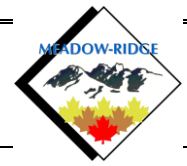




The Four Way Flasher



Meadow Ridge Rotary Club

Vol. 19, Issue 36

Mar. 19, 2013

Website: www.MeadowRidgeRotary.ca

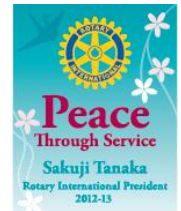
Meetings: Tuesday 12pm, Bella Vita Restaurant

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March is Literacy Month

TODAY: Betty Johansen - "Who's Who"

NEXT WEEK: Sarah Hamid-Balm & Harjeet Sandu
"Blue Wave Organization" – Youth Depression



Happy Birthday	Happy Anniversary	Invocation
Mar. 21: Debbie MacRae		Mar. 19 Angie Edmonds Mar. 26 Janis Elkerton

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	

Sean Hogan
Governor, Rotary District 5050

will see you there

iRotary District Conference
May 30 - June 2, 2013
Vancouver, BC
<http://irotary5050.org>

A REPORT FROM GOVERNOR ELECT DENIS BOYD

Jan 17, 2013



Greetings from San Diego.

I'm in the midst of the International Assembly where all the other DGEs from around the world have gathered for training and fellowship. RI Pres. Elect Ron Burton announced his theme this morning and I think it is an excellent focus for our year ahead: "**Engage Rotary, Change Lives.**"



It seems to me that the secret of our future success has everything to do with "Engagement." We can get new Rotarians but we have a hard time hanging on to the ones we have. If a Rotarian is engaged in their passion within their club, they stick around. One of the best ways to get Rotarians engaged is to have hands on projects; not just fund raisers. We need both of course but getting our hands dirty from time to time in the pursuit of service above self is crucial.

To watch a clip of President Elect Ron Burton's speech announcing the theme for the next Rotary year, click here: <http://vimeo.com/57404613>



Rotary International Convention 2013

Posted by Sean Hogan on Mar 10, 2013

Join us June 23-26 in Lisbon, Portugal

[2 District 5050 Get Togethers!](#)

50 / 50 draw - Jackpot at \$927.50 + 1/2 of today's sales, 15 cards left, Jackpot on "Queen of Hearts" only!

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

President Lindsay Hendy presided. Our only (but welcome) guest was Irena Shantz.

Our **Happy and Sad dollars** were limited to three:

Lindsay was happy to have survived a hernia problem, Bob Shantz said exciting things were going to happen with this year's Duck Race, and Eric Mollema advised that his daughter Sonia has been elected as the President of the Kelowna Rotaract Club (fourth generation Rotarian!).

Our program for the meeting was a 45 minute video which Adrienne Dale brought back from the attendance at PETS [not to be confused with PETA].

The film featured the talk which Ramesh Ferris gave at PETS about Polio. His story is an interesting one. He was born in India and contracted polio as a baby. His mother could not care for him and he was adopted by Mr. and Mrs. Ferris who live in the Yukon where Ramesh was raised. As a result of several surgeries, a leg brace and one crutch, Ramesh can now stand and walk, something he could never have done had he not been adopted.



Ramesh is now an ambassador for Rotary and the Polio Plus program, and has been instrumental in spreading the word about the need to continue the fight against this disease. He has met with world leaders including three presidents of three countries who pledged financial support for polio eradication. The president of Nigeria (one of the three

countries where polio is still endemic) has pledged \$30,000,000 a year until that country is free from the disease. He attended the UN General Assembly, and has met Desmond Tutu who himself had polio as a child which affected the use of his right hand. He has visited India where he met his birth mother and father, and has participated in administering the polio vaccine to children in India.

Before Rotary got involved, there were over 300,000 cases per year - now there is only a handful. It is a sad fact that more workers were killed while administering the vaccine to children in the past couple of years than there are cases of polio, but the fight must go on until the virus is eradicated or no child will be safe.

Rotary International has raised and paid out approximately 1.2 billion dollars since 1985 to fight polio. The total funds spent to date by all contributors is about 9 billion dollars. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has paid out or committed over one billion dollars themselves.

But it is estimated that 5.5 billion dollars will need to be invested to eradicate polio by 2018. If no more donations were forthcoming, it is estimated that 10 million children would be paralyzed by polio in the next 40 years. Ramesh urges us all not only to donate, but also to write to our politicians and educate them about how important it is that they financially support a polio free world.

"Paddy" O'Brien drew the 9 of diamonds.

Submitted by Laurie Anderson

MY MEETING WITH ARCHBISHOP DESMOND TUTU

Posted on **June 28, 2012** by **Rotary International**

By Ramesh Ferris, polio survivor and member of the Rotary Club of Whitehorse-Rendezvous, Yukon, Canada

I had the honor recently of meeting with Archbishop Desmond Tutu in his home in Cape Town, South Africa, where I had a chance to talk to him about polio eradication.

The archbishop has been a wonderful supporter of Rotary's efforts to rid the world of this paralyzing, horrific disease, as a participant in the ["This Close" public awareness campaign](#). He was also a speaker at the World Peace Symposium in Birmingham during the 2009 RI Convention.

The archbishop and I have something in common: we both survived polio.

I was stricken with polio at the age of six months in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India. With no means of access to rehabilitation, my mother placed me in a Canadian-founded orphanage. After my adoption by a Canadian family, I underwent a series of surgeries and physical rehabilitation and learned to walk with crutches and braces for the first time between the age of 3-4. Polio affected my lungs, and I contracted pneumonia nine times before my 11th birthday.

After a visit to India in 2002, I decided to found Cycle to Walk Canada, a charity focused on polio eradication, education, and rehabilitation. In 2008, I hand-cycled 4,400 miles (7140kms) across Canada, participating in hundreds of media interviews along the way and making presentations in over 200 schools, Rotary clubs, churches, and various levels of government. The campaign raised thousands of dollars, some of which went toward Rotary's polio eradication efforts.

Since then, I have continued to keep up my efforts to build awareness for polio eradication by meeting with government leaders and statesmen whenever the opportunity arises.

It was amazing to visit the archbishop and be able to share part of my personal journey with him. We need to keep spreading the word, and letting our governments know just how important it is to end polio once and for all. We are truly "This Close," but we need to finish the job. We cannot become complacent in our fight against polio. The World Health Organization estimates that 10 million children would be paralyzed over the next 40 years if we don't continue our fight!



Ramesh Ferris, left, and Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Photo courtesy of Ramesh Ferris