



District 5040 Newsletter

District Governor
Bob & Judy Blacker



April-June 2009 Table of Contents

- P.1—5 DG Message
- P.6 Editor's Message
- P.6 PDG Leigh Higinbotham gets award
- P.7 Rotary Foundation News letter For Leaders
- P.7 May Foundation News letter (#79)
- P.7 Monty Motivates Membership
- P.8 When Xiao Yuan Gets Service Award
- P.8 Community Service Resources
- P.8 Lucky duo masters Rotary's golf pool
- P.9 Get Smart, Look after yourself
- P.9 Congratulations to all Rotaract clubs
- P.9 Ladner and North Delta Rotary Clubs to join
- P.10 PowerPoint Presentations
- P.10 Club Announcements
- P.11 Good News To Club Presidents
- P.11 A Busy Weekend
- P.12 The Rotary Club of Whistler
- P.12 Vancouver South Changes

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER DISTRICT GOVERNOR BOB BLACKER

THE LAST ONE!

Well my friends I am writing this final Newsletter from the workstation on the Coastal Celebration on its way from Duke Point to Tsawwassen on Saturday June 13th, 2009. This I am afraid is the way it is for a DG in catching up on all the things that you have to do. If I listed everything I would fill up this page and the remaining two! I have found over the past year that the job of a DG is 24/7 and that when you have reports etc. you have to make special time to do it. Hence taking time on the ferry today.

Before I go back to some of my activities in the last couple of months, I thought that I would bring you up to date on the Lt.Governor's Literacy Project. The reason why I along with District Literacy Chair Barbara Fitzpatrick attended a meeting with Karen Milonese the Principal of the Penelakut First Nation School (Kuper Island) and representatives of D5020 Clubs, Joe Simpson (Duncan AM, Jacqueline Russell and Diana Maturdo & Al Stevenson of the Parksville AM club) who will be 'adopting' the community on Kuper Island.

This was our first meeting after the visit of Lt.Governor Steven Point on May 19th, 2009. I along with his honour and Jacqueline Russell and Diana Maturdo of the Parksville Club attended on Kuper Island and visited the school along with the day care program, healthy living The meeting itself was magical right away I could see the effect that his honour Stephen Point made on the children as well as the adults and elders. It also confirmed what I felt that his Honour's program was indeed going to excite the community. I heard such comments, 'we are very happy and relieved that somebody is now coming to help us in our community, we never thought this day would happen'.



I suddenly began to realize after speaking with many of the community that what we in Rotary are doing with our 'INTERNATIONAL PROJECT IN OUR OWN BACK YARD' is not only helping them with literacy (which is a huge problem, bigger than I thought) but also Community Building and Reconciliation with our First Nation peoples.

Our meeting today with Karen centred on programs that we could help her with in relation to literacy in the community. Right off the mark we had identified a project to supply funds to maintain a literacy tutoring program for elders by younger members of the community. These members were being paid for their tutoring so not only did they help the elders, but also helped themselves and their self esteem by getting paid for their work. Secondly we identified a program for funding where puppets are used to teach the students their culture as well as their environment and animals that live in harmony with the community.



We also identified a need for a community library whereby the school would look at purchasing modular buildings and the Rotary Clubs would assist to get them on the island and position it to be readily accessible by the community. Joe immediately recognized that Rotary could help in the infrastructure (plumbing, heating and electrical) of the building as well as the stocking of books for the library. We all left the meeting realizing that we were about to do something bigger than we thought that it would be. I now know that 'adopting the community' in conjunction with 'community building' is the way to go and will bring huge benefits for the community.

STAY TUNED THERE IS MORE GOOD NEWS TO COME; I WILL KEEP YOU UP TO DATE VIA A LITERACY PROJECT NEWSLETTER AS WE CONTINUE WITH THIS EXCITING PROJECT.

CLUB VISITS.

Well I finally got to my last clubs to visit in late April and early May. I decided to leave it this long because of the long winter that we had and I did not really feel like driving to Mackenzie in the snow.

Incoming AG Gary Gurnsey from the Prince George Nechako Club drove to Mackenzie to officially visit the Rotary Club. I was happy to see that the members still had a positive attitude and were planning to recruit new members as well as their yearly fundraiser, the Duck Drop. Even though the membership has dwindled 50% over the past year and a half they are still very active in their community. AG Gary and I also helped them out with setting up the Rotary Booth for the Chamber of Commerce Trade Fair and gave them DVD's on the Shelter Box and The Water School which I understand were a hit with those that went to the event.

I also attended the Williams Lake Daybreak Club and was welcomed by President John Stace Smith and his members. I had a wonderful evening of fellowship with the club and really appreciated the warm welcome that they gave me. John this past year attended a NID day in India and from talking with him one could see that it had a profound effect upon him. I congratulate John for doing this. If any clubs in the north or south would like

a speaker on Polio Plus and the NID's John is one of a few in our district that could come and talk about his experience.

FUTURE VISIONS

As most of you know by now our district was selected as one of the 100 pilot districts for Future Visions. The good news is that some of our matching grant partner districts have also been chosen which clears the way for us to maintain a relationship with those districts. Yes it will restrict who we deal with but I believe that we will be able to work through this and make the new Future Visions work. Your district executive will ensure that the changeover will be seamless as possible and to that end we have asked District Foundation Chair PDG Kevin Conway to stay on until the end of June 2013 (the official start date for all districts in Rotary World)

DISTRICT CONFERENCE

What a great we all had! The good news is that we had 43 clubs represented from across our district; the bad news was that our numbers were low.

In any event, the content of the conference was outstanding. Former Lt. Governor Iona Campagnolo gave a wonderful presentation about the important work Rotary was doing. She was followed up by the Netza Project, a New Westminster Royal City Rotary club project that has been ongoing for the last 6 years in Zihuatanejo Mexico. We also heard from First Nations Author Richard Van Camp who spoke about story telling from elders and how important it is. PDG Dean Rohrs spoke to us about the far reaching Refilwae Project in South Africa.



Finally to top the Friday off we had a reception at Government House with His Honour Steven Point. By all accounts from those who attended the event was magical as a majority of those there at Government House were able to have a chat with his honour. We also presented the Rotary Club of Tsawwassen (Delta) with the OUTSTANDING CLUB OF THE YEAR AWARD and they received their certificate and Banner from his honour. An event like this will never happen again so those who were there were witnessing history of Rotary in our district.



Our Rotary International Presidents representative PDG Mark (Emily) Wong of D3400 Indonesia spoke to us about Making Dreams Real, membership and foundation. Mark also told us about his experience as well as Rotary's with the Tsunamis that took place in Indonesia. This was a fascinating story and one that set the record straight in what happened after the tragedy and why many of the NGO's were asked to leave.



Our GSE Team comprised of Team Leader AG Don Kavanagh, members, Sladjana, Jen and Nick spoke about their wonderful experience in the UK. It will be one that they will never forget and will speak about for a long time.

In addition to Don's team we also heard from Greg Wilkinson D1090 GSE Team Leader and members, Emily, Sally, Allison and Eleanor. One thing for sure our host Rotarians did a wonderful job with the team as they were extremely complimentary of the friendliness and hospitality shown towards the team. I have to give a special thanks to the GSE Committee comprised of former GSE Chair Neil McDonald, Dawn Saddler (Quadra) Simon Fulber (Quadra) and Crystal Campbell (North Vancouver) for the hard work in helping make the tour a success. My final big thank you goes to GSE Chair Garry Shearer (Tsawwassen) and Northern GSE Chair Tim Cawdel for ensuring that the tour was a complete success after the sudden resignation of Neil. The good news is that Garry and Tim have been asked by DG Gord to stay on for his exchanges to the Philippines and North Carolina in 2010.

A big thank you also goes to PDG Mary Watson for stepping in as the Youth Exchange Chair after the resignation of Dave Bradley. We are looking forward for newly named Youth Exchange Chair Petrie Neave (Quesnel) to take over from Mary July 1st. Thank you Petrie for stepping forward in this very important position in the district.

Finally my heartfelt thanks go out to the Conference Committee that worked very hard to make my conference to be successful under the most trying circumstances. They are,

Co Conference Chair	Nick Jordan (Royal City)
Co Conference Chair	Vicki Haller (West Vancouver Sunrise)
Registrars	Ron and Donna O'Genski (Royal City)
Conf. Manager	Angi (assisted by Paul) De Stefanis (Royal City)
Co Treasurer	Alana McAlister-Hoem (Royal City)
Co Treasurer	Cheryl-Dean Thompson (Royal City)
Secretary	Nancy Nikolai (Royal City)
Sgt@Arms	Roy Prevost (Royal City)

Team member
MC & Golf

Dean Rohrs (Burnaby)
Neil Mackay (Burnaby)

My special thanks also goes to Jeanette Mackay and Judy Blacker for all their support.

Well folks on Monday evening (June 15th) Judy and I are off to Birmingham for the International Convention. We will be staying with our dear friends DG Malcolm and Valeria Boddington from D1090. Malcolm and Valerie came out to our conference in Victoria which was really special. Rotary is always full of surprises and great friends, it never ceases to amaze me.



Finally I would like to say to you all it has been a pleasure and honour to be your District Governor for the past year. I thank you all for making this a memorable time in my life. I do hope that we will meet up again in the future.

Signing off.....

Bob (the Bandit)

ROTARY D5040 CLUB MORNS JOHN
[Read story](#)



Editor's Corner

HUDDLES ON THE WAY OF GOODWILL



There is a restaurant my family and I used to go to very often somewhere in Africa. Our frequent presence in that restaurant was not because the meals served were of excellent flavour and palatable. I am not too sure I would boastfully drum my chest to relate in concrete terms and to a certain comfortable degree, the quality of the *cuisine* that had been laid before us all the times we went there. You may then wonder what else would take a whole family to

a restaurant if not for the delicacies that only that restaurant could boast of. Yet, we continued to go there without any regrets.

At the entrance of that restaurant stood, in a permanent posture, a seated statue of a laughing BUDDHA. With a happy and contagious smile, he was postured to look at you as though his smile was personalized for you only, you would not but burst out laughing too. As many times as you looked at him, so you would laugh. And this statue, over the years and without relent, had received us with his whole-hearted laughter which actually made up the whole-soul food we went there for. It was priceless.

Right close to my residence here in Vancouver, stands a

sign board in front of a church. I have noticed that the sign board carries quotes, proverbs and sometimes some simple everyday sayings with profound meanings. A recent posting on that post says:

**"Here, waiting 4 u,
is a welcoming pew".**

I can't quite remember the last time I ever set my foot in a church, but I certainly would have been tempted to attend that church once or twice if only to enjoy the unique happiness of sitting on a "welcoming pew".

In a world where it is easier to destroy than to build, goodwill is a luxury. For those who have made goodwill an instrument of good relationship with other fellow humans, the only litmus to put their level of goodwill to test are the huddles and constraints.

What comes to mind is the recent kidnap of a Rotarian. The incident is a very ugly one. It is one that should be condemned vigorously. We are happy with the outcome of the incident and our support goes to the family of the victim, who at those trying times, had set their minds for the worst.

We shall continue our march and remain intransigent. We shall let no one DETER us or DETERmine our goals of trying to make this world a better place for all. So, fire up all your cylinders...

Ode Iweh

odeiweh@yahoo.ca

Past RI President and chair of The Rotary Foundation Jonathan B. Majiyagbe has announced that PDG Leigh Higinbotham has been awarded the Rotary Foundation Distinguished Service Award.

Each year, the Trustees of The Rotary Foundation recognize a limited number of Rotarians worldwide for their outstanding efforts on behalf of The Rotary Foundation with the Distinguished Service Award.



The accompanying citation with the award states "Your exceptional record of service to the Foundation has proved you to be a most deserving recipient of this, the highest honour bestowed by The Rotary Foundation. Your efforts to promote the ideals of the Foundation have greatly contributed to the success of its many international programs. You represent the best that Rotary has to offer, the caring, the concern, the hope of a better life for those less fortunate than ourselves"

Leigh served from 2005 to 2008 as a Regional Rotary Foundation Coordinator. He worked with Rotary districts in western Canada, Alaska, Russia and Washington. He gave numerous presentations to clubs and districts and traveled thousands of miles as a volunteer. During his time as foundation coordinator donations to The Rotary Foundation had significant growth in the area where he worked.

Leigh has been invited to be a presenter at Rotary International Conventions and to train new foundation coordinators in Evanston. Leigh expanded the amount of foundation training at Pacific Northwest PETS. In 2008 he was selected by President DK Lee as a keynote speaker at the International Assembly in San Diego.

In 2000 he was awarded The Rotary Foundation Citation for Meritorious Service, a prerequisite for the Distinguished Service award. **We all congratulate PDG Leigh Higinbotham!!!**

A Rotary Foundation Newsletter For Leaders Is Born:



Effective July 1, 2009 the Zone 22 Foundation Newsletter will become the Foundation Newsletter for Zones 24 and Zone 32 as part of the changes in zone boundaries and the pairing of Zone 24 and 32. With this issue of the Newsletter the circulation is expanded to the new Zone 32 current, past and future RI officers. [Read More](#)



OUR FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER (#79)
MAY 15, 2009 Is [Here](#)



Monty Motivates Membership

"If we hope to Make Dreams Real..." [He recalls](#)

When Xiao Yuan Gets Service Award

A special presentation of the **Bill Richwa** Award was made by Mrs. Bill (Gerry) Richwa and PDG Dean Rohrs at the Rotary Club of Vancouver meeting on May 5th to Xiao Yuan. It is only the second time this award has been presented in memory of one of the Rotary Club of Vancouver's former members.

The Rotary World Help Network was organized in 1997 by **Bill, Ted Segodnia** and **Ralph Towsley** when the club, which had made a number of shipments of needed supplies to the Ukraine and in particular to the Chernobyl Children's Hospital in Kiev, decided that the costs were more than this club could bear. Since material seemed to be in almost unlimited supply, it was felt they had to try and find a way to continue. They held a number of organizational meetings and invited other interested clubs to join them and Nick Blom, their current President, offered his services in setting up a constitution and registering them as a non-profit society. They started with five clubs as members and this has grown to as high as forty in some years and to date they have shipped over 250 containers with a value estimated to be in excess of 85 million dollars. Bill was given a rare "Service Above Self" award by Rotary International before his death.



The **Bill Richwa** award (a District Award) was presented to **Xiao Yuan**, President of the Rotaract Club of Vancouver, which meets at UBC. **Xiao** has been a member of the Rotaract club for three years. She has just completed her third year of studies at UBC majoring in microbiology. As President, she helped to provide leadership for their Big Give project this year, which helped underprivileged elementary school children at the Hastings Community School in East Vancouver to learn about

good nutrition and to participate in sports, such as skating, swimming and soccer. Twenty-two soccer balls were donated to the school for their future use. In 2004/05 she assisted the new Vista Care Home as a tutor to bipolar residents to read and write English, as well as setting up events for the residents. In 2005/06 she assisted autistic students at her school and supervised third and fourth year students and was also a teachers' aide. In 2006/07 she participated as one of a four member team that went to Honduras. This was their first international hands-on program. This was a life-changing experience working in a third world country (public hospitals, orphanages and schools), and she is interested in continuing this program. She also participated in fund-raising activities and initiated a fund raiser involving the Rotaractors and BC Place. In 2007/08 she was the Director of Fundraising for her club, and excelled in her efforts, supervising a team of volunteers manning a beverage kiosk at the BC Lions games, organizing a Valentine Rose sale program at UBC (500 roses), and promoting designed T-shirts and pins commemorating their work in Honduras. She was also Co-Director of International Affairs, maintaining a relationship with the Rotaract Club of Honduras. Their club has also raised almost enough to ship a container to Honduras, but this has been delayed. She also Co-chaired a Professional Development Conference. In July 2009, she is going with two other Rotaractors to Uganda to help at an orphanage and a medical camp.

Xiao is also captain of the RaceFace Dragon Boat Team, which won the Governor General's Award for Sportsmanship at the Alcan Dragon Boat festival. She also fences, and is ranked 72 in Canada in points for Senior Women's foil. As well as all of this, she works at Starbucks to pay her way through university while maintaining her honours student ranking.

Community Service Resources

[Find out what your Community Assessment Tools are](#)

Lucky duo masters Rotary's golf pool

Neither Ken Kozar nor Scott Eckmier expected a fun phone call to turn into a \$5,000 prize. [More](#)

Get Smart, Look after yourself

How to care
for yourself
and the people you care about



Vancouver Coastal Health puts you on Pandemic Preparedness [Read More...](#)

Congratulations to all Rotaract clubs



Rotaract's District 5040 Big Give:
[A success story not to miss](#)

Ladner and North Delta Rotary Clubs
to join in the first Rotary Youth Awards

[Details](#)



PowerPoint Presentations
used at the
Regional Rotary Foundation Seminar
Zone 22 (24) West, January 30-31, 2009.
Vancouver (Richmond) B.C. [click](#)

Club Announcements

Quesnel Rotary Club and Sunrise 2000 Rotary Club of Quesnel joined to fundraise for Foundation. Between the two clubs, members and guests, raised approximately \$11,000 for Rotary International Foundation causes (Pictures attached) It was a great evening of laughter and fun chaired by Sunrise 2000 Rotary Club Foundation Chair, Geoff Ruffle as well as Volunteers, Bev Haluschak and Debbie Kohlenchuk from the Quesnel Rotary Club... The theme was Hockey and guests were fined along that theme. Great job to Geoff, Bev and Debbie (picture attached) of our young Foundation Chair wearing the "Festerling" jersey). Of course, the evening wouldn't have been complete without participation from their youth exchange student, Paula Versiani modeling the much coveted donated jersey from Sheldon Souray. Funds raised from this item alone were over \$800. Both clubs also took this as an opportunity to promote Shelter Box (pictures attached)



Rotarian, Christy Kennedy, President Elect of Sunrise 2000 Rotary Club of Quesnel (*picture attached*) received the provincial "Partnership Award" from the BC Principals and Vice Principals Association for her work as Chair of the Quesnel Partnership for Student Nutrition on Friday, March 6th at their annual awards presentation in Richmond. Christy was nominated for her hard work facilitating breakfast programs in 9 local area schools and bringing together a partnership with Breakfast Clubs of Canada that will see approximately \$500,000 come into our school district over the next 3 years. Christy received permission from District Governor Elect, Gord Dalgleish and Past District Governor Dean Rohrs to attend this ceremony as Gord says **"Service for your Community outside Rotary - especially the youth - is very much part of Service Above Self"**.

Rotarian, Tim Cawdell – Past President former PETS Training as well as Membership Chair for Sunrise 2000 Rotary Club worked together with local Mayor, Mary Sjostrom of the City of Quesnel to have the week of February 23 – 27th proclaimed as "Rotary Week". Members from both clubs were involved and the local newspaper put together a "Rotary Week" section in the newspaper promoting Rotary and local Rotarians to the community of Quesnel. Way to go Tim!.

Good NewsTo Club Presidents

The **Rotary Club of Tsawwassen** has launched their first **Masters Golf Pool** with the intention of raising funds for their various projects but with the added bonus of \$7,000 in prizes to some lucky entrants. They have launched this with the cooperation of the *BC Golf Association* and a portion of the proceeds will be donated to The Player Development Trust Fund which helps develop BC junior golfers.

The premise is quite simple in that participants choose ten golfers with the hopes of picking the group that amasses the most money at the Masters Golf Tournament. **First prize is \$5,000** and there are seven other prizes as well. Tickets are only \$30 and a maximum of 2,000 will be sold. Note also that entries are limited to BC residents. For details and on-line application form, [click here](#).

A Busy Weekend for the Rotary Leadership Institute

On Saturday April 18th all three parts of the Rotary leadership program were offered in Metro Vancouver (Surrey). This was held jointly by District 5040 and 5050. In total 62 Rotarians took part in the training provided by nine facilitators. The facilitators from District 5040 were PDG Chris Offer, AG John Vokes, District Secretary Nancy Nikolai, and PP Karen Harrison.

The graduates on April 18th for Part 3 were:



Back row left to right

Udo Erasmus	Rotary Club of Vancouver Arbutus
Hans Doge	Rotary Club of Vancouver Quadra
James Westmacott	Rotary Club of Richmond Sunset
John Vokes	Trainer (New West Royal City)

Front row left to right

Brian Cole	Rotary Club of Richmond Sunrise
Ode Iweh	Rotary Club of Richmond Sunrise
Lynn Cameron	Rotary Club of Ladner
Chris Browne	Rotary Club of Richmond

They joined 40 other District 5040 graduates of all three parts of the Rotary leadership Institute. Over 170 Rotarians have taken at least part 1 of the program in the first year and a half of operation. CONGRATULATIONS.

This same weekend on Sunday April 19th RLI Part 2 was attended in Prince George by 15 Rotarians from the Rotary Clubs of Prince George, Prince George Nechako, Quesnel, Quesnel Sunrise 2000, and Fort St James. PDG Dean Rohrs, PDG Chris Offer and DGN Penny Offer were the facilitators for this course.



The Rotary Club of Whistler Gets Grant from the Province

'In the morning, of March 19 the Rotary Club of Whistler was awarded a grant, by MLA Joan McIntyre, of \$10,000 for the construction of a playground for the Head of the Lakes school in Skatin. Attending the presentation at the RMOW council chamber were Rotarians Bob Blacker, District Governor for district 5040, David Oakes, President of the Rotary Club of Whistler, and Doug Deeks, treasurer of the Rotary Club of Whistler. Also attending from Skatin were Abou Bai-Sheka, principal of the school, Hank and Mavis Williams from the Band council, and Xavier Williams from the school. The installation is planned for this coming summer.'



VANCOUVER SOUTH CHANGES MEETING LOCATION

The Rotary Club of is pleased to announce that it has changed its meeting location from Marine Drive Golf Club to the Fraser Arms Hotel located at 1450 South West Marine Drive, Vancouver (corner of Granville St., and SW Marine Drive) starting March 30th, 2009. This location is actually where we used to meet over 10 years ago. The meeting day has also been changed from Tuesdays to Mondays at the usual lunch time of 12:13pm.

Friends and fellow Rotarians are invited to visit us and to do make ups every Monday.

Thank you for your attention and assistance.

Yours in Rotary,

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