

RI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Since 1988, when polio eradication efforts began, Rotary International has been a spearheading partner in the fight to end the disease. Long-time Rotarians know the history well. There have been triumphs and setbacks. There have been times of rapid advances and times when progress has seemed slow. There have been times when the end seemed very near. But never has it been nearer than it is right now.

Before the campaign to eliminate polio, about 1,000 children a day – 350,000 a year – were paralyzed by this terrible disease. These children were left to a life of struggle and disability, and often of social stigma. Today, only four countries are still polio-endemic, and annual cases of polio paralysis are down to about 1,000 a year.

We've come so far, yet the nature of the wild poliovirus means that if we slacken our efforts for even a moment, we'll soon see our hard work reversed. We have only two options: to press on with determination and faith until we succeed, or to lose everything we've invested and everything we've gained.

The generosity of Rotarians in responding to the call for help has been astounding. We've raised more than US\$600 million to support polio eradication in 122 countries. We've saved the lives of thousands of children through the polio vaccine and the vitamin supplements distributed with it, and we've saved countless more from the often-desperate realities of post polio paralysis.

Now we're in the final stretch of this long and difficult, but exhilarating, race. It's literally a question of choice – to win or lose, succeed or fail. Our partners around the world have recognized how critical this juncture is, and many have stepped in with added support, financial and practical. The recently announced grant of \$100 million from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is a resounding vote of confidence in polio eradication efforts. Their financial support will be invaluable in the months ahead, and their trust in Rotary is an honour to us all.

Many of you have already given so much to the battle against polio. Each of you is forever a part of history – part of Rotary's legacy and its gift to the world's children. Today, we call on all Rotarians – but especially on new Rotarians who have not been a part of campaigns in the past – to do what they can, to help in any way they can, to finish this fight once and for all.

Wilfrid J. (Wilf) Wilkinson
President, Rotary International



The Four Way Flasher

**Rotary Club of
MeadowRidge Newsletter**

**Vol. 14 Issue 29
January 15, 2008**

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January is Rotary Awareness Month

INVOCATION

Jan. 15	Wendy Lindvik	Jan. 22	Debbie MacRae
Jan. 29	Marina Marrocco	Feb. 5	Kevin Nosworthy



There is no Bingo work for January, February and March!

TODAY'S PROGRAM: Mark Kauhane, President R.M. Minor Baseball Assoc.

NEXT WEEK'S PROGRAM: Dennis Tjernagel –
Principal, Thomas Haney Secondary School

CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT 5050 EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue

50 / 50 draw - Jackpot at \$532.50 + 1/2 of today's sales, 32 cards left, Jackpot on "Queen of Hearts" only!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Jan. 16: Laara Coulter

Jan. 17: Irena Shantz

BINGO

As mentioned last week, we received an email (see below) from the Bingo Association, mentioning a change in the Gaming Act.

January 5, 2008

Dear Members:

Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch in Victoria has issued a directive that Charity Volunteers can no longer perform the duties of a paymaster. Under the legislated 'Gaming Act', the duties of this position must be carried out by a registered gaming worker. This change of policy in Victoria has of course required RMBA to institute operational changes surrounding the paymaster duties within the bingo hall.

Under the certificates of affiliation, each member is required to promote their charity and spend time in the bingo hall. Therefore, several years ago, our member charities voted to cover the paymaster position on all bingo sessions to reduce the staffing costs and keep the bingo hall viable. As a result of this commitment, our charities have completed the time requirement for the 2007 to 2008 certificate of affiliation period. Therefore, it will not be necessary for a volunteer to be present at any session during the months of January, February and March 2008

As each member is still required to promote their charity and spend time in the bingo hall during each licensing period, a new attendance schedule commencing April 1, 2008 to March 31, 2009 will be circulated prior to the end of February. Please note that on the new schedule, the time commitment will be reduced as a result of this new change to the Gaming Act.

Please note that this legislative/operational change does not have any affect on your affiliation dollars.

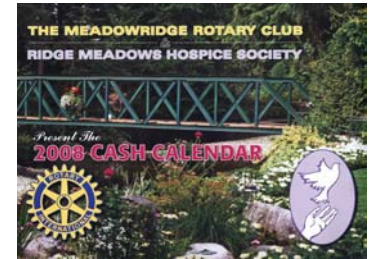
On behalf of all the staff, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our members for the years of service performing the duties of a paymaster. Your assistance in this capacity has been immeasurable and a major contributing factor in our remaining a viable hall.

As a result, nobody has Bingo duty for the months of January, February and March 2008.

We will let you know what will happen after that, as soon we get more information.

Peter

HOSPICE CASH CALENDAR JANUARY 2008 WINNERS



1	\$3,000	Jule Hester	Maple Ridge
2	\$20	Monika Habart	Surrey
3	\$20	Ruby Fraser	Victoria
4	\$20	Betty Bolton	Maple Ridge
5	\$20	Nancy Lacey	Maple Ridge
6	\$20	Bell Industrial Battery	Maple Ridge
7	\$20	Brian Hawk	Surrey
8	\$20	William Petrie	Maple Ridge
9	\$20	Judith Holland	Surrey
10	\$20	G Elgear	Port Coquitlam
11	\$20	Barbara Arcari	Pitt Meadows
12	\$20	Irene Turgeon	Maple Ridge
13	\$20	G/N Walden	Maple Ridge
14	\$20	Yvonne Bourque	Maple Ridge
15	\$20	Walter Volpatti	Maple Ridge
16	\$20	Vikram Comondore	Vancouver
17	\$20	Jan Rulon	Mission
18	\$20	Mike Norman	Maple Ridge
19	\$20	Virginia Pimintel	Surrey
20	\$20	John Purvis	Maple Ridge
21	\$20	Kim & ward Campanelli	Mission
22	\$20	Wilson Stewart	New Westminster
23	\$20	Rudolf Manke	Maple Ridge
24	\$20	Nancy Smith	Vancouver
25	\$20	Cindy Young	Port Coquitlam
26	\$20	Gerry Vickers	Maple Ridge
27	\$20	Joan Sweigert	Maple Ridge
28	\$20	Eileen Bentley	Mission
29	\$20	Claudette Karolyi	Maple Ridge
30	\$20	Dirk Wenzel	Maple Ridge
31	\$250	Marilyn Friesen	Maple Ridge