

RI representative promotes grassroots efforts at the 3rd World Water Forum

Billed by organizers as the most important international water meeting ever, the 3rd World Water Forum opened in Kyoto, Japan, on March 16 to address life and death issues related to the most precious liquid on Planet Earth. Japanese cities Osaka and Shiga hosted some of the events at the seven-day conference.

Past Rotary Foundation Trustee Jiichiro Frank Nakajima represented RI President Bhichai Rattakul at the meeting, which featured discussions on a variety of issues ranging from helping the 2.7 billion people who will face water scarcity by 2025 and preventing the 5 million annual deaths from water-related diseases, to the growing dangers of accelerating conflicts over water and saving the world's lakes, rivers, and wetlands.

Through attendance at panel discussions and informal networking, Nakajima highlighted Rotary's humanitarian programs and encouraged local level collaboration between other organizations and Rotary clubs in addressing the water needs of communities across the world.

The 18-22 March Water Expo in Osaka, attended by more than 100,000 visitors, offered RI an opportunity to showcase Rotary water projects through an exhibit. Participants who stopped by the RI booth went away with a wealth of information on how to work with Rotary at the local level. Information about Rotary in Japan and Rotary's efforts with water was also handed out at the expo press center.

Dr. Mahmoud Abu-Zeid, Egyptian minister of water resources and irrigation and president of the World Water Council, explained the importance of the meeting thus: "Increasing scarcity, competition, and arguments over water in the first quarter of the 21st century will dramatically change the way we value and use water and the way we mobilize and manage water resources."

The council, an international think tank, was formed in 1996 by governments, international organizations, scientists, and nongovernmental organizations to deal with the world water crisis. William Cosgrove, its vice-president, warns that conflicts over water control or access could worsen or dwarf long-standing political disputes unless the international community devised ways to ensure water security through more efficient use.

Rotary's participation at the conference underscores its commitment to peace and sustainable development.

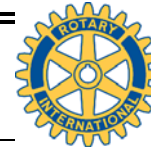
Rotary's partners-in-service programs keep on growing

In the third quarter of the Rotary year, Rotaract, Interact, and Rotary Community Corps (RCC) continued their steady growth and expansion into more and more countries. With almost a half million participants among them, Rotary's three partners-in-service programs are extending Rotary ideals and laying the foundations for future Rotary membership in virtually every corner of the world.

The number of **Rotaract** clubs sponsored by Rotary clubs grew by 96 in the past three months to a global total of 7,534, with an estimated membership of 173,282. Present in 155 countries, Rotaract is the most widespread of the three programs. As with all three partners-in-service programs, Rotaract's strongest growth in recent years has been in Asia.

The number of **Interact** clubs climbed by 209 to 8,973 worldwide, with an estimated membership of 206,379 in 113 countries, making it the largest of the three Rotary programs in terms of clubs and participants.

Rotary Community Corps added 139 groups, raising their number to 5,110, with an estimated membership of 117,530 in 72 countries — Australia, Paraguay, and Russia being the latest.



The Four Way Flasher

**Rotary Club of
MeadowRidge Newsletter**

**Vol. 9 Issue 38
April 8, 2003**

Web-site: www3.telus.net/MeadowRidge_Rotary

Meetings: Tuesday 12pm, Maple Ridge Library
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INVOCATION April 8: Kevin Nosworthy April 15: Ron LePore

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: Jennie Bedford, a post polio survivor, will discuss life after polio.

NEXT WEEK'S PROGRAM: Business meeting

CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT 5050 EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
April 8	11:20am	Social Committee Meeting	Library
April 10	12:30pm	WineZest fieldtrip	Arts Centre & Theatre
April 15	7:00pm	Executive Meeting	Kevin Nosworthy's office
April 29		First day of Esteem Team	
May 1-3		District 5050 Conference	Harrison Hot Springs Resort
May 2-4		Iron Lung at Home Show	Planet Ice
May 6, 13, 20		Esteem Team	
June 1-4		Rotary Int. Convention	Brisbane, Australia
June 7	7pm – 10pm	WineZest 2003	M.R. Arts Centre Theatre

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

LAST WEEKS MEETING

This week we had several announcements. Following is a list:

Tues April 8 11:20 Social Committee Meeting in the Library

Tues April 29, May 6,13,20 The Esteem Team will be going to our schools. We need volunteers to bring them to the meeting afterwards. Please call Kevin if you are interested. If you haven't done this yet, it is certainly time well spent.

Merlyn has changed her e-mail to merwhite@shaw.ca. Please update your list.

The Kanaka Creek sports court project has hit a bump in the road. Gord proposed to the Executive to approve increasing our original commitment of \$5,000 to \$10,000, so this project can be completed. The Executive will put it on next weeks agenda for discussion. It will then come back to the club for ratification if the executive approves it at their level.

The Iron Lung has been booked and will be with us in our Home Show Booth. Please be sure to volunteer to help man the booth from May 2-4th so we can raise more funds for Polio Plus.

The Calendar committee is looking for advertisers for the upcoming Fundraising Calendar we are jointly involved with the Hospice Society with. Ads cost \$400 and with this you receive advertising in the calendar plus 20 calendars which have a value of \$20. You can use these as client or staff gifts or sell them and recoup your donation. See Ineke, Bob, Irena, Kevin or Dave Reekie if you want more information.

The District Conference will be held in Harrison Hot Springs this year and will be from May 1 - 3rd.



Community Services presented three cheques today as follows:

Hospice Society	\$1,000
MeadowRidge School Drama dept	\$350
Haney Pitt Meadows Christian Family Circle	\$350



Vladimir and Zdenka recently won the coveted "GOLDEN SPOON" award for their honey in a European competition.

Our Guest Speaker this week was Mike Suddaby, the Superintendent of Schools for School District 42. He began his talk by thanking the Rotarians for our generosity over the years towards the Schools by way of donations supporting sporting activities and various programs.

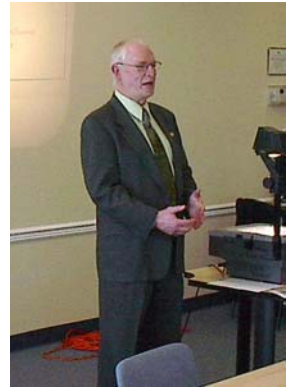
He introduced us to the values by which the School District operates and hopes to impart to its students:

- 1) Inclusion
- 2) Co-operation
- 3) High Expectations
- 4)

Our School District currently has 15,000 students and 1,800 employees
\$99 Million Operating Budget this year
\$28 Million Capital Budget this year
\$213 Million Capital Worth

One of its revenue sources is from International Education Programs. We currently have 325 foreign students in our schools who contribute \$3,250, 000 in direct fees. They also pay \$1,750,000 for Homestay which stays in the community.

The main Accountability of the SD in Mikes opinion is to the students and their parents. After that there are also many Provincial standards and criteria that have to be met.



POLIO ERADICATION NEWSFLASH

India

165 million to be vaccinated

NEW DELHI – Health workers in India knocked on millions of doors Sunday in a campaign to vaccinate 165 million of the country's children against polio – the largest immunization drive ever against the disease. The workers, who themselves numbered in the hundreds of thousands, hoped to reach 98 million children in 10 Indian states on Sunday alone, said Savita Varde Naqwi, a spokeswoman for UNICEF. The main target was Uttar Pradesh, India's largest state, which accounted for 66 per cent of the 1,556 new polio cases found last year, Naqwi said. Six of every ten Indian children under five – the age group most vulnerable to the disease – live in the state.

After all the children under five in a household



have been immunized, health workers mark the house to show it has been covered, in a suburb of Ghaziabad, a city in Uttar Pradesh. Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are the only states in India where wild poliovirus is still circulating. In an all-out effort to eliminate the virus, entire districts are being blanketed with 'door-to-door' campaigns that literally target every house.