

The Four Way Flasher



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Website: www.MeadowRidgeRotary.ca

Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon, Bella Vita Restaurant

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May is Youth Service Month

Today: Ridge Meadow Division of Family Practice

Next Week:

Happy Birthday	Happy Anniversary
May 22: Ineke Boekhorst	

CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
June 23	6 pm	Installation of new Board of Directors	Adrienne Dale - 10295 248 St., MR
Aug. 7	Noon – 2 pm	Rotary Duck Race	Maple Ridge Park
Sep. 13	Noon	DG Scott Dudley's official visit	Bella Vita Restaurant



LAST WEEK'S MEETING

President Mark opened the meeting and led the anthem with the now well accepted "Oh" before everyone else joins in.

Invocation was an inspiring Rotary themed poem by incoming president Ineke.

Neil Smith from the Haney Club gave us an update on the duck tickets. There are 8,000 tickets out at this time. There are some new groups getting involved and selling enthusiastically. This is good news as former sellers, who have met their financial needs for the moment, sell less.

The Rotary moment by Ineke was a video on polio eradication from the PETS program she recently attended. The speakers Ezra Teshome and Penny LeGate were big players in the campaign.



Ezra Teshome



Ezra Teshome served as District Governor in 2013-14 of District 5030 Seattle. Ezra is an entrepreneur who has earned accolades worldwide for his philanthropic endeavours and efforts within Africa to impact the lives of children.

He is passionate about global health issues, particularly focusing on the eradication of polio and bringing clean water to villages in rural Ethiopia. He has served notably on the board of several organizations, as well as a university. Professionally, Ezra has built a successful insurance and financial services business.

He has made many Rotary trips to Ethiopia to build homes for women and children and establish a micro banking system. He has led many polio vaccination trips with Rotarians from US and Canada which have vaccinated thousands of children. He coordinated with The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and The Rotary Foundation to assist in eradicating polio.

Penny LeGate

Penny is an Emmy Award-winning journalist; a daring storyteller with heart. She is passionate about issues in developing nations such as polio eradication, clean water, education of girls, literacy, maternal health, and environmental conservation.

Penny has traveled with Rotary to far-flung places such as Ghana, Ethiopia, Uganda, Vietnam and India. She was a keynote speaker at the 2011 Rotary International Convention in New Orleans. Penny has anchored TV news shows in Seattle, Pittsburgh, Wichita and Omaha. Many in Seattle still know her as the co-host on KING 5's Evening Magazine from 1986 to 1995. She anchored at KIRO 7 TV from 1997 till 2010. Rotary's main mission is to conquer polio. She says her job is to inspire Rotarians. "I tell them their story. I tell them what it's like to be on the front lines in the war on polio. It's a war that thanks to Rotary, is almost over."

In 1985 when polio plus began, there were about 350,000 cases per year of the paralytic form of the disease which means that over 35 million total new infections were occurring given the 1/100 chance of getting the paralytic form. Soon after other organizations joined the cause - The Centre for Disease Control, UNICEF, and the World Health Organization. Perhaps even more importantly, The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has and continues to give billions, not to the other organizations, but to Rotary. Quite an accolade. Consider also that every dollar you give to polio plus becomes \$5. Two extra from Canada (awesome country!) and two from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

In 2009, we were down to the final four countries but there were a couple of very tough years post the" 4 countries left" celebrations where little progress seemed to be made. Then India went certified free in 2014. Nigeria had its last case in the beginning of 2015. Africa is about to become polio free. So far in 2016, there is 1 Afghan case and 2 in Pakistan. This is HUGE. Almost there, don't let up now!





And now for something completely different.... **Happy and Sad dollars**.

Eric seems pretty pleased with his kids, which are half a world away with Sonya in Oxford and Raik in Belgium.

Libby was unsure of her emotional status, but she is thinking, so therefore she exists. Perhaps an update next week.

Ineke's son and grandson conspired to have the same birthday, soon to be celebrated.

Mark ended the meeting with a toast to the queen.

Submitted by Patrick O'Brien