

## RI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear fellow Rotarians,

The word *environment* conveys different things to each of us. One person might think of green forests, oceans, and mountains, another of grassy plains and wildlife. When we consider environmental challenges, we may think of recycling or energy conservation, industrial waste, or climate change. We tend to think of issues that are much larger than ourselves as individuals, and they can seem very abstract at times.

But for each of us, our environment is literally what surrounds us: the air we breathe, the water we drink, the land we walk on. Our environment is our house, our yard, our street. It is our community, our country, and our planet. The cleanliness of water hundreds of miles away can affect what comes out of our tap. The cleanliness of the air in a distant city can and does affect what goes into our lungs. And what comes out of our cars, chimneys, and power plants affects not just our own families, but families around the world for generations to come.

Environmental concerns are both intensely local and completely global. A garbage-filled stream has the most impact on those who rely on it for drinking water, but it also damages an entire ecosystem. A heavily polluted city hurts the health of its own inhabitants as well as those hundreds of miles downwind. As we learn and understand more about the course of climate change, we become more acutely aware that there are no local decisions. Everything we do touches others.

When we consider what we are willing to do and what we are willing to change to address an environmental problem, we must remember that our decisions never concern only us.

One of the lessons of Rotary is that one person can make a difference. We see this in our clubs and our districts, and particularly through PolioPlus. When we work on small projects that help only a few people, it can be hard to step back and see how we really are changing the world. It can be difficult to see how recycling a newspaper or a plastic container, walking instead of driving, or using less water can really bring a better and healthier tomorrow. But if many people make them together, those small changes will make an enormous difference to our children and grandchildren.

As Rotarians, we know very well that these small changes – these private, individual choices – can add up to something tremendous. The decisions we make may seem small, but they are nothing of the kind. I ask all of you to remember that, because you are leaders in your communities, and you have chosen to help *Lead the Way* to a better future. In the matter of environmental responsibility, as in all others, we must first lead by example by making the choices that will bring us a healthier tomorrow.

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](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)

## April is Magazine Month

### INVOCATION

<b>April 3</b>	Mina Park	<b>April 10</b>	Ken Paterson
<b>April 17</b>	Debi Pearce	<b>April 24</b>	Dave Rempel

### BINGO SCHEDULE

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

Call Peter at 604-465-3392 for assistance or email [peter.boekhorst@telus.net](mailto:peter.boekhorst@telus.net)



**TODAY'S PROGRAM:** Installation of Wendy Dawes and Jan Dale

**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 \$343.50+ 1/2 of today's sales, 36 cards left, Jackpot on "Queen of Hearts" only!**

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

April 6: Robert & Maureen Goodrick

## LAST WEEKS MEETING

**Guests today were:** Irena Shantz, Ana (student), Zenka Cukor, Jan Dale and Wendy Dawes

Dana Prokop memorial service will be held at Garden Hill Funeral Chapel on Saturday April 7, 2007 at 1pm.

The next Wine Fest meeting will be April 11/07 4pm at Terry Becker's office.

### GUEST SPEAKER



**Chris Young** has been in the electronic industry on and off for the past 20 years. He lives in Maple Ridge and has a wife and two children. Chris talked about the evolution of the cellular phone, from the old bag phones to current digital phones.

The cellular industry has changed from just being a phone to full PDA's. The reception from old analog phone is much better than the current digital phones as far as areas to receive clear reception.

- Blue tooth is wireless connection to your phone
- Technology is forever growing and changing

Chris also touched on GPS service which sends a signal to a satellite as opposed to cellular which uses towers to send signal back and forth.

**Submitted by Kevin Nosworthy**

## PLAN NOW FOR DISTRICT 5050'S RYLA 2007 PROGRAM

RYLA 2007 will be held June 7 - 10 at the Zajac Ranch on Stave Lake. We are celebrating our 25th Anniversary in District 5050 and expecting a significant increase in applications this year. To ensure spots for your club's applicants, let us know right away how many spots you would like reserved for your club, even if you have not yet finished selecting candidates.

We are looking for participants between the ages of 18 and 25 who are leaders or have leadership potential. And that's just about anyone! As Rotarians, we do a lot for others, but RYLA is one of the few programs where we can benefit our own family. So consider your children and grandchildren, as well as your neighbours, employees and others in the community.

Help us inspire leaders in your community and our world. You can make a difference in their lives, and in the lives of everyone the participants inspire in the future.

If you need any information, please contact Sean Hogan at [shogan@buckho.com](mailto:shogan@buckho.com) or by telephone at 604-635-3000 (work). Also, refer to the District 5050 web site at <http://www.ryla5050.org/>.



## FORMER SCHOLAR TURNS STUMBLING BLOCKS INTO STEPPING STONES

By Janis Young  
Rotary International News  
Photo courtesy of Young-Woo Kang

28 March 2007



**Kang speaks at a meeting of the Rotary Club of Washington, D.C., where he was honoured for his humanitarian work.**

Young-Woo Kang knows about obstacles. As a teenager, he lost his eyesight, his mother, and his sister within just a few years. Growing up in Korea as an orphan, he faced suspicion and ostracism because of his blindness, which traditionally limited his occupation to fortunetelling or massage.

Kang, however, chose a very different course. He fought to take college entrance exams and was the first blind student in Korea to study at prestigious Yonsei University, graduating with honours. After receiving a [Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholarship](#) to attend the University of Pittsburgh, Kang overcame regulations preventing disabled people from studying abroad and became the first blind person from Korea to earn a doctorate.

Knocking down obstacles became an intrinsic part of Kang's life. Strong allies in his struggles included his wife, Kyoung, who served as his teacher and later a teacher of the blind, and Rotary. While at Yonsei University, he met William Powell, a blind Rotarian from Wesleyville,

Pennsylvania, USA, who helped him obtain the Foundation scholarship in 1972-73 and later invited him to join Rotary.

"William Powell was with me all the way through," Kang says. "When I could not eliminate obstacles, he found a way around them." After receiving his doctorate in special education, Kang and his wife moved to Indiana, where he joined the Rotary Club of Munster. Today, he is a member of the Rotary Club of Washington D.C.

While in Indiana, Kang realized how U.S. policies and resources assisted disabled people, leading him to establish the Education and Rehabilitation Exchange Foundation to bring similar measures to Korea. He worked with fellow Rotarian Kwan Sik Min, Korea's minister of education, to help change laws and attitudes and empower people with disabilities.

Now a U.S. citizen, Kang is a member of the National Council on Disability, vice chair of the World Committee on Disability, and commemorative chair and senior adviser for the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute. He has written several books, and his autobiography, *A Light in My Heart*, was made into a feature film in Korea. In October 2006, U.S. first lady Laura Bush invited him to speak at the White House as a role model during National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

In his Rotary club, Kang focuses on Matching Grant projects. The most recent one connects his club with District 3650 in Korea to bring Mongolian children with congenital heart disorders to Seoul for lifesaving surgeries.

"Rotary has been an integral part of my life," Kang says. "I can't talk about my experiences without talking about Rotary."