

UNESCO DISCUSSES 'ACTION FOR WATER' AT ROTARY DAY

Story and photo by Jane Lawicki
Rotary International News **23 May 2006**



RI Vice-President Serge Gouteyron (left) and RI President Carl-Wilhelm Stenhammar at the UNESCO Rotary Day event in Paris.

"The world is facing a water crisis," said James Michael Kulikowski, a representative of UNESCO's director-general at the first UNESCO Rotary Day.

"Action for Water" was the theme for the event, held 12 May at UNESCO headquarters in Paris. More than 200 Rotary members and guests from approximately 20 countries attended.

"We have the scientific knowledge and action. We need to bring the solutions to the people who need them, particularly at the local level," said Kulikowski.

Providing an overview of today's water challenges, Andras Szollosi-Nagy, deputy assistant director-general for the natural sciences of UNESCO, explained that 97 percent of the earth's water supply is salt water. Of what remains, 90 percent is held in ice, glaciers, or underground. Only .007 percent is available for human consumption — based mostly in nine countries that hold 60 percent of the earth's water supply. Access to water will increasingly bring power struggles similar to those for oil or nuclear energy.

Rotarians should be concerned about water "because Rotary is leading the struggle to alleviate suffering and bring hope," said RI Vice-President Serge Gouteyron.

One of the [United Nations Millennium Development Goals](#) is by 2015 to reduce by 50 percent the number of people without access to safe water and sanitation. The challenge is formidable because in rural areas of Africa, the Middle East, Asia, and Latin America, about 88 percent of the population lacks access to safe water.

"In developing countries, the search for water puts young women at risk of assault by humans or animals," said Ron Denham, Rotary's [Health, Hunger and Water Task Force](#) general coordinator.

"They have to walk 6-12 kilometers daily when they could be in school, or the women could be teaching their children," Denham said. He added that nearly one-third of Rotary clubs participate in water distribution and sanitation system projects worldwide, which include drilling and rehabilitating wells, rainwater harvesting, purifying water through bio-sand filters, solar disinfecting, installing mini-water pipelines, and integrating water management.

"Rotary has more than 20 years of experience working with the United Nations, and our joint efforts to eradicate polio have worked for one and all," said RI President Carl-Wilhelm Stenhammar. While confirming that Rotary will not accept another corporate program until polio eradication is complete, he added that meetings such as Rotary Day at UNESCO were vital to explore new project possibilities.

For more information about the water crisis, visit [UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education](#). (www.unesco-ihe.org)



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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INVOCATION

May 30	Ron LePore	June 06	Debbie MacRae
June 20	Kevin Nosworthy	June 27	Mina Park

BINGO SCHEDULE

	6:15 - 8:15	8:00 - 10:00
June 15	Mina Park	Peter Boekhorst
July 13	Brian Bekar	



SERVICE Above Self

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

TODAY'S PROGRAM: Hospice Society – new building

NEXT WEEK'S PROGRAM: Hugh Burke - Headmaster Meadowridge School

The Installation dinner is on June 27th at Meadow Gardens starting at 6:30pm. We would like everyone to bring a baby picture prior to the dinner, as we will be placing these one a board. The person who guesses the most will win a gift.

CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT 5050 EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
June 11-14		RI Convention 2006	Malmö and Copenhagen
June 13	6 p.m.	Fireside at Shantz residence	22696 132 nd avenue
June 14	6 p.m.	Haney Rotary Ladies Night	Swan-E-Set
June 27	6:30pm	Installation Dinner	Meadow Gardens Golf Course
July 16	Noon -9pm	Caribbean Festival	224 th St. Maple Ridge
August 19	4:00 p.m.	BBQ at Vladimir and Zdenka's	The Bee Farm – 129 th Ave. Pitt Meadows

50 / 50 draw - Jackpot at \$152.00+ 1/2 of today's sales, 46 cards left, Jackpot on "Queen of Hearts" only!

LAST WEEKS MEETING

Our guests were Rene Bourjois visiting from Port Moody Club, Val Patenaude from the Historical Society and Chris Cooper from British Isles Project.

Rene donated \$40 happy dollars to us for our Youth Diversion Dinner in recognition and appreciation of our support of the Port Moody Club's Thai dinner, where many of us enjoyed a Rotary event.



Val Pastenaude accepted a cheque of \$1000 for the Maple Ridge Historical Society. The money will be used to purchase a projector.



A cheque was given in the amount of \$1500 to the Crystal Meth Program from our Club. This money goes to fund "Meth Madness" weekend, a program for youth, which includes videos and ex-addict speakers to educate young people about the perils of using Crystal Meth.



Vicky Travis accepted a cheque in the amount of \$1500 for the Friends in Need Foodbank.

This money will purchase racking for the warehouse in which 16,000 pounds of food is stored monthly. The number of recipients is growing in our community by 30-40 people per month. The needs of the Food Bank continue to increase.

Our guest today speaking on the British Isles Project is: Chris Cooper.

Chris Cooper, one of Canada's leading adventurers has a passion for modern day exploration and adventure photography. Chris is also in the guiding business and comes with 27 years of experience as a guide. He has been responsible for pioneering many guided expeditions in Canada.

Through the lens of his camera one can only imagine how beautiful this country Canada is. These images will tell the story. Chris is responsible for pioneering the Big Canoe industry in British Columbia and has spent the last 17 years exploring British Columbia on the ocean, rivers and lakes of this beautiful province. He owns a fleet of twenty big canoes.

He has lectured extensively throughout BC for many corporate and tourism affiliations, schools, colleges and private groups. He has appeared in many magazines, books, guidebooks, and newspapers and with media from around the world.

Chris recently organised a film documentary on the British Columbia coast by Big Canoe for German National television soon to be hosted early in the newyear 2007. For the years 2008 / 2009 Chris is organizing his most

challenging adventure around the British Isles by Canoe. This canoe is the one he had built in 2004 to paddle the Alaska and BC Coasts a journey of 2000km in length and took 105 days to complete.

The focus of this journey is to sponsor two youth in each crew of ten for this huge journey of 4000km and two seasons to complete. 200 days in all. There will be an opportunity for 24 youth to be involved 12 from Canada and 12 from the British Isles, each youth will travel for two weeks in the Canoe and will rotate through until the journey is completed. The Canoe journey starts and finishes on the River Thames from London, England.

The journey will encompass visits to over 150 communities around the British Isles and will focus on many areas such as: Marine Biology, History, Environmental Education and most of all the First Canadian Canoe circumnavigation of the British Isles.

Further details in regards to the Canoe Journey, Chris will be traveling extensively back and forth to the British Isles in preparation for the journey to start May 1st 2008 through to September 2008 and the same for 2009, Chris has been involved with meetings with coastguard in Southampton and starting a lecture circuit in the Fall of 2008, he will be speaking with Outdoor Adventure Centers, British Canoe Union, Scottish Canoe symposium, Royal Geographic Society and many other meetings with interested parties to be included in the Canoe Journey.

At this time, Chris is actively looking for a major Canadian corporate sponsor to help offset some of the costs for this endeavour. He has commitment from two sponsors so far, GoTofino.com - Tofino's Premier Website is building the website and another sponsor is shipping the Canoe return to the UK.

Chris is working with the BBC on a documentary about this exiting project. He is looking for a film making producer and this expedition could be made into a series - the ultimate reality show!

For some of the most gorgeous BC photography check out

<http://www.coopersadventurephotography.com/>

For information on the British Isles project check out:

<http://www.spiritdancercanoejourneys.ca/britishislescanoejourney.html>

BURSARY PRESENTATIONS

We need some help from a few Rotarian's to make presentations of the bursaries to this year recipients.

We need one member at each presentation to represent our MeadowRidge Rotary Club. The task is very simple and only takes a few minutes. You need to go up on stage and hand an envelope to the winning student. No speeches, they usually will take a photo.

The longest part of the ceremony is waiting while the kids parade in in their gowns and suits, the speeches, approximately an hour at the ones I have attended. After that they begin the award portion of the ceremony. Once you present your bursary, you can slip out, or enjoy the rest of the ceremony.

Please contact Diane Kirkland if you can be of assistance, ceremonies are usually in the afternoons. I will confirm times later this week. Dates are as follows:

GSS June 2 at Planet Ice
WSS June 3 at Planet Ice
PMSS June 9 at Planet Ice

THSS June 9 at THSS
MRSS June 10 at Planet Ice
Cont. Ed. TBA



Thanks, Diane