

By Abby Breitstein and Howard Chang
Rotary International News

14 March 2007



President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan greets 2007-08 RI President Wilfrid J. Wilkinson (right) on 20 February.

When a magnitude 7.6 earthquake hit Kashmir in October 2005, local and international Rotarians were among the [first to respond](#). They organized medical teams, set up mobile relief camps, and collected blood and donated goods for the victims. In total, Rotary contributed more than US\$5 million in cash and in-kind donations and brought help to tens of thousands of earthquake survivors.

Now, Rotary's efforts have been publicly recognized by the government of Pakistan. In a widely televised meeting at a Pakistani army base on 20 February, President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan presented RI President-elect Wilfrid J. Wilkinson with the Sitara-e-Eisar Award (the Star Award for Courage and Sacrifices). The honor was created especially for Rotary to recognize its work in the aftermath of the disaster.

After the award was presented, Musharraf discussed the state of earthquake relief with Wilkinson, explaining how the Pakistani army had been mobilized to bring help to remote locations. He complimented Rotarians' efficiency in delivering aid where it was needed and their effectiveness in working locally with the army. The two leaders found so much to talk about that the meeting continued long past its scheduled conclusion. "It was supposed to be a 10-minute meeting," said Wilkinson, "and after about 20, his secretary started coming in every few minutes to remind him that it was time to go. But he stayed. In the end, we had talked for almost an hour."

Musharraf and Wilkinson also discussed [polio eradication](#) efforts in Pakistan. Pakistan is one of the four remaining polio-endemic countries, and it has received \$39 million from Rotary in the fight to make the country polio-free. Musharraf expressed his commitment to the goal of polio eradication and his appreciation of Rotarians' immunization efforts.

Pakistani television prominently covered the event, and images of the meeting were shown on all stations. That night, at the same time as the local evening news, Wilkinson joined fellow Rotarians for dinner in Islamabad. He arrived inconspicuously but left a celebrity. "We took a taxi afterwards, and when we got in, the driver recognized me instantly and just about exploded with excitement. We were so energized," said Wilkinson.

Pakistan is home to more than 100 Rotary clubs, with a total membership of about 2,900 business and professional leaders. Rotary's long history in Pakistan began with the chartering of the Rotary Club of Lahore in 1927. In addition to the earthquake relief effort, Rotary clubs in Pakistan support many humanitarian projects, such as building schools for children, conducting vocational training for the poor, and providing access to clean water in impoverished villages.



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. 27	Kevin Nosworthy	April 3	Mina Park
April 10	Ken Paterson	April 17	Debi Pearce



BINGO SCHEDULE

	6:15 - 8:15	8:00 - 10:00
April 19	Lynda Lawrence	Diane Kirkland
May 17	Maureen Goodrick	Stan Wade

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

TODAY'S PROGRAM: Chris Young from Cartunes Sound And Cell

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 th Ave., Pitt Meadows

50 / 50 draw - Jackpot at \$328.00+ 1/2 of today's sales, 37 cards left, Jackpot on "Queen of Hearts" only!

LAST WEEKS MEETING

Guests today are: Jan Dale and Wendy Dawes of Dominion Lending, guests of Vivian and Zulekha Bharwani wife of Anil.

Adoption dinner - Dave Rempel: -Please come out to this dinner and meet adopted children and adoptive families ; Dave is writing a book called: Why I couldn't attend My Saturday Night Dinner. Apparently we are inspirational ☺

Bob Shantz, Bob attended PETS seminar in Seattle this weekend. PETS is a training weekend retreat for incoming Rotary Club presidents. Bob "Didn't know how much he didn't know" until he attended the seminar. President after president feel this way.

Our Rotary Calendar is busy. April 14 District Assembly at Kwantlen College in Surrey. Anyone who is interested in Rotary can attend. May 31 – June 02 is the District Conference in Harrison Hot Spring.

Harvest Wine Festival: Terry Becker announced that The Wine Festival is changing venue for 2008!!!! This year's Harvest Wine Festival will take place at the Thomas Haney Rotunda, on September 15th. Mark your calendars early for this event! For Wine Fest Committee member Meeting is April 05 at the tourism centre in Pitt Meadows at noon.

Anil announced that he and his wife have sold the Husky station just 9 days shy on 21 years. Good luck Anil.

Guest Speaker: Peter Davies president of Maple Ridge Lawn Bowling.



He is a Pitt Meadows resident for 5 years, married with 3 kids, 7 grandkids, retired for 2 years, with the Maple Ridge Lawn Bowling club for 4 years.

The Lawn Bowling Facility is located next to Thomas Haney High School by the tennis club. The Club provides a great sport for all ages. It attracts seniors and also provides support for youth and developmentally and physically challenged people. There are approximately 15 youth members present, along with 30-40 Juniors, for a total membership of about 120 people. The lounge at the Club is named the "Rotary lounge" which was built by the Haney Rotary Club some years ago.

The Club has been in existence since 1995. Annual dues are \$125 per year. The members enjoy an expanded season stretching from April 01 to November. They also enjoy events at Christmastime.

To offer predictable conditions as well as long playing season an artificial indoor/outdoor surface is used. The surfaces new, are guaranteed for 7 years. The existing surface at the Maple Ridge Lawn Bowling Club is 11 years old and in desperate need of replacement. The Club is cancelling tournaments because of the condition of the field. They have prestigious events such as the Provincial Junior Championships which are to be held July 2007 and the upcoming disability games in 2008. The concern for the new field is understandable.

The Lawn Bowling Club explains that it spends \$10000/year on maintenance, all the while you need to save \$1000 per year for a new surface. Over the years, the Club was busy paying off the municipal loan it originally used for the surface and was unable to save the money needed for contingency for the new surface.

The Club has been engaged in fund raising efforts themselves and have raised over \$50000 towards the replacement costs of the new surface. Along with other efforts they are close however they are short \$10,000. The MRBC has made a formal request for funding to our Club, which has in turn submitted the request to the Sports Banquet for funding since the facility supports youth & sport in the community.

Submitted by Vivian Hatiras

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

March 28: Bobbi Gottschalk

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

April 2: Terry & Valerie Spurrell

Ask RI President Bill Boyd

Q: During the past 20 years, we've made a lot of progress against polio. Now, there are so many other terrible diseases that affect far more people than polio does. In fact, polio is almost eradicated, so why doesn't Rotary International focus on another disease?



Put simply, the job is not finished, and Rotary keeps its promises. We promised the children of the world that they would grow up in a [world without polio](#) and that their children would not have to face the threat of that dreaded disease. If we are to fulfill this promise, we need to stay focused until there is no more wild poliovirus.

We all realize that children around the world are unfairly faced with myriad threats to their well-being. It is truly heartbreaking to see a child suffering from any disease that could have been prevented.

Though great progress has been made toward a polio-free world, we cannot turn our attention away now. Because current funding levels for polio immunization campaigns cannot be sustained indefinitely, cases would increase dramatically. Failure to eradicate polio would result in an estimated 10 million paralyzed children in the next 40 years and would negate the world's US\$5.3 billion investment in the initiative.

The only way to protect every child from polio is to eradicate this crippling and potentially fatal disease completely. The strategies and tools are known, and health experts agree that the challenges to stopping the spread of polio can be met. Rotary was the first organization to have the vision of a polio-free world, so we need to sustain our commitment to creating a world with one less threat for every child.