

A Message from RI President Bhichai Rattakul



Dear fellow Rotarians,

We have reached the midpoint of this Rotary year, and it has been a challenging six months, marked by economic uncertainty and instability around the world. Despite their own hardships, Rotarians are doing their part to bring peace and harmony to troubled areas. Through humanitarian service projects, they are offering hope to those who have almost given up on life and are helping to *Sow the Seeds of Love*, which have taken root and changed so many lives for the better.

As we enter the second half of the year, I would like to ask Rotarians to look within themselves and ask, "Can I do even more?" I would like to ask members to challenge themselves to achieve an even higher level of service. Such a commitment reflects the very essence of a Rotarian.

Each club needs to evaluate its progress at this point. When I had the honor to begin serving in this position in July 2002, I appealed to all Rotarians to focus on three major areas: increasing membership based on specific club goals and the classification system, supporting at least one project or program of The Rotary Foundation of RI, and initiating or continuing at least one activity within each of the

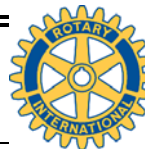
four Avenues of Service (Club, Vocational, Community, and International). I did not introduce any new programs because I felt that concentrating on these basics would result in a strong, well-balanced club.

During my travels, I have witnessed the dedication and tireless work of Rotarians around the globe. They are an inspiration to their clubs and their communities. I am gratified that Rotarians have wholeheartedly embraced this year's polio eradication fundraising campaign, Fulfilling Our Promise: Eradicate Polio, to raise US\$80 million to help eradicate polio by 2005. I encourage every Rotarian to contribute to this historic effort. We must keep our promise to the world's children.

The 2002-03 Rotary year will culminate with the RI Convention in Brisbane, Australia, 1-4 June (see pages 17-46). This event provides Rotarians with an opportunity to learn more about Rotary's programs, make contacts for initiating service projects, and enjoy fellowship at the international level. Clubs are also preparing for the greatest celebration of all Rotary's centennial in 2005. I encourage every club to organize a centennial community project to serve as a lasting reminder of Rotary's contributions to the world.

As we begin the new year, I would like to wish you and your families happiness, health, and peace. My greatest hope for 2003 is that every Rotarian experience the true joy of Rotary service. This can take many forms, whether it's reading a book to a child, building a shelter for the homeless, or teaching people a vocation that will provide financial and emotional security. As we begin the second half of this Rotary year, let us continue to *Sow the Seeds of Love*, both at home and abroad.

Bhichai Rattakul
President, Rotary International



The Four Way Flasher

Rotary Club of
MeadowRidge Newsletter

Vol. 9 Issue 25
Jan. 7, 2003

Web-site: www3.telus.net/MeadowRidge_Rotary

Meetings: Tuesday 12pm, Maple Ridge Library
 President: Stan Wade Phone: 604-462-9080 stanwade@shaw.ca
 Secretary: Kevin Nosworthy Phone: 604-467-8507 kevinnos@telus.net
 Editor: Peter Boekhorst mrrotary@telus.net

INVOCATION Jan. 7: Rick Carruthers Jan. 14: Vladimir Cukor

BINGO SCHEDULE BE ON TIME!

	3:30-5:00	5:00-6:30
Jan. 16	Sharon Kyle	Peter Boekhorst
Jan. 30	Mary Robson	Gordy Robson

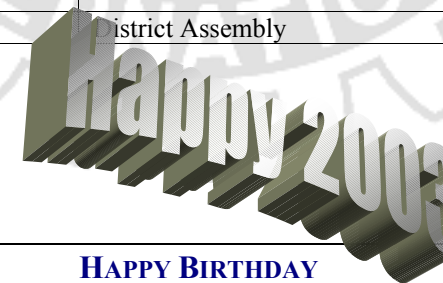
Call Peter at 604-465-3392 for assistance or e-mail pboekhorst@telus.net

TODAY'S PROGRAM: Kevin - Esteem team

NEXT WEEK'S PROGRAM: Peter Grootendorst: Fire Chief - District of Maple Ridge

CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT 5050 EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Jan. 7	After reg. Mtg.	WineZest Meeting	Library
March 12	6pm, dinner 7pm	RI President Bhichai Rattakul	West Bayshore Conf. Centre
April 5	tba	District Assembly	Western Washington Univ.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Jan 8: Jack Attarmigirian Jan 11: Marco Terwiel

50 / 50 draw - Jackpot at \$99 + 1/2 of today's sales, 48 cards, Jackpot on "Queen of Hearts" only!



CHRISTMAS PARTY

Well Happy New Year everyone!

The last time we met was at the Robsons for our Christmas Party. We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and are returning to Rotary happy and healthy.

We were graciously received at the Robson home for our Annual Christmas Party on Dec 17 and what a night it was. The Rotary in Youth had a meeting earlier and raised funds, blankets and gifts for a single mother and her 3 children here in town. Well done.

Then we arrived 40 strong. What a fantastic turnout and for those of you unfortunates, who were unable to attend, you missed a great night.

We arrived with our spouses in tow and that's always great to see them. We probably don't do this often enough. We were presented with a Christmas buffet with turkey and all of the fixings.

Rumour has it that Gord can cook but this is yet to be confirmed.



After we were all filled up with turkey and good cheer the doorbell rang and we had some wonderful carollers from the Emerald Pig Productions who lead us in a sing song of Christmas favourites for about 45 minutes. When they were done everyone was definitely in the Holiday spirit.



But then "what to my wondering eyes did appear" Well he didn't bring along his eight tiny reindeer but the jolly old elf himself made an appearance and proceeded to distribute all of our gifts to each other.



All in all it was a joyous celebration of comraderie and the holiday spirit and thanks to Mary and Gord's generosity we were also able to raise \$600 for our Polio Plus commitment.

Well it's a brand new year and it back to work. The Wine Zest committee has begun its meetings and is forging ahead with our next event. So if you are not a direct member of the committee that's fine but be prepared to contribute to the event in one way or another. Cheryl and Dave Reekie are co-chairing this fundraiser, so if you wish to help in a specific way I'm sure they would appreciate hearing from you.

Submitted by Debi Pearce



MÉLISSA'S DIARY

My holidays:

My Christmas break was fine. I had a lot of fun and I will keep so much memories in my mind.

I was scared by Christmas because it was my first Christmas away and I thought that I could feel really homesick on Christmas day. But not at all. I mean, of course when I opened my gifts from ("real") family, I had some tears but it was my first Canadian Christmas and I had such a good time. My host family wanted that I have great memories of this day and they did it.

I had a lot of fun with my friends too. I went tobogganing to Mt. Seymour and I didn't have any ski-suit, so.....I have never been so much cold, I felt as an ice cube. But It was a beautiful day with a great view and I was with great people.

I went to The Aquarium of Vancouver with Julia, to Coquitlam Center etc...She has a video camera and we filmed each other.

So I got a lot of good memories during those holidays . I discover a lot of things every day here and I'm so happy to be in Canada. (and better than in Toronto, it's so cold over there)

Mélissa Huyart