

Dear fellow Rotarians,

I wish that every Rotarian could have the opportunities to see Rotary in action that Joan and I have enjoyed over the past months. From India to France, Hong Kong to Brazil, the Philippines to Turkey, we witnessed Rotarians demonstrating, with great compassion and ingenuity, just how much *Rotary Shares*.

We saw incredible disaster relief efforts in Pakistan and had the chance to inaugurate one of seven schools being built there with contributions by Rotarians. In India, we surveyed the impressive results of Rotarian tsunami recovery projects. In Brazil, we visited a school supported by the Foundation of São Paulo Rotarians that offers academic and vocational education as well as a program for the hearing impaired. And we felt very proud when we saw what Houston Rotarians have done in establishing a four-star hotel for patients and families visiting the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center.

Another of the year's highlights were our North American membership conferences. These seven meetings drew many Rotarians eager to reverse the region's downward trend in membership. They shared ideas and left energized to strengthen their clubs' membership.

Peace conferences provided another source of great inspiration for Rotarians, who met in Bulgaria, India, Kenya, and Turkey to discuss the obstacles to peace in each of these regions and consider how Rotary clubs can offer practical solutions. In Canada and France, Rotarians organized conferences around the theme Peace Is Possible, drawing participants from neighbouring countries to offer a valuable international perspective.

This month, we'll come together in Los Angeles for another important Rotary meeting – our 2008 RI Convention. I hope that many of you will take advantage of this opportunity to experience a little of the international fellowship that I've been so privileged to enjoy as RI president.

Throughout my travels this year, I met many people who congratulated me on Rotary's work to eradicate polio and to improve the quality of life in some of the world's poorest regions. I was especially struck by the words of Olafur Grimsson, the president of Iceland, who said to me: "Rotary has the right answer. Your organization includes men and women on an equal basis, and you have members from many countries, who represent every race, color, and creed. So what the world must do is have more Rotarians."

I couldn't agree more.

Thank you all for your great work. Joan and I will never forget the 2007-08 Rotary year.

Wilfrid J. (Wilf) Wilkinson
President, Rotary International



The Four Way Flasher

**Rotary Club of
MeadowRidge Newsletter**

**Vol. 14 Issue 52
June 24, 2008**

Web-site: www3.telus.net/MeadowRidge_Rotary

Meetings: Tuesday 12pm, Gourmet Hideaway Restaurant

President:	Bob Shantz	Phone: 604-463-9319	rdshantz@telus.net
Secretary:	Maureen Goodrick	Phone: 604-329-2879	maureen.goodrick@interprotech.ca
Editor:	Peter Boekhorst	Phone: 604-465-3392	mrrotary@telus.net

Next week (July 1st) NO Meeting

INVOCATION

June 24	Terry Becker	July 8	Brian Bekar
July 15		July 22	

BINGO SCHEDULE

	6:15 - 8:15	8:00 - 10:00
July 17	Wendy Lindvik	Matt deBruyn
Aug. 21	Diane Kirkland	



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

TODAY'S PROGRAM: Installation of 2008/09 Executive

NEXT WEEK'S PROGRAM: Dr. Barend Jan Terwiel - Myanmar

CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT 5050 EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Aug. 9	3pm	Bee BBQ – Vlad's Apiary	The Bee Farm – 129 th Ave., Pitt Meadows
Sept. 13		WineFest	Thomas Haney Centre

50 / 50 draw - Jackpot at \$59.50 + 1/2 of today's sales, 50 cards left, Jackpot on "Queen of Hearts" only!

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

Our Guests today were Rotarian Fred Armstrong, Marco's brother Bas Terwiel, Will Robson, Michael Saari and Ron Curren.

William spoke briefly on his RYLA experience as a facilitator this year, and expressed appreciation for having had the opportunity to attend last year at a tough time in his life.

Announcements:

On September 2nd, there will be an official opening of the new playground at Davie Jones' Elementary School. The Community Services Committee donated \$1,000 towards this project, and all Club Members are welcome to attend.

Sharon will present the bursary for the Youth Fire Academy on June 26th at Firehall No. 1.

Mary asked for volunteers for the "Socks for Seniors" program. There were 2,000 pairs of socks donated, which Sharon picked up and Maureen is storing until they can be distributed. Please let Mary know if you wish to participate.

Our Guest Speaker was Bjorn Osieck, Executive Director for the BC Soccer Association who attended today's meeting with Lenore Copeland and Claudia Hanggi. They came to provide information on a new program called Kickin'. It's a "soccer in school" program in partnership with PASS.

The purpose is to provide inner school elementary students the opportunity to learn to play soccer, and to develop self-esteem. Soccer is a safe universal sport. There are currently 120,000 members in the BC Soccer Association. The program provides seasoned volunteers and coaches.

The first year of the program focused on schools in Prince George, Burnaby and Victoria. 6,000 students Grades K-7 participated in 14,000 program hours at no charge. There are usually 3 – 4 instructors, and the students are in groups of 12 for more personalized training. They also provide free "Activity Books" to each participant.

The delivery mode for the program is three soccer days per school year. Their teachers are involved and are trained for the program. The purpose is to empower local groups and develop community well being. They want to utilize local soccer clubs expertise and emphasize local strengths.

With the program's initial success they are seeking more schools for program delivery. They are currently speaking with School District 42 and the local soccer club, Golden Ears United. The program is done on a cost recovery basis only. It costs between \$1,500. - \$2,800. per school depending upon the number of students. Students get 3 sessions each and an activity book. The funding covers honorariums for a Master Coach and 3 assistant coaches as well as the cost to produce the activity books. Schools and Parent Council groups are encouraged to raise funds towards the program costs. All monies locally raised are for the benefit of the schools within that community's catchment area. There may be matching funds available through BC Lotteries Gaming program as this is outside of the school curriculum. The Association is looking to put the program into three schools this Fall – Eric Langton, Pitt Meadows Elementary and Glenwood Elementary.

Submitted by Lynda Lawrence



The 99th annual Rotary International Convention, held in Los Angeles from 15 to 18 June, has drawn to a close. Approximately 20,000 attendees witnessed both historic moments in the battle to eradicate polio as well as the fun of being with fellow Rotarians.



Meet your new Rotary International President 2008-2009 (that is the one on the right!) Dong Kurn Lee.

Picture: Salt Lake City 2007

Rotary's goals to eradicate polio and improve health and literacy seemed to become more attainable after the 2008 RI Convention in Los Angeles drew to a close on 18 June.

More than 19,000 Rotarians from around the world celebrated fellowship, commemorated Rotary's history, focused on the future, and along the way set a Guinness world record.

The convention, which began on Sunday, 15 June, marked the official launch of Rotary's US\$100 Million Challenge, a three-year fundraising effort to match a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. In concert with the launch were two tremendous boosts from the World Health Organization and the government of Canada.

On 17 June, Dr. Margaret Chan, director-general of the World Health Organization, announced that WHO is making polio eradication the organization's top operational commitment "on a most urgent, if not an emergency, basis." Chan praised Rotary's conviction and big thinking attitude for the reason polio eradication is within reach.

RI President Wilfrid J. Wilkinson announced on 18 June that he just received a commitment of US\$60 million from the Canadian government toward polio eradication.