

A MESSAGE FROM RI PRESIDENT BHICHAJ RATTAKUL



Dear fellow Rotarians,

The month of April is a time to pay tribute to Rotary founder Paul Harris, who was born on 19 April 1868 in Racine, Wis., USA. Paul was a lawyer whose vision of service and fellowship has inspired millions. As we prepare for Rotary's 100th anniversary in February 2005, we should reflect on the strengths and successes of our organization over the past century.

If Paul were to visit Rotary clubs today, he would be greatly impressed by the organization's technological advances, member diversity, and global expansion. While Rotary continues to evolve in response to society's needs, its basic mission and tenets remain the same. Rotary's ideal of service is a principle that will never become outdated. Our founder's vision has weathered nearly a century of challenges, including strife from world wars, regional conflicts, economic depression, and inevitable social changes.

This year, I have encouraged Rotarians to go back to basics. This includes emphasizing fundamentals such as the four Avenues of Service (Club, Vocational, Community, and International) and increasing membership through the classification system. Clubs set their own membership and fundraising goals, consistent with a bottom-up approach. Many have embarked on their Rotary Club Centennial Community Project in preparation for the Rotary Centennial. This will serve as another opportunity to share our founder's message and boost awareness of Rotary in the community.



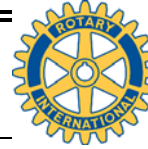
Rotary had a modest beginning, starting with four businessmen who met at their places of business. But the group flourished and grew into an international movement that has transcended geography, politics, race, and religion. Rotary has shaped the world and changed lives in ways that Paul Harris could not have imagined possible.

Through Rotary, we can *Sow the Seeds of Love* through fellowship and service. Paul's vision is as relevant now as it was in 1905. The only difference is that today, with more than 1.2 million members, we are an even more powerful force for good. We have a vast network of contacts and access to resources that give us the potential to change the course of history.

"My hope for the future," Paul Harris once said, "is that through our worldwide fellowship of business and professional men, united in the ideal of service, we shall achieve our goal of international understanding, goodwill, and cooperation for the welfare of all mankind."

We have remained true to our founder's hopes and dreams. We are committed to his timeless principles. As we celebrate the memory of Paul Harris, let us *Sow the Seeds of Love* through selfless acts of fellowship and service.

Bhichai Rattakul
President, Rotary International



The Four Way Flasher

**Rotary Club of
MeadowRidge Newsletter**

**Vol. 9 Issue 37
April 1, 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 April 1: Ron LePore April 8: Kevin Nosworthy

BINGO SCHEDULE

	3:30-5:00	5:00-6:30
Apr. 10	Kevin Nosworthy	Laurie Anderson
Apr. 24	Doris Gagel	Merlyn White

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



TODAY'S PROGRAM: Mike Suddaby, Superintendent of Schools

NEXT WEEK'S PROGRAM: Holly Stevens, a recent graduate from the RCMP Youth Academy

CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT 5050 EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
April 1	7:30pm	Community Services Meeting	Stan Wade's office
April 3	12:30pm	WineZest Meeting	Library
April 5	8:00am	District Assembly	Western Washington Univ.
April 7	7:30pm	'Youth in Rotary' Meeting	Mary Robson's office
April 8	7:00pm	Executive Meeting	Kevin Nosworthy's office
May 1-3		District 5050 Conference	Harrison Hot Springs Resort
June 1-4		Rotary Int. Convention	Brisbane, Australia
June 7	7pm - 10pm	WineZest 2003	M.R. Arts Centre

50 / 50 draw - Jackpot at \$288 + 1/2 of today's sales, 39 cards, Jackpot on "Queen of Hearts" only!

LAST WEEKS MEETING

Last week we had an awesome 33 people in attendance and it seemed like Old Home week. Stan had a time trying to get everyone to stop visiting long enough to sing O Canada etc.

Dot reported that we also had 33 people in attendance at GiggleDam last Wednesday night and that the evening was highlighted by Stan and Eng (pictures on back of last week's newsletter). Another successful Social committee evening. Kudos to the organizing committee.

This week our Guest Speaker was Gordon Green of the local SPCA. He is the Shelter Superintendent and has worked with the SPCA for 24 years.

The SPCA is a non-profit organization dedicated to the prevention of cruelty towards all animals. Recent changes have restructured the organization from a local board control to a provincial board. There are currently 26 Branch offices, 2 Care Clinics and 1 Wildlife Rescue Depot.

Their main objectives are:

- To investigate instances of cruelty.
- Emergency care and treatment of animals.
- Provide shelter and promote adoption.
- Reunite pets with their owners.
- Enforce animal cruelty laws, e.g. In Maple Ridge it is unlawful to tie a dog on a choke chain as this is very hazardous to the animal.
- Secure funding.
- Educational programs for children.

Some of the programs offered are

- Cat houses in prisons and hopefully soon dog's kennels as well. This started as a warehouse for extra animals but has since developed beyond that concept.
- Research re animal welfare.
- Lobbying government for new laws to protect animals.
- Programs to raise level of care for farm animals.

Our local branch has 3 full time, 3 part time and 30 volunteers to help keep its doors open seven days a week. They care for approx. 1,800 animals per year and with the no-kill policy this can be very expensive in regards to medical expenses for older animals. The volunteers perform many duties such as dog walking and the Pet squad. The Pet Squad takes cats out to the local malls regularly for the purpose of more public exposure and hopefully more adoptions. They are very successful with over 400 adoptions attributable to their efforts.

The SPCA depends on municipal funding and donations to continue its work, besides the countless volunteer hours they get. One of the most important policies they have now is the spay/neuter requirement



before any animal can be adopted. The local vets help with this by a considerable reduction in their fee for these services.

We have to be responsible for the animals that share this planet with us and pet owners are a huge part of that responsibility. As Bob Barker would say, please have your pet spayed or neutered.

Submitted by Debi Pearce

A Wonderful Message by George Carlin

The paradox of our time in history is that we have taller buildings but shorter tempers, wider freeways, but narrower viewpoints. We spend more, but have less, we buy more, but enjoy less. We have bigger houses and smaller families, more conveniences, but less time.

We have more degrees but less sense, more knowledge, but less judgment, more experts, yet more problems, more medicine, but less wellness.

We drink too much, smoke too much, spend too recklessly, laugh too little, drive too fast, get too angry, stay up too late, get up too tired, read too little, watch TV too much, and pray too seldom. We have multiplied our possessions, but reduced our values. We talk too much, love too seldom, and hate too often. We've learned how to make a living, but not a life. We've added years to life not life to years.

We've been all the way to the moon and back, but have trouble crossing the street to meet a new neighbor. We conquered outer space but not inner space. We've done larger things, but not better things. We've cleaned up the air, but polluted the soul. We've conquered the atom, but not our prejudice. We write more, but learn less. We plan more, but accomplish less. We've learned to rush, but not to wait. We build more computers to hold more information, to produce more copies than ever, but we communicate less and less.

These are the times of fast foods and slow digestion, big men and small character, steep profits and shallow relationships. These are the days of two incomes but more divorce, fancier houses, but broken homes. These are days of quick trips, disposable diapers, throwaway morality, one night stands, overweight bodies, and pills that do everything from cheer, to quiet, to kill. It is a time when there is much in the showroom window and nothing in the stockroom. A time when technology can bring this letter to you, and a time when you can choose either to share this insight, or to just hit delete.

Remember, spend some time with your loved ones, because they are not going to be around forever. Remember, say a kind word to someone who looks up to you in awe, because that little person soon will grow up and leave your side. Remember, to give a warm hug to the one next to you, because that is the only treasure you can give with your heart and it doesn't cost a cent. Remember, to say, "I love you" to your partner and your loved ones, but most of all mean it. A kiss and an embrace will mend hurt when it comes from deep inside of you. Remember to hold hands and cherish the moment, for someday that person will not be there again.