

RI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As a father of four and grandfather of five, I have been fortunate to have spent many years in the company of children. When raising our own children, my wife, Young, and I worked hard to give them what all children need most: a loving, safe, and stable home. Our children were our first priority, and we made sure that they always had nutritious food, appropriate clothing, quality medical care, and a good education. We knew very well how fortunate we were to be able to do this. We were grateful that we never had to say to our children, "I'm sorry, but there's nothing to eat tonight," or "I'm sorry, but we can't pay your school fees."

When I was a child, Korea was a poor country, and there were many children who went to bed hungry at night and had no school to go to in the morning. As a Rotarian, I know only too well that there are still far too many children in the world without the absolute essentials: food, clothing, shelter, medical care, and education. And as a Rotarian who is also a father, I consider all of the world's children to be my responsibility.

When I see my own grandchildren – happy, healthy, and enrolled in good schools – I cannot help but think of the millions of children who do not have so many advantages. I think of the children who have too little to eat and only dirty water to drink. I think of the children who are sick with diseases that could have been prevented and those who will have nowhere safe to sleep tonight. And I think of the children, millions of them every year, who won't live to see their fifth birthday.

December is Family Month. It is a time to focus on our families, to involve them in our Rotary service, and to challenge ourselves to do even more for those in need. Because there are so many families and so many children waiting for our help, we, as Rotarians, cannot look away. We cannot and will not rest until all children, everywhere, have the chance for a long and healthy life. We will not rest until we *Make Dreams Real* for every child in every home where there is hunger, sickness, and want. As Rotarians, we can do no less.

Dong Kurn (D.K.) Lee President, Rotary International

MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT GOVERNOR

With the arrival of December, we are nearly half-way through this Rotary Year and I am coming to the end of my official Club visits. It has been a wonderful experience traveling to all corners of our District, visiting the Clubs, and learning all they are doing in their communities and internationally. I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the warm reception I have received during my travels. Rotary is strong in District 5050 and I have seen it first-hand.

December is Family Month and I would like to share with you a message from our International President, DK Lee, on the importance of the coming holiday season:

"This is a time for reflecting on the importance of friends and family and for thinking about the many good things we enjoy. It is also a time to think about how we can contribute to making the world a little better each day.

*As we in Rotary focus on finding how to **Make Dreams Real** for others, we are also working to realize our own dreams of peace, international understanding and goodwill.*

Children everywhere, whether near or far away, need our support and caring to keep them safe and healthy in a sometimes uncertain world. We can make a positive difference for the children of the world."

Karola and I would like to extend to each and every one of you, and your families, our wish for peace, good health and happiness as you celebrate the holiday season.

Your Governor, Larry



The Four Way Flasher

**Rotary Club of
MeadowRidge Newsletter**

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Meetings: Tuesday 12pm, Gourmet Hideaway Restaurant

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DECEMBER IS FAMILY MONTH

INVOCATION

Dec. 9	Ken Knuttila	Dec. 16	Sharon Kyle
Dec. 23	Lynda Lawrence	Dec. 30	Ron LePore

BINGO SCHEDULE

	6:15 - 8:15	8:00 - 10:00
Dec. 11	Brian Bekar	Dave Rempel

No Bingo duties for Jan., Feb, and March

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



TODAY'S PROGRAM: AGM

NEXT WEEK'S PROGRAM: Christmas Party

CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT 5050 EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Dec. 10	6:00pm	Haney / MeadowRidge Christmas Party	Meadow Gardens
Dec. 19		CP Christmas Train	Haney station
Jan. 20	5-9pm	Visioning Session	
Jan. 24	8am / 4pm	Rotary Leadership Institute	Richmond, BC

50 / 50 draw - Jackpot at \$538.50 + 1/2 of today's sales, 36 cards left, Jackpot on "Queen of Hearts" only!

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

Today's Guests was Russ Yazdgerdiay (guest of Brian Bekar)

Today's Guest Speaker: Petra Remy (Rwanda Redress)

Announcements:

Vision Meeting scheduled for January 20, 2009 (5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.) A sign up sheet was distributed.

Friends in Need Fundraiser on December 9th at Meadowridge School.

Friday, December 19th the CP Christmas Train will be arriving.

January 24, 2009 – RLI

Ken Patterson donated \$100.00 to "Friends In Need Turning Wheels for Holiday Meals" to be held on December 11th & 12th plus \$20.00 to challenge all Rotarians, plus \$5.00 for every Rotarian who participates.

Mike Davies announced \$500.00 has been approved by the Community Services Committee to go towards the Caring Place Christmas Turkey Dinner.

Sharon gave 41 Happy \$ and announced she will be retiring from Meadow Gardens Golf Course after 41 years.

Our Guest Speaker Petra (who works for VanCity Savings) gave us a very informative presentation of her four-week trip to Rwanda, Africa in May of this year with a friend to visit Cathy Emerson, formerly of Maple Ridge who had gone to Rwanda in 2003 to help with a development project. Petra advised the country's economy and social and cultural fabric was rent by the 1994 genocide, when 800,000 Rwandans were slaughtered by their countrymen in 100 days. Petra delivered suitcases full of badly needed items for the children who mostly come from single parent homes. Petra also advised that one out of every nine children are orphans.



Rwanda has many small Savings and Credit Co-operatives, called SACCO'S, but the Country is still desperately poor and underdeveloped as a result of the genocide and civil war. More than 80 percent of the people live in the rural areas and eke out a living on a hectare or less of land.

The Rwandan government is also working to develop a strong microfinance sector – financial independence for women is imperative to Rwanda.

The mandate for the Country is to:

- Empower the Community
- Educate the People
- Provide Health Care
- Economic Growth (Tourism, Entrepreneur, Agriculture)

Submitted by Maureen Goodrick

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Dec. 10: Peter & Ineke Boekhorst

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Dec. 11: Wende Dawes

OUR EX-EXCHANGE STUDENT ANA

Hi everyone! I know it took me a long time to write again! I've been meaning to! But every time I'm about to something comes up!! But now I have some free time! And I don't want you to forget about me because I can't forget any of you!!

So how's everybody doing?

I'm about to finish this semester! I'm so happy!! I've been working very hard in school and I want vacations now! ☺

And my brother's back home! He was living in Puebla (my parents hometown), he was studying Architecture and he was really into it, but my dad needs help in his business and my brother knows about it very well plus he trust him so he asked him to come and help, I'm sad because he dropped school, but I'm happy he's here!!! Because I get along with him very well and since my sister got married I've been kind of alone so now I have someone to be with!

So Christmas is just around the corner hey! And I can't believe it's already been 2 years since I came back to Mexico! Not very long ago I was with all of you getting really excited about spending Christmas with my host families with all that snow!!!

What's everybody doing for Christmas? I'm going to Puebla; my grandmother has been a little sick so we want to be with her, I'm leaving on the 24th, the day before is my 18 birthday!! And I don't know what I'm going to do that day yet. For New Years I'm going to be here in Oaxaca, we always spend that night with my dad's family, and it's sometimes boring because all my cousins are way older than me, but the good thing is that my boyfriend's coming!! We're going to spend that day together!! I'm so excited!! I love this season!!

Next Year I'm going to go to college!! I think I'm going to study textile design! I love art!! I love creating things! Plus I'll learn a lot about art history and I'm going to be able to work in many different places! And I'm going to live in Puebla!

Oh but guess what? Before going to college I'm planning to go back to Maple Ridge in summer!!!! I talked to my dad and he said that I can go, so I'm going to start planning it next year! I miss Canada and my host families so much!! I also miss the Tuesday's luncheons!! So if it's ok, I'll love to go to a luncheon while I'm there!

I got to go now! I'll try to write more often!

Remember that I haven't forgot any of you and I never will! I hope you haven't forgot me!

Thanks!!!

Love you and miss you lots!!!!

Ana Castillo

