

ROTARY RESPONDS TO POLIO OUTBREAK IN TAJIKISTAN

Rotary International and its partners in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative -- the World Health Organization, UNICEF, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention -- are responding to a recent outbreak of wild poliovirus in Tajikistan.

Rotary is providing a total of US\$500,000 in emergency grants to UNICEF and WHO for immediate polio immunization efforts throughout the country. Neighboring countries are also increasing their surveillance efforts.

Seven children in Tajikistan have been stricken with polio, the first cases of the disease reported there since 1997, and the first in the WHO European region since it was certified polio-free in 2002.

"Polio importations such as the Tajikistan cases demonstrate our global vulnerability to infectious disease," said Carol Pandak, manager of RI's PolioPlus program. "It highlights the fact that polio 'control' is not an option, and only successful eradication will stop polio in resource-poor countries."

Outbreaks of imported cases are not uncommon during eradication efforts, underscoring the critical need to stop polio transmission in the remaining endemic countries: Afghanistan -- which borders Tajikistan -- Pakistan, India, and Nigeria.

"Our experience shows that where polio transmission has been stopped before, it can be stopped again," Pandak said. "A fast, large-scale, high-quality immunization response and strong surveillance are absolutely critical."

Global polio eradication is achievable, and stepped-up efforts to end the disease are paying off. As of 20 April, Nigeria has reported two polio cases in 2010, compared with 193 cases for the same period in 2009. India has reported no cases in the past five weeks. Multicountry synchronized immunization campaigns are continuing in West Africa, and the outbreak that affected the entire region in 2009 now appears to be confined to the westernmost part.

According to a *Wall Street Journal* article, Bill Gates talked about the challenge of eradicating polio during a trip to Nigeria last year. "The benefit of finishing is huge. ... We really stand at the threshold of global health success on polio."

A [video](#) accompanying the article illustrates Rotary's vital leadership role in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. Rotary's commitment to end polio represents the largest private-sector support of a global health initiative in history. Since 1985, Rotarians have contributed more than \$900 million to polio eradication, volunteered their time and personal resources, and helped immunize more than two billion children in 122 countries.



A Rotarian in Nigeria verifies that children in a household have been immunized against polio. The perseverance that is helping to turn the tide against polio in Nigeria is also being applied to the recent outbreak in Tajikistan.
Rotary Images/Joseph Lorenzo



The Four Way Flasher

Rotary Club of MeadowRidge Newsletter

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April is Magazine Month



INVOCATION

May 4	Bob Shantz	May 11	Peter Tam
May 18	Walter Volpatti	June 1	Stan Wade

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

May 1: John & Terry Becker

May 2: Ken & Gayle Paterson

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

April 27: Lorna Anderson

April 28: Peter Boekhorst

April 29: Lindsay Hendy

TODAY'S PROGRAM:

Jack A. Bass - Federal Stimulus funding for Small Business

NEXT WEEK'S PROGRAM:

CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT 5050 EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
May 13-16		District 5050 Conference	Tulalip Resort Casino, USA
May 25		Fireside	Marco Terwiel's residence
June 20-23		Rotary International Convention	Montreal
June 29		Installation Executive 2010/2011	Heather Hills Farm

50 / 50 draw - Jackpot at \$884.50 + 1/2 of today's sales, 23 cards left, Jackpot on "Queen of Hearts" only!

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

President Marco opened proceedings with Sharon leading the singing of O Canada and Alphonse being reminded of his duties to provide invocation.

Guests at the meeting were Matt Lynam, Kyra Summers, Derek Robson, Fellow visiting Rotarians Ellysa Lockhart (from Mission Midday Rotary), Brian Johnson and Adrienne Dale.

Sergeant at Arms, Jim Coulter, elicited Happy & Sad dollars from a number of folks:

- Dave Rempel mention that member Vladimir Cukor is doing ok, not great physically but sharp as a tack as always,
- Marco Terwiel mentioned district assembly and asked members to attend the coming District conference in May,
- Gord & Mary Robson were happy to be back with family in town and marriages pending while
- Robert Campbell was happy about the wedding events of the previous weekend.

Fine Master Sharon Kyle threw a softball at table one about polio fundraising while fleecing table two and three with less obvious queries and then Ineke Boekhorst drew nearly everyone into her net by evading handshakes as Mystery Greeter.

A great "Rotary Moment" was given by Micheal Serry who talked about the 'Kicking Polio out of Africa' campaign being mounted by celebrities and governments of Africa and Marco followed with news that active new polio cases showed a fabulous drop in numbers recently in India, Nigeria and other countries.

Marco mentioned:

- District Conference May 17th weekend. The Club will pay for 5 members to attend so PLEASE consider attending this event. It sheds great light on the way Rotary is at work around the world and in our communities and is a great way to meet folks and get more out of Rotary.
- The club is invited to the UBC research Forest for a BBQ on May 6th as a 'Thank You' to the club for supporting their work. Please let Marco or Alphonse' know if you can attend

Ineke mentioned the Maple Ridge Community Foundation dinner on April 24th. The "Family Feud" theme has our club 'competing' with other groups for the prize of \$5000 for our chosen charity – Ridge Meadows Hospice. Donations are welcome via: <http://www.mrcf.ca/cms>

Guest Speaker



Allen Heindrichs – District 5050 GSE member – spoke on his trip to India between Dec. 28 and the end of January plus his extended stay through February. Allen is a paramedic / first responder and also a professional engineer! He lives in Surrey and was sponsored on the trip to Rotary District 3110 in the Uttar Pradesh area of India by the Cloverdale Rotary club.

Uttar Pradesh is in Northern India and India itself is about 3.5 times the size of BC and has over 1 Billion people. The trip focused, as all SSE trips do, on the cultural and vocational exchange of ideas and understandings. Allen commented on the many religions and the deep history of India and the amazing contrasts and disparities. He noted that Christianity was present there before it made inroads to Europe and that the sciences flourished and excelled centuries before other places. He showed great photos of building designed for astronomical calculations that could tell time to the second or less!

Allen noted that India says it has never invaded another country but so many have invaded it. India gained independence from the Commonwealth in 1948 and has been growing ever since. There is a large gap between rich and poor and Allen noted that he felt some angst when viewing this and the situation we experience at home. He noted the chronic issue of finding clean water and showed the disparity well with photos of beautiful vistas and people disfigured by water with too much fluoride, wretched conditions and the Taj Mahal. Beauty and torment side by side.

He concluded his talk with some question and answers and additional photos – just a few of the 2500+ he took! – and mentioned how good the experience was and how hospitable the Rotary family of India was for them while they were there.

He has provided a link to his photos and this will be linked on our website for those who want to see more.

Marco closed the meeting by having Jim Coulter overseeing the drawing of Jims own ticket! Conflict of interest was avoided by Jim then pulling the Queen of Diamonds from the diminishing deck of cards and not the Queen of Hearts. The pot carried forward...

Submitted by Robert Campbell

MAPLE RIDGE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION – CITIZEN OF THE YEAR DINNER

This year's Citizen of the Year Dinner was held on April 24th and included a fundraising game called 'The Family Feud'. Each team had to raise \$2000 to enter the game. The team that wins will be able to direct \$10,000 to its charity of choice, and the team that raises the most money will be able to direct \$5,000 to its charity of choice.

The competing teams were:

Duekin Marshalls, Howard Hustlers, Haney Rotary, HUB Helps, Remax Ridge Meadows for Kids, The Chamber Champs, Meadowridge Rotary and Volume Hair Lounge & Spa.

Our team was playing for the Ridge Meadows Hospice Society, but unfortunately they were kicked out in the first round. The winning team was Duekin Marshalls (District of MR).



The main event was the announcement of the Citizen of the Year. This year the election committee couldn't decide between two nominees, so this year was the first time there were 2 Citizens of the Year, and oh wonder both are Rotarians: Mike Murray and Ineke Boekhorst.

Ineke was chosen for her all-round involvement in all kinds of events and charities in Maple Ridge. This is just a short list of her activities:

Member of MeadowRidge Rotary since 1990, Board Member of Friends in Need Foodbank since 2006, Board member of Ridge Meadows Education Foundation, Member of the Spirit of BC Community Committee since 2007, Board member and founding member of Caribbean Festival since 2001, Board Member and founding member of Festival of Light board since 2009, Member and founding member of Arabian Nights Festival (2007), Board member of MR Christmas Festival and Santa Parade, Member of the Annual Canada Day Celebration committee since 1997, Board Member of the Heritage Day Festival, Volunteer Community Policing; Citizens on Patrol since 2006. **Congratulations Ineke!**