

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear fellow Rotarians,

This month is a milestone in Rotary's history – our 100th anniversary. Few other organizations have reached this landmark achievement. We've survived a century of change, but Rotarians have always been up to the challenge. Despite two world wars, regional conflicts, uncertain economies and unpredictable politics, Rotarians have been united by the Rotary motto of *Service Above Self*. For nearly 100 years, these three words have been our guiding light.

Rotary started as the inspiration of one man, Paul P. Harris. On 23 February 1905, the young lawyer met with three business associates in a small office in downtown Chicago. The group chatted about the weather, their relatives back home, and about starting a “booster club.” This unassuming group of friends would eventually lay the groundwork for the world's first service organization.

Paul Harris is an example of how one person can change the course of history. His pioneering vision gave rise to the concept of volunteerism at a time when there was little concern for the “common man.” The group of four eventually grew and expanded across borders to form an international organization dedicated to humanitarian service and peace. Rotary is historic in that it has transcended geographic, religious, racial, political, social and other barriers.

I feel privileged to serve as your president during the centennial year. As a Rotarian who grew up in a small rural community, I can relate to Paul Harris and his desire to make friends and help his neighbours. I chose the RI theme *Celebrate Rotary* so that each club could commemorate the centennial its own special way. Our anniversary is a golden opportunity to raise awareness and publicize the good works of Rotary.

Rotary club members are ordinary people who accomplish extraordinary things – sometimes through sheer force of will. Thanks to The Rotary Foundation of RI, Rotarians have provided more than \$1.4 billion for service projects in more than 166 countries. Rotary supports the world's largest privately funded international scholarship program and sponsors one of the world's most popular youth exchange programs. We have been leaders in the global fight against polio, saving millions of children from this crippling disease. It is our birthday gift to the children of the world.

Few organizations reach their 100th anniversary, illustrating the tremendous need for Rotary over the years. But our centennial is not just a time to reflect upon our past accomplishments. It is also a time to look to the future, to set new goals and face new challenges. We must continue to dedicate ourselves to world peace, promote high ethical standards and seek new opportunities for service.

One hundred years ago, Paul Harris took the first steps on our journey of service. As we enter our second century of service, we must continue to evolve and grow as an organization. I encourage Rotarians to raise the bar and reinvent the Rotary wheel. With more than 1.2 million members in 166 countries, we have incredible potential to change the world.

RI President James L. Bomar Jr. (1979-80) described Rotary's founding fathers as the “builders of eternity.” Rotary is truly ageless in that its legacy lives on through millions of people who have benefited from our projects and programs. Let us *Celebrate Rotary* by creating a better world and a better future. The next 100 years holds even greater challenges – and greater promise.

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

Feb. 1	Peter Boekhorst	Feb. 8	Robert Campbell
Feb. 15	Rick Carruthers	Feb. 22	Vladimir Cukor



BINGO SCHEDULE

	6:15-8:15	8:00-10:00
Feb. 24	Mina Park	Peter Boekhorst
March 24	Mina Park	



Call Peter at 604-465-3392 for assistance or email mrrotary@telus.net

TODAY'S PROGRAM: Marjatta Longston, “The Future of the School District”

NEXT WEEK'S PROGRAM: New Members Meeting

CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT 5050 EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Feb. 8	noon	Membership Drive	Gourmet Hideaway Restaurant
Feb. 23	7:00pm	Charter of Port Coquitlam Centennial	Michael's on Wilson Rest., Pt Coq
March 9	6:00pm	Centennial Dinner (Dinner @ 6:30)	Meadow Gardens Golf & Country Club
April 9	8:00am	District Assembly	Kwantlen University College, Surrey
May 10		Golf Tournament	Meadow Gardens Golf & Country Club
May 12		District 5050 Centennial Conference	Victoria, BC
May 28		WineZest 2005	
June 18-22		RI Centennial Convention	Chicago

Cash Calendar: The list of the January winners is posted on our website www3.telus.net/MeadowRidge_Rotary and will be updated regularly.

50 / 50 draw - Jackpot at \$892+ 1/2 of today's sales, 22 cards left, Jackpot on “Queen of Hearts” only!

LAST WEEKS MEETING

Mary announced that the Golf Tournament would be held Tuesday May 10th and that our joint Centennial Celebration with the Haney Club would be held on Wednesday March 9th. She advised that we will be presenting some Paul Harris Awards at this dinner and asked the club members to forward names of possible recipients who club members feel deserve this recognition.

Our guest speaker was Rhian Piprel of the Mission Rotary Club who is also our District Literacy Chairperson and is employed by the Coquitlam Library.

Rhian's presentation was on the mobile library project that District 50/50 is doing as a Centennial Literacy Project in the Republic of Guatemala, whose population is about 11.7 million people. Rhian advised that there was a Rotary fair in Antigua in mid January and that a number of Rotarians attended to get a better understanding of what's needed.

There is already one mobile library which is doing well and they have decided upon a second mobile library for the Chimaltenango Department of Guatemala. The goal is provide a library and maintenance for a three year period to start. This includes purchasing a bus; converting it to a library and stocking it with books. The population is 40 – 80% Mayan. The language in the area is Spanish and 22 indigenous Mayan dialects. The current bus visits three schools a day, has books for adults and provides video viewing.

Rhian advised that 30 years of Civil War has destroyed the infrastructure of the country. The literacy rate is only 50%. The illiteracy rate for those over age 15 is 45% and the female illiteracy rate over 15 years old is 75%. They have very few libraries, low salaries and little access to books. There is a gentleman by the name of Rigaberto who is heading the literacy program Guatemala.



There is the possibility of getting a matching grant from the Guatemala Club. There is \$65,000. USD required to purchase and refurbish a bus and to buy the books. Our members can support the project through our club or individually buy books for the library at \$10. per book.

Submitted by Lynda Lawrence

CENTENNIAL DINNER

There will be a Centennial Dinner Celebration with the Haney Rotary Club on Wednesday March 9, 2005. The details are as follows:

DATE: Wednesday March 9, 2005
LOCATION: Meadow Gardens Golf & Country Club
COST: \$25. per person
TIME: Cocktails @ 6 pm, Dinner @ 6:30 pm & Awards @ 7 pm.

Come and celebrate Rotary's 100th Anniversary!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Feb. 5: Robert Goodrick Feb. 6: Lee Weber Feb. 7: Maureen Goodrick

AFRICAN HEALTH MINISTERS ANNOUNCE 2005 POLIO STRATEGY AT GENEVA MEETING

Health ministers from the African countries most affected by polio have established an eradication strategy for 2005, according to a joint press release from Global Polio Eradication Initiative partners Rotary International, UNICEF, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the World Health Organization.

Meeting at WHO headquarters in Geneva on 13 January, the ministers agreed to embark on a series of massive immunization campaigns across 25 countries as a key aspect of the strategy. Polio surveillance will also be stepped up.

"We, the ministers of the eight most-polio-affected countries of Africa, together with the global polio partners, commit to further intensifying polio eradication activities with the goal of ending transmission by the end of 2005," they announced at the end of the conference.

According to the press release, the ministers pledged to conduct at least five rounds of national immunization campaigns and involve all sectors of their governments in a bid to reach every child with the polio vaccine. The polio-endemic countries of Egypt, Niger, and Nigeria, as well as Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, and Sudan, which are experiencing a circulation of the poliovirus originating from a 2003 outbreak in Nigeria, were represented at the event.

Despite a spike in cases reported last year in Africa, the ministers concluded that the spread of polio was slowing in most countries. The number of cases doubled to 1,037 in 2004 as a result of the 2003 outbreak caused by a controversial suspension of polio immunization by several northern Nigerian states. Civil wars in Côte d'Ivoire and Sudan also disrupted immunization activities, directly contributing to the increase in the number of cases.

In Sudan, reported cases shot up from zero to 112 in the last nine months. The Sudan situation threatens the polio-free Horn of Africa, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the Persian Gulf region. But the threat is being addressed, according to the press release: Sudan carried out an emergency immunization campaign this week in the war-torn Darfur region. In 2004, 23 African countries, including Nigeria, held two rounds of joint National Immunization Days targeting 80 million children.

The 2005 strategy will build on the successes of last year's immunization activities. The African Union, an umbrella organization that addresses transnational issues affecting countries in the region, will lead this year's polio eradication efforts. African leaders are expected to announce increased immunization and surveillance activities at an African Union summit in Abuja, Nigeria, 29-30 January.