

Rotary International Convention  Malmö-Copenhagen
11-14 June 2006



The 2006 RI Convention will emphasize interaction and continuity, providing Rotarians alternate ways to explore several topics of keen interest each day. Copenhagen's Bella Center is ideally suited for just such a gathering. The Nordic region's largest conference and exhibition facility, it is also open and airy with lots of greenery, making it a cozy, inviting venue for inspiring *Service Above Self*.

The convention's main events will be housed at the Bella Center and include opening and closing ceremonies, general sessions featuring keynote speakers, multimedia presentations, and a host of local performers.

Highlights include:

Interactive discussion groups will be held each day on several topics including literacy (Monday, 12 June); water, hunger, and health (Tuesday, 13 June); and bridging the world (Wednesday, 14 June). Led by trained facilitators, these discussion groups of 50 to 100 people will give Rotarians the opportunity to brainstorm ideas for post-convention projects to help meet humanitarian needs.

Workshops will provide a more traditional learning venue on membership recruitment and retention, The Rotary Foundation, PolioPlus, and topics for incoming club presidents. The workshops will feature panels of five or six Rotarians sharing knowledge, expertise, and updated information with up to several hundred people.

Open forums will give Rotarians an opportunity to exchange ideas with RI directors, Foundation trustees, and past RI presidents.

Inspiration for Service Above Self

Connect with your Rotary colleagues from all over the world by partaking in a smorgasbord of convention activities that will broaden your horizons.

Main convention events and facilities will be housed in Copenhagen's spacious and versatile Bella Center, the largest conference and exhibition facility in the Nordic region. There, Rotarians and their guests will enjoy opening and closing ceremonies and convention sessions featuring multimedia presentations and a host of local performers. Discussion workshops on membership, youth activities, The Rotary Foundation, presidential emphases, and Rotary's public image will convene several times a day to give convention goers more opportunities to attend.

Visit the House of Friendship to relax with Rotary friends, make new ones, trace Nordic ancestors using government databases, and learn more about Swedish and Danish culture. Want to build bridges of international friendship with a Rotarian family from the Nordic region and other Northern European countries?

The homestay program offers a unique opportunity for convention goers to spend several days at the homes of Rotarians in the Øresund region and beyond.

However you chose to participate, you'll take home valuable information and experiences that can plant the seed for new club initiatives.



The Four Way Flasher

Rotary Club of
MeadowRidge Newsletter

Vol. 12 Issue 22
Nov. 29, 2005

Web-site: www3.telus.net/MeadowRidge_Rotary

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NOVEMBER IS ROTARY FOUNDATION MONTH

INVOCATION

Nov. 29	Stan Wade	Dec. 06	Sandy Wakeling
Dec. 13	Laurie Anderson	Jan. 10	Janice Armstrong

BINGO SCHEDULE

	6:15-8:15	8:00-10:00
Dec. 01	Lynda Lawrence	Marco Terwiel
Dec. 29	Mina Park	Liz Attarmigirian



SERVICE Above Self

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

No regular meeting on Dec. 20 and 27 and Jan. 3

TODAY'S PROGRAM: 'Friends in Need' Foodbank

NEXT WEEK'S PROGRAM: AGM and Election of Officers 2006/2007

CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT 5050 EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Dec. 6	noon	AGM and Election of Officers 2006/07	
Dec. 20		Christmas Party	Robson's,
Dec. 27		Regular Meeting Cancelled!	
Jan. 3	noon	Visit to Mission Mid-day Rotary	Bellevue Hotel, 32998 1st Ave, Mission
Jan. 7	8am-2pm	Potential Rotary Leadership Seminar	Sunrise Banquet Centre 5640-188 St., Surrey

50 / 50 draw - Jackpot at \$598+ 1/2 of today's sales, 32 cards left, Jackpot on "Queen of Hearts" only!

LAST WEEKS MEETING



What a great meeting! First it was announced it was Laurie Anderson's birthday and of course congratulations were extended to Gord Robson on his successful campaign for the Mayor's seat in Maple Ridge.

We also had the opportunity to present a \$2,500 cheque to a very worthwhile cause last week. The Meals on Wheels charity provides meals and daily visitations for many seniors in our community and have set a goal to raise \$10,000 to sustain their efforts.

The Guest Speaker, Rob Martin, is the District Foundation chair and this month is Foundation month. Rob informed us that 220,000 people worldwide die every two days from lack of basic human needs like clean drinking water, food and shelter. The Rotary Foundation, through its many projects, works diligently to alleviate these hardships wherever possible and the money to do this comes from the Rotary memberships.

The main projects are:

- 1) Polio Plus – Rotary has been working with the World Health Organization for many years to eradicate polio from the planet. We are almost there with only about 1000 cases worldwide at this time. Rotarians participate in this project both through monetary donations and as the ground volunteers delivering the vaccine to the children of the world.
- 2) Rotary Centers for Peace and Understanding – This has been active for 5 years and has 70 scholars each year, 39% of which come from low income countries, all working together to try to promote peace and understanding amongst the people of the world.
- 3) Group Study Exchange – This is a team of young professionals aged between 26 and 40 who travel to another country and explore their industry in that country. Many positive and innovative ideas are exchanged and of course this also goes towards promoting world peace and understanding.
- 4) Ambassadorial Scholarships is an opportunity for university scholars to study for one year in another university in another country. They go with a specific area of study as their focus, usually to do with humanitarian needs. 36,000 students have benefited from this program to date.
- 5) Individual Grants are similar to the Ambassadorial scholarships except are for individuals with a specific project in mind.
- 6) District Simplified Grants – can be used by the Rotary club for the needs in their own community. The grants are for as much as \$4,000 and do not have to be matched by the club. The next available grants will be in July for the next Rotary year.
- 7) Matching Grants are used for international projects and require a local club to team up with a club in the country where the funds will be utilized for a specific humanitarian project. They can then apply for matching grants from the District and from there for another matching grant from Rotary International and for example this would make an original donation of \$5,000 into a total of \$17,500.



Our club has collected \$6,540 this year for Rotary International and it is also important to know that it is never too late to donate. So if you have not already donated and would like to, please speak to Vladimir Cukor or Lindsay Hendy to let them know.

Submitted by Debi Pearce

OVER 50 MILLION CHILDREN TARGETED IN JOINT AFRICAN POLIO CAMPAIGNS

Hot on the heels of good news that 10 West and Central African nations have halted the spread of the poliovirus within their borders, armies of health workers and volunteers across Africa targeted more than 50 million children during six days of synchronized immunization campaigns.

On 11 November, the day the effort was launched in many of the 28 participating countries, the [Global Polio Eradication Initiative](#) partners announced that no case of the disease has been reported in Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Mali, and Togo since June.

At launch events across 18 polio-endemic states in Nigeria, where 12.9 million children were targeted, political, religious, and traditional leaders encouraged parents to bring their children to polio immunization centers or allow vaccinators access into their homes.

In Kano, the epicentre of a polio outbreak that has in the last two years spread across Africa, the Middle East, and Indonesia, Nigeria's paramount Muslim leader Alhaji Ado Bayero told a crowd at the official launch that he had instructed all local leaders to ensure the immunization effort succeeded. Protecting children against polio is sanctioned by Islamic teaching, he told the audience.

"I appeal to the people of Kano to bring out their children and participate in the polio vaccination exercise," said Bayero, who is head of the over 200-year-old emirate of Kano. "What you all are doing is in line with the teachings of Islam which says all Muslims have a duty to resist evil with their hands, eyes, and minds."

Malam Ibrahim Shekarau, governor of Kano, reiterated his assurances to the public that the oral polio vaccine is safe. In 2003, a rapidly diminishing polio threat was reignited when most northern Nigerian states abandoned routine and special immunizations, following rumours that the vaccine was harmful to children.

Two days before the launch, members of the Kano State Polio Victims Trust Association marched in town to raise public awareness about the irreversible harm that polio inflicts on its victims, even when they survive an infection.

Similar activities mounted by civic groups all over Nigeria show that public opinion has swung back in favour of polio immunization since the 10-month boycott of the vaccine ended last year.

Local and visiting Rotarians provided logistical support to ensure that the oral polio vaccine was delivered wherever it was needed during the synchronized National Immunization Days.

"Rotary club members from across North America, Europe, and Asia are joining fellow Rotarians in Africa to participate in the polio campaigns," said RI President Carl-Wilhelm Stenhammar, as he commended the volunteer activities of Rotarians. "At Rotary, we are committed to doing everything we can to support Africa in their polio eradication efforts."

Close to 50 visiting Rotarians, split into several teams, joined their local counterparts in Benin, Ghana, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, and Togo.

"The flag off, or lancement as we call it here, was held at the village of Toviklin, three hours' drive from Cotonou, where the last dozen miles would make the Paris-Dakar rally seem like cheesecake," according to Ashok Mirchandani, chair of the Benin National PolioPlus Committee. "This was the village where the maximum resistance and the lowest coverage took place last round. [The] people from the entire community landed up to assure us that they will not make the same mistake again."

More than 2.2 million children were reached in Benin alone. Comparable targets were achieved in the other participating countries: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, and Togo.