

A Message from RI President Bhichai Rattakul



Dear fellow Rotarians,

In my travels around the world, I am always heartened when I see Rotarians supporting literacy projects for people of all ages. UNESCO reports that approximately one-quarter of the world's population is functionally illiterate. With our collective expertise and resources, we could make a significant difference in combating the scourge of illiteracy.

Promoting literacy is essential to addressing the larger issues of health, hunger, and poverty. More than 900 million people cannot read or write in any language, and two-thirds of them are women. The benefits of literacy translate into better paying jobs, better educated parents, and lower dropout rates for schoolchildren.

Over the years, Rotarians have supported projects ranging from educational programs for preschoolers to literacy classes for adults. Many of these are supported by grants from The Rotary Foundation of RI.

Even the smallest effort can have a monumental impact on an individual's life. Simply being able to read a book unlocks the imagination and challenges the mind. Books empower a person to see and experience new things.



Many Rotary clubs have implemented successful literacy projects. Read to Me, a media campaign sponsored by numerous Rotary clubs, is designed to encourage parents in Canada, Mexico, and the United States to read aloud to their children. The Rotary Club of Lahore Midtown, Pakistan, established a school for the children of low-income workers in an impoverished rural area. In Maryland, USA, the Rotary Club of Hunt Valley started Books for International Understanding, which has provided more than 10,000 books for libraries in other countries. In El Salvador, eight Rotary clubs have teamed with the Ministry of Education to establish a network of literacy centers to teach adults to read.

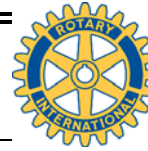
One program that is close to my heart is the Lighthouse Literacy Project, implemented in Thailand in 1987 as Rotary's first large-scale literacy effort. It incorporates an innovative teaching method called concentrated language encounter (CLE), an immersion program that teaches the spoken and written language in the course of a group activity. The pilot project proved so successful, that it was adopted nationwide by the Thai Ministry of Education. Since then, it has served as a model in many other countries.

Literacy provides a path to self-improvement and enlightenment. One of the most rewarding moments of my Rotary career was looking into a child's eyes when he was handed his first book. They shined with wonder and excitement.

By planting the seeds of literacy, you will *Sow the Seeds of Love*.

Bhichai Rattakul

President, Rotary International



The Four Way Flasher

Rotary Club of
MeadowRidge Newsletter

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Dec. 3, 2002

Web-site: www3.telus.net/MeadowRidge_Rotary

Meetings: Tuesday 12pm, Maple Ridge Library
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INVOCATION Dec. 3: Ineke Boekhorst Dec. 10: Rick Carruthers

BINGO SCHEDULE BE ON TIME!

	3:30-5:00	5:00-6:30
Dec. 5	Mary Robson	Gordy Robson
Dec. 19	Peter Boekhorst	Dave Reekie

Call Peter at 604-465-3392 for assistance or e-mail pboekhorst@telus.net

The Bingo proceeds for October were \$2,466.38.

TODAY'S PROGRAM: Jack Frisk – Wheel Chair Program

NEXT WEEK'S PROGRAM: Executive 2003/2004 Elections

CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT 5050 EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Dec. 3	7:30pm (tonight!)	Community Services Meeting	Stan's Office
Dec. 10		Executive 2003/04 Elections	Regular meeting
Dec. 10	7pm	Executive Meeting	Kevin's Office
Dec. 17	7:30pm	Christmas Party	Gord & Mary Robson
March 12	6pm, dinner 7pm	RI President Bhichai Rattakul	West Bayshore Conf. Centre
April 5	tba	District Assembly	Western Washington Univ.

THE CHRISTMAS PARTY WILL BE HELD ON DEC. 17 AT THE ROBSON'S HOME
25433 117th Ave, MR (Dewdney Trunk Rd – 256th St. South – 117th Ave West)

DO NOT FORGET TO BRING IN YOUR TWO CANS EACH FOR OUR ANNUAL FOOD BANK DONATION.

NO REGULAR MEETING ON DECEMBER 17, 24 AND 31

50 / 50 draw - Jackpot at \$54 + 1/2 of today's sales, 50 cards, Jackpot on "Queen of Hearts" only!



LAST WEEKS BUSINESS MEETING

Last week we had Bruce Wilson from Scouting drop by to give us an update re the project we helped with, namely the Whonnock Lake Scout Hall. (We donated \$8,000. Bingo funds to this project) Bruce reported that very many successful people have had scouting or guiding experience in their youth and it is still going strong today. The construction of the hall is moving along, they now have the footings in and expect to be completed in September 2003. They are still looking for some serious fundraising and hope to find it within the community. The Rotary club is prominently featured on the existing signage at the site as a major donator. He presented the club with a letter of appreciation and a plaque and extended an invitation for us to attend the grand opening in September.



Melissa, our youth exchange student has now left the Robsons and "been successfully deprogrammed" as Kevin reported and settled into the Nosworthy family. The Robsons thoroughly enjoyed their time with Melissa and "miss her already". If you haven't had the opportunity to spend some time with Melissa you can reach her at Kevins place and I'm sure she would love to spend some time with you and your family.

The Social committee has arranged for a "Hockey Night in Rotary" evening. On Thursday July 30th their will be a bus leaving Maple Ridge already loaded with 26 Rotarians (ROOM FOR 5 MORE) who will be off to see the Edmonton Oilers take a beating from our Vancouver Canucks. The price is \$60 per person and should prove to be a wonderful Fellowship event. Thanks to Brian Bekar for getting this set up.

The Christmas party will be held on Tuesday Dec. 17 at the Robsons home where we will be served a buffet dinner including turkey and stuffing. (Gordy cooking??) The cost will be \$15 per person and spouses are welcome. The admission cost will then be graciously donated back to the club by the Robsons to be used towards our Polio Eradication campaign. We will be circulating a list in the near future to see how many will be attending so check your calendar and your dates and plan to be there.



Our guest speaker was introduced by Merlyn. Pastor Kevin Hegseth from Bereavement Counselling has worked extensively with the "wounded heart" and helps many who have lost someone dear to them. He commented that the philosophy to shield children by not allowing them to attend the funeral of someone they knew and cared for does not really benefit the child. He/She should be asked if they wish to attend and then follow their decision.

In grief counselling, people need to be given tools to deal with the many emotions they will go through as they work their way through their grief. They also need someone to share their loss with in a safe environment. There are many stages in the grief process including numbness, anger, sorrow, pain and finally acceptance. Everyone grieves differently with different intensities at different stages of the

process and the main thing they need is support and people to listen. So be there when someone you know needs you. It's what a friend does.

Submitted by Debi Pearce

POLIO ERADICATION FUND RAISING

Here is a great idea from a fellow Rotarian in the Port Moody club. Josephine Kovacs is a new Rotarian and this could raise some significant funds for Polio Eradication.

Kevin Shaughnessy

Here are some examples of how the funds will accrue. Please keep in mind that rates, sailing dates etc. are subject to change.

I will block a minimum of 8 cabins (16 berths) on a cruise for every month of the year in 2004 as per examples below. When Rotarians, their friends or families book through my company, their club name is noted next to the booking. Once a total of 16 passengers are booked on the same sailing, Rotary earns the equivalent of one free berth. This amount is divided equally between the clubs according to the number of participants originating from that club. The same is done with the rest of the sailings. Once bookings are processed, and commissions paid to our agency I will send a full report with a cheque to Rotary International and a copy of the report will be sent to the individual clubs showing the amount of money earned. Passengers on the same sailing will receive a list of all participating Rotarians and their clubs so they can look forward to meeting them. I can also book space, once a week, for a Rotary meeting/make up opportunity on each ship.

Rotary Magazine is to market the sailings to encourage the membership to participate in this drive for Polio funds. I will submit all information required including contact information for booking purposes.

January	21 day	South America & Antarctica / Ryndam	Cost of cruise only – US\$4318
February	16 day	Australia & New Zealand / Prinsendam	Cost of cruise only – US\$4210
March	7 day	Belize / Wind Star	Cost of cruise only – US\$2552
April	14 day	China & Japan / Prinsendam	Cost of cruise only – US\$3217
May	14 day	Athens to Venice / Prinsendam	Cost of cruise only – US\$2540
June	10 day	Venice & Rome / Wind Star	Cost of cruise only – US\$2024
July	7 day	Alaska / Statendam	Cost of cruise only – US\$1475
August	10 day	Baltics / Noordam	Cost of cruise only – US\$2024
September	7 day	Tahiti / Wind Song	Cost of cruise only – US\$3351
October	16 day	San Fran to Ft Lauderdale / Volendam	Cost of cruise only – US\$2496
November	7 day	Western Caribbean / Veendam	Cost of cruise only – US\$882
December	17 day	Panama (Xmas & New Year) / Prinsendam	Cost of cruise only – US\$4477

This means that if we had a total of 16 passengers booked on each of the above sailings in a basic outside cabin quoted above, Rotary earns \$33,566 US. If 32 people are booked on each of the above cruises the total amount would be \$67,132 US.

Josephine Kovacs Tel: 604-461-4289

For more information, contact Josephine at info@skiesunlimited.com
Kennedy Travel Services Ltd.#138-810 Quayside Drive, New Westminster B.C,V3M 6B9