

E-CLUB'S ONLY BOUNDARIES ARE TIME AND TECHNOLOGY



Two years after Europe's first Rotary e-club was chartered, the members of the [Rotary E-Club of Verkkorotary](#) (which means *Rotary on the Web*) in Finland say they're so tightly knit that one member recently participated in the online meeting while on a flight from Teheran, Iran, to Frankfurt, Germany.

E-club member Matti Keijola says the fellowship among Verkkorotary's 30 members is strong because no member has to miss a meeting, even if he or she is thousands of miles away from the club's

headquarters in Finland. "Our only boundaries are technical connections and time," says Matti Kivinen, a past district governor. As a septuagenarian, Kivinen says he's the opposite of a computer geek, but he finds the technology easy and fun to use.

On three out of four Tuesdays every month, the Finnish e-club members from District 1420 meet online at 9 p.m. (Finnish time) in a virtual conference room, logging on from anywhere with an Internet connection.

Equipped with microphones and Web cameras, the participants can see and talk to one another, while simultaneously chatting online. They can click on a smiley face symbol to express laughter and on a clapping hands symbol for applause. The meetings are very lively, says Kivinen. "Seeing and hearing one another makes all the difference. Otherwise, it would just be an online chat."

To avoid online chaos, the electronic-meeting chairman decides who gets the microphone at any given time and whose Web camera image to post for all to see. A maximum of four faces can be displayed at once. "It's not like you can leave and make yourself a sandwich. You better be prepared to have the camera switched on to you," occasional chairman Hannu Aronsson jokes. Meetings are recorded and can be re-experienced at any time.

Many Finnish Rotarians admit Verkkorotary.fi would not be the same without the once monthly in-person meetings. That's where the members bond, says Aronsson. "The personal contact builds the online community," Aronsson says. But thanks to the available technology, those who can't attend the terra (in-person) meetings can participate online, which results in an original mix of live and online meetings.

The Verkkorotary club members see partial e-clubs as Rotary's way of the future. They believe Rotarians may want to remain a part of their original Rotary club, even if living abroad. Partial e-clubs allow these ex-pats to do so, while exposing the at-home club to members who bring a fresh, international perspective to the club.

The cost, however, for an online club's infrastructure — consisting of a server, the conference software, and the access portal — is high, an estimated \$US65,000 per year. A Verkkorotary member's employer sponsors the cost, however. This club benefit allows these Rotarians to bond in ways that may not otherwise been possible. "The whole world should participate in international meetings online," says member Tomi Laamanen.



The Four Way Flasher

**Rotary Club of
MeadowRidge Newsletter**

**Vol. 12 Issue 47
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Web-site: www3.telus.net/MeadowRidge_Rotary

Meetings: Tuesday 12pm, Gourmet Hideaway Restaurant

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|------------|-----------------|---------------------|--|
| President: | Brian Bekar | Phone: 604-942-6466 | marks_mapleridge@telus.net |
| Secretary: | Ineke Boekhorst | Phone: 604-465-9262 | iboekhorst@telus.net |
| Editor: | Peter Boekhorst | Phone: 604-465-3392 | mrrotary@telus.net |

INVOCATION

| | | | |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| May 23 | Lynda Lawrence | May 30 | Ron LePore |
| June 06 | Debbie MacRae | June 20 | Kevin Nosworthy |

BINGO SCHEDULE

| | | |
|----------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| | 6:15 - 8:15 | 8:00 - 10:00 |
| June 15 | Mina Park | Brian Bekar |
| July | | |



SERVICE Above Self

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

TODAY'S PROGRAM May 23: British Isles Project – Chris Cooper

NEXT WEEK'S PROGRAM: Hospice Society – New Building

CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT 5050 EVENTS:

| Date | Time | Event | Venue |
|------------|-----------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| May 23 | 6:30 p.m. | Youth Diversion Dinner | Gourmet Hideaway |
| May 24 | | Haney Rotary Golf Tournament | Swan-E-Set |
| June 11-14 | | RI Convention 2006 | Malmo and Copenhagen |
| June 13 | 6 p.m. | Fireside at Shantz residence | 22696 132 nd avenue |
| June 14 | 6 p.m. | Haney Rotary Ladies Night | TBA |
| August 19 | 4:00 p.m. | BBQ at Vladimir and Zdenka's | The Bee Farm ! |
| | | | |

50 / 50 draw - Jackpot at \$102.00+ 1/2 of today's sales, 48 cards left, Jackpot on "Queen of Hearts" only!

LAST WEEKS MEETING

GUESTS WERE: Field Hockey player Stephanie Hume from the Esteem Team guest of Stan Wade, Justin Abdu, Esteem Team guest of Dave Rempel, Carley Simms and Rick LaFerriere from Main Stage

Laurie Anderson: There are 13 professional desks available for anyone wanting them from Laurie's office.

Mike Davies: Mike decided to take a leave of absence rather than resign. Great news from a great member.

Youth Diversion Dinner at the Gourmet: We have only 53 tickets sold. Tickets are \$125 and you receive your tax receipt for \$100 at the door. Every penny goes to for the Youth Diversion Program as the Prokops have donated the venue, food and staffing for this event. Please support this worthy event!

PETER BOEKHORST- EDITOR OF THE "FOUR WAY FLASHER"

Peter Boekhorst ~ Editor, Photographer and Reporter for the Four way Flasher. The 4 Way Flasher is a small publication that we come to expect every Tuesday at our lunch table when we attend our meetings. We rely on the Flasher for news and information, invocation, calendar of events, last week's meeting (in case we miss), the 50/50 status and the general pulse of our Club!

The Four Way Flasher was started by Ken Paterson and was named by Dr. Frank Ervin a past Meadowridge Rotarian. The name had to do with integrating the "4 Way test" and a news "flash". Ineke was the custodian of the Flasher for 4 years, then Debi Pearce and now Peter remains as Editor. He produces the "Flasher" on his home PC and has the newsletter ready once per week for 50 weeks per year. That would be a estimated total of 600 "Flashers" produced, printed, folded and dropped of at each of our place settings (33), so far. As well as being the Editor of the "Flasher", Peter also is the photographer and until very recently, the only reporter. Peter recently added 2 reporters Lynda Lawrence and Vivian Hatiras to recap our meetings.

Peter really cares to bring you interesting stories about our meetings, current events and also Rotary Club's activities around the world. He looks for stories on the international stage through our Rotarian magazine and on line. He also brings us the Rotary International President's message of the month. It is an effort to keep things fresh and accurate and Peter makes it look easy.

Peter keeps all issues of the "Flasher", which means we benefit from having archives of our Club's history on hand for generations of MeadowRidge Rotarians to come. We all appreciate your time and effort in producing an interesting newsletter for us all to enjoy every Tuesday. Thank you Peter!

MAIN STAGE- RICK LAFERRIERE



MainStage is a big event! It is in fact the largest event Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows has ever hosted. It's economic impact is estimated to be over 1.5 million dollars over the 9 day event. For Mainstage Maple Ridge is a new venue and there are 350-400 delegates plus family and friends expected in Maple Ridge. Total audience of between 4000- 5000 is expected to view the plays.

What is Mainstage? Mainstage is Theatre BC's annual 9-day theatre festival featuring the best in community theatre from across BC. There is a play and green room party every night, professional critique, workshops and classes every day, special events through.

Mainstage is the longest-running theatre festival in Western Canada since 1933. It involves winning plays from zone festivals from across BC.

What is Theatre BC? Provincial arts service organization, representing community theatre in BC. It provides support and development through festivals, events, services, or Zones. Theatre BC manages Mainstage which is the annual provincial festival, featuring winning plays from each of the ten Zone Festivals.

Why Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows? MainStage is rotated in a 3 year cycle: Nanaimo, Kamloops and a third community. In 2004, we applied to have MainStage here- It's our turn!

Who is Involved? Theatre BC, Community members, Fraser Valley Zone members, Liasons: Districts, Tourism, Chamber, and Festivals, Community groups such as Canada Day, Haney Farmer's Market and the Art Gallery.

The Mainstage budget is c \$150,000. Money is raised from Registration fees, ticket sales, grants, Sponsorships and Donations. Municipal grant through Parks and Leisure services, in kind donations of office, staff liaison and support, also numerous corporate and media sponsors!

Additional sponsors are: Shaw Cable, Marv Jones Honda, Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows News, Province of British Columbia, NISA Website design, Maple Ridge Pitt Meadows Times, BC Arts Council and the ACT in Male Ridge and many more.

Goals: Financial Support: Cash (\$20,000), Silent auction, raffles, novelties (\$5000) and In-kind donations, supplies, equipment and advertising (\$25,000)

Community Support and Endorsement: volunteers, Business and service specials for delegates, and involvement in festival activities.

Dates: June 30-July 08 2006

Contact: Rick Laferriere 604.467.7319

Tickets and Registration: www.theatrebc.org/M2006