

Rotary and Water

World Water Day, designated as Wednesday, 22 March this year, is an ideal time to raise awareness of a serious problem faced by more than 1 billion people (or 20 percent of the world's population): the lack of access to safe water for drinking. An easy way to bring attention to this critical issue is by participating in Walks for Water, which is held in conjunction with World Water Day.

Everyone's help is needed to find solutions to the problem of unsafe drinking water. "Without water, nothing can live. Our food sources all need water, yet many people have little knowledge of how critical our own water supplies can be," said Lou Marciano, assistant Rotary International coordinator for the [Water, Health and Hunger Resources Group](#).

The group was organized by [RI President Carl-Wilhelm Stenhammar](#), as part of his emphasis this year on looking at the problem.



An Akha hill tribe child in Thailand drinks clean water from a system funded in part by a grant from The Rotary Foundation.

The challenge

About 97 percent of the world's water are oceans -- and saline.

More than 2 percent of the rest of the water is frozen in icebergs and glaciers, leaving less than 1 percent of all water available for human use. If it were possible to fit all the water on Earth into a gallon (4 litre) jug, the relative quantity of water available would be about one tablespoon (4 fluid drams).

Fresh drinking water and water for food production and waste disposal are essential and increasingly threatened. Population growth and mega-cities have increased demand six times since the beginning of the 1900's. Pollution contaminates available supplies. Today, almost half of the world's countries have severe water problems.

Rotary Solutions

Recognizing the vital importance of safe water, Rotary International policy encourages all Rotary districts and clubs to support efforts, which help people to provide themselves with safe water. The safe water projects are to be reasonably close to homes using simple sustainable technology. This policy is reflected in projects of all sizes in all parts of the world.

Indicative of Rotary activity are the number of Matching Grants awarded by The Rotary Foundation for water-related projects. The trustees of The Rotary Foundation have made clean water as one of three priorities for major Health, Hunger and Humanity (3-H) Grants.

In recognition of Rotary's work to provide safe water in communities around the world, the International Water Resources Association presented the **1997 Crystal Drop Award** to Rotary International. Rotary was cited for its projects in Senegal, Haiti and Thailand.

The Rotary Foundation awards Matching Grants to projects coordinated by Rotary clubs throughout the world for wells, water tanks, school or hospital water systems, and lavatories.



The Four Way Flasher

Rotary Club of
MeadowRidge Newsletter

Vol. 12 Issue 38
March 21, 2006

Web-site: www3.telus.net/MeadowRidge_Rotary

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Wednesday, 22 March is World Water Day

INVOCATION

Mar. 21	Matt DeBruyn	Mar. 28	Brian Fox
April 4	Doris Gagel	April 11	Maureen Goodrick

BINGO SCHEDULE

	6:15-8:15	8:00-10:00
March 23	Ron LePore	Stan Wade
April 20	Maureen Goodrick	Vladimir Cukor



SERVICE Above Self

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

TODAY'S PROGRAM: Bob Neal – Toastmasters

NEXT WEEK'S PROGRAM: Gordon Robson – Mayor of Maple Ridge

This month's **Executive meeting** has been moved to **Wednesday March 22nd, 12 noon, Home Restaurant**, due to un-availability of President Brian.

CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT 5050 EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
March 22	12 noon	Executive Meeting	Home Restaurant
Apr. 8	8:00 – 2:00	District 5050 Assembly	Kwantlen Univ. College, Surrey, B.C.
May 19-21		District 5040/5050 Conference	Whistler, B.C.
May 24		Haney Rotary Golf Tournament	
June 11-14		RI Convention 2006	Malmö and Copenhagen
June 14		Haney Rotary Ladies Night	

50 / 50 draw - Jackpot at \$936+ 1/2 of today's sales, 18 cards left, Jackpot on "Queen of Hearts" only!

LAST WEEKS MEETING

Today we heard from Sharon Kyle, President-elect who participated in the PETS experience of Rotary Club. Sharon was very impressed with the speakers and the agenda. Some fantastic Rotarians were on hand to report on our progress of eradicating polio worldwide. We have an update that by 2007 we could be in a polio free world once we tackle hotspots such as India, Nigeria, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

There was emphasis on the importance of attending district assemblies. Sharon says that the sessions on attracting new members and retention of existing Rotarians was excellent. The computer labs are up and running and were in use at the district assembly. There were excellent sessions for the PR chairs, Club officers, RYLA, and Youth exchange. Overall Sharon brought us news of an invigorating District Assembly in 2006!

The executive of our club meets this Wednesday at noon at the Home Restaurant for all you executives out there.

We also heard from Linda Lawrence reporting for **Club Services!**

The Fall Fireside at Brian Becker's was a great evening enjoyed by Rotarians of our club. The search is on for the next location for our Spring Fireside happening in May.

Club Services also reports on a great Xmas party at the Robson's in December 2005. The Robson's were again fabulous hosts and we enjoyed their hospitality and cheer! We would like to thank Kevin Nosworthy for being a really hilarious elf!

Club Services was active over the holiday season in 2005 with the Santa Train and other fundraisers where food and money were donated for the Friends in Need Foodbank.

A joint club party with the Haney Club is a no-go for now.

Club Services had a great idea for a Spring Wine and Cheese event our local Fruit winery Blue Heron. We look forward to hearing more on that upcoming event!

Also our club will soon be enjoying FALF which is a hybrid sport combining Frisbee and Golf.. sounds fun! This should be happening at Dave Rempel's place and coming up in the spring 2006.

Further a Golf social is in the works at the Robson's Golf Course. Our membership looks forward to that and we thank the Robsons for making their course available to our club !

In other **community service** news:

Help is needed to serve Easter dinner. See Lynda Lawrence for details, and for volunteers are needed at the Blood Clinic see Deb MacRae.

For the **Wine Festival Committee** Debi Pearce gave us an update:

Wine Festival this year is : September 16, 06 at the ACT. Debi reports that the 10th annual Wine Festival raised a net total of \$9631. The Caribbean Festival was a beneficiary of funds from this event. The Caribbean Festival attracts 10 to 15 thousand of people to Maple Ridge in July and is a great community event.

For 2006 the Wine Festival volunteers have organized their committees and you are welcome to participate in any category ranging from Public Relations, Fundraising, Site organization, Winery co-ordination, Restaurants, etc. Please see any of the wine fest volunteers: Debi Pearce, Cheryl Johnson, Peter and Ineke Boekhorst, Brian Fox, Laurie Anderson, Maureen Goodrick and Vivian Hatiras.

This year we are planning more live auction and a smaller silent auction for fundraising. Also a Wine Cellar auction is in the works, where someone can win a variety of wines from a specific country ie: Canada, France, Australia, etc.

Stand by for more exiting news from Wine Festival.

We heard from Mary Robson about **RYLA** having their youth leadership camp at the Zajac Ranch which is a camp for disabled youth. Mary is taking applications for youth from 18 to 26 for RYLA membership.

Bill Boyd president elect of Rotary send a message that a campaign for clean water is underway in many areas of our world.

Submitted by Vivian Hatiras

HOME TOWN HERO

One of our 'Home Town Heroes' was in the medals.

During the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne held last Sunday, Kim Eagles won bronze in the pairs 25 metre pistol event.

