



# The Four Way Flasher

**Meadow Ridge Rotary Club**

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Website: [www.MeadowRidgeRotary.ca](http://www.MeadowRidgeRotary.ca)

Meetings: Tuesday 12pm, Bella Vita Restaurant

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## MARCH IS LITERACY MONTH



**TODAY:** Doug Mayer - RCMP SWAT Team

**NEXT WEEK:** Carol Sicoli - Self-Management Programs, Centre on Aging, UOV

### Happy Birthday

### Mar. 13

### Mar. 20

<b>Invocation</b>	Michael Serry	Bob Shantz
<b>Note Taker</b>	Lindsay Hendy	Mariella Ignatieff

### CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT 5050 EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Sun-March 18	5 pm	Potluck at Marco's house	21616 River Rd. M.R.
April 21	7pm – 10pm	Meadow Ridge Rotary Wine Festival	Thomas Haney Centre
June 01-03		District 5050 Convention	Semiahmoo Resort, Blaine, WA
June 22		Installation of new Executive	Pitt Meadow Golf Course

### DOLLY PARTON HELPS ROTARIANS SPREAD LITERACY

by Susie Ma *The Rotarian -- March 2012*

It can be hard to find books in Canada's vast Yukon. Claire Derome, 2009-10 president of the Rotary Club of Whitehorse-Rendezvous, knows of only one bookstore outside the capital, and in remote areas, access to libraries is also limited. Derome wanted to launch a literacy project that would reach all Yukon communities, and she found one in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.



Every month, Imagination Library mails an age-appropriate book to each child in the program, until age five. Research showed that up to 85 percent of families receiving books through the program read to their children every day.

Derome, who has a graduate degree in education, did not need more convincing. "The number of books you have at home is a good indicator of future success in school," she says. Her Rotary club

worked with the Yukon government and the Yukon Literacy Coalition to bring Imagination Library there, and 900 children are currently enrolled. The Dollywood Foundation and the participating community split the program costs; in Yukon, the Whitehorse-Rendezvous club covers the \$3.60 per child per month.

Imagination Library does not have income requirements. "Dolly did not want any child to feel singled out or left out," says David Dotson, president of the Dollywood Foundation. Parton was adamant that the books be new, because of her own experiences growing up with hand-me-downs. And in mailing the books to each young person, she wanted to re-create the joy she felt as a child when the Sears catalog arrived at her home, addressed to her family.

Imagination Library serves children in the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom. In 2001, 2,500 children were participating in the program; today they number almost 700,000. Imagination Library and Rotary International teamed up in 2009, and Rotary clubs are involved in the program in roughly 300 communities.

"I don't think we could do it without Rotary's involvement," Dotson says. "If you look at Rotary's presence in the world, it may be that the greatest aspect of our relationship is yet to come."

**50 / 50 draw - Jackpot at \$917.50 + 1/2 of today's sales, 20 cards left, Jackpot on "Queen of Hearts" only!**

## LAST WEEK'S MEETING

Guests were Meika Johnson, Erhardt Awram, Rebecca Awram, Chris Awram, Jonathon Dodd, Spencer Ignatieff and Deborah Hyslop.

Happy Sad:

- Jim Coulter was happy for his belated birthday card from our club, and his youngest son getting a silver medal this past weekend (they got the gold medal in 2011)
- Lindsay Hendy was happy to be going to PETS this upcoming weekend, and sad that he had not yet completed all his homework for PETS.
- Mariella Ignatieff was happy that Spencer's house league banner game in peewee hockey was won and Spencer only let 1 goal in.
- Ken Paterson was happy to be back from Hawaii.
- Laurie Anderson was happy he did not need to hear Marco Terwiel's presentation from prior week on Men's Health.

Mystery Greeter was Debra MacRae and there were a few groans upon this announcement.

Fine Master was Lynda Lawrence who asked groups question on Rotary, and unfortunately collected quite a few fines from our members, myself included.

Announcements:

Adrienne Dale announced the search for a new GSE team to be heading off to New Zealand in the spring of 2013 and if we Rotarians can keep our eyes out for any likely candidates. There will be a full commitment of 4 to 6 weeks as well as quite a bit of preparation time prior to the trip itself. She will update our club when the call comes out for the team leader.

Mary Robson invited our 4 YAIL participants to give us a brief update on their experience



- Chris Awram was skeptical of this camp before attending, but now it was his favourite camp because of its impact on him. Chris has learned that he must move ahead and be pro-active, and not wait for things to fall into his lap. He is more of a leader now.
- Erhardt Awram found it to be an amazing experience and learned to follow his dreams and passions. Erhardt also learned a bit on why he likes or dislikes other people.

- Jonathon Dodd met awesome people that have done so much with their lives as such young ages, and he now aspires to improve himself accordingly.
- Meika Johnson first commented that she will be helping out with the duck race again, and received a round of applause for this. Meika learned a lot about business and stereo types. She learned that there are more sides to people than you see.

Today's Program speaker Yashar Taheri-Keramati was introduced by Mary Robson.

Yashar was a past Ambassadorial scholarship winner. He has been to about 26 countries over the last 6 years, gone to 4 different universities and spent a few weeks living with a very impoverished family while his student friends were on normal spring break trips. This experience changed his life.



While Yashar was in Haiti (before the disaster) he found it to be one of the poorest countries he has seen, but the people were wonderful.

In the Congo he met one of the most beautiful women he has ever met, an elderly woman who had to watch terrorists kill 3 of her children and blind her eldest child, then cut off her own thumbs. She now runs a business and helps his last remaining blind child, and we saw a photo of this woman shaking Yashar's hand.

He has seen and lived with a lot of youth gangs and violence in South Africa, Cape Town area over the last several years, and has had virtually everything he has owned stolen from him there, including 2 dogs that he had purchased, supposedly for protection. Lack of education is one of the prevalent reasons for youth gang membership and violence in his opinion, with classes being overpopulated, with not enough teachers. Also poor diet due to not much healthy food being affordable causes a lot of disease. There are a lot of drugs and alcohol around, with new drugs being created from prescriptions, which are stolen.

Yashar sees the critical question as fostering a positive image for the youth of these area's. He believes the youth need confidence to find passions and one of the ways to communicate with these youth is through music, which is very popular.

Yashar has recently gotten a shipping container delivered to this Cape Town area where he has been living, and converted it into a music studio, which is going over very well. He now has 2 more containers on the way, and one will be converted to a mess hall with the other into a computer lab. He is planning for these containers to be a resource centre for the new high school just built in the area, but which currently has no supplies etc. to go with it.

As a last comment, Yashar supports peace and love.

**Submitted by Lindsay Hendy**