

NEW POLIO ERADICATION PLAN LAUNCHED

By Dan Nixon

Rotary International News -- 12 July 2010

The World Health Organization and UNICEF co-hosted a meeting with Rotary International and other stakeholders

in Geneva on 18 June to launch the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) Strategic Plan 2010-12.

The new plan comes at a critical time for the GPEI. Key endemic countries are witnessing historic gains against the disease. Nowhere is progress more evident than in Nigeria, which has reported just three cases in 2010 as of 6 July compared with 333 cases for the same period in 2009. India has reported 22 cases compared with 107 cases.

Across Africa, 10 of the 15 previously polio-free countries reinfected in 2009 have stopped their outbreaks.

In May, the World Health Assembly welcomed the new plan while expressing deep concern about the substantial funding gap over the next three years. The shortfall is a serious risk to ending polio and highlights the need for Rotary to reach its goal of raising US\$200 million.

WHO Director-General Margaret Chan called on the international funding community to stand tall for polio eradication. "The next three years, and especially the next 12 months, are critical to the polio eradication initiative and, by extension, the entire international public health agenda."

An essential element of the plan is the bivalent oral polio vaccine, which is being used effectively against wild poliovirus types 1 and 3 in all four endemic countries: Afghanistan, India, Nigeria, and Pakistan. (Type 2 poliovirus has been eradicated.)

The plan also focuses on known polio migration routes, which have made outbreaks of the disease largely predictable. Aggressive synchronized immunization campaigns are now being used to help prevent and stop outbreaks.

The partners of the GPEI are exploring every option to secure fresh funding and are managing existing cash flow to limit any threat to the eradication effort. The risk of not stopping polio in endemic countries was made clear when a large outbreak occurred in Tajikistan, caused by poliovirus that had spread from India in early 2010. The outbreak has paralyzed 334 children as of 29 June. Tajikistan had been polio-free since 1997.

"The complete eradication of polio is an absolute goal, and it requires absolute commitment from us all," says UNICEF Executive Director Tony Lake.

"Rotary believes the new strategic plan provides the blueprint to achieving the goal of polio eradication," says Rotary Foundation Trustee Chair Carl-Wilhelm Stenhammar.



Sudhir Gupta, a member of the India PolioPlus Committee and past governor of District 3100, immunizes four-year-old Sivi Sen against polio at the Moradabad railway station in Uttar Pradesh.

Photo by Allison Kwesell



The Four Way Flasher

Rotary Club of MeadowRidge Newsletter

Vol. 17 Issue 02
July 13, 2010

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INVOCATION

July 13	Brian Bekar	July 20	Anil Bharwani
July 27	Ineke Boekhorst	Aug. 3	Peter Boekhorst



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

July 17: Peter & Lise Jinnah
July 17: Kevin & Debora Nosworthy

TODAY'S PROGRAM: Malcolm Smith & Keith Kellaway - RYLA

NEXT WEEK'S PROGRAM: Zajac Ranch

CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT 5050 EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Aug. 21	1:30 pm	Golfun	Useless Bay Golf & Country Club Langley, Wa
Aug. 28	3 pm	BBQ at Patrick O'Brien's	10328 - 276 St. M.R.
Sept. 1	noon	DG Wayne Wiebe's visit	
Oct. 5		Sports Banquet	Meadow Gardens Golf Club

50 / 50 draw - Jackpot at \$1,204.50 + 1/2 of today's sales, 15 cards left, Jackpot on "Queen of Hearts" only!

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

Jim Coulter introduced our guest – Tom Bowen.

Happy and Sad:

- Robert Campbell announced that he's happy to have handed out 2 bursaries at SRTS – and very proud of his son.
- Bob Shantz was happy to pass around a rotary stamp he received at International Convention and he did a make up at the Rotary Club of Charlottetown Royalty. He presented 2 flags to Lynda.
- Marco Terwiel is happy to be an "ordinary" Rotarian – Montreal was terrific.
- Patrick O'Brien thanked the club for the support we gave him during his difficult family time.
- Ineke Boekhorst was happy to have been at convention and sad as her oldest son just went to his 20th high school reunion. Ineke also reported that Vladimir is not doing well and would appreciate calls from Rotarians.
- Gordy Robson reported he is happy that daughter Kyra called from Egypt and is on her way home. His sad news – Golf Course got reassessed and is now illegal.
- Doris Gagel is sad that her son is turning 50 but happy as she's here to see it.
- Lynda Lawrence is happy for the installation and summer has arrived.
- Alphonse – happy/sad – finished 3 cups of tea, now up for auction - \$25 to Laurie.

Lynda explained the "Every Rotarian Every Year" which appeared on our Invoices. It's the interest earned after 3 years which is used.

First Executive meeting at Lynda's on the 14th at 7:30 at her house. She reported she received an email advising the Canada/Afghan Centennial project is now complete. Also asked each of us to submit to her which committee you would like to participate in.



Cheque presentation of \$15000 to the Ridge Meadows Minor Softball Association for upgrading their batting cages.

President Lynda presented Ineke with a cheque of \$1000 for the Caribbean Festival. Ineke gave us a brief rundown on the events for the weekend.



Marco introduced Tina Lai – Ambassadorial Scholar. Cultural Scholar to Brussels, Belgium, Tina was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Steveston. A student of Economics she was drawn to Brussels in 1995 – this was the early days of the Economic European Union.

Growing up in an immigrant family with modest means, the oldest of 3 children and the racism she experienced while growing up is one of the reasons she chose a cultural scholarship.

She assisted in creating a multidisciplinary team to give workshops in Vancouver's Downtown eastside. She graduated from University with a Bachelor of Commerce. She returned to UBC Med School to pursue her dream of becoming a Dr. She will be off to Ladysmith to start her internship.

Tina shared with us her PowerPoint slideshow she put together on her trip and her life post Belgium.

Her experience with the Ambassadorial Scholar has influenced her life as a mother, daughter and wife.

Submitted by Terry Becker



MUSIC ON THE WHARF



Monday July 12 evening was the first of the Music on the Wharf series, which was kicked off by the band Newhouse with our very own Robert and Cailin Campbell.

The MeadowRidge Rotary Wine Festival was one of the contributors to this festival.

The other evenings of this festival are on Monday July 26, August 9 and August 23.

All the proceeds are going to the Maple Ridge Historical Society.