

## Rotary Foundation 2011

The Month of November is Rotary Foundation month. Before I go any further into this topic I will remind you all of the fact that everything that our Foundation achieves is made possible because of the time and Contributions of Rotarians and friends of Rotary.

When Arch Klumph in 1917 put forward the idea of an endowment fund to do good in the world he probably had no idea what our Rotary Foundation would become.

I would like to share with you some of the interesting history of Rotary to let you know what a really wonderful organization it has been and that it is now.

In 1942 when the world war was occurring, the Rotary International was busy thinking about the failure of the old League of Nations which had tried but failed to stop WWII. Among the so called 50 wise people who got together in New York were 27 Rotarians who helped to design the successor organization – The United Nations.

The first three Secretaries General of the UN were Rotarians. Even now there is a permanent representative to the UN by Rotary International and this individual talked to our Zone 24-32 Meeting in the fall about his work with the UN. Rotary is one of the most trusted NGO's that the UN uses to get new ideas and help. We have access at the highest levels of the UN organization. The Polio Eradication program has given us a great deal of credit. We are being used frequently for ideas that the UN is wanting to undertake since we have a great deal of expertise in Literacy Programs, Water provision, Sanitation, Poverty Hunger etc. Rotary has programs that we fund in all these areas of concern and Rotary is being asked how to set up

UN Programs and steer them in ways which work and avoid problems.

I was thinking about this history when I was at the Opening ceremony at the Medalta site in Medicine Hat on Nov 5 if this year. This is a wonderful addition to Alberta and Canada. There were six people on the stage , Four were Rotarians from our club and many more were in the audience as members of the Medalta Board. We are still doing good works for our Community.

Why do we need your contributions? What is it that the Foundation does?

1. **Our primary goal STILL is the eradication of Polio.**  
Through Polio Plus the Rotary Foundation has lead a global effort to rid the world of this crippling disease. To date, Rotary has contributed more than 1Billion Dollars US toward that goal Rotary's \$200 Million Challenge is the Foundation's response to the \$355 million in challenge grants from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to achieve a polio free word—At present we have received more than \$194 million of this money.

Where are we in this battle? SEE GLOBAL POLIO ERADICATION INITIATIVE

2. **The Foundation Changes Lives.**  
We have programs that
  - a. Promote Literacy and expand basic educational Opportunities
  - b. Improve Child and maternal Health
  - c. Improve disease prevention and control

- d. Help people help themselves through Economic and community development
- e. Build Peace through the Rotary Centers for International Studies in Peace and Conflict resolution.

### **3. You Make it Possible**

The foundation is supported solely by voluntary contributions from Rotarians and others who share our vision of a better world. Because of the Foundation's impact – and the close monitoring of projects—giving to the Rotary Foundation is a financially sound decision

How many of you have Internet access? I want to give you several good web sites to use to help you understand this work that we do.

1. The District Governor's News Letter
2. The Polio Eradication Report  
[www.polioeradication.org](http://www.polioeradication.org)
3. Wasrag – a Rotary program to get clean safe water to those who need it [www.startwithwater.org](http://www.startwithwater.org)
4. The Canadian Rotary Foundation branch office where you can make you donation and get your tax receipt within minutes by e-mail. [www.trfcanada.org](http://www.trfcanada.org)
5. The Rotary International web site, [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)

Rotary does need your donations to the Foundation to keep the good work happening. We Rotarians are a very privileged group – we can make a difference in this world. We do not need to feel disenfranchised as those who have joined in the Occupation Movement in the world seem to feel. We do need to support our

Foundation. We have many programs to help you do this.

1. Every Rotarian Every Year \$100.00 US
2. This year we are asked to give \$20.00 US to Polio
3. Paul Harris Fellows \$1,000 US to the Foundation.. In the Medicine Hat Rotary Club we will match the first Paul Harris amount by giving \$500 toward the total cost—After tax this means that it will only cost a Rotarian about \$350 to become a Paul Harris Fellow
4. Upgrading Paul Harris awards we have many who have become Major Donors by donating \$10,000 or more

I want to leave you with Some quotations to ponder

**“No one can tell us what Rotary will be tomorrow, but one thing is inevitable: What Rotary will be tomorrow depends upon what we Rotarians do today” Arch Klumph 1917  
Sixth Rotary International President**

I want to thank you for listening to me. I am somewhat passionate about the Rotary Foundation as I think that it offers a good way for us Rotarians to give back in a meaningful way to our society and the world. Someone asked me some time ago about how big was my backyard. After pondering SARS and H1N1 viruses and the fact that we are now concerned with how countries and people look after their chickens and pigs I guess that my backyard encompasses the entire world. We must also realize that we must try to understand the people of Asia and Africa and learn about their religions to effect an end to polio. So my friends I call upon you to consider my plea to consider the Rotary Foundation as a way for you personally to become involved with the great issues of our day. I suggest that you talk with your club Foundation chairman to get any

necessary forms etc to make your donations. I will be available to help him and you if such help becomes necessary.

**"In life, everything is a choice. We can choose to close our eyes to the needs of others, to keep what we have for ourselves, to declare the problems of others to be theirs alone. Or we can choose to look past distance, past colour, past language and dress and culture, and see that people everywhere are just like us-and then refuse to walk away." -Kalyan Banerjee-President, Rotary International 2011-12.**