

CANADIAN INTERACTORS BRING JOY OF READING TO INNER-CITY SCHOOLS

The reading menu for students at several inner-city schools in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, has become more varied as a result of a literacy project of the Interact club at Ross Sheppard High School.

According to Jenna Briscoe and Matt Karpman, the 16-year-old 11th graders who coordinated the effort, libraries at many inner-city schools have far fewer holdings than at Ross Sheppard.

"It is pretty serious when schools cannot afford books for their elementary students to read," the Interactors explain in a joint e-mail. "Some of the libraries that we visited were quite small. We can't speak for all of the schools, but the ones that we distributed to were in need."

After two weeks of planning, preparation, and promotion, the Interact club launched a month long book drive at the end of October. From preliminary research, the club set a modest goal of collecting 1,000 books to distribute to inner-city schools that enrol mostly poor students.

But club members were overwhelmed by the response. More than 75 percent of Ross Sheppard's 2,139 students participated in the drive in a variety of ways. Many of them donated books they no longer needed.

"We expected just over a thousand books," Briscoe and Karpman say. "To our surprise, we received almost 12,000, which is absolutely amazing for a first-time [literacy] project."

The outcome was a source of immense personal satisfaction for both because they were just learning the ropes, having joined the Interact club at its inception in March 2005.

For the club, the success of the book drive was a big confidence booster. It was also an unforgettable lesson about Service Above Self, organizing, and not underestimating a community's capacity to help the needy.

"We as a group learned that there are many people who are in need that live in our own communities," Briscoe and Karpman note. "This project made a lot of us feel more of a reason to give back. We also found out that when the students of our school are pushed, they can move mountains."

There is no looking back for the Interact club, which is already planning more initiatives. A club-sponsored leadership conference for inner-city junior high school students is scheduled for 17 February, and a campaign is underway to raise C\$58,000 (US\$49,810) in support of an orphanage in Guatemala. Some club members will travel to Guatemala in mid-March to help build the orphanage.



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

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January is Rotary Awareness Month

INVOCATION

Jan. 17	Liz Attarmigirian	Jan. 24	Brian Bekar
Jan. 31	Anil Bharwani	Feb. 7	Ineke Boekhorst

BINGO SCHEDULE

	6:15-8:15	8:00-10:00
Jan. 26	Peter Boekhorst	Vivian Hatiras
Feb. 23	Maureen Goodrick	



← Your name could be here!

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

TODAY'S PROGRAM: Billy Weselowski of Innervisions Recovery

NEXT WEEK'S PROGRAM: Who's Who (Dave Rempel)

CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT 5050 EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Jan. 21	8:30am	Regional Rotary Foundation Seminar	Rotary Fieldhouse, 14600-20 Ave. Surrey
Jan. 28	6:30pm	60 Year of Mission Rotary, Dinner Dance, \$50 pp,	Best Western Hotel, Mission

The Executive meeting for tomorrow (Wednesday) has been cancelled!

50 / 50 draw - Jackpot at \$703+ 1/2 of today's sales, 28 cards left, Jackpot on "Queen of Hearts" only!

ROTARY CLUB OF MISSION – 60TH ANNIVERSARY

All Rotarians and friends are invited to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Rotary Club of Mission (AM) at the Best Western Hotel on Saturday evening, January 28, 2006. Our theme for this happy event is a Celebration of the 1940s. Entertainment with a 40- piece concert band, the Andrews Sisters, and several other performers. Door Prizes and reminiscences will round out an evening of Music, Memories, and Mirth.

Saturday Jan 28, 2006 at 7pm, Best Western Mission Lodge, 32281 Lougheed Hwy, Mission
The cost is \$50.00.

Right now we have 2 couples going (Ken & Gayle Paterson and Peter & Ineke Boekhorst). It would be nice to have a larger group.

If you are interested in going, please let Peter know no later than tonight, as the Mission Rotary club wanted to know **yesterday**, how many Rotarians from our club will attend.

REGIONAL ROTARY FOUNDATION SEMINAR

Date: Saturday, January 21, 2006 At 08:30 till about 4:30

Fee: \$30.00

Location: Rotary Fieldhouse, 14600-20 Ave. Surrey

This is a regional seminar for 9 districts in Western Canada and Northern US. It will be in our District, at the Rotary Fieldhouse in White Rock.

If you want the very latest information about the Foundation, you won't want to miss this seminar!

The Keynote Speaker is Penny LeGate, Anchor & Reporter for KIRO News Seattle. Penny has served as a Rotary Volunteer on a number of Polio NIDs most recently in Ethiopia. She has reported her experiences for CBS-TV.

For more information, call PDG Leigh Higinbotham (604) 263-0033 or email him at

leigh_higinbotham@telus.net

Make Checks Payable to: Leigh Higinbotham. **Register online, but please pay at the door.**

SAUDI ARABIA CONTRIBUTES US\$2.66 MILLION TO FIGHT POLIO



UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan lent a hand to immunize children in Pakistan.

At an early December pan-Islamic conference in Mecca, the Muslim world's holiest city, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia announced a contribution of US\$2.66 million toward the [polio eradication](#) effort.

According to a news update on the [Global Polio Eradication Initiative's Web site](#), previous Saudi support included mediation to help end an oral polio vaccine boycott in northern Nigeria and a decision to verify that visitors to the kingdom are immunized against polio.

The Extraordinary Session of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Summit, hosted by the Saudi government, also focused attention on the effort to rid the world of polio in a communiqué issued on 8 December.

Saying that the OIC was painfully aware that five of the six remaining polio-endemic countries in the world are its members, the statement highlighted the significance of the international efforts to eradicate the crippling disease.

The wild poliovirus still circulates in OIC member countries Afghanistan, Egypt, Niger, Nigeria, and Pakistan. Polio-endemic India isn't a member but boasts a Muslim population of more than 100 million, many of whom live in states where the virus still circulates.

Saudi Arabia's donation marks a trend of increased support for antipolio efforts among OIC member states. In November, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative partners announced the first-ever contribution from Turkey, another OIC member, of \$500,000 to the worldwide war against polio.

The partners explained in a press release that Turkey's leadership role within the OIC was critical in securing strong political support for polio eradication at previous meetings of the pan-Islamic organization.

CANADIAN NOMINATED AS R.I. PRESIDENT 2007-2008

Wilfred J. Wilkinson, of the Rotary Club of Trenton, Ontario, District 7070, is the selection of the Nominating Committee for President of Rotary International in 2007-08 that convened at RI World Headquarters on 5 December. He will become the president-nominee on January 1, 2006 if there are no challenging candidates.



Wilf Wilkinson will be the first Canadian President of Rotary International in 55 years. Wilf Wilkinson has held the following positions in Rotary: Trustee The Rotary Foundation 1997-2001 /2002-2003 Vice-President of Rotary International 1993-94 Director of Rotary International 1992-94 District Governor 1971-72 President of The Rotary Foundation (Canada)