

RI PRESIDENT URGES EVERY ROTARIAN TO BRING IN NEW MEMBERS

With Rotary's demographics changing and membership decreasing in North America, Rotarians must "change the way we think about membership," RI President Wilfrid J. Wilkinson told attendees at a presidential membership conference held 20-21 July in Nashville, Tennessee, USA.

"The current recruitment practices of clubs can't continue," Wilkinson said. "What needs to happen is for every Rotarian in every club to bring in one qualified new member every year."

Inviting new club members is one way Rotarians can live up to this year's theme of *Rotary Shares*, said Wilkinson at the conference. The conference is one of a series of seven events to be held in July and August in Canada and the United States. In July the conferences were held in Philadelphia; Nashville; and South Bend, Indiana. In August, the conferences will be held in Denver; Vancouver, B.C.; San Jose, California; and Fort Lauderdale, Florida. If those events prove successful, similar ones may be organized in other parts of the world. The two-day conferences include plenary sessions, panel discussions, and workshops on topics such as generational differences, demographic changes, potential new members, and the challenges of service organizations.

Wilkinson cited RI research showing that only 18 percent of Rotarians in a given club ever bring in a new member. But inviting qualified, active members is "the single most important thing that you can do for your club and community," he said. To survive and continue to meet communities' increasing needs, Wilkinson stressed, "Rotary needs to grow."

The goal of the presidential conferences was for Rotarians to come away with plans for finding and keeping club members. Wilkinson noted, however, that there's no one-size-fits-all solution for Rotary clubs.

"*Rotary Shares*," he said, "and each one of us must take it upon ourselves individually to share the gift of Rotary membership with one new person – this year, and every year to come."

POLIO JUST A 'PLANE RIDE AWAY'

A 22-year-old Pakistani student was released from an Australian hospital on 9 August, after recovering from the polio virus. A national health alert was issued in Australia on 13 July after the student was diagnosed with polio, the first case of the virus in the country in 21 years.

Another case of polio was also detected in Chad last month. Rotary's [PolioPlus Partners](#) program quickly released US\$241,000 to support urgent preventive immunization activities in neighboring Sudan, amid continued political unrest in the country.

International PolioPlus Committee Chair Bob Scott calls the outbreaks a "wake-up call."

"It prove[s] beyond a doubt that polio in your polio-free country is just a plane ride away," Scott says. "It's essential to continue with the PolioPlus program."

The student contracted the disease while visiting his native Pakistan, one of the four remaining polio-endemic countries. He experienced symptoms, including initial paralysis, and recovered at Melbourne's Box Hill Hospital. He was isolated from the community until he tested negative for the virus.

After learning about the case from Jenny Horton, a Rotary club member who consults for the World Health Organization on the [Global Polio Eradication Initiative](#) in Pakistan, Melbourne-area Rotarians reacted quickly to support the student's recovery.

Arrangements were made to provide the student with new clothes, since his clothing had been confiscated in case it carried the virus. Jennifer Coburn, of the Rotary Club of Mont Albert & Surrey Hills, Victoria, went to visit the patient in isolation, lifting his spirits by bringing him books, puzzles, and the daily newspaper.

"This is a definite and very easy way to assist a person in need of support," says Coburn, noting how far the student is from his family, and the intense media scrutiny he had been under after the alert was issued. "He is really delighted that he is receiving support from Rotary. The need for human interaction is so important."



The Four Way Flasher

Rotary Club of MeadowRidge Newsletter

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Web-site: www3.telus.net/MeadowRidge_Rotary

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August is Membership & Extension Month

INVOCATION

Aug. 21	Ineke Boekhorst	Aug. 28	Peter Boekhorst
Sept. 4	Robert Campbell	Sept. 11	Jim Coulter

BINGO SCHEDULE

	6:15 - 8:15	8:00 - 10:00
Sept. 06	Mina Park	Vladimir Cukor
Oct. 04	Wendy Lindvik	Walter Volpatti



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

TODAY'S PROGRAM: RI Foundation

NEXT WEEK'S PROGRAM: DG John Bosch's visit

CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT 5050 EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
August 28	noon	DG John Bosch's visit	The Gourmet Hideaway Restaurant
Sept. 15	7:00pm	Harvest Wine Festival	Thomas Haney Centre
Oct. 16	6-11pm	Sports Banquet	Meadow Gardens Golf Course

50 / 50 draw - Jackpot at \$171.50 + 1/2 of today's sales, 44 cards left, Jackpot on "Queen of Hearts" only!



5TH ANNUAL BEE BBQ AT VLAD'S APIARY

Last Saturday, August 18, it was once again Vlad's and Zdenka's pleasure to invite all Meadow Ridge Rotarians (including family members) to their Bee yard.



The weather held up and it turned out to be a beautiful late afternoon. The welcoming music by Robert and Cailin made everything even more "complete".



Vladimir first presented us with the, by now also, traditional little "update" about the "bee world", very interesting and down to earth.....the # of bees are shrinking and that's very bad news! Bee population is strongly influenced by chemical pollution, weather changes etc. As since the beginning of days, all our crops are strongly tied to bees and pollination and as the bees are disappearing, mankind will experience big problems. Vlad's quote: 5 years after the bees are gone, people will disappear too!

As every previous year Vlad and Zdenka had gone "all out" to serve a beautiful, all home-made, Croatian buffet-style meal, including a fantastic salmon barbeque (facilitated by their good friend Wolfgang and his wife), great wine and even "honey beer". After the delicious variety of foods (like: pork, smoked salmon salad, potato salad, pickled peppers, different cheeses, beautiful cold cuts, fabulous salmon etc.), there were the deserts.....oh boy, were they ever good! Vlad later told me, that Zdenka was baking until 3 am the previous night! But what a delight it was.....I think all in attendance will have to agree, it was just absolutely fantastic.

No paper plates or plastic cutlery either, everything was so well orchestrated and beautifully laid out; Vlad and Zdenka have become real "professionals" at this!



Needless to say, after all this hard work, it was somewhat disappointing to Vladimir and Zdenka, that not everybody who "signed up" showed up and as a result lots of food was left over!



A big concern also for the "Live Auction"..... Vlad collected so many absolutely beautiful and unique items.....and with so few people left in attendance, there certainly was a big worry, that even our "Super Auctioneer" Dave Rempel would have a hard time, trying to get a decent bid out of so few in attendance.....but, the items proved so unique, that the Auction was still a great success, thanks to "Super Dave"(!)

The total proceeds of the event reached well over \$2300.=, which was all donated to the Rotary Foundation by Vladimir and Zdenka!

All and all it was once again a fabulous event and all who did attend would join me in once again thanking Vladimir and Zdenka for the "GREAT 5th Family Bee Barbeque", the Food, the Auction, the Music, the Ambience, the Fellowship, this is a truly unique experience. Your unbelievable generosity towards your fellow Rotarians and friends is very much appreciated.....and way, way beyond "Service above Self".

Dear Vladimir and Zdenka thanks so much from the bottom of my heart!

Submitted by Ineke Boekhorst

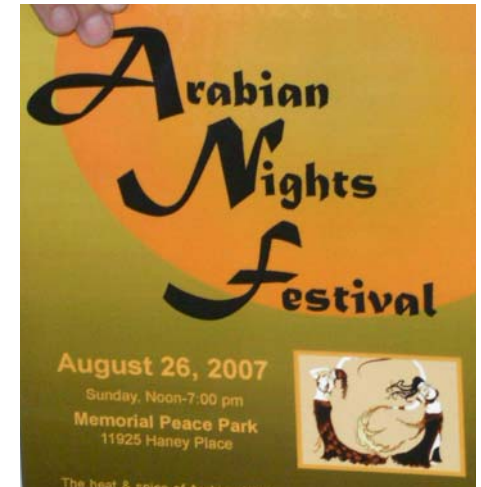


ARABIAN NIGHTS FESTIVAL - AUGUST 26

As the MeadowRidge Rotary Club made a donation to this event, we better enjoy it too!

This event is an all-inclusive celebration of diversity through the art of bellydance from noon -7pm at Memorial Peace Park in Maple Ridge. The day will be colourful and lively, with a "gypsy caravan" feel.

There will be belly dancers performing throughout the day, two *free* half-hour workshops for the public on 'Bellydance Basic Moves' and 'Veil Work', a 'shimmy' competition for the public, a community dance circle, and vendors selling authentic clothing, arts, jewellery and cultural food. Families are invited to bring a picnic blanket and enjoy a day of community. For more information contact Lisa at 604-466-4976



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

August 21: Ron LePore

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

August 25: Gordon & Diane Kirkland