

June 2007
The Rotarian

Dear fellow Rotarians,

Nearly a year ago, I wrote on this page that, as Rotarians, "we are not content to let matters stay the way they have always been, in our clubs or in our communities. We are the ones who ask, Why not us?"

In the last year, I have been privileged to meet thousands of Rotarians who have asked themselves that very question and risen to its challenge. I have seen projects that have astounded me with their creativity and their ambition, and projects that came to fruition through an incredible degree of thought, planning, and insight. I have seen clubs overcome all sorts of barriers to deal with the true problems facing their communities. And I have seen all of this done with warmth, grace, and the skill born of local knowledge – and, often, with the support of our Rotary Foundation.

Every project I have seen has impressed me in its own way. The projects that have impressed me the most, however, have been those addressing a need that no one has been able to meet before, whether because of a lack of resources, a lack of ability, or simply a lack of awareness. Sometimes the problem was obvious and acknowledged, such as an ill-equipped clinic or a polluted water source. Sometimes the problem was never openly mentioned, such as the dilemma faced every month by girls attending schools without bathrooms. What I have seen this year is that whether the need is for water filters, blood banks, HIV treatment, toilet stalls, or literacy, Rotarians are finding what needs to be done – and doing it.

The projects that stand out in my mind the most are those that are meeting real needs and quietly changing lives. I will always remember the Rotary club project that's bringing simple, yet effective, low-cost prosthetic hands to amputees, returning to them employability and self-sufficiency; the Rotary club supported library in Hsinchu, Taiwan, that gives so many more children access to books; the Rotary club-sponsored classroom that's educating children living in the tuberculosis ward of an African hospital; and the Rotary club-built school for autistic children, for whom there had been no services in the area.

These are just a few of the projects that have truly made a difference. There is no need for exaggeration or hyperbole here: These projects have very literally moved the courses of lives by giving people education, improved health, and a real chance at a better future. In some cases, Rotarians invested tremendous resources of time, energy, and their own funds. In others, all that was needed was a knowledgeable and caring person to step in, look around, and do what needed to be done.

It has been a great joy this year to see how Rotarians all over the world are choosing to Lead the Way. I look forward to continuing with you in this great task for many more years to come. Lorna and I thank you for your many kindnesses to us. This year has changed our lives.

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



The Four Way Flasher

Rotary Club of
MeadowRidge Newsletter

Vol. 13 Issue 49
June 5, 2007

Web-site: www3.telus.net/MeadowRidge_Rotary

Meetings: Tuesday 12pm, Gourmet Hideaway Restaurant

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INVOCATION

June 5	Eng Tan	June 19	Marco Terwiel
July 3	Nizar Virani	July 10	Walter Volpatti

BINGO SCHEDULE

	6:15 - 8:15	8:00 - 10:00
June 14	Mina Park	Robert Campbell
July 12	Jan Dale	Wende Dawes

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



TODAY'S PROGRAM: Phillip Soo - Wine Consultant

NEXT WEEK'S PROGRAM: Fireside at Bob & Irena Shantz

Next week NO regular meeting!

CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT 5050 EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
June 12	5:30pm	Fireside at Shantz Residence	22696 - 132nd Ave., M.R.
June 17-20		RI Conference	Salt Lake City
June 26	6:00pm	Installation Dinner	Meadow Gardens Golf Course
August 18	3:00pm	Vladimir's Honey BBQ	The Bee Farm - 129 th Ave., Pitt Meadows

50 / 50 draw - Jackpot at \$0.00+ 1/2 of today's sales, 52 cards left, Jackpot on "Queen of Hearts" only!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

June 5: Lynda deBruyn

LAST WEEKS MEETING

Our guests today were Irena Shantz, Sebastiaan Boekhorst, Bobbi and Marina (224th Street Royal Bank), Danni and Ana, our exchange student.

The Italian Serata Dinner at La Trattoria went very well last night with 42 people in attendance. Kudos to Val for a great job, organizing this event.

Walter won the 50/50 draw, winning \$553.

He donated back half of his winnings to the Meadow Ridge Foundation. Thank you Walter.

Tickets for the Wine Fest will be available for sale by Canada Day.

Our Guest Speaker was Ana Ló Castillo Núñez, our exchange student, who gave a presentation on Oaxaca, Mexico, her hometown. The population is 3.3 million people.

Guelagueta is an annual festival that was started 300 years ago. Ana modeled the festive dress wore for the event. There are 8 different dances, and the event begins on October 31 (Day of the Dead).



December 6th is the beginning of the parties, which continue thru to February. There are processions on the street, singing (carolling), events such as Night of the Radish. On December 23rd there is an event where (sweet) bread is eaten and then the plates are broken afterwards.

Mezcal, Corona, Victoria & Indio beer, grasshoppers, mole (chicken with chocolate and peppers), tamales are some of their favourite food and beverages.

She showed photos of the pyramids in Monte, the ruins of Mitla, and the Tules Tree that is two million years old.

Her parents, Victor and Martha, run a tire store. She has a 22 year old brother Manolo and a 26 year old sister Martha.

Ana has enjoyed her stay in Canada, and promises to return to visit us soon.

Submitted by Lynda Lawrence



Was that really the Queen of Hearts?

WATER: OUR LOOMING CRISIS

By Anthony G. Craine 20 March 2006



Rotarians and villagers try out a new well in Haiti.



A community volunteer in Ghana demonstrates to her neighbors how to purify water with a cloth filter.

Water is life. An adult can survive without food for weeks, but the human body can't go more than a few days without water. Yet in our world today, an alarming number of people struggle every day to get it.

"It's daunting when you think of it," says Ron Denham, a member of the Rotary Club of Toronto-Eglinton, Canada, and general coordinator of the Water, Health, and Hunger Concerns Resource Group for 2005-06, "the number of people affected — 1.2 billion without access to safe drinking water, 2.4 billion without sanitation."

In rural communities in Africa and Asia, women and children can spend several hours of their day retrieving water from some far-off source, time otherwise spent with family or supporting their children. And the quality of that water they access often varies, leaving them susceptible to contaminants and water-borne diseases. According to the United Nations, some 6,000 children die every day from diseases associated with the lack of safe drinking water, inadequate sanitation, and poor hygiene.

The painful irony is that water appears to be abundant on our "blue planet." It covers more than two-thirds of the earth's surface. But only 2.5 percent of that water is fresh water. And 99.7 percent of that freshwater is unavailable, trapped in glaciers, ice sheets, and mountainous areas. This means that about 0.3 percent of the planet's freshwater is shared by all of its people. And while the amount of available freshwater remains stable, the number of people sharing it continues to grow.

Few things affect human survival, and the production of everyday necessities, as directly as water does. But with such a broad range of challenges and the unfathomable numbers of people affected, how can Rotary clubs approach the issue with any hope of making a difference?

Denham says that there is amazingly simple, affordable technology to assist in solving the vexing problem of supplying water to those who don't have access. Sometimes the key is for clubs to identify a community's needs and to be sure that the work done results in a realistically sustainable benefit.

Bio-sand filters, he says, are a cheap, reliable way to turn contaminated water into drinkable water. Rotarians from Calgary, Alberta, Canada, have set up a factory in Haiti to manufacture the filters and implement them in that country.

An even cheaper tool for water purification seems almost too good to be true: plastic soda bottles. Bottles made from polyethylene terephthalate (PET) can be filled with dirty water and placed in sunlight. The sun's rays do all the work. "Glass won't do it, but PET plastic will," he says.

Creating awareness is also a key ingredient in the work that Rotary clubs can do, Denham says. He points to 22 March — World Water Day — as an opportunity.

"We'd like every Rotary club to feature a speaker on water during that week," he says.

The range of water project opportunities available to the world's Rotary clubs is varied and, above all, necessary.

"The important thing is not to be daunted by the immensity of the task," Denham says. "The reality is that Rotarians in their own way are having a huge impact on the water-deprived people of the world. I think of a simple adage: How do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time."