

Canada boosts global commitment to end polio

By Dan Nixon

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The Canadian government has announced it is contributing C\$30 million (US\$28 million) toward eradicating polio in sub-Saharan Africa.

The funding follows C\$60 million (US\$56 million) earmarked in June to help end the disease in Afghanistan. "Canada's contribution will ensure that millions of children in sub-Saharan Africa and Afghanistan are protected against polio," said Beverley J. Oda, minister of international cooperation, on 4 September. "Our innovative partnership with Rotary International, along with the World Health Organization and UNICEF, will help ensure that we move toward destroying this crippling disease."

Canada's latest contribution will help launch national immunization campaigns in sub-Saharan Africa, and at least C\$15 million (US\$13.9 million) will support disease surveillance and training for medical professionals in Nigeria. The funding comes at a critical time for Nigeria, according to WHO. A polio outbreak in the northern part of the country is putting the sub-Saharan region at risk, and stepped-up immunization activities are essential to prevent the disease from spreading.

In Afghanistan, Canada's support is helping to immunize seven million children under age five against polio. The effort includes mapping nomadic migration routes and establishing vaccination points at major border crossings to synchronize immunization schedules between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

So far, Canada has contributed almost C\$331 million (US\$308 million) to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, making it one of the top five government donors.

"Canada has led the way in the fight to eradicate polio from the face of the world," said Past RI President Wilfrid Wilkinson. "As chair of Rotary's polio eradication advocacy for Canada, I congratulate the government for its generosity, which is strategically directed to Nigeria and Afghanistan, two of the four remaining polio-endemic countries in the world."



Past RI President Wilfrid J. Wilkinson (left) and International PolioPlus Committee Chair Robert S. Scott join Beverley J. Oda, Canada's minister of international cooperation, in Ottawa, where Oda announced Canada's C\$30 million contribution to help end polio in sub-Saharan Africa. *Photo courtesy Canadian International Development Agency polio in sub-Saharan Africa.*



The Four Way Flasher

Rotary Club of MeadowRidge Newsletter

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Web-site: www3.telus.net/MeadowRidge_Rotary

Meetings: Tuesday 12pm, Gourmet Hideaway Restaurant

President:	Robert Campbell	Phone: 604-467-8373	robert@rocalink.com
Secretary:	Maureen Goodrick	Phone: 604-329-2879	maureen.goodrick@interprotech.ca
Editor:	Peter Boekhorst	Phone: 604-465-3392	mrrotary@telus.net

SEPTEMBER IS NEW GENERATIONS MONTH

INVOCATION

Sept. 30	Jennifer Dawkins	Oct. 7	Matt DeBruyn
Oct. 14	Brian Fox	Oct. 21	Kelly Fry

BINGO SCHEDULE

	6:15 - 8:15	8:00 - 10:00
Oct. 16	Sharon Kyle	Robert Campbell
Nov. 20	Maureen Goodrick	Walter Volpatti

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



TODAY'S PROGRAM: Fireside at Pitt Meadows Corn Maze
NEXT WEEK'S PROGRAM: Socks for Seniors

Next week lunch at Rosewood Cottage: 'Socks for Seniors'
Oct. 7 NO Regular Meeting: Sport's Banquet

CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT 5050 EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Sept. 30	Noon	Socks for Seniors	Rosewood Cottage
Oct. 7	6pm	Sport's Banquet	Meadow Gardens Golf Club
Nov. 4	Noon	D.G. Larry Stinson's Visit	

50 / 50 draw - Jackpot at \$402.50 + 1/2 of today's sales, 40 cards left, Jackpot on "Queen of Hearts" only!

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

Our Guests today were Michael Serry, visiting Rotarian Dan Olsen, Sonya Mandice of Great Canadian Gaming Corp, exchange student Nico, and Natasha McDonald from the Kidney Foundation.

Announcements:

Sports Banquet ticket sales going well. Please get a poster for display at your business.

The Terry Fox Run raised over \$27,000 over this past weekend.

Ineke reported on the success of the Wine Fest. There were 246 tickets sold, and with the volunteers and complimentary tickets that go to the wine and food vendors there were about 350 in attendance total. Lorene did a great job of securing the silent auction items. There was a great selection of wines in the two wine cellars. \$15,000 cleared so far, with some funds still to come in. Great job everyone!

The Shelter Box Dinner in Richmond went well. The Guest Speaker was Tom Henderson who created the Shelter Box concept. To date \$16,000,000 has been raised for the Shelter Box projects.

Our next two meetings will not be held at the Gourmet Hideaway. On September 30th our luncheon will be held at Rosewood Cottage, followed by distribution of "Socks for Seniors". There are 5 senior facilities that we will be visiting to distribute the socks. If anyone wishes to help with prep, please call Jen.



Natasha MacDonald, the Maple Ridge Kidney Foundation of Canada fundraiser, spoke briefly on the upcoming fundraiser to be held in Maple Ridge on October 15th & 16th at Haney Place Mall.

She advised that 30% of all money raised thru these fundraisers goes into research in Canada.

6,000,000 people in Canada are affected by this disease. The Round Up for Research Event (Jail & Bail Event), has high profile participants from the community arrested by the "Sheriff's Posse" and put into "jail". They have an hour to raise bail by calling everyone they know to pledge funds to pay their "bail". This event has not traditionally done well in Maple Ridge but she wants to change that this year. She is seeking individuals to participate in this fun filled event. If anyone is interested please contact Natasha at (604) 961-6630.

Our Guest Speaker was Howard Blank, Vice President of Media, Entertainment & Responsible Gaming, for Great Canadian Gaming Corporation. Howard advised that he has spoken with many Rotary members over the years, and was awarded with the Paul Harris Fellow award. Mr. Blank has been with GCGC for 25 years.

Great Canadian Gaming Corporation is one of BC's growing companies and the largest community-based gaming management company in Western Canada. They support local initiatives, events, charities and groups in their work to improve the lives of people in the communities where their facilities are located, and provide employment for over 2,000 people in BC.

Mr. Blank spoke of some of the challenges in bringing Gaming Centres into communities. Most people look at gaming centres as casinos, and are concerned about gambling addiction. He advised that their gaming centres consist of bingo and slot machines with entertainment facilities for live shows (no table games). He advised that all slot machines are government regulated. Bingo is more of a social event, whereas the casinos have the table



games and the high stake pots. Their gaming centres include an events room with the capacity to hold 300 - 400 people that can be used by various community groups. They provide dining facilities and live entertainment. Howard announced that GCGC has just become the official gaming company of the Vancouver Canucks, and that they are also working with the Canadian film industry.

Their focus is on responsible gaming and responsible choices. They strive to be an accountable corporate citizen and provide their customers with a positive gaming experience by promoting responsible gambling policies, practices and procedures within the gaming industry. Employee training stresses the importance of responsible gaming and how to offer help to customers who may need it.

When Trudeau was in power, he allowed gaming provided that monies would go back to charitable organizations within the communities where gaming facilities were located. Great Canadian is a major charity service provider with millions going back into the local communities where their facilities are located each year. Gordy congratulated and thanked Howard for their generous sponsorship of this year's Ridge Meadows Heritage Day event.

The Chances Community Gaming Facility will take about 18 months to build, and will be their first Leeds certified facility. The Gaming Centre will be located at 227th and Lougheed Highway.

Submitted by Lynda Lawrence

After Natasha McDonald's presentation on the upcoming Kidney Foundation fundraiser, I decided that, since my Mum was diagnosed with rhabdomyolysis, which has caused some kidney damage, I need to be a part of this important fundraiser.

Rhabdomyolysis is a very rare condition where serious muscle damage results in release of muscle cell contents into the bloodstream. On very rare instances, rhabdomyolysis may result in kidney damage and other organ damage which may be fatal. This condition is a side effect of a cholesterol lowering drug (Baycol) that she was taking.

Baycol (cerivastatin), which was initially approved in the U.S. in 1997, is a member of a class of cholesterol lowering drugs that are commonly referred to as "statins". Statins lower cholesterol levels by blocking a specific enzyme in the body that is involved in the synthesis of cholesterol. While all statins have been associated with very rare reports of rhabdomyolysis, cases of fatal rhabdomyolysis in association with the use of Baycol have been reported significantly more frequently than for other approved statins. Baycol was taken off the market in 2001, unfortunately at this point the damage had already been done.

My goal is to raise \$500. "bail". To date I've raised \$100. I'm asking for your support to help me reach my goal. If you go online to www.kidney.bc.ca and pull up Lynda Lawrence in the Virtual Jail you can make an online donation. If you wish to donate and would prefer to provide a cheque or cash, that works well too, just give me a call at (604) 467-3333. All contributions are gratefully accepted. You will be immediately provided with a tax receipt.

Thank you for taking the time to review this request.

Lynda Lawrence