



Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon, Bella Vita Restaurant

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OCTOBER IS ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MONTH

Today:

Next Week: District Governor Bill Robson

Happy Birthday	Happy Anniversary	Invocation
		Oct. 20: Betty Johansen Oct. 27: Sharon Kyle

CALENDAR OF CLUB EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Oct. 27	noon	District Governor Bill Robson's official visit	
Dec. 8	Noon	Meadow Ridge Rotary AGM	

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

In President Mark Forster's absence, Vice President Angie Edmonds chaired the meeting.

(We understand that Mark's father passed away recently).

Rotary Moment

Walter Volpatti gave the Rotary Moment, telling us about **Saving Little Hearts**, an organization dedicated to helping children with congenital heart defects:

By RI Director Shekhar Mehta (India)

More often than not, his day starts with meeting one or more children who need to get heart surgeries done.

Fortunately he got initiated into the project of "Saving Little Hearts." Over the last five years they were able to save more than 1,500 children's lives by performing heart surgery, many coming from across the border from Pakistan. But one such instance made him realize it was far more than only saving their lives.



Nazar Ali was just nine years old. He and his mother had travelled 14 hours by bus to reach the border of Pakistan and India, then another 12 hours by bus to reach Delhi. From there they travelled another 20 hours by train to reach the hospital where the child was operated on.

Later he met the mother and the child at the Hospital bed. She made a profound statement. She said "my son was born in Pakistan but he got a new life in India. He has not only just Pakistani but Indian blood in him too. Long Live India." The

enormity of the statement is that for two countries who have fought three wars in 60 years, what could be a better way of bringing peace amongst their people? These hundreds of children who come from Pakistan for their surgeries in India under a program called "Aman ki Aasha" meaning "hope for peace" are all ambassadors *Peace through Service*.

Each day when we save three lives and do our bit to bring peace, I live my Rotary moment.

Happy and Sad

- Dave Rempel, back from his and Ineke's trip to Russia, said his trip has three purposes: to connect with Rotary Clubs, to visit family, and to meet with his Adoption people in Russia. He was happy to say that these three goals were a success.
- Laurie Anderson and Lorna are back from a great trip cruising on the Danube, stopping in to see such beautiful and historic cities and towns as Budapest (in Hungary), Bratislava (in Slovakia), Vienna, Durnstein, Linz and Salzburg (in Austria), Passau and Regensburg (in Germany), and last but not least Prague (in the Czech Republic).
- Libby Nelson was happy for an enjoyable Thanksgiving.

Fine Master

This week's happy and sad and fine-master collections are going to polio eradication. Betty Levens came up with an unusual fine to extract money for polio: anyone who **helped** cook their Thanksgiving dinner had to contribute a dollar (sounds like a fine on the ladies!).

Program



Our program was presented by Patrick O'Brien on the topic of Rotary's goal of world-wide polio eradication.

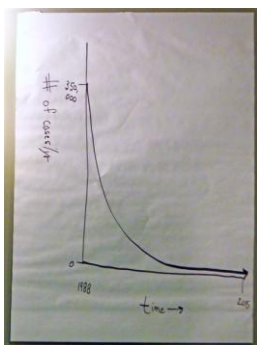
I have been experiencing a gradual discontent by this never ending battle. The ongoing exhortation that "we are just about there, we just need to keep it up" is growing thin. Why is it that we just can't seem to beat this thing despite the billions

of dollars, the power of Rotary International and other NGOs, and an effective vaccine?

First a bit of epidemiology:

This virus is spread by the oral fecal route and causes unapparent infections mostly, but can also cause paralysis, death, and malformations. It used to cause, back in 1988, about 350,000 cases of the paralytic disease per year, mostly in children. It is associated with poverty, insecurity, poor living standards and health care.

Graphing progress with number of cases on the Y axis and time on the X axis has delivered the typical logarithmic decrease in cases when an effective preventative is introduced for any disease. This gives us much hope early on as case numbers plummet and regions become rapidly polio free. However, the tail is so long that discouragement and fatigue can set in and overcome resolve before eradication. We have had to keep putting the champagne back on ice over and over as cases keep coming.



Don't despair:

- 2014 saw 359 cases of the wild type and 55 of the mutant vaccine type.
- 2015 so far has 44 cases (59 annualized) and 13 mutant cases (17 annualized).

That is a very big drop and if we were talking about only 44 emperor penguins instead of 44 cases of the wild type polio virus left in the world, then extinction would be just around the corner. I think extinction may happen soon for the polio virus.

There are but two countries left as of September 30th. Yes two. Nigeria has not had a wild type case since July 24th 2014 and has been taken off the endemic country register by the WHO. So there are just two countries left. India had its last case in Jan 2011. Remember "kick polio out of Africa" campaign? Almost there.

I think it is remarkable that the land of Boko Haram allowed this to happen. The vaccination program has resulted in the deaths of volunteers accused of gathering intelligence or seeking to sterilize the children by magic drops. The difference is that the vaccine is now produced in Indonesia, the country with the largest Muslim population in the world. Additionally, the people performing the vaccinations are culturally appropriate.

So there you have it-some concrete evidence of our success against the polio virus by fewer cases and a new country and continent nearly free of the disease.

As usual, Patrick had pumpkins for sale to raise money for this cause. A reminder to us all that if we make a donation to Rotary International to support polio eradication before then end of this year, the Canadian government will donate two dollars for each of ours; and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation will also match us two dollars for one. This means that for every \$100 we donate, \$500 goes to rotary eradication!!!

In August of this year the government made the following announcement:

August 1, 2015 – Ottawa, Ontario – Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada

The Honourable Christian Paradis, Minister of International Development and La Francophonie, announced the renewal of the partnership between Government of Canada and Rotary Foundation Canada by providing a total of up to \$18 million to help save the lives of vulnerable children and reduce poverty in the world's poorest countries.

During the next four years, the Government of Canada will contribute two dollars for every dollar raised by Rotary Foundation Canada in support of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative's Endgame Strategy, to a maximum contribution of \$12 million. The funds will be provided to UNICEF to support the goal of eradicating polio worldwide by 2018.

The renewal of the partnership reinforces Canada's ongoing leadership on polio. It builds on the Pennies & More for Polio initiative, through which Rotary Foundation Canada raised \$2.2 million between 2012 and 2013, which was matched by the Government of Canada.

The Government of Canada will also contribute up to \$6 million to support Rotary Foundation Canada's efforts to help advance maternal, newborn and child health, secure the future of children and youth, and increase sustainable economic growth in under-served communities in developing countries.

Today, the world stands on the verge of being able to end the preventable deaths of women and children within a generation. Canada remains steadfast in its commitment to work with Canadian and international partners to achieve this goal.

The Gates Foundation has made the following commitment:

Going forward, the Gates Foundation will match two-to-one, up to US\$35 million per year, every dollar Rotary commits to reduce the funding shortfall for polio eradication through 2018... If fully realized, the value of this new partnership with Rotary is more than \$500 million. In this way, your contributions to polio will work twice as hard.

50/50

Laurie Anderson got no help paying for his trip on the Danube.

Submitted by Laurie Anderson