

RI, PARTNERS LAUNCH INNOVATIVE FINANCING PROGRAM TO STRENGTHEN POLIO EFFORTS

An innovative financing program to help eradicate polio worldwide by 2005 was launched on 29 April when the World Bank approved a US\$28 million loan for the purchase of oral polio vaccine in Nigeria, Africa's most polio-endemic country.

The World Bank, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Rotary International, and the United Nations Foundation, which together comprise the Investment Partnership for Polio, said they would move swiftly over the coming months to fund the immunization of children in other polio-endemic countries. A \$20 million loan for eradicating polio in Pakistan is scheduled to be approved in mid-May.

To fund the program, the partnership has established a trust fund with \$25 million from the Gates Foundation and \$25 million from RI and the UN Foundation. This \$50 million investment will buy down \$120-140 million in World Bank loans. In this way, developing countries can mobilize what ultimately becomes grant funding to eradicate polio worldwide.

"Never before has polio been more geographically contained, with 99 percent of cases found in Nigeria, Pakistan and India," said past RI President and incoming Trustee Chairman James Lacy. "This new, innovative financing approach will build upon our efforts by maximizing donor dollars and ensuring positive results."

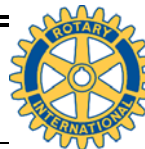
According to World Bank President James D. Wolfensohn, "This financial innovation is bringing the goal of a polio-free world one large step closer to becoming reality."

RI President-elect Jonathan Majiyagbe said, "In my homeland of Nigeria, 201 children were infected by this disease last year, alone. No child today should ever have to suffer from this crippling disease, as an effective vaccine has made polio totally preventable. We must all continue our efforts to ensure that every child is vaccinated, and protect our investment in a polio-free world by 2005."

"With polio eradication within reach, it's critical to increase funding now to ensure that we finish the job we've started," said Patty Stonesifer, co-chair and president of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. "Eliminating polio will help not just those countries facing the disease, but also the entire world, which will never again have to fear a polio resurgence."

"The new World Bank plan to support polio eradication proves that large institutions can be very innovative in promoting global public goods," said UN Foundation President Timothy Wirth. "The private sector partners in the plan are also demonstrating unusual flexibility as well as typical generosity. . . . I hope the unique partnership represented here in the World Bank plan — like the WHO- UNICEF- CDC-Rotary partnership carrying out the polio eradication initiative on the ground — will be a model for many others."

The worldwide eradication campaign is now in its final stages. However, achieving the objective is severely threatened by the \$275 million shortfall in funding. Consequently, the partnership is calling on the wider international community to help meet the [funding gap](#) and therefore to deliver a polio-free world by 2005.



The Four Way Flasher

**Rotary Club of
MeadowRidge Newsletter**

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Web-site: www3.telus.net/MeadowRidge_Rotary

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INVOCATION May 6: Ron LePore May 13: Ken Paterson

BINGO SCHEDULE

	3:30-5:00	5:00-6:30
May 8	Irena Shantz	Brian Bekar
	6:15-8:15	8:00-10:00
May 22	Dave Reekie	



Call Peter at 604-465-3392 for assistance or e-mail pboekhorst@telus.net
**Starting May 22 we have a new Bingo schedule: 1 evening session per month.
Please donate your 2 hours worth to fill the empty time slots.**

TODAY'S PROGRAM: John Heaven of Kananka Creek Fish Hatchery

NEXT WEEK'S PROGRAM: Destination Imagination - Meadowridge School student team

CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT 5050 EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
May 6	7:30pm	Community Services Meeting	Stan's office
May 6, 13, 20		Esteem Team	
May 8	12:30pm	WineZest Meeting	Arts Centre & Theatre
June 1-4		Rotary Int. Convention	Brisbane, Australia
June 7	7pm – 10pm	WineZest 2003	M.R. Arts Centre Theatre
July 19	8am	Presidential Celebration	Delta Airport Hotel
June 20		Executive 2003/04 Installation	Meadow Gardens Golf Club

50 / 50 draw - Jackpot at \$341 + 1/2 of today's sales, 36 cards, Jackpot on "Queen of Hearts" only!

LAST WEEKS MEETING

This week we had our first Esteem Team members join us for lunch. Angus Reid from the BC Lions had been to Laityview School in the morning and was off to another after lunch. Anne Mitchel was at W.S.S. in the morning; 175 Grade 10's listened and participated with their teachers. She was entertained to lunch and then Chad escorted her to Edith MacDermott Elem. for a pm session.



Since it was Lindsay's birthday, Gord generously donated \$20 towards his Paul Harris. Happy Birthday Lindsay and a belated one to Peter to who spent his aboard a cruise ship heading to Alaska.

Marco is off to the frozen north (somewhere north of Churchill, BRRR!) where it was -30 degrees today. He will be taking over a medical practice for the existing doctor for 5 weeks. Take care Marco!

Our guest speaker was Cadet Holly Stevens, a local participant in the RCMP Youth Academy. The Academy is held this year at the Stillwood Conference Centre at Cultus Lake. The rules were TOUGH and so were the drill sergeants. There were 40 students who got up every day at 5:00AM and started off ½ hour of warm-ups in preparation for their workouts.. They learned self-defence and did a LOT of push-ups. They had speakers from Search and Rescue, Bike Patrol, Canine Unit and the ERT (SWAT) team. They had to memorize the 80 10 codes and did a lot of role playing of situations police officers often find themselves in, like Break & Enter, DUI and breaking up a fight. This went on for 10 gruelling days but when graduation time came it was very well worth it. Holly extended her thanks to the club for helping send her to this event of Spring Break.

Submitted by Debi Pearce

MR. PRESIDENTS DISTRICT CONFERENCE ADVENTURE

My attendance, as with past district functions, was a revitalization of the reasons, rotary is such a great service club to be involved in. The conference had 380 plus participants, all with a wonderful spirit of fellowship. It also didn't hurt to have the function at Harrison, which is a great place to hang out at any time.

Our upcoming DG's wife Joan Martin gave a stirring speech on her experiences with rotary as a third generation Rotarian titled "rotary a living legend". Her up beat attitude of her life in general was an inspiration to everyone.

Rotaract gave a very impressive presentation, leaving all proud to have these young people representative of what rotary will be in the future.

The Argentinian GSE-team gave a presentation, that was enjoyed by all. It reminded me that we should participate next year in the GSE, as it offers the possibility of friendship exchange, and the opportunity to advance world understanding within our clubs.

Against my personal problems with the instrument – I went to the Ukulele Ensemble of Langley's concert, and was amazed at the performance.

The day was capped with the governor's banquet, where I enjoyed great fellowship, and a wonderful meal. One of the bits of wisdom I learned at the conference: if you first don't succeed – sky diving is not for you. It was a great time and I encourage anyone who has not attended this function to consider attending future conferences.

Stan Wade

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

May 8: Doris & Ted Gagel

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

May 7: Ted Gagel

May 8: Chad Reed

ROTARY AT THE HOME SHOW

Some impressions from the Maple Ridge Home Show, held May 2-4. We collected nearly \$500 with the presence of the iron lung.

I want to thank the volunteers manning the booth and unabashedly holding out the donation cans in front of those who stopped at our display and wanted to know what this strange apparatus was all about.

The slogan that \$1 saves two lives did the trick in loosening the heartstrings and making people wanting to donate.

Getting a hold of the iron lung has been an exercise in frustration to say the least. Gentle persuasion had no effect and it was not until I became hopping mad and blew my stack that I got some action.

Special thanks to Brian who made it all possible to get the iron lung on location.

Marco



Many thanks to Andrea for taking the pictures.