

By Dean Golemis - *Rotary World*  
 Photos courtesy of Glenn Chamberlain

2 March 2007



Rotarian Glenn Chamberlain (right) greets children during a trip to an elementary school in rural Guatemala.



About 23,500 students have received a better education from the Guatemala Literacy Project since it began in 1996.

U.S. Rotarian Glenn Chamberlain has traveled to Guatemala 11 times since 2000. His annual visits are supporting a decade-old literacy project that is helping impoverished school children sharpen their reading and computer skills.

A member of the Rotary Club of Ephrata, Washington, Chamberlain travels to the country's poor rural areas to identify schools that can benefit from the self-sustaining Guatemala Literacy Project, or GLP. Months later, he returns with a team of Rotarians and other volunteers to deliver the needed textbooks, computers, and other supplies. More than 260 Rotary clubs in North and Central America support the project, in partnership with the U.S.-based nonprofit Cooperative for Education.

"We are targeting the Mayan population, who are the poorest of the poor," says Chamberlain, who is one of the project's coordinators. "The vast number of people living in the country have no electricity and indoor plumbing. Without literacy, they will never be able to have a better life."

Torn by three decades of civil war, Guatemala has been suffering from one of the highest illiteracy rates in the Western Hemisphere. A 2003 study by the World Bank found an illiteracy rate as high as 60 percent in rural Guatemala, compared to the country's overall rate of 30 percent.

But that's changing. The GLP has cut the dropout rate in half at participating schools, according to a 2005 study by Marroquin University in Guatemala City. The yearlong study of 10 schools notes that students "experience increased interest in their schoolwork as a result of having access to books," allowing them to study at home.

Since the GLP started in 1996, Rotarians and their partners have delivered more than 120,000 math, science, language, and social studies

textbooks to about 23,500 Spanish-speaking students in 135 schools. The project has also established 17 mini-libraries and 16 computer centers, which are providing 8,700 high school students with the skills they need to secure technology-based jobs that will lift them out of poverty.

Chamberlain says the GLP owes its longevity to strong Rotarian support and the project's self-sustaining system. Each student pays a small annual fee to rent four textbooks and use a computer center. The money is placed in a five-year revolving fund that is used to replace worn-out books and equipment.

The project's success has attracted other donors, including Microsoft, which in April presented a US\$255,000 grant for computers and software.



# The Four Way Flasher

Rotary Club of  
**MeadowRidge Newsletter**

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Web-site: [www3.telus.net/MeadowRidge\\_Rotary](http://www3.telus.net/MeadowRidge_Rotary)

Meetings: Tuesday 12pm, Gourmet Hideaway Restaurant

President: Sharon Kyle Phone: 604-788-1742  
 Secretary: Maureen Goodrick Phone: 604-329-2879  
 Editor: Peter Boekhorst Phone: 604-465-3392

[sharonkyle@shaw.ca](mailto:sharonkyle@shaw.ca)  
[maureen.goodrick@interprotech.ca](mailto:maureen.goodrick@interprotech.ca)  
[mrrotary@telus.net](mailto:mrrotary@telus.net)

## March is Literacy Month

### INVOCATION

Mar. 13	Wendy Lindvik	Mar. 20	Debbie MacRae
Mar. 27	Kevin Nosworthy	April 3	Mina Park

### 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](mailto:peter.boekhorst@telus.net)



### 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 3		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 <sup>th</sup> 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

Our Guests today were Irena Shantz and Jim Coulter.

**Fine master:** Doris Gagel

Our Club's charter night was March 03 1990. Thanks Doris for that fun tidbit and great fine-mastering!

### Announcements:

May 31- Jun 03 -Rotary District 50/50 conference in at Harrison Hot Springs Resort & Spa.

Friday March 09 - Rotary Club of Vancouver Chinatown is holding a Chinese New Year's Dinner at Floata Chinese Restaurant 6pm. Event includes dinner, prizes, 50/50 and lots of entertainment.

**Calendars:** Ineke would like to finish off our advertising for those committed. Advertisement costs \$400. You receive the advertisement and you also receive 20 calendars, which can be sold or given to our business clients. The theme is Gardens in Maple Ridge for 2008!

**Who's Who:** Terry Becker of Becker & Company

Terry Becker is a new Rotarian and was born in 1962 in Kamloops, and raised in Clearwater. Her father owned a logging truck and worked for the local sawmill. Terry was fortunate to grow up next door to her great grandmother and both sets of grandparents! Her one grandmother taught her grade 5 and much more. Terry is a 10<sup>th</sup> generation Canadian and 5<sup>th</sup> generation British Columbian.

Terry was raised on the family farm and cannot imagine the trauma her children would experience without Nintendo, MSN, cell phones or Starbucks ! They cannot imagine the "old fashioned" life and ask if she churned butter ☺

Her father hunted moose and deer and sometimes bear. Terry and her sister . would participate by wrapping and labelling the game. The family enjoyed fresh trout in the summers and when the parents took up skiing they got to go up to all the good ski hills.....in the truck and camper and opposed to the "ski in , ski out that Terry's kids are used to.

Terry graduated high school in 1980. She managed to land herself a government job with BC Forest Service, and stayed there for 8 years, working in the District and Regional offices in the interior and coast.

Terry moved to Maple Ridge in 1983. She finally said goodbye to the government job in 1988 and started with MRCU for Mr. Elliot while taking night classes to obtain her legal secretary diploma. As luck would have it, Becker and Co. was hiring for a bookkeeper with legal training. Terry got the job and the rest is history!

John and Terry have known each other for 24 years, been together for 17 years and married for 14. John's son, Terry's stepson Eric lives with them and is 18 going on 15. He graduates from MeadowRidge this year and a daughter Ashley who is 15 going on 50 who graduates in 2009!

Terry expanded her training to include Paralegal training through Capilano College . She was then able to interview clients and draft documents, do research, prepare pleadings, etc. Unable to give legal advice, but be the lawyer's right hand...

The opportunity to expand was thrust upon the legal office and they decided to expand. The real estate division was moved to Meadowtown Centre and soon after 2 more offices were opened. One in Coquitlam and another in Port Coquitlam. Terry's role changed along with the expansion. She now oversees HR, IT, Marketing the day-to-day operations of the company. With the original office there was 2.5 staff (including Terry), and 1 lawyer, John Becker. Now the staff has grown to 3 lawyers and 13 staff within 4 short years. Terry's job description is now 7 pages long ! She also belongs to the Association of Legal Administrators.

Terry enjoys golfing for fun. A highlight was her hole in one – 17<sup>th</sup> hole on the members course at SES on June 21, 2005! She was a competitive curler for 28 years that included 3 trips to the Provincial Scotts and 1 trip to Ottawa for the STOH.

Terry sits on the CAB of the MKRF, Treasurer of the local BC Liberal Riding Association, Co-chair of the Meadowridge School Capital Campaign, Chair of the 2007 Wine Festival Committee, and sits on the Board of the Heather Hills Farm Society.

Terry has a great philosophy on life derived from her father- Never be ashamed to tell you age-growing old is a privilege denied to many. That there is no such thing as a right decision- just a decision-you make it right. Oh and there are no problems, but rather issues and no set backs, rather opportunities. His glass was always half full!

Terry's life is her family. She considers herself fortunate to work with family and of course, live and work in her own community.

Thank you Terry for a great Who's Who....Welcome once again to the Rotary Club!

**Submitted by Vivian Hatiras**

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

March 13: Mike Lindvik

## 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.