

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

April 18: Anil Bharwani, Ken Knuttila

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

April 6: Robert & Maureen Goodrick

## HELPING A SHANTYTOWN HELP ITSELF

By Mark Mitchell

Rotary International News - 03 April 2008

Egyptian Rotarians have joined forces with a local charity to help families in a Cairo shantytown become self-sufficient. The project, partly financed by a US\$9,335 Rotary Foundation Matching Grant, provides residents of the poverty-stricken Establ Antar community with vocational training and other educational opportunities.

The idea for the effort came from a group of young Egyptians who had been working with the Sohbet Kheir Organization to provide free meals to families in the shantytown. Though they realized the importance of short-term nutrition, they determined that Establ Antar's residents needed skills to support themselves. The group presented a plan to the Rotary Club of Cairo-Zamalek, which obtained support from the Rotary Club of Berlin-Nord, Germany, and the project was born.



Volunteers paint the new schoolhouse, financed by Rotarian Mamdouh Badr el Dein to provide literacy and vocational training classes.  
*Photo courtesy of the Rotary Club of Cairo-Zamalek, Egypt.*

Establ Antar is a community of tiny, one-room homes made of wooden boards and cloth, clustered around the historic Antar citadel. There is no plumbing; water is delivered by donkey cart. "The conditions are quite desperate," says Sohbet Kheir Organization project leader Yasmina Abou Youssef, whose father, Mohamed Abou Youssef, is a member of the Cairo-Zamalek club. "Rotary provided assistance, and now we are making a big difference."

So far, more than 280 people — mostly women and children — have enrolled in courses offered through the project. Children receive instruction in literacy, English, art, sports, and moral development, and adults take classes in literacy and handicrafts. Project leaders are looking for wholesalers and shops to regularly sell the students' creations, and someone has already purchased 1,500 bracelets. In the future, the effort may provide computer courses and a Montessori school for children.

Meanwhile, community members are being trained to spread messages door to door about health, hygiene, crime, and environmental issues. They're also involved in implementing the overall project, giving them a sense of ownership. "That is something very unique," says Youssef. "This is a one-of-a-kind project in Egypt."



# 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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## April is Magazine Month

### INVOCATION

Apr. 8	Mary Robson	Apr. 15	Bob Shantz
Apr. 22	Valerie Spurrell	Apr. 29	Eng Hock Tan

### BINGO SCHEDULE

	6:15 - 8:15	8:00 - 10:00
April 17	Mina Park	Debbie MacRae
May 15	Kelly Fry	Valerie Spurrell

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

TODAY'S PROGRAM: Kelly Fry – "Who's Who"

NEXT WEEK'S PROGRAM: Karen & Kim Kamstra (Raptors Ridge Birds of Prey)

### 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 \$772.50 + 1/2 of today's sales, 22 cards left, Jackpot on "Queen of Hearts" only!

## MARCH 18<sup>TH</sup> MEETING

Bob Shantz advised that there is a dinner being held by the Maple Ridge Foundation to support the Ridge Meadows Youth Diversion Program. Their government funding has been sporadic, and they are in need of funding to keep the program running. Tickets are \$110 each or you can donate an item for the Silent Auction or make a cash donation. Tickets are available thru either Deb McRae or Bob Shantz.

Dave Rempel spoke briefly on the International Services Update in this week's Flasher.

The Four Way Test program for the schools will be going ahead thanks to Matt. The training sessions will be held April 7th and 10th from 4 - 5:30 pm. The session in the schools will be held April 23rd & 28th from 9 - 11 am. Please contact Matt for further details.

There was a brief video presentation from Shaw Cable on the ShelterBox Fundraiser. Bob thanked Dick Drew and Pat O'Brien for the tremendous job done on this project and asked them to hold up the cheque that will be presented to ShelterBox Canada in the amount of \$18,300. Great job Pat!

Our Guest Speakers were Barb Desjardins, Program Coordinator, and Maureen Newton, volunteer & Board Member, of the North Fraser Therapeutic Riding Association.

The program which was started by two women in 1973 is for disabled riders, (85% are children), and began with two donkeys and a pony. It was established to provide individuals with disabilities a venue for both therapy and personal growth. There are now 5 certified instructors, eight horses & four ponies, and about 60 volunteers involved in the program. The Association employs two Program Coordinators and three barn workers. This works out to the equivalent of 3 full-time paid positions. There are three riding sessions annually - Fall, Winter and Spring, each session has a ten week duration with participants attending once a week. It is the only therapeutic riding centre north of the Fraser River with riders from North Vancouver to Mission.

There is no government funding other than some funds from Gaming for parent participation at Bingo, which covers their lease costs. Their annual operating budget is just under \$200,000. The program is dependent upon the fundraising abilities and participation of their members.

There are autistic children as well as those physically handicapped in the program. The benefits, aside from the happiness of the children involved, include improvement of balance and development of coordination, strengthening of muscles and normalization of muscle tone, increased confidence and self esteem, improvement of attention span, and promotion of independence and improvement of social integration. It also allows the riders to participate in the In-House Horse Show where they can showcase the skills that they've been taught (all riders go home with a ribbon). In June 2008, NFTRA will hold its 5<sup>th</sup> annual 2-day horse show and this year they will be hosting the "Canadian National Para Dressage Championships", which will be the last chance for national Para-Equestrian athletes to qualify for the Paralympics being held in Beijing in August.

If you wish to sponsor a class or make a donation, please call 604-462-7786.

**Submitted by Lynda Lawrence**

## LAST WEEK'S MEETING

Last week we had our yearly New-Member-Drive meeting at La Trattoria. It was very well attended, and hopefully we will end-up with some new members.



Our Club presented a plaque to La Trattoria, as a token of appreciation for hosting the Hospital Foundation Dinner in the past.

President Bob Shantz and Valerie Spurrell for the Ridge Meadows Hospital Foundation presented the plaque to Harry of La Trattoria.

Unfortunately Sandra Ranking, Executive Director of the Ridge Meadows Hospital Foundation, had to excuse herself (see below).

I am so sorry that I could not be with you on Tuesday. I had a real struggle deciding whether I should come and enjoy the Rotary meeting or stay at home and keep my germs to myself. I really wanted to come so I decided that since I work in healthcare that minimizing exposure to my virus was the responsible thing to do. I'm happy to hear that everything went very well.

Regarding the naming opportunities in the new Emergency/Ambulatory Care wing, I would like to offer these alternatives for your membership to consider:

- Ambulance Bay (1 of 3)
- Examination Stretcher in the Fast Track area of the Emergency
- Clinical exam room for the Asthma Clinic in Ambulatory Care
- Clinical exam room for the Stoma Clinic in Ambulatory Care
- Clinical exam room for the Oncology/General use in Ambulatory Care
- Clinical exam room for General use in Ambulatory Care

Please let me know as soon as you can because we need to get these inscribed soon for the opening of the Emergency on May 12. The Ambulatory Care area will not be open until fall so those areas will not be plaqued until late summer. The donor wall will be going up for May 12. Please call me if you need more information.

**Sandra Rankin, CFRE**

Executive Director, Ridge Meadows Hospital Foundation