement is a “safe and liveable community for all citizens”. The municipal government exists to make the community liveable. He said it’s a balancing act between social, environment, and economic underpinnings.

There has been the opportunity to set the tone for council. There are now public workshops, a communications department has been created, lots of good policy development. Projects they’ve been working on include working with Translink on the bridge, the new transit hub behind Haney Place Mall, the 232nd Street Bridge, 227th Street improvements, bringing in new RCMP officers, the Fire Dept. Master Plan, Farmers’ Market, and emergency planning.

Mr. Rule said that the community has had 3.2% growth each year. 93% of our assessment base is residential. The population projection for the year 2031 is 108,000 – 110,000. We’re financially in good shape and we’re the 3rd lowest taxed municipality in the GVRD.

He advised that the community concerns are transportation, safety and social issues. He feels that the key issue is the Golden Ears bridge which should bring in 2,500 – 3,000 new housing starts and 250 – 300 new businesses. He said our strengths are community involvement, the downtown core and the environment.

Submitted by Lynda Lawrence

A WORD FROM OUR OUTBOUND EXCHANGE STUDENT

Hello MeadowRidge Rotary.

I’m sorry I haven’t been writing more frequently, it’s just that I have no access to internet at my first host family, so I have to go to other people’s houses to get access. So! The year is going absolutely great, the region I am in, Le Haute Savoie, is right in the heart of the Alps, and right in the heart of ski country. I have already had the chance to travel to the South of France for a film festival with school, and Paris with my host mom for the weekend. What luck! I am living just outside a village called Manigod, which is ten minutes from another bigger town called Thones, which is then 20 minutes away from Annecy, the city where I go to school every day. The school here is definitely much different than school in Canada. School here consists of academics,

academics, and more academics. For example, I’m taking 8 hours of philosophy a week. It is incredibly hard for the kids to understand, let alone someone who is trying to learn a language! Still, I try to grasp the main subjects of this course, while participating in all the other courses. My other courses include history and geography, of which I find very interesting, English (not too tricky), Literature, cinema (my only non-academic option), and sport. Sport here is very different, much more, you go to sport, you are tested for your ability and that’s it; A slightly different approach. The other students at school are awesome. I’ve become very good friends with them in a short period of time. In terms of activities, every Thursday night I play volleyball in Thones with the community, I just enrolled in Hockey believe it or not my parents shipped my stuff over because I found a league to play in and arranged it with my host families. I should tell you about my host family. My host mom, Catherine, lost her husband five years ago. She has five kids, all in their twenties and thirties, and one boy who is 12 years old. Fortunately, Theo (the 12 year old) and I get along very well. Also, my host mom and I are very close. She is very willing to do things like go for hikes, and bike rides, etc etc. In terms of a host mom/host child relationship, it honestly could not be better. I was very lucky to know her. Also, I already know my next host family, which I will move there after Christmas. They are really into skiing, and even are going away for a weeks vacation at one of the local ski resorts! That will be awesome because they’re going to take me!!!! Also, they have a son who is twenty, and he’s totally into skiing, I’m sure we’ll be good friends. So, the language is coming very quickly. I have absolutely no problem now talking and listening especially, I understand everything that is said. When I first arrived They were speaking so fast it seemed, but now it’s like it’s slowed down inside my brain. I can’t explain! I work hard every night to improve my vocabulary, which is the hardest part I’ve found, of learning a language. It’s the little vocabulary words that you forget, not the verbs, just the little words. But its unbelievable to thing that only three months ago, I understood nothing in class and now I understand it 100%! Its hard to know if your progressing or not, but when you think of examples like that then you realize that you really have progressed. I’m sure you’ll find some Frenchy phrases in this email lol. I have become very good friends with two other exchange students here. They both live in Thones, at my next two host families houses. So, Sometimes I spend the night there to so it’s less traveling to go to school next morning. One is American from New York, and the other is from Argentina, Le Patagonie. They are cool and we always do things on the weekend together. Other than that, I hope everything is going well back in Maple Ridge. I sent you some photos here. Thank you for this opportunity. I hope Leo is doing well.

Eric



I never get tired of the scenery here. The sun setting on L’Etale, the mountain right beside my house. The view from just before Manigod, the village looking towards my house at the foot of the mountain.



The Medieval City of Annecy, France. My school is just outside of the vieille ville, just to the left of the limit of this picture