

**BILL GATES ANNOUNCES NEW US\$255 MILLION GRANT FOR ENDING POLIO**

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has awarded US\$255 million to Rotary International in the global effort to eradicate polio, bringing the total committed by Rotary and the Gates Foundation to \$555 million.

Shortly after meeting with incoming district governors from the four countries where the wild poliovirus is endemic -- Afghanistan, India, Nigeria, and Pakistan -- Bill Gates announced the new grant on Wednesday morning at the International Assembly in San Diego, California, USA.

“Rotarians, government leaders, and health professionals have made a phenomenal commitment to get us to a point at which polio afflicts only a small number of the world’s children,” Gates said. “However, complete elimination of the poliovirus is difficult and will continue to be difficult for a number of years. Rotary in particular has inspired my own personal commitment to get deeply involved in achieving eradication.”

"We are going to end polio now," affirmed Robert S. Scott, chair of RI's International PolioPlus Committee. In response to the new \$255 million Gates Foundation grant, Rotary will raise \$100 million in matching funds. In November 2007, RI received a \$100 million Gates Foundation grant, which Rotary committed to match by raising \$100 million.

The two Gates Foundation challenge grants now total \$355 million. Rotary International’s matching effort in response is called Rotary’s US\$200 Million Challenge, which must be completed by 30 June 2012.

The \$255 million grant is one of the largest challenge grants ever given by the Gates Foundation and the largest received by Rotary in its 104-year history. Rotary will spend the grant in direct support of immunization activities carried out by the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, which is spearheaded by [RI and its partners](#), the World Health Organization, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and UNICEF. Rotary will distribute the funds through grants to WHO and UNICEF.

The participation of Rotary clubs and individual Rotarians in Rotary’s US\$200 Million Challenge remains crucial to its success. Rotary has raised nearly \$73 million toward this amount: \$62 million in contributions and \$11 million in commitments. Each club is being challenged to organize a public [fundraiser](#) annually for the next three years. In October, The Rotary Foundation Trustees approved special Paul Harris Fellow Recognition, which begins 1 July, featuring a certificate with the End Polio Now logo.

Polio eradication has been Rotary’s top priority since 1985, with more than \$1.2 billion contributed to the effort. Gates praised Rotary for providing the volunteers, advocates, and donors who have helped bring about a 99 percent decline in the number of polio cases. “The world would not be where it is without Rotary, and it won’t get where it needs to go without Rotary,” he said.

The final hurdle still is ahead, said RI President-elect John Kenny. This grant shows that the Gates Foundation is just as committed as Rotary to ridding the world of this disease, he said.



Bill Gates announces a new US\$255 million grant for ending polio at the 2009 International Assembly in San Diego,



# The Four Way Flasher

**Rotary Club of MeadowRidge Newsletter**

**Vol. 15 Issue 31  
Jan. 27, 2009**

Web-site: [www3.telus.net/MeadowRidge\\_Rotary](http://www3.telus.net/MeadowRidge_Rotary)

Meetings: Tuesday 12pm, Gourmet Hideaway Restaurant

President:	Robert Campbell	Phone: 604-467-8373	<a href="mailto:robert@rocalink.com">robert@rocalink.com</a>
Secretary:	Maureen Goodrick	Phone: 604-329-2879	<a href="mailto:maureen.goodrick@interprotech.ca">maureen.goodrick@interprotech.ca</a>
Editor:	Peter Boekhorst	Phone: 604-465-3392	<a href="mailto:mrrotary@telus.net">mrrotary@telus.net</a>

## JANUARY IS ROTARY AWARENESS MONTH

### INVOCATION

<b>Jan. 27</b>	Wendy Lindvik	<b>Feb. 3</b>	Debbie MacRae
<b>Feb. 10</b>	Kevin Nosworthy	<b>Feb. 17</b>	Patrick O'Brien

### BINGO SCHEDULE

	<b>6:15 - 8:15</b>	<b>8:00 - 10:00</b>

**No Bingo duties for Jan., Feb, and March**

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



**TODAY’S PROGRAM:** Chris Wilson – Esteem Team

**NEXT WEEK’S PROGRAM:** Lorie Mueller – Athletes in Kind

### CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT 5050 EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
<b>Apr. 4</b>	<b>8am / 2pm</b>	District 5050 Assembly	Kwantlen University, Surrey

**50 / 50 draw - Jackpot at \$611.00 + 1/2 of today’s sales, 35 cards left, Jackpot on “Queen of Hearts” only!**

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Jan. 27: Sharon Kyle      Jan. 28: Mike Davies

## LAST WEEK'S MEETING

Our Guest today was Irena Shantz.

Ineke announced that she has tickets for the upcoming Ridge Meadows Education Foundation Dinner which will be held at Thomas Haney Secondary School on Friday, February 27. Cost of tickets is \$60.00 per person.

Nico Thomas is now staying with Robert and Cailin.

Our Guest Speakers today were Rhonda O'Grady and Linda Szilagyi of the Ridge Meadows Hospital. Their topic was Health Promotion and Prevention Services and the communities that are served are Maple Ridge, Pitt Meadows and the Katzie First Nation.

Programs offered include:

Communicable Disease Control (Immunization Clinics, Flu Clinics and Kindergarten Booster Fairs.

Perinatal Services (Best Beginnings, priority prenatal/post-partum services, Perinatal depression screening using the Edinburgh Depression Scale, Prevention of the Shaken Baby Syndrome) and Buddy Up for Breastfeeding.

**The Purpose** – to ensure that babies born in B.C. are the healthiest that they can be by increasing immunization and breastfeeding rates and reaching the high-risk prenatal population by supporting the work of the Health Promotion and Prevention Department of Fraser Health in the area of Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows.

**The Rationale for this Project** - B.C. has the highest number of children living in poverty 20.9%. The average lone parent family is living \$9,600. below the poverty line. 33% of all low income children live in families where the parent/s work full time and full year. Poverty rates for children in Aboriginal, visible minority and immigrant families are at least twice the average B.C. rates. The richer a woman is, the more likely she is to breast feed. Breastfeeding minimizes the effect of poverty ... at the breast, all babies are equal.

**Community Benefits** – Eliminates childhood disease through the development of safe, effective immunization programs. Twice yearly Kindergarten Booster Fairs ensure children are up to date with immunization before school entry. Help women achieve healthy weight gain during pregnancy and provide women with advice about healthy birth intervals, smoking cessation, screening, treatment of maternal infections and promoting a healthy diet to improve birth outcomes.

A hand out was distributed to Rotarians listing items for donation.

If anyone is interested in manning a booth at the Booster Fair which are held in June and September or getting involved with some of the other duties please feel free to contact Rhonda at [Rhonda.Ogrady@fraserhealth.ca](mailto:Rhonda.Ogrady@fraserhealth.ca).



If you are interested in volunteering time, all of the necessary forms have been left with Maureen G.

**Submitted by Maureen Goodrick**

## KENNY SAYS 'FUTURE OF ROTARY IS IN YOUR HANDS'

The 2009-10 RI theme acknowledges the important role individual Rotary clubs will play in shaping the future of Rotary.

RI President-elect John Kenny unveiled the theme, *The Future of Rotary Is in Your Hands*, on Monday during the opening plenary session of the [International Assembly](#), an annual training event in San Diego, California, USA, for incoming district governors.

"The future of Rotary will not be shaped at RI headquarters -- it will be shaped in each and every Rotary club," Kenny said, "because it is for each of us -- as Rotarians -- to do what is necessary to keep Rotary strong."

Kenny acknowledged the foundation established by past Rotary leaders and laid the responsibility for building upon that success on every Rotarian.

"Each one of us is standing on the shoulders of generations of Rotarians past, and it is our responsibility to determine Rotary's future," Kenny said.

"The goals we set, whatever our action plan, it is in our hands to accomplish or not," said Kazeem Mustapha, governor-elect of District 9125 (Nigeria). "Everybody has to be involved."



RI President-elect John Kenny announces the 2009-10 RI theme, *The Future of Rotary Is in Your Hands*, to incoming district governors at the 2009 International Assembly.

*Photo by Alyce Henson/Rotary Images*

