

## RI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

December is family month, a time when we pay special attention to our emphasis on the family of Rotary. When I speak about this, I'm often asked to explain just what the family of Rotary means and why it's included as an emphasis.

When you put the family of Rotary idea next to such enormous needs as nutritious food and clean water, it might seem much less important. After all, as Rotarians, we're here to help everyone and look out for all those who need us. We don't just look after our own – that's not what Rotary is about.

As Rotarians, we do have a great responsibility to make sure Rotary's good work doesn't end with us. Rotary does so much that is so important in so many ways: providing water to the thirsty, food to the hungry, medical care to the poor and sick, education to the illiterate. It's been doing that for more than 100 years now.

But if we focused all our attention on nothing but that lifesaving and life-altering work, then that work would eventually come to an end. Rotary would die out in a generation if we did not also pay attention to the health of our own organization – our members, our clubs, and those who will join our clubs in the years to come.

One reason I've always felt so at home in Rotary and with the idea of the family of Rotary could be that I come from a large family myself. I'm one of 10 children – six girls and four boys. But as big as my family is, it's nothing compared with Rotary. We're not just 1.2 million Rotarians in 32,000 clubs. We're 250,000 Interactors, 170,000 Rotaractors, 150,000 Rotary Community Corps members and, in the last year alone, about 8,000 young people in Rotary Youth Exchange. And, of course, we also include the spouses, widows and widowers, and children of Rotarians. Altogether, the family of Rotary is well over two million strong.

Our family is strong because it's close, and because it's always forming new ties. We need to ensure that Rotary keeps growing – in all the branches of our family. We should always be looking for and inviting qualified men and women to join our clubs.

*Wilfrid J. (Wilf) Wilkinson*  
*President, Rotary International*

## GATES FOUNDATION, ROTARY PLEDGE \$200 MILLION TO FIGHT POLIO

Aiming to inject \$200 million into the global campaign to eradicate polio, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation announced Monday November 26, that it is awarding a \$100 million challenge grant to the Evanston-based Rotary Foundation.

The Rotary Foundation said it plans to match the Gates grant dollar-for-dollar through fundraising over the next three years. In the first year alone, Rotary expects to spend \$100 million on immunization projects in the four remaining countries where polio is still endemic.

The grant is one of the largest challenge grants ever awarded by the Gates Foundation and is the largest given by any organization to Rotary. The foundation is the nonprofit charitable arm of Rotary International, which has contributed \$633 million to efforts to stamp out polio.



# 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)

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## December is Family Month

### INVOCATION

Dec. 4	Ken Knuttila	Dec. 11	Sharon Kyle
Dec. 18	Lynda Lawrence		

### BINGO SCHEDULE

	6:15 - 8:15	8:00 - 10:00
Dec. 27	Marco Terwiel	Dave Rempel
Jan. 24	Wendy Lindvik	Wende Dawes

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



## DEC. 25 AND JAN. 1 NO REGULAR MEETING.

TODAY'S PROGRAM: Allan Lamb, B.C.A.A. Safety Council

NEXT WEEK'S PROGRAM: A.G.M.

### CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT 5050 EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Dec. 5	6:00pm	Haney Club joined Xmas party	Meadow Gardens
Dec. 11	noon	A.G.M.	Gourmet Hideaway

50 / 50 draw - Jackpot at \$497.00 + 1/2 of today's sales, 34 cards left, Jackpot on "Queen of Hearts" only!

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Dec. 10: Peter & Ineke Boekhorst

## LAST WEEK'S MEETING

Our Guests today were Cole Bekar, Rotarians Tony Knowles and Bruno Tomassini.

Today's Guest Speaker was Assistant Chief Timo Juurakko, Fire & Life Safety Educator for the Maple Ridge Fire Department.



His first presentation was on the Youth Academy Program, which our Club supports along with the Legion. Working in partnership with SD42, this high school experience program provides a unique opportunity for students (16 – 18) interested in firefighting as a possible future career.

This program places students in a Fire Academy situation. Once selected, a student will experience everything a firefighter would experience but in capsulated form. Students learn theory, and receive instruction on personal protective equipment, basic firefighting skills, maintenance and upkeep of the fire hall, equipment, and firefighting apparatus along with certification in CPR and

first aid, fire prevention, and public education. Students will also be expected to make a presentation to their peers, do various written reports, and partake in all planned activities, and participate in fundraising endeavors working with other students as a team. There is also significant homework involved.

The Youth Academy Program started in the late '90s. They accept two students from each high school for a class size of ten. The students apply as if they are pursuing careers. They must submit a completed application and meet some basic requirements. They must have a minimum C+ average, a good attendance record, good work ethics, and have a genuine interest in firefighting. The successful candidates must sign a Code of Conduct.

The program runs from October through to late June. The students are treated as workers of the government, and are covered by WCB. The students are taught safety, and learn about pride, respect, confidence, citizenship and teamwork. There is a Fitness challenge held three times a year. The students are involved in a community project such as address awareness. The program has been very successful. Five academy members are now career firefighters.

Assistant Chief Timo Juurakko's next presentation was on smoke alarms & EDITH "emergency drills in the home". There were two video presentations - one on emergency drills, and the other on the importance of functioning smoke detectors.

Submitted by Lynda Lawrence

## SANTA CLAUS PARADE

There we were waiting for the parade to start. And cold that it was (with the wind chill!).

The Foodbank thanks all, who helped out to collect food for our friends in need.



## FRIENDS IN NEED FOODBANK

In the spirit of Christmas, we ask all our members to please make a food or cash donation towards the Friends in Need Foodbank (as we did in previous years). Your donation will help the less fortunate families right here in Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows.

PLEASE bring your donation of 2 pieces (or more!) of non-perishable food items to our Tuesday meeting ASAP and deposit in "Friends in Need Christmas box" Or leave cash donation in cash tin, if you prefer.

**Most needed items are: SOUPS, CANNED FISH / MEAT, COFFEE / TEA, CANNED VEGETABLES / FRUIT, MACARONI & CHEESE**

Some of our "Hands-On Community Projects" are taking place within the next couple of weeks, so we are looking for help with the following events:



**Christmas Train - Dec. 18th, 7:45 @ the Wharf / Billy Miner Pub...** be there at about 7pm. We can use as many as possible volunteers (please enter name on sign-up sheet), to collect food and cash donations from the public attending this annual event.

Friends in Need Foodbank will provide "Santa Hats" for everyone and volunteer badges. It would be nice if all volunteers could wear something red for the occasion (but that's up to you!)