

RI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear fellow Rotarians,

I'm writing to all of you to clarify some recent press reports that mischaracterized a recent meeting (27 February 2007) hosted by Dr. Margaret Chan, Director-General of the World Health Organization, as a debate on whether to continue the Global Polio Eradication Initiative.



RI President William B. Boyd, CDC Director Julie Louise Gerberding, MD, MPH, UNICEF Deputy Executive Director Kul Gautam, and WHO Director-General Dr. Margaret Chan.
Photo courtesy of WHO

I, along with past RI President James Lacy and Trustee Robert Scott, attended this meeting at which we heard Dr. Chan speak powerfully in support of polio eradication. In her opening remarks, she stated that anything other than eradication was unacceptable. She also let it be known that a different way of doing business was required in order to achieve a polio-free world.

To that end, high-level representatives from governments, donors and international agencies, endorsed a final plan with clear milestones over the next 24-months.

These major stakeholders reaffirmed their commitment as the overwhelming financial and human benefits of eradication were presented and supported by an independent Harvard study, which indicated that the economic benefits to the United States alone will exceed US\$180 billion this century

with the total cost of eradication estimated at US\$5 billion. All agreed to improve the quality of vaccination campaigns in the four endemic countries (Afghanistan, India, Pakistan and Nigeria), and to mobilize the necessary funds to complete polio eradication.

What does all this mean for Rotary? 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 this crippling and potentially fatal disease. If we are to fulfill that promise, we need to stay focused until there is no more wild polio virus.

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

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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INVOCATION

May 8	Gordy Robson	May 15	Bob Shantz
May 22	Valerie Spurrell	May 29	Fraser Stamp-Vincent

BINGO SCHEDULE

	6:15 - 8:15	8:00 - 10:00
May 17	Maureen Goodrick	Stan Wade
June 14	Mina Park	

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



TODAY'S PROGRAM: Business Meeting

NEXT WEEK'S PROGRAM: Rhonda Lohead –
Alouette River Pesticide Comm. Awareness Project

CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT 5050 EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
May 28		Italian Serata	La Trattoria
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 \$452.00+ 1/2 of today's sales, 32 cards left, Jackpot on "Queen of Hearts" only!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

May 9: Walter Volpatti May 9: Anthony Hatiras

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

May 8: Ted & Doris Gagel May 12: John Lee & Mina Park May 14: Dave & Sharon Rempel

LAST WEEKS MEETING

Our Guests today were Claus Andrup, Derek Winterman of the Esteem Team, visiting Rotarian Nels Hagenson, Roxanne Easton, Jean Lawrence, and Ana our exchange student.

Bob Shantz introduced our Guest Speaker, Vivian Smith, the incoming President of the Haney Rotary Club. Vivian is a professional fundraiser and organizer who came to Maple Ridge 20 years ago. She has been very involved in the Ridge Meadows Hospital Foundation for a number of years, among many other projects.



Vivian's presentation was on the familia Corazón program in Mexico. The Haney Rotary Club will be volunteering for a project and would like to do this as a joint venture with our Club.

Corazón, Spanish for "heart", is a non-profit society whose focus is to strengthen individuals, families and community by promoting self-sufficiency. Corazón was founded in 1978 as an all volunteer organization that helped meet immediate needs with food, water, clothing and shelter. Still 99% volunteer based, the organization now helps to build complete houses. In 1995, "Familia Corazón" was established to work on neighbourhood projects. The philosophy is that a strong community provides for a strong family.

The first step is a family's desire to improve their way of life. By working on neighbourhood projects, the participants can earn hours that they can exchange for many of their basic needs, such as food, clothing, tools, and building materials. More importantly, they become eligible for scholarships for their children and job training for themselves. In the process, they get to know their neighbours as they work side by side to better the community they seek to raise their children in. The result is a stronger family living in a better community with hope for a brighter future.

There are two projects that the Rotarians can be involved in. One is a "Super Build" which is the construction of a 16' x 20' structure on a concrete slab (pre-poured) that is built in one day. The house includes four windows, tiled kitchen counter, stove, vent, sleeping loft, storage shelf and provisions for a future indoor toilet. This project requires a minimum of 30 volunteers.

The second project is a "Familia Repair" which is a personal approach to repairing and upgrading existing homes. Working with the Mexican family who owns the home, a small group of volunteers paint, drywall, help replace roofs, pours a floor or adds a window.

Volunteers meet at the Ramada Inn in Chula Vista at 6 am on the project day. They go as a caravan down to Mexico, and begin the build. The host family will provide lunch.

Once the house is completed, the keys are given to the family in a closing ceremony. Then the group returns back to the States.

Full details on preparation for the build and the trip to Mexico are provided on Corazón's website, www.corazon.org.

This trip would be the first group of Canadians to volunteer hours. The financial obligations of a project range from \$500. - \$3,000, depending on whether it's a full build or repair, and a minimum of 30 volunteers are needed. Vivian encouraged our Club to participate as a joint International Project.

Submitted by Lynda Lawrence

ESTEEM TEAM SCHEDULE FOR MAY 8TH AND MAY 15TH :

May 8th:	Snowboarder - Derek Winterman		
	11:00am	Garibaldi Secondary	Grades 8,9, 150 Students
	1:15pm	Blue Mountain Elementary	Grades 4-7, 100 Students
	Track and Field - Nathan Vadeboncoeur		
	10:45am	Albion Elementary	Grades 4-7, 250 Students
	1:15pm	Eric Langton Elementary	Grades 4-7, 200 Students
May 15th:	Snowboarder - Derek Winterman		
	10:30am	Laityview Elementary	Grades 4-7, 250 students
	1:15pm	Kanaka Creek	Grades 4-7, 250 students
	Whitewater Kayak Slalom - Margaret Langford		
	10:30am	Fairview Elementary	Grades 4-7, 175 students
	Kayaker - Sarah Hawkins		
	1:15pm	Davie Jones Elementary	Grades 4-7, 150 students

If you are able to accompany one of the athletes to a school, please see Kevin.



From MR and PM Times May 4, 2007

Eric Langton Elementary School students Robin Brinkerink-Johnson, Cole Treleaven and Susanna Remfry cut the ribbon on their new playground Wednesday. Students held a Math-a-thon, coin drive and had hot food days.

The District of Maple Ridge agreed to joint development of the playground in conjunction with the new Firefighters Park, which is adjacent to the school. The district's contribution was \$30,000. Ronald McDonald House Charities of Canada contributed almost \$12,000. Other donors included Meadow Ridge Rotary Club; Rotary Club of Haney; Kiwanis Club of Golden Ears and the Royal Canadian Legion Ladies Auxiliary Branch 88.