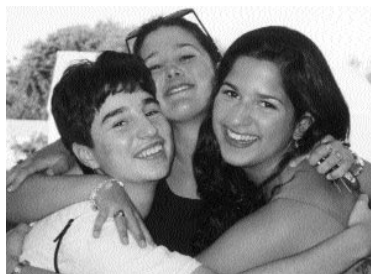


Purpose and goals

The most powerful force in the promotion of international understanding and peace is exposure to different cultures. The world becomes a smaller, friendlier place when we learn that all people — regardless of nationality — desire the same basic things: a safe, comfortable environment that allows for a rich and satisfying life for themselves and for their children. Youth Exchange provides thousands of young people with the opportunity to meet people from other lands and to experience their cultures, thus planting the seeds for a lifetime of international understanding.



- Communities all over the world have much to gain from the continued success of the Youth Exchange program.
- Students learn firsthand about the challenges and accomplishments of people in other countries.
- Young people mature as individuals as their concept of the world grows.
- Host clubs, families, and their communities enjoy extended, friendly contact with someone from a different culture.
- Exchangees return home with a broader view of the world and a deeper understanding of themselves.
- Young adults assume leadership roles that are shaped in part by what they learned during their exchange experiences.

Through Youth Exchange, Rotarians seek to provide the best possible conditions for the participant. Thanks to the efforts of hundreds of dedicated Rotarians and their families, the program is highly successful, and it enjoys the advantages of more than 30 years of experience and a network of more than 1.2 million Rotarians around the world.



History

Youth Exchange began as an effort that involved only a few clubs. The first documented exchanges were initiated by the Rotary Club of Copenhagen in 1929 and involved only European participants. These European exchanges continued until World War II and resumed after the war in 1946.

Exchanges between clubs in California, USA, and Latin American countries began in 1939, and exchange activities spread to the eastern United States in 1958. The first multidistrict Youth Exchange activity, known as the Eastern States Student Exchange (ESSEX) program, was formed in the United States in 1962.

In 1972, the RI Board of Directors agreed to recommend Youth Exchange to clubs worldwide as a worthwhile international activity. The Board approved recommended guidelines for the program that are available online at www.rotary.org Still administered by clubs, districts, and multidistrict groups, the program has grown to include approximately 80 countries and more than 7,000 students each year.



The Four Way Flasher

Rotary Club of MeadowRidge Newsletter

**Vol. 13 Issue 34
Feb. 20, 2007**

Web-site: www3.telus.net/MeadowRidge_Rotary

Meetings: Tuesday 12pm, Gourmet Hideaway Restaurant

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February is World Understanding Month

INVOCATION

Feb. 20	Sharon Kyle	Feb. 27	Lynda Lawrence
Mar. 6	Ron LePore	Mar. 13	Wendy Lindvik



BINGO SCHEDULE

	6:15 - 8:15	8:00 - 10:00
Feb. 22	Laurie Anderson	Ken Paterson
March 22	Sharon Kyle	Valerie Spurrell

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

Today's Four Way Flasher is dedicated to Rotary Youth Exchange, as part of World Understanding

TODAY'S PROGRAM:

NEXT WEEK'S PROGRAM:

CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT 5050 EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Apr. 14	8:00am	District Assembly	Kwantlen University College, Surrey
May 31-June 2		District Conference	Harrison Hot Springs Resort
June 17-20		RI Conference	Salt Lake City
August 15	3:00pm	Vladimir's Honey BBQ	The Bee Farm - 129 th Ave., Pitt Meadows

50 / 50 draw - Jackpot at \$238.00+ 1/2 of today's sales, 40 cards left, Jackpot on "Queen of Hearts" only!

LAST WEEKS MEETING

A donation presentation was made by Doris Gagel to Evelyn Baillie of the Maple Ridge Friends of the Library in the amount of \$750. Evelyn explained that the funds will go to provide a permanent book collection at Cythera House for children who would not have access to books otherwise.

Our guests were our exchange student Ana, Jim Coulter of the News, and Misha Bharwani.

Vladimir's Honey BBQ will be held on Saturday August 15th at 3 pm. Robert Campbell will provide the entertainment.

The Executive Meeting will be held next Wednesday, February 21st at the Home Restaurant.



Evelyn Baillie

Our Guest Speaker was Sean Hogan who came to give us a presentation on RYLA. RYLA is the district's Youth Leadership Program. Sean has been touring the clubs within our District and has made about 30 presentations so far.

RYLA is Rotary Youth Leadership Awards. The program started in Australia in the 70's. Our target age group 18 – 25 years of age. This year's camp will be held June 7 – 10 at the Zajac Ranch. Each club may sponsor two candidates – preferably one male and one female. There are three obligations of participants - attend, participate, and have fun. The weekend consists of Professional (voluntary) speakers, fun leadership activities, one outside project and one inside project.



The planning committee begins working on the camp program in the Fall. There are a number of Facs (facilitators), who are youth participants that have attended the program before, and have come back to work with the current year's participants in a leadership role. All RYLA programs are a bit different - ours combines some of the points of the Youth Exchange Program. They endeavour to get the kids out of their comfort zone for the 4 day program. The kids are welcomed with hugs (lots of hugging), their cell phones are taken away for the weekend, and they have the "Warm & Fuzzies" given to them (balls of yarn pieces that the kids exchange when they meet a new participant). The kids are divided into teams. They are put thru a day of stress tests to see how well they can work together as a team. They participate in RYLAntics which are short ½ hour exercises such as trust tests. The leaders de-brief the kids after each exercise to see what they have learned and what difficulties they had. They do an Inside Project and an Outdoor Project. Last year they built a wheelchair ramp for their outdoor project

The Rotary Youth Programs include Rotarac, Interact, Youth Exchange and the Ambassadorial Program.

The cost for a Rotary Club to sponsor an applicant is \$400. They are seeking candidates with leadership abilities in the age range of 18 – 25 (will take 17 year olds in school).

Submitted by Lynda Lawrence

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Feb. 23: Vladimir Cukor

MATTHEW McCONAUGHEY: JUST ANOTHER YOUTH EXCHANGE STUDENT



McConaughey with the Crockers.

The Rotarian February 2007

Before he became a Hollywood movie star, Matthew McConaughey was just another student in the Rotary Youth Exchange program.

Except for one thing.

"The girls were always chasing him, even when he was with us," says Rotarian Ray Crocker, McConaughey's former host father in Warnervale, Australia.

But McConaughey didn't have time for the girls, and the Youth Exchange program doesn't allow students to date. So, he kept busy attending classes at Gorokan High School and helping out on the Crockers' farm, where the family raises horses and chickens.

The actor did keep one Australian girl close to his heart, though: his host mom, Eileen Crocker.

While promoting the movie *How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days* on an Australian talk show in 2003, McConaughey talked about Mrs. Crocker, who was in the hospital, and wished her well. She died later that year.

"It gave her a big lift in her dying days for him to mention her by name," says Ray Crocker, a member of the Rotary Club of Toukley. "All the nurses there gave her very special attention after that."

In addition to carrying out individual acts of kindness, McConaughey is a regular on the celebrity fundraiser circuit. In July, he auctioned off his 1971 Corvette Stingray convertible for US\$61,600 to benefit Hurricane Katrina victims through Oprah Winfrey's Angel Network.

McConaughey also volunteered with the Angel Network, touring areas affected by Katrina, keeping an online journal, and appearing on Winfrey's show in September to talk about his experience.

That giving spirit doesn't surprise Crocker at all.

"I know from his family upbringing, that would have just been part of his ethos growing up," Crocker says. "Coming up in that sort of environment, [the charity work] would have just been a natural progression."