

**THE FRENCH NEWS**

So the last two weeks in France was vacation. Even though they have very generous vacations here, that doesn't mean they slack off. The school days are extra long to make up for all those nice long vacations. Vacation was great here because I'm in the Alps with an awesome family so I was skiing almost all the days!! We had really good luck this winter with the snow. It's been a month and a half with cold temperatures and snow! Amazing, no rain, no warm weather at all. I'm not used to that. There are two big mountains right in my region, one is called La Clusaz, which is fifteen minutes from my house! It's the home mountain to the world cross country ski champion!! It's a really good ski mountain, very modern. From there, if you know the trail, you can ski down to my house!! 1000 meters of elevation drop!! My host parents showed me the trail through the trees and everything. Amazing. So I went skiing always with different people. I was with my host parents sometimes, my host brother Lyonel, who is 20 years old who I get along really well with. We went a couple times. He's actually a sponsored freestyle skier, so whenever he wants to hit the powder, I head up there with him. Otherwise, I went with another American here in Annecy from Seattle, Izzy, another Canadian girl from Ontario, another guy who goes to school in Annecy who lives at La Clusaz. I was always busy during the vacation, and it usually revolved around the skiing, I also discovered a new sport, which I don't even know if it exists in Canada. It's called ski Randonnee, which is when you put skins (not actually skins) on the bottom of your skis and then climb up mountains and then ski down. It's great because you can go anywhere, and there's never any tracks in the snow. I do that just beside my house. Also cross country skiing, which wow!! That is really hard!! I do that with my host mom all the time, but I can hardly keep up to her. School is hard here in Europe, so much different. Like I said, the long days take a toll on your mind, and even your body. Luckily we have the nice vacations to recompose. Right now, we just had a test, like a mid term you could call it for the year, and I wrote it. I wrote philosophy, English (not too tricky), cinema, and history/geography. Surprisingly, I felt the most confident about my philosophy exam. I haven't got the marks back yet, but I had a dream that I got 11 out of 20 on the philo, which, let me assure you, is a good mark here. If you EVER have anything higher than 50 percent, they're super excited!! It's weird, like a 7.5/20 is like a good mark!!! So much different, I can't even explain. I still talk to my old host family all the time, and I go there from time to time to spend the night with my old host mom. It was such an experience up there... I refer to it as 'up there' because it is literally so far away from everything, an hour away from school every morning. But I loved it, an experience that I will remember forever, and I'm sure I'll return there one day. It's amazing how the exchange changes you. I'm being really vague, sorry. So in two weeks, I'm off to Paris with the Rotary to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Rotary. All the students will be assembled under the Eiffel Tower, and I even got picked to ask questions to the ministers of France at a soiree that Rotary was invited to. Here are the questions that I came up with.

1. With the ratification of the European Constitution, which was signed the 29th of October 2004, what are the roles of the constitutions of the other European nations, compared to the new uniform European Constitution, especially if it is passed in France? Is this constitution a step on the way to defining Europe as a country?
2. The French government favours the entry of Turkey in the European Union for economic and politically strategic reasons. This expansion of the union means that the traditional boundaries of Europe will not exist anymore. In reality, the European union will reach Asia. So, what are the geographical limits of the European Union? This is to say, if we let a country, which is traditionally considered a part of Asia, where can we draw the line in the sand for other countries elsewhere, who will want to join eventually?

So there ya go, I will ask the french ministers these questions when we visit the french parliament in Paris! I'm excited. I actually don't know too much about it, I just know that I will have the chance to propose these questions. I'm going to be very nervous!

Sincerely, Eric



# The Four Way Flasher

**Rotary Club of  
MeadowRidge Newsletter**

**Vol. 11 Issue 39  
March 29, 2005**

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**INVOCATION**

<b>March 29</b>		<b>April 5</b>	Brian Fox
<b>April 12</b>	Murray Davelaar	<b>April 19</b>	Doris Gagel



**CELEBRATE  
ROTARY  
100 Years**

**BINGO SCHEDULE**

	<b>6:15-8:15</b>	<b>8:00-10:00</b>
<b>April 21</b>	Ron LePore	Brian Bekar
<b>May 19</b>	Debi Pearce	Robert Campbell

Call Peter at 604-465-3392 for assistance or email [mrrotary@telus.net](mailto:mrrotary@telus.net)

**TODAY'S PROGRAM:** Installation of Matt DeBruyn  
**Welcome to the Club, Matt**

Who's Who – The Goodricks

**NEXT WEEK'S PROGRAM:** Randy Hawes - MLA

**CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT 5050 EVENTS:**

Date	Time	Event	Venue
April 9	8:00am	District Assembly	Kwantlen University College, Surrey
April 12		Youth Diversion Dinner	The Gourmet Hideaway Restaurant
May 10	12:30pm	Golf Tournament	Swan-e-Set Golf Club
May 12		District5050 Centennial Conference	Victoria, BC
May 28		WineZest 2005	ACT, Maple Ridge
May 30		Italian Serata – Hospital ER	La Trattoria
June 18-22		RI Centennial Convention	Chicago

**50 / 50 draw - Jackpot at \$1100+ 1/2 of today's sales, 16 cards left, Jackpot on "Queen of Hearts" only!**

## LAST WEEKS FIRESIDE

Facilitated by: Gordie Robson

### Topic 1 – Esteem Team

Mary Robson spoke to Chris Wilson and the Esteem Team operates through the National Sports Trust Fund which is a registered non-profit society. The funding of this project was the main concern and no responses came from the floor for someone to chair a specific fundraiser for this event. The next option is that Ken Paterson will explore some other avenues, which may permit us to fund them through Bingo.

**ACTION/DECISION: This year's event will be funded from the Discretionary funds and we will need to have alternative funding in place for next year.**

### Topic 2 – Wine Zest

Cheryl, the WZ chair was unable to attend, Alex gave the report in her place. Concern was raised regarding the lack of Committee Members and a call for HELP was issued for the following positions: Silent Auction Chair, Site Co-ordinator, Entertainment/Decorations Chair, Volunteer Co-ordinator, Public Relations Chair. Anyone interested in any of these positions, please let Lynda Lawrence know and she will forward it to the committee. Also concern was raised about the need for an immediate meeting to begin planning this our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary WZ.

**ACTION/DECISION: Alex K, as co-chair of the committee will call a meeting immediately and inform all interested parties through a mass email with Lynda's assistance.**

### Topic 3 – Golf Tournament

This year's event will be organized primarily by the Haney Rotary Club. We have room for 140 golfers and we are expected to sell – out. They are also looking for sponsorship at various levels ranging from \$150 to \$2500. The cost to golf is \$125 and this includes a power cart, golf, prizes and use of the driving range. The tournament takes place on Tuesday May 10<sup>th</sup> at the Swan-E-Set Golf Course.

### Topic 4 – Hospice Calendar

The first year went very well, netting approx \$30,000, of which part will be used to fund next year's calendar. Ineke has already received commitments for 20 of the 60 advertising spaces @ \$400 (Kudos to Ineke for a job WELL DONE). The Hospice is slated to open with 10 beds in April 2006 and they will need to fund to furnish everything except the beds to a tune of \$300,000. The next issue will include a coupon page as another advertising option. The following motion was put on the floor and carried unanimously

*MOTION: To ratify the previous discussions that the MeadowRidge Rotary Club is willing to make a 3 year, \$100,000 commitment in support of the Maple Ridge Hospice Society, monies to be raised through the Lottery Calendar in such a way so there is no financial risk to the Club.*

A request was also put in for the club to purchase one advertising space and possibly use the 20 calendars as Guest Speaker gifts. It was agreed that we would do this.

### Topic 5 – Tsunami Relief

Our club has raised \$8,000 and it currently is in our “foundation” account waiting for the District to set up a program that will qualify for matching grants.

**ACTION/DECISION:** Ken Paterson is working on this and has asked for Peters assistance re the matching grant application, to which he agreed.

### Topic 6 – Home Show Booth

We have committed to a booth at the Home Show along with the Haney Rotary Club. This will be a very good opportunity to sell Wine Zest tickets and promote the event. The Home Show runs from April 29 – 31. Mary circulated a list for volunteers and is looking for someone to chair this committee. Any volunteers please let her know ASAP

### Topic 7 – Insurance Coverage

We need to investigate and purchase Liability Insurance for the directors and also to be covered for all the fundraising events that we do.

**ACTION/DECISION:** Lynda Lawrence will investigate and collect more information for the Executive

### Topic 8 – Membership Report

June 30, 2004 we had 42 members

Resignations – 2 (Rick Carruthers and Brenda Exner)

Feb 28 we had 47 members + 2 applicants waiting to join

We currently have 3 members on Leave of Absence

### Topic 8 – Rotary International Foundation

Stan Wade urged the members, who have not yet taken the opportunity to donate to our RI Fund to please do so at their earliest convenience. Our club commitment this year was for \$3,000 and we have contributed \$1,300 so far. Keep in mind it is with these monies that Rotary is able to continue its international work including Polio Plus.

### Topic 9 – Upcoming Fundraisers

We have two upcoming dinner fundraisers that we still have tickets available for. Please be sure to get your ticket and support these worthwhile causes.

Italian Serata – Monday, May 30<sup>th</sup> at La Trattoria. Tickets \$120, tax receipt \$100 – funds to Hospital Expansion

Gourmet Experience – April 12<sup>th</sup> at Gourmet Hideaway, Tickets \$120, tax receipt \$100 – funds to Youth Diversion Society

### Topic 10 – RYLA

We will be sponsoring 2 applicants to attend RYLA which runs from 3<sup>rd</sup> week in June. Rotarian kids can attend this event and all applicants must be from Grade 12 to 25 years old. Next year (2006) this event will be held in Mission at the Zajac Ranch.

### Topic 11 – Executive Assistant

A proposal was put forward to use the 10% admin fees collected to pay for an executive assistant for the club who would work part time and report directly to the executive. They would also be available for the Fund Raising committees, however the fee would then have to come from that committee.

**ACTION/DECISION:** After much discussion this proposal was tabled with a request for a Job description to be provided to the membership before a vote is taken.

### Topic 12 – Crystal Meth Campaign

A very successful campaign with lots of good results and PR for our club. The video was viewed by some members after the meeting and was very well received. Kudos to the committee.

### Topic 13 – District Assembly April 9<sup>th</sup>

If anyone is interested in attending this very worthwhile event please let Sharon Kyle know. The club will pay the \$40 registration fee and there will be car pooling available. Lots of positive and new ideas come from this meeting and it is good for not only the incoming executive but any members especially new members.

**Submitted by Debi Pearce**