

RI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear fellow Rotarians,

In 1905, when Paul Harris founded the first Rotary club, he probably never imagined that he was planting the seed for the 1.2 million-member, internationally respected organization we are part of today. As we look back on the first 100 years of Rotary, and ahead to the next 100, we can't know for sure what lies ahead – but we can do a great deal to ensure that Rotary International continues to grow and thrive.

Programs for young people are bridges to Rotary membership, and among the most important ways we keep Rotary's future bright. The members of Rotaract are the cream of their generation – community-minded students and professionals aged 18-30 who come together for fellowship and service. Every Rotaractor has the potential to become an outstanding Rotarian, having already demonstrated an active commitment to Rotary goals and the ideal of Service Above Self.

In my travels as president, I am constantly impressed by the commitment and creativity of Rotaractors. On a recent trip to Russia, I met with Rotaract members in St. Petersburg who had come from Vladivostok – nine hours away by airplane. These young people truly understood what Rotary volunteerism is all about, and Russia can only benefit from their work. I came away feeling confident that the future of Rotary was going to be with the next generation, and the future of Russia as well.

As I write this message, the members of a Rotaract club in San Diego are packing their bags for their first international service project – one for which they are uniquely qualified. The club's members are all Sudanese refugees who, as children, fled their country's civil war without parents or relatives. Now, these new Rotaractors are returning to the Kenyan refugee camp where they once lived to help other refugees find a better life. This is just one example of Rotaractors seeing a need and doing everything they can to make a difference.

Rotaract is flourishing around the world. With over 7,700 clubs and 177,000 members, there is Rotaract in almost every country where there is Rotary. World Rotaract Week, 7-13 March, is an opportunity for all of us to reach out to Rotaractors and make sure Rotaractors feel that they are part of the Rotary family. Sponsor joint projects with your local Rotaract club. Invite Rotaractors to your club meetings, and propose them for membership. Rotaract is a path to Rotary, and it is our responsibility as Rotarians to keep that path clear and inviting.

For my wife, Mary, and me, family always comes first. And often, we hear from members or prospective members that they have so little time to spend with their families, they cannot take on the commitment of community service. Rotary was never meant to take members from their families – instead, it should be a force to bring families together. Encourage your children or grandchildren to join Rotary, Rotaract or Interact, and involve them in your club's service projects whenever you can. There is no better way to teach service than by example – and bringing generations together in service is one of the many ways we continue to *Celebrate Rotary!*

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

Meetings: Tuesday 12pm, Gourmet Hideaway Restaurant
President: Mary Robson Phone: 604-463-3333, 2
Exec. Asst.: Lynda Lawrence Phone: 604-463-3333, 3
Editor: Peter Boekhorst Phone: 604-465-3392

maryrobson@robsonandassoc.com
ljlawrence@robsonandassoc.com
mrrotary@telus.net

INVOCATION

March 8	Mike Davies	March 29	Brenda Exner
April 5	Brian Fox	April 12	Murray Davelaar



CELEBRATE
R O T A R Y

100 Years

BINGO SCHEDULE

	6:15-8:15	8:00-10:00
March 24	Mina Park	Sharon Kyle
April 21	Ron LePore	Brian Bekar

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

TODAY'S PROGRAM: Dave Rempel – Esteem Team
NEXT WEEK'S PROGRAM: Centennial Dinner Celebration March 16th

*Next weeks meeting on March 15 is cancelled for the Centennial Dinner on the 16th.
The regular meeting on March 22 is cancelled for the Fireside that evening.*

CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT 5050 EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
March 16	6:00pm	Centennial Dinner (Dinner @ 6:30)	Meadow Gardens Golf & Country Club
March 22	6:30pm	Fireside at Kevin Nosworthy	23877 114A Avenue, Maple Ridge
April 9	8:00am	District Assembly	Kwantlen University College, Surrey
May 10		Golf Tournament	Swan-e-Set Golf Club
May 12		District 5050 Centennial Conference	Victoria, BC
May 28		WineZest 2005	ACT, Maple Ridge
June 18-22		RI Centennial Convention	Chicago

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

March 10: Marco & Lila Jane Terwiel

50 / 50 draw - Jackpot at \$1089+ 1/2 of today's sales, 17 cards left, Jackpot on "Queen of Hearts" only!

THEY ALSO NEED US!

Dear Fellow Rotarians,

A program that has very close to my personal life over the last few years has now come one step closer. A very close friend has AIDS and is living and supported by A Loving Spoonful and Friends For Life. The fight for a cure will go on for years and take millions of funding, but the human toll still takes place. They cannot support themselves and need our daily love and support.

This event raises funds to provide meals for them on a daily basis. My friend Todd uses this program also, there are days when his medication has taken his desire not to prepare a meal. He will then dial the Loving Spoonful and they will bring a meal that evening.....which in turn is a life support to him.

As I donate two evenings a week to help deliver these meals to the patients, I am so moved, but given the engorgement to work harder for a cure to AIDS. This is just a small thing we can do in our own communities to help those who can't go out for dinner.

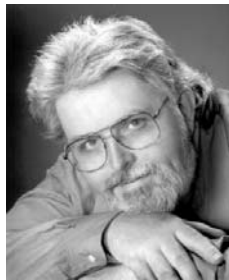
As the information brochure states, if you plan a dinner out this week make it on March 10th, so the 25% donation from the restaurants goes to the cause. We all enjoy a glass of wine with dinner so for the month of March purchase a Woff Blass product and a donation of .75 per bottle will also go to the cause.

I thank-you all for just taking the time to read this and reflect on an issue that is there in your community as will as worldwide, so enjoy your dinning out with the feeling you as a Rotarian are helping someone also.

Loving regards, Alex

You are cordially invited to spend

April Fools Eve with



Gordon Kirkland

Thursday, March 31 at 7:30pm Pitt Meadows Rec Hall

Tickets \$18 (Advance) or \$20 at the door

Gordon will be reading stories from his newest book "When My Mind Wanders, it Brings Back Souvenirs" with the net profits from the ticket sales going to the establishment of a writing and journalism scholarship for Pitt Meadows Secondary School. Come out and hear this talented local author, as he launches his latest North American book tour.

You can email Diane to reserve tickets: kirkland-diane@shaw.ca

LAST WEEKS MEETING

Dave Rempel stood and explained a student exchange program he is looking for funding for. This project will see 8 students from our area travel to Russia to be home-stayed, attend some local schools and tour the cities of Moscow, St Petersburg and Novosibirsk. The long term plans are to facilitate a return exchange with students from Russia coming to stay in our area. Dave is requesting \$800 funding from the Rotary Club.

April 12th is the Youth Diversion fundraising dinner at the Gourmet Hideaway. The tickets are \$120 each but you will receive a tax deductible receipt for \$100 of that. Last year we were very successful in our efforts and we look forward to improving on that this year. If you are interested please speak to Gordy who can let you know who has the tickets.

Our guest speaker this week was Lola Chapman from the Ridge Meadows Youth & Justice Advocacy Association. This association was founded in 1994 by Lola, and has helped approx 130 youths each year since then. First time youth offenders are referred to the program by the RCMP or the Crown Council at which time they meet with a volunteer mentor for an interview. In this interview their offence & their personal background are discussed as well as consequences are set for their offence. After this is completed they are assisted with making positive choices in their life through the mentoring and quite often drop in to the office to brag of their successes. The overall success rate of this organization is 84%-94% and that is defined in that they do not re-offend for a year from their entry into the program. The average cost to send a youth through the prison system is \$250,000 with a success rate around 40% while the Youth Diversion program averages \$250 with a 84-94% success rate. Lola has also traveled across Canada assisting other communities to set up similar programs. Lola thanks the club for their past support and looks forward to an ongoing relationship with us.

Submitted by Debi Pearce

FIRESIDE

March 22nd meeting will be a Fireside at Kevin Nosworthy's home at 6:30pm.

The address is
23877 114A Avenue, Maple Ridge

Telephone number is 604 467-8507

Please note, that the regular meeting on that day has been cancelled!

