

R.I. PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In the last few weeks, as I considered what I might write on this page, I thought again and again of the words widely attributed to the American poet Ralph Waldo Emerson: "Peace cannot be achieved through violence; it can only be attained through understanding."

In Rotary, we work toward peace through understanding, and we work to build understanding through service. In our travels throughout the Rotary world, Joan and I have seen very vividly the kinds of projects that genuinely create understanding and bring people together. Most often, they're the projects that involve both Rotarians and beneficiaries. They're the projects that allow everyone to work with each other toward a common goal and to share in the pride and benefit of a job well done.

When we come together in friendship with the people we wish to help; when we communicate goals, needs, and expectations clearly; when we approach our work with a spirit of cooperation, not charity – this is when we truly build understanding. This is how we begin a process of change that will endure far longer than our involvement in any one project.

In the years since Rotary International chose to take on the goal of global polio eradication, we've seen again and again how working toward a common objective can bring people together. We've seen an unprecedented level of international collaboration as governments and agencies around the world have built new channels of communication and cooperation. And we've seen how the openness and trust that were developed through this effort have endured, allowing for other projects, more cooperation, and greater understanding among nations.

Rotary will never be able to solve all the world's problems or meet all its needs. What we can do, and what we try our best to do, is to help where and how we can – and, through our service, to bring people together in peace to help each other.

All of Rotary's projects, no matter how small, have the potential to build understanding and bring peace. As we enter World Understanding Month, I ask all of you to remember that every project has a twofold purpose: meeting its practical objective and building goodwill and friendship. If we plan and serve well, we'll also build lasting bridges to a better future. As Rotarians, we truly believe that peace is possible.

Wilfrid J. (Wilf) Wilkinson
President, Rotary International

GOOGLE GIVES ROTARY US\$3.5 MILLION TO HELP END POLIO

Rotary International has received a US\$3.5 million challenge grant from the Google Foundation, a non-profit managed by Google.org, in support of Rotary's top goal to eradicate polio worldwide. Rotary will raise funds to match the Google Foundation grant dollar-for-dollar over one year.

The grant and matching funds will directly support polio immunization activities carried out by the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI), a partnership spearheaded by the World Health Organization, Rotary International, UNICEF, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



The Four Way Flasher

Rotary Club of MeadowRidge Newsletter

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February is World Understanding Month



INVOCATION

Feb. 19	Ineke Boekhorst	Feb. 26	Brett Paskar
Mar. 4	Ken Paterson	Mar. 11	Dot Ralston

TODAY'S PROGRAM: Andrew Lenton - President Golden Ears Athletics

NEXT WEEK'S PROGRAM: Derrick Keist – Speed Watch Program

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Feb. 23: Vladimir Cukor

CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT 5050 EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
April 12		District Assembly	Kwantlen University College, Surrey, BC
May 15		2008 District 50/50 Conference	Holiday Inn, Pine Street, Everett, WA
June 15 -18		Rotary International Conference	Los Angeles

50 / 50 draw - Jackpot at \$604.00 + 1/2 of today's sales, 28 cards left, Jackpot on "Queen of Hearts" only!

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

Our Guests today were Zdenka Cukor, Peter Goudron and Terrance Doyle of Great Canadian Gaming, Rotarians Fran Shiffer and Dick Drew, and Terry Leland.

Announcements:

- February 13th Haney Club's Valentine Dinner & Dance, which is being held at Meadow Gardens.
- February 20th Mayor Robson will be speaking to the Haney Rotary Club on the State of the District.
- February 15th – 17th Shelterbox Event at Memorial Peace Park. The Ladies will be camping out on Saturday morning from 10 am – 1 pm. The guys will man the tents overnight.

Date to be set for a plaque presentation to La Trattoria for their continued support of the Italian Serata Dinner. We will set up at a luncheon meeting at the restaurant and utilize the opportunity for a New Members recruitment meeting.

- April 12th District 50/50 - District Assembly.
- May 15th – 18th 2008 District Conference in Everett Washington
- June 15th – 18th Rotary International Conference in Los Angeles

Mary introduced our Guest Speaker Gary Slavin, President of the Ridge Meadows Minor Ball Hockey Association. Mr. Slavin advised that ball hockey for youth has been in our community for 6 years. Registration has increased during that period from 137 youth to 920 youth, ages 3 -19 years old.



The game has a 3 month season – April thru end of June. Due to the timeframe and current availability of facilities, there are 70 kids on the waitlist at this time

The rink board purchase, which cost over \$100,000, has allowed evening and weekend play. The ball hockey families are very involved and committed to the program. The parents put up the monies themselves to allow the program to continue. The regulations require the game to be played on a dry floor arena only. Parents pay for the team uniforms and other costs pertinent to the game.

There are a number of fundraising programs that have been developed to help with funding for facilities and costs for players to attend Rep Games. The programs include "Donate a Board" – which provides the donor with a recognition plaque at the Golden Ears Winter Club. Rink Board advertising which provides 10 advertising spots for sponsors. There are advertising opportunities also available in the game programs.

The Ridge Meadows Minor Ball Hockey started the Rep Program to have something to compete in. Gary has been chosen to coach ball hockey in Europe this year.

Gordy advised that the Ball Hockey Association will be applying for some funding from the Sports Banquet Committee this year. Parents in our community are very supportive of youth sports, especially this group who have attended our Banquet in the past. It is extremely important to have activities available for youth in our community to keep them out of trouble and active.

Dick Drew ended the meeting by reminding us of the importance of the ShelterBox event this weekend and asked that we ensure the tent is manned at all times.

Submitted by Lynda Lawrence

AND WE THOUGHT IT WAS COLD TO OVERNIGHT IN THE TENT!

-30 degrees, covered in snow, wet and homeless in Afghanistan...



February 15th - Kabul:

ShelterBox's experienced SRT member & photo-journalist, Mark Pearson, has been making an intrepid expedition over the last two days to the worst effected area of Western Afghanistan. On his arrival to Kabul earlier in the week he met with ACTED & Rotary who described the snowfall was the worst in 60 years with many fatalities. He met many of the displaced families from the Helmand Province gathered in the city with no shelter, their clothes were wet, children had no shoes and were looking unwell in temperatures Mark could only describe as a "Baltic freezer" he added

"there is always so much more to do in the regions but with these terrible weather conditions even the city is affected." Local people were helping with what little they had. ShelterBox HQ is actively packing up vital aid of tents and warmth to be sent over the next few days. Additional SRT members will join Mark in-field with the army to make further assessments.



Families huddle with little or no shelter...