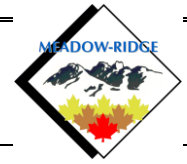




The Four Way Flasher



Meadow Ridge Rotary Club

Vol. 19, Issue 35

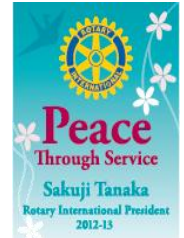
Mar. 12, 2013

Website: www.MeadowRidgeRotary.ca

Meetings: Tuesday 12pm, Bella Vita Restaurant

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March is Literacy Month



TODAY: Business Meeting

NEXT WEEK: Betty Johansen - "Who's Who"

Happy Birthday

Happy Anniversary

Invocation

Mar. 12 Mike Davies

Mar. 19 Angie Edmonds

CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT 5050 EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
May 30-Jun 02	11:00 AM	iRotary District Conference	Four Seasons Hotel, Vancouver
Jun 23 - Jun 26		Rotary International Convention - Lisbon	

FOUNDATION TRUSTEE CHAIR WILFRID J. WILKINSON MARCH IS A TURNING POINT

The month of March provides each of us with an opportunity to reflect on Rotary's accomplishments. It is during this month that we pause to recognize World Rotaract Week, International Women's Day, World Water Day, and Literacy Month – all significant reminders of the good that Rotarians have done worldwide.

As I've traveled around the world, I've been inspired by Rotaractors and their important contributions to the Rotary family. I've had the chance to work with the outstanding women who serve on our Board of Directors. I've witnessed the incredible progress The Rotary Foundation has made on water and sanitation – an area of focus that is crucial to our growing population.

And as we begin this month long celebration of literacy, I've seen how Rotarians have helped empower communities with simple, creative, and sustainable ways to break the cycle of poor education. Literacy plays a critical role in healthy and productive lives, and whether it was by volunteering at a local school, bringing language training to adults and children through

concentrated language encounter and computer-assisted literacy systems, or ensuring that all children have the textbooks they need, Rotarians have helped thousands.

Our promises and accomplishments have reached a turning point: We must now look at the goals we still aim to achieve. Keep the momentum up. Get the word out. Make sure your club knows about this important month in Rotary so that come next March, we'll have even greater successes to celebrate.

BLOOMBERG PHILANTHROPIES TO DONATE US\$100 MILLION TO POLIO ERADICATION

Rotary News -- 28 February 2013

New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg has announced a \$100 million donation to [support polio eradication efforts](#) through Bloomberg Philanthropies. The donation represents a six-year commitment to help fund the [Global Polio Eradication Initiative \(GPEI\)](#).

"We're at a critical juncture in the global effort to end polio," says Bloomberg. "If we're going to achieve a polio-free world, we must act quickly and commit now to providing the resources needed."

50 / 50 draw - Jackpot at \$899.00 + 1/2 of today's sales, 16 cards left, Jackpot on "Queen of Hearts" only!

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

President Lindsay presided, having returned from Fort McMurray.

We had only one guest, namely, Irena Shantz.

Happy and Sad

Ineke Boekhorst advised that Zdenka's mother-in-law (mother of our former member Vladimir Cukor) has passed away at the age of 99.

President Lindsay Hendy is happy to be back in town for a couple of weeks, but must return to Fort McMurray shortly where he is working. [For those of you who might not know, Fort McMurray is about 4 Hours north of Edmonton, and Vancouver is about 70 degrees Celsius south of Fort McMurray.]

A new Rotaract Club serving the Tri-cities area and sponsored by the Port Moody Rotary Club is being chartered on Saturday March 16. Cheerleaders are welcome.

The Chamber of Commerce has nominated our Meadow Ridge Rotary Club for a Non-profit Organization Award for our work in the community and the Duck Race.

An exchange student, co-sponsored by our Club and the Haney Club, has now been chosen, and will be off to France for this life-changing experience.

Guest Speakers

Our guest speakers for the day were Angie McLeod and Cheryl Ashley, members of the Maple Ridge - Pitt Meadow - Katzie Community Literacy Committee, who talked to us about [what else] literacy. [As our Club supports the cause of literacy among our Inuit population in Nunavut, theirs was a timely topic of interest to our members.]



When we think of "literacy", we often think only in terms of a person not being able to read or write. But Angie and Cheryl gave us a wider perspective, and got us to think about "functional literacy". They advised that many persons hold down a job and can read and write, but not be "functionally literate", impairing their success at doing such things as managing money or filling out forms for job applications. On a scale of 1 to 5, a score of less than 3 is considered to be not functionally literate. They gave us some interesting facts and statistics about literacy, and how literacy impacts not only our own community but also the world.

It is estimated that a 1% increase in literacy in the population translates into a 2.5% increase in GDP. If literacy is down then, so is the health of the population (with increased health costs). 35% to 40 % of BC residents are considered to be not functionally literate, thus impairing their ability to perform well in their working and personal lives. There are about 54,000 working adults in Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadow. This means there are

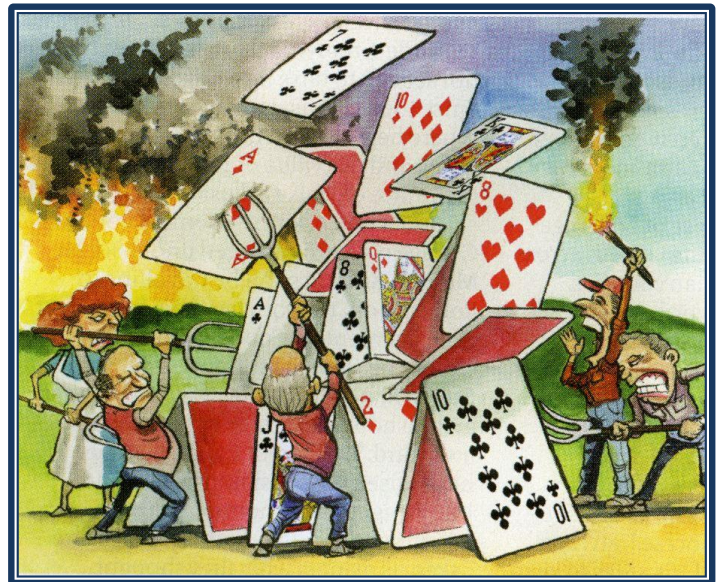
about 18,931 to 21,636 working adults in these two communities who are not categorized as being "functionally literate".



Maple Ridge - Pitt Meadows - Katzie

Community Literacy Committee

Literacy levels decline as we get older. 70% of seniors have lower literacy. 12 % of young adults have difficulty with basic written materials. High school completion rates are actually dropping, not increasing. The difference between the average income of a person who is highly literate and one who is not is about \$30,000 per year, which is equal to a difference in earnings of \$1.2 million over the working life of the average person. The lower the literacy, the higher the crime rate. Having a higher literacy level in our work force, means not only higher profits, productivity and performance of employees, but also happier, healthier and satisfied ones.



[Frustrated at having his 50/50 ticket drawn but not picking the elusive Queen of Hearts out of the remaining 17 cards in the deck, this week's "almost winner" Tom Manion, pictured in the above photograph second from the left (and egged on by Mary Robson and Mike Davies, on the far left and far right respectively, and who suffered the same fate at our February 26th and February 19th meetings) threatened to start a second Stanley Cup riot.

Fortunately, our quick thinking Sergeant-at-Arms (Jim Coulter) saved what was left of the deck of cards from conflagration, and went out on a limb to predict that the pot would definitely be won within the next 16 weeks.]

Our President Lindsay Hendy had the last word with "A Toast to the Queen!".

Submitted by Laurie Anderson