

FRIENDS IN NEED FOOD BANK

If you haven't yet donated to the 'Friends in Need' Food Bank, you still have 1 week to do so! You are being asked to donate 2 non-perishable food items, or a monetary donation. Thank you.

SANTA PARADE 2009



FIN Food Bank bus



Joanne Olson
Exec. Dir. FIN Food Bank



Gordy pushing the cart

A great big "Thank You" to those Rotarians participating this year.

Saturday Dec. 5th, 6 pm...it was a cold night, but it didn't rain or snow, like in previous years!

A very successful and dazzling parade this year with approx 50 entries.

About 10 Rotarians assisted by receiving cash and food donations along the Santa Parade route for the Friends in Need Food Bank.

Thanks to those Rotarians, the Friends in Need received 1090 lbs. of food (last year 777lbs.) and well over \$2000 in cash!

A very festive and happy event, starting the "official" Holiday Season for Downtown Maple Ridge.

Thanks again to all of those participating.



The Four Way Flasher

Rotary Club of MeadowRidge Newsletter

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Web-site: www.meadowridgerotary.ca

Meetings: Tuesday 12pm, The Gourmet Hideaway Restaurant

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December is Rotary Family Month



INVOCATION

Dec. 8	Peter Jinnah	Dec. 15	Ken Knuttila
Dec. 22	Melissa Kramer	Jan. 5	Sharon Kyle

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Dec. 10: Peter & Ineke Boekhorst

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Dec. 11: Wende Dawes

Dec.13: Fraser MacRae

TODAY'S PROGRAM: Annual General Meeting

NEXT WEEK'S PROGRAM: Spirit of BC Presentation

CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT 5050 EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Dec. 10,11	9:30 am – 9:00 pm	Turning Wheels for Holiday Meals	Haney Place Mall
Dec. 18	7:00 pm	CP Christmas Train	Haney Station
Dec. 22	Noon	Christmas Party	
Dec. 29		NO MEETING!	
Jan. 26	6:00 pm	Fireside Meeting – Marco's home	21616 River Rd. M.R.

50 / 50 draw - Jackpot at \$443.00 + 1/2 of today's sales, 38 cards left, Jackpot on "Queen of Hearts" only!

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

Our Guests today were Sheryl Strongitharm, Visiting Rotarian Ms. Zhao, Paulette Camosi and Lindsay Willis.

ROTARY MOMENT - Anil

Anil spoke briefly on the establishment of the Rotary Foundation.

In 1917, RI President Arch C. Klumph proposed that an endowment be set up "for the purpose of doing good in the world." In 1928, when the endowment fund had grown to more than US\$5,000, it was renamed The Rotary Foundation, and it became a distinct entity within Rotary International. Five Trustees, including Klumph, were appointed to "hold, invest, manage, and administer all of its property . . . as a single trust, for the furtherance of the purposes of Rotary International."

Gordy introduced our Guest Speaker, MLA Rich Coleman.



MLA Coleman has served as governor of the B.C. Kinsmen, president of the Aldergrove Chamber of Commerce, and as a director on several volunteer boards. He was awarded Rotary's highest honour, the Paul Harris Fellowship, and received a Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal in 2003. Before his election to the Legislative Assembly, Rich ran a real estate management and consulting company. He is also a former member of the RCMP and a security specialist. Rich and his wife, Michele, live in Aldergrove and have two adult children. He has been the Minister of Housing & Social Development since June, 2008. He has served as the Minister responsible for Housing since 2005.

MLA Coleman began by telling us that he wasn't with us to talk politics, but to tell us how Rotary has touched his life. He was very honoured to receive the Paul Harris Fellowship award.

Rich came from a large family. At 17 years of age, he was sponsored for a Rotary Adventure that took him across Canada by train. It was a life changing experience that allowed him to see Canada and meet different people. Later

his sister Anne had the opportunity for a Rotary Adventure in the Philippines.

Rich explained that he was anaemic as a child, and had to wear special shoes with a brace. There was some question on whether he might have had polio. As a result he is very cognisant of the tremendous work Rotary has done in its effort to eradicate Polio throughout the world.

He advised that we've had the largest immunization program in Canadian history this year due to the H1N1 virus, but that it's nothing compared to the one day immunization of 127,000,000 children that was done in India to further the eradication of polio. Nothing has ever mobilized people and taught volunteerism, the life blood of communities, like the Rotary National Immunization Days. Since 1995 to date over two billion children have been vaccinated. Rich noted that because of Rotary 4,000,000 children are alive today.

Throughout his presentation, he kept emphasizing the importance of Rotarians and Rotary's volunteer work locally and around the world, and thanked us for the work we do.

He then referred to the local activities that Rotary Clubs undertake for their communities. When he was young they did not have money for all the kids in the family to take swimming lessons. One of the Penticton Rotary Clubs initiatives was to provide swimming lessons for entire families for \$2. They recognized the importance for children

to learn to swim and the recreational benefit for the families. As a result of the \$2 his parent paid, five people are alive today.

He then told us his 7-11 story.

Every time he drives by 7-11 it makes him smile because it reminds him of Rotary. Room 711 was where the first Rotary meeting was held on February 23, 1905. In 1989 the building was scheduled for demolition. Recognizing the historical importance of the room, it was dismantled piece by piece, salvaging the original interior, including doors and radiators. In 1993, the Board of Directors of Rotary International set aside a permanent home for the restored Room 711 on the 16th floor of RI World Headquarters in Evanston, Illinois.

Gordy asked Rich to outline a few of the accomplishments of his Ministry. Rich advised that they wrote the housing strategy four years ago. Their program began three years ago and since then they've provided rent assistance for 9,000 families, focused on the homeless and mental health issues, tripled the number of shelters, put outreach workers in 46 communities and purchased 46 buildings to provide addiction support.

Mr. Coleman thanked us for the opportunity to speak to our Club.

Submitted by Lynda Lawrence

MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT GOVERNOR

Greetings Fellow Rotarians:

Several members of your District and I recently returned from a Polio NID to Ethiopia. We now have several "Good Will Ambassadors" to spread the word of Rotary's vision to rid the world of this devastating disease. It was a trip that I know will not be forgotten by any of our returning Rotarians.

Our Foundation dinner was a resounding success.

We had a fun filled and educational evening. Our key note speaker, Ezra Teshome, is an Assistant Governor from District 5030. He also was one of the organizers of the NID to Ethiopia. He gave us an excellent description of what was experienced in Ethiopia. He has organized these trips for a number of years. Through his leadership, we were able to meet with the US Ambassador to Ethiopia and attend a meeting with the President of Ethiopia at the Presidential Palace.

At our Foundation Dinner on November 14, 2009, we were able to raise several thousand dollars for The Rotary Foundation due to the generosity of our Rotarians and Rotary Clubs. Our District Rotary Foundation Chair, Bill Robson, did an excellent job of putting this event together.

Please thank him the next time you see him.

If you have not yet made a tax deductible donation to The Rotary Foundation, there is still time before the year is over. You can make donations online. Go to www.Rotary.org and then click on Contribute.

Linda and I wish you all a very joyous holiday season.

Thank you for all of your hard work.

Remember, "THE FUTURE OF ROTARY IS IN YOUR HANDS."

Your Governor, Larry



Room 711