

Dear fellow Rotarians,

As members of a family of book lovers, we have always made literacy a high priority in our lives. Our home is full of books, and neither Lorna nor I ever travel without two or three. Reading is a great joy for both of us, and it is a joy we've shared with our children and grandchildren. Unfortunately, for many people around the world, the simple pleasure of reading seems hopelessly out of reach.

Without literacy, all the written words we encounter every day – not just in books and newspapers, but in maps, labels, street signs, and billboards – are mysteries and roadblocks to full integration into society. For me, teaching someone to read is one of the most rewarding acts of service imaginable. All it costs is patience and time, and the rewards are incalculable.

Like nothing else, literacy is a stepping-stone away from poverty. It is a gift of self-reliance, one that can be freely passed on from generation to generation. Once there's literacy in a family, it's almost always there to stay, as literate parents raise literate children. Literate parents are also more likely to raise healthier children, whose horizons will stretch far beyond their own homes and villages. Literacy, quite literally, opens up a new world.

We need to be aware that illiteracy is not a problem only of the developing world. Even in the wealthiest countries with universal education, many people are functionally illiterate. Where illiteracy carries a stigma, it can be especially difficult to combat. Yet, in highly literate societies, being able to read and write is crucial in almost every job. Go into any prison or hospital, and you will find a disproportionate number of people who are functionally illiterate. Too many of those who work in unskilled jobs are illiterate and need their workmates to read for them. But Lorna and I have seen illiterate women in Uganda learn to read within days and children exposed to books for the first time in South Africa finding a new world they didn't know existed. We've seen Rotarians in India and Nigeria and Turkey using the concentrated language encounter method to teach thousands of women and children, and some men, to read. The issue is not one of intelligence but of opportunity.

Literacy has rightly been high on Rotary's service agenda for many years now, and it should feature among the projects of every Rotary club. Whether the goal is donating books, running literacy classes, supplying elementary school students with dictionaries, or just helping children with their schoolwork, literacy projects bring great results with very little investment of money. As someone who has spent many hours sitting on undersized chairs listening to children read, I wholeheartedly believe that the stiff muscles are a small price to pay for the lifelong benefits of literacy.

W.B. (Bill) Boyd
President, Rotary International



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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March is Literacy Month

INVOCATION

Mar. 6	Ron LePore	Mar. 13	Wendy Lindvik
Mar. 20	Debbie MacRae	Mar. 27	Kevin Nosworthy



BINGO SCHEDULE

	6:15 - 8:15	8:00 - 10:00
March 22	Sharon Kyle	Valerie Spurrell
April 19	Lynda Lawrence	Diane Kirkland

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

TODAY'S PROGRAM: Terry Becker – Who's who

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 18	3:00pm	Vladimir's Honey BBQ	The Bee Farm - 129 th Ave., Pitt Meadows

50 / 50 draw - Jackpot at \$263.00+ 1/2 of today's sales, 39 cards left, Jackpot on "Queen of Hearts" only!

LAST WEEKS MEETING



Ana Ló Castillo Núñez

Our guests today were:
our exchange student Ana, Deb Nosworthy, and Zdenka Cukor.

Ineke and Diane reported on the success of the Chinese New Year festivities that were held last weekend. It was an excellent event.

Ana spoke briefly and thanked the Club for her trip to the Glacier Park Lodge Youth Exchange Weekend held in Rogers Pass earlier this month.

Our Guest Speaker was Jeff Carpenter, manager of Staples and the Chamber of Commerce 2007 President. Jeff's goal as this year's Chamber Presidents is to re-connect the Chamber with the community and to enrol new members.

The Chamber will work with the Economic Development Office, the newly formed Business Improvement Association, and the Forum on Crime Prevention Downtown to draw new business to our community.

They are also involved in Leadership BC, which is a Chamber of Commerce driven program providing training for future leaders. They are partnering with School District 42 and Ridge Meadows College. The Chamber is promoting the Douglas College Self Employment Program. Jeff has been involved with the Junior Achievement Program attending local schools and teaching Business Basics to grade 5 & 6 students.

The Chamber is working closely with the MR/PM Spirit of BC 2010 Community Committee to assist area entrepreneurs win Olympic procurement bids.

For the business community the Chamber is "the Voice of Business", and is there to provide support, information and networking opportunities for the merchants of our communities.



Submitted by Lynda Lawrence

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

March 10: Marco & Lila Jane Terwiel

VHS TAPES FOR CYTHERA HOUSE

Our project of giving used VHS movies to Cythera House has so far been a smashing success thanks to one of our new members Fraser, who got his fellow employees at the Bank of Montreal involved. They came up with over 100 movies, which have been delivered to the women's shelter.

Our many thanks and congratulations to you, Fraser, and your BMO crew a job well done!

We will still collect movies for another week or two, so if any of you wish to participate please bring them to the meeting and give them to Laurie.

LITERACY AND NUMERACY

For many years, Rotarians have been active in efforts to reduce illiteracy, from building schools and paying salaries of teachers to serving as tutors to collecting and distributing books and audiovisual materials to libraries. Rotarians are working with governments to create large-scale replicable literacy projects in the developing world. In 1997, the RI Board of Directors designated July as Literacy Month, a perfect time for Rotary clubs to develop their own literacy projects as well as raise awareness of Rotarian efforts worldwide to eradicate illiteracy.



Considerable progress has been made in recent decades in reducing illiteracy; yet, close to a billion people lack the most basic literacy and numeracy skills. Millions more are functionally illiterate, lacking the skills necessary to meet the demands of everyday life. UNESCO illuminates some of the greatest challenges for those tackling illiteracy:

- 98 percent of the world's illiterate population is in developing countries.
- 50 percent of the world's illiterate people live in India and China.
- More than 50 percent of the population of Africa is illiterate.
- Two-thirds of all those who lack literacy and numeracy skills are women.
- More than 130 million school-age children are not attending classes.

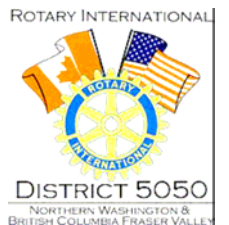
"PURE SUCCESS" - A CELEBRATION OF THE CLUBS OF ROTARY DISTRICT 5050

Please join us for a celebration of the Rotary Clubs of District 5050 "*Pure Success*" at the beautiful Harrison Hot Springs Resort & Spa.

This year's event runs from May 31st - June 3rd with options available for 1, 2, 3, or 4-day participation. Details of all the fun-filled and informative event possibilities are available on the District 5050 website www.district5050.org

Seven great reasons to join us:

- A great program with a slate of international speakers
- Rotary highlights such as Group Study Exchange and Youth Exchange teams
- The splendour and celebration of the Governor's Ball
- Golf at the [Sandpiper Golf Club](#) in a picture book setting next to the Harrison River
- A fabulous resort with indoor and outdoor pools, a pampering spa, and more!
- The magical lakeside setting with majestic mountains
- Networking with Rotary friends - those we've met and those we will meet!



...it all adds up to a Rotary Experience that is *Pure Success!*

Speakers include:

- **Kent Keith** - Do you know what a [Paradoxical Commandment](#) is?
- **Marion Bunch** - [Rotarians For Fighting Aids](#)
- **Penny Legate** - News anchor and reporter for [KIRO 7 Eyewitness News](#)
- **David Dotson** - Executive Director of Dolly Parton's Dollywood Foundation and its [Imagination Library](#), as our literacy speaker on Saturday
- **Kristin Eddings** - Reigning Miss Washington

Harrison and Rotary are calling...YOU! Register today!