

## HUNDREDS ATTEND ROTARY UN DAY

By Jennifer Lee Atkin Rotary International News -- 14 November 2008

More than 900 people, including Rotarians, Rotaractors, and Interactors from more than 44 countries, attended

Rotary International Day at the United Nations in New York City on 8 November. The day featured panel discussions on water, literacy, health, and hunger. Speakers came from within Rotary, the UN, and other partner nongovernmental organizations, illustrating how organizations can work together to tackle these challenging issues. Speaking on one of the panels, Martin Silink, president of the [International Diabetes Federation](#)(IDF), said that half of the 440,000 children with diabetes worldwide lack access to the insulin they need to live.

Silink encouraged Rotarians to undertake diabetes projects and noted that the UN passed a resolution in 2006 creating [World Diabetes Day](#), observed on 14 November. C. Wayne Edwards, a past district governor and member of the Rotary Club of Tallahassee, Florida, USA, described how he was inspired by his diabetic wife to raise money for diabetes causes during his year as governor. The result was a \$106,000 project that, with help from IDF, provided a diabetes camp for children and established seven clinics in Bolivia.

Other highlights of the day included an address by Grace Agwaru of Uganda, who in 1975 was the first heart surgery patient treated under the [Gift of Life](#) program, a Rotarian-supported initiative.

“By saving my life, you have enabled me to reach out to so many people in other communities and help them,” said Agwaru, who works for the [Teso Foundation for Sustainable Development](#). Agwaru also introduced the 10,000th Gift of Life patient, 11-year-old Jonathan Olunga of Uganda.

Some of the loudest applause of the day went to Anand Balachandran, interagency coordinator of the World Health Organization, who cited the effectiveness of the [Global Polio Eradication Initiative](#) by contrasting today’s four remaining polio-endemic countries with the more than 125 that existed when the initiative was launched in 1988.

“This work could not have happened without Rotary,” Balachandran said.

### Projects in the spotlight

Other Rotary service projects spotlighted during the day included [Adopt-a-Village](#), which addresses health, hunger, and education needs in impoverished communities in Africa; [Reach Out and Read](#), which makes literacy promotion a standard part of pediatric care; [Rotary Books for the World](#), which collects and sends books to impoverished communities in southern Africa; and [The Seed Program](#), which sends vegetable seeds to people in the developing world and teaches them to grow their own food.

First-time Rotary-UN Day attendees Thomas and Rosenia Devine of Emmaus, Pennsylvania, said the day’s program had given them many ideas to take back to their club.

“Our club wants to do more international projects, so I was very interested in learning more,” said Rosenia, president of the Rotary Club of Emmaus.

Peter Marshall, a member of the Rotary Club of Mineola-Garden City, New York, said he has attended the event for the past 12 years but this year’s program “was even better than I expected.”

“Every year, I come with an empty briefcase and leave with one that’s full of great ideas,” Marshall added, showing a portfolio stuffed with notes and brochures.

A youth program aimed at high school-age students ran concurrently during the morning session.

Summing up the significance of the day, RI President-elect John Kenny said: “If we look sensibly at the problems and work together toward the solutions, our world will be better than it was before. All of us are here today because we want to be the ones to work toward the solutions.”



RI President Dong Kurn Lee meets Jonathan Olunga of Uganda, the 10,000th Gift of Life patient.  
*Rotary Images/Alyce Henson*



# 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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## NOVEMBER IS ROTARY FOUNDATION MONTH

### INVOCATION

<b>Nov. 18</b>	Doris Gagel	<b>Nov. 25</b>	Maureen Goodrick
<b>Dec. 2</b>	Cailin Green	<b>Dec. 9</b>	Ken Knuttila

### BINGO SCHEDULE

	<b>6:15 - 8:15</b>	<b>8:00 - 10:00</b>
<b>Nov. 20</b>	Maureen Goodrick	Walter Volpatti
<b>Dec. 11</b>	Brian Bekar	Dave Rempel

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

**TODAY’S PROGRAM:** Operation Red Nose

**NEXT WEEK’S PROGRAM:** Nick Smith - RYLA

### CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT 5050 EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
<b>Dec. 9</b>	<b>Noon</b>	AGM	
<b>Jan. 20</b>	<b>5-9pm</b>	Visioning Session	

**50 / 50 draw - Jackpot at \$456.00 + 1/2 of today’s sales, 38 cards left, Jackpot on “Queen of Hearts” only!**

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

NOV. 23: LYNDA LAWRENCE

## LAST WEEK'S MEETING

Our Guests today were District Governor Larry Stinson, Assistant District Governor Denis Boyd & his wife Maureen, Art Birch, Heidi Johnson and Gary House.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Terry Becker presented Ineke with a cheque for \$500 to the Christmas Festival Society as a contribution towards the December 6<sup>th</sup> Santa Parade and Christmas in the Park.

Robert announced that the Visioning Session will be held on January 20, 2009 from 5 - 9 pm. Location to be confirmed.

The Foundation Dinner will be held on Friday November 7<sup>th</sup> in Skagitt Valley. Please see the district website for further information.

The Haney Club's Mens' Night is Wednesday November 5<sup>th</sup> at the Pitt Meadows Hall.

An email was received from Rotary International earlier today confirming that we have received the matching grant for the Philippines' Restroom Project that has been headed up by Heidi.

Matt announced that the second session of the Four Way Test Program will be held this Friday from 8:15 - 10:15 am.



ADG Denis Boyd introduced our District Governor Larry Stinson. Mr. Stinson was born and grew up in Rosslund. He moved to Calgary, and later came back to BC to attend law school at UBC.

He loved Vancouver with its' proximity to the ocean as he loves to sail. He met and married Karola, who has a fear of water, and they moved to the Fraser Valley so that she could have a horse.

At 49, Larry joined the Chilliwack Rotary Club, which has close to 200 members. He was the Rotoplast Project Quarter Master, the 2001/2002 Chilliwack Club President, and the former Assistant District Governor for our area.

The Stinsons now have a hobby farm homestead in the valley and they raise hazelnuts and horses. Larry also has his own little railway on site

Mr. Stinson spoke of our International Rotary President DK Lee's slogan for his term, "Make Dreams Real". He explained that DK's father had been a Rotarian and DK had seen the positive effects of Rotary on the recovery of Korea.



30,000 children under the age of 5 years of age die every single day as a result of poverty. Malaria currently kills more children in Africa than AIDS. We've invested in global eradication of polio, and we are now down to four countries that are still fighting the disease but we are winning this battle. It is DK's desire to have every club focus on one project to prevent child mortality. We need to focus on projects to provide clean water, food, sanitation and education. We need to provide long term sustainable projects to deal with literacy and education, seek alternate food sources, and combat the ignorance which leads to poverty and disease. The Gates' Foundation has pledged a \$100M to Rotary on a matching basis. We need to remember that as Rotarians "Mankind is Our Business".

Rotary's future is our youth. There are many avenues available to youth to become involved in Rotary - Rotoract, Interact, the Ambassadorial Programs, the Student Exchange programs and Group Study Exchange programs.

There are some new programs including the Club Visioning Sessions and the Rotary Leadership Institute to assist Clubs and their members to be better leaders and to develop new ways to raise funds to support our communities and the world.

Mr. Stinson presented Heidi Johnson with a Rotary Pride Pin for her tremendous work on the Muntidilaw project to provide washrooms facilities for the school. The construction is to begin in February/March 2009 with the ribbon cutting to be held sometime in May.

Larry invited us to join him at the District Conference to be held in Chilliwack, May 28 - 31, 2009, and at the Rotary International Conference in Birmingham, England starting June 21, 2009.

The meeting ended with Cailin and Robert playing a couple of tunes for Larry to show our Club's appreciation of his visit. I'm certain that "Your Rotary Heart" and "Crazy" will make the Rotary Top Ten.

Submitted by Lynda Lawrence

