

District 5040

July 2008

newsletter



District Governor Bob Blacker - who is he?

**Convention book drive sets
Guinness world record**

**Overachieving Students Will
Save Many Lives**

**Government of Canada announced a commitment
of \$60 million to support polio
eradication efforts in Afghanistan**





DG Bob Blacker's Message

Welcome to a Year of Making Dreams Real!

Make Dreams Real to end child mortality – what an appropriate theme that RI President D.K. Lee passed along to all Governors Elect in San Diego in January 2008. All who were present understood quickly what President DK was asking of Rotarians. He went on to say 30,000 children die each day throughout the world from preventable causes and that we should address issues surrounding health, hunger, clean water and literacy.



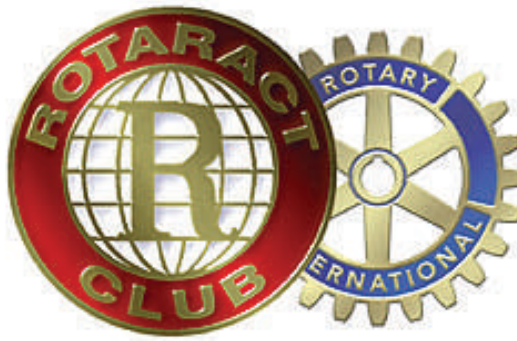
Over the past year I have observed what our District has been doing in relation to the four areas that President DK was referring to. To my surprise I found that many clubs were partnering with Rotary Districts around the world to address issues surrounding clean water, health, hunger and literacy but feel that more can be accomplished. As our 2007 – 2008 Rotary year comes to a close I note that our matching grants from the District Designated Funds (DDF) have not been totally spent. It is my goal for 2008 – 2009 to encourage clubs to take on projects addressing child mortality and use up all of our matching grant funds. World Community Service Chair Peter Ackhurst has made a commitment that his committee will assist clubs through an easy to understand process as they apply for matching grant funds.

Another opportunity has arisen in relation to child mortality and literacy as a result of a conversation with the Lt. Governor of British Columbia, the Honorable Stephen Point. He pointed out that during many of his visits to isolated communities throughout British Columbia he found that those communities had no books or libraries. He felt, given the opportunity, children from those communities would enjoy what many children throughout British Columbia already have if they were given books to read. As a result of this conversation our Rotary District has been asked to partner with the Government House Foundation to assist in providing books and building mini libraries in partnership with those communities identified by the Lt. Governor.

Finally as we move into our new rotary year, 2008 – 2009, I see a resurgence of our district in relation to membership and a record breaking year of giving to our Rotary Foundation. I also see and feel positive energy from Rotarians throughout the district and see the future for our district is going to be a healthy and vibrant one. Both Judy and I look forward to visiting your clubs during my year.

Yours in Rotary Service,

Bob Blacker



Editor's Notes:



Dear Rotarians,

Greetings! Welcome to a new Rotary year! For my term as *Editor-in-Chief* of **District 5040 Newsletter**, I've decided to make a cover page to feature some articles that may be of great interest to the readers. No, it isn't exactly a newsletter format, but it just a better way of putting the spotlight on something, IMO (in my opinion). This is my first issue, so please bear with me. I'm really pressed for time.

It does seem like a magazine now, doesn't it? Maybe I should change it to **District 5040 Magazine** instead? Wahahahahaha! I'm kidding. I was thinking of having a different name for our newsletter - something more interesting that would portray the district better instead of the obvious, but I would have to talk to our beloved District Governor, Bob Blacker, about that... then I would have to consult everyone.

I would like to thank past Editor **Becky Tsukishima** - for being so patient with me during our meeting, for the support, and for sending me some articles that I could put into the newsletter; **My family** - for being so patient with me; **Claudia Li** - for sharing this opportunity with me and for being such a great friend. Love ya, dear! My **Rotaract Club of New Westminster family** - for the laughter, love, and support; **Rick Molstad** - for always being there for us and for watching over us; **Kaylee Magee** - for writing some articles for us in such a short notice and for being such a dear; **Lazar Milovanovic** - for volunteering to help me out. I'll find some things for you to do ☺ **Bryan Kelly of the Tsawwassen Club** - for being so supportive, for always sending me great stories that I may use for the newsletter and for being my spearhead to the media world. You inspire me a lot and I am really thankful to have known you. **AG Sue Godey & Angiola De Stefanis** - for the warm welcome and for being so nice to me; and to **DG Bob Blacker** for giving me the chance to share my skills through this newsletter.

Anyways, I hope you guys enjoy reading this issue and that you get the information that you need from this too. It would take me a couple more issues to get to where Becky has left off. She's done such a great job, it would be hard to even try to surpass what she has done, so I need everyone's help. Feedback is always encouraged. Any violent reactions, comments, or suggestions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

In the spirit of Rotary / Rotaract service,

Gareth Cj. Wee
Editor-in-Chief

P.S.: Deadline for submissions is always the third of every month. So if you want to have anything published for the August issue, please send them to me no later than August 3, 2008.



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Upcoming Events



Groups Study Exchange Team Talk (Lions Gate)

Come to hear their incredible journey in East Africa at the Lions Gate luncheon meeting. Email **Esio Marzotto** at esiom@shaw.ca to advise you will be attending.

- coffee and salad - \$10.00
- entrée with coffee and salad- \$15.00

When: July 11, 2008 at 12:15

Where: Cheers Restaurant

125 2nd St East North Vancouver, BC, V7L 1C2



Rotary Club of Richmond Sunset - 10th Anniversary Dinner

Share the fun and laughter with Richmond Sunset's 1 Decade of existence! No host bar 18:30 to 19:00 | Dinner at 19:15 | Presentations 20:00 | Dancing 20:45. Please contact [Linda Coyle](#) for inquiries and registration.

Fee: \$50.00

When: July 12, 2008 at 18:30

Where: Best Western Richmond Inn

7551 Westminster Highway Richmond, BC, V6X 1A3

GSE Team Presentation

Join the Tsawwassen Rotary meeting to see the magic behind the scenes. The tape will then become the heart of a 30 minute special show for broadcast on Delta TV. Please contact **Bryan Kelly** at kelly@dccnet.com for details.

When: July 17, 2008 at 07:15

Where: Beach Grove Golf and Country Club

5946 - 12 Ave Delta, BC

Groups Study Exchange Team Talk (China Town)

Just in case you can't make it to the first one, here's another chance for you to hear all about their quest in East Africa, District 9200. Please contact **James Chan** at 604-873-4521 if you're interested.

Fee: \$20.00

When: July 30, 2008 at 12:15

Where: Floata Seafood Restaurant

180 Keefer Street

#400 Vancouver, BC, V6A 4E9





Rotary International Events

Make Dreams Real through Membership

Join 2008-09 RI President Dong Kurn Lee at one of 12 presidential membership conferences being held throughout the year and help generate ideas for developing club membership.

Targeted to Rotary clubs, these two-day conferences include small-group discussions aimed at identifying best practices for member recruitment and retention and adapting to change.

Topics

- Changing demographics
- Developing goals
- Volunteering trends
- Mentoring
- Identifying prospective members

Who should attend?

Rotarians who are interested in strengthening Rotary, including:

- club and district membership committee chairs and members
- club presidents and officers
- district governors and officers

Conference dates and locations

(*)These conferences will also address child mortality, one of President Lee's top concerns.

Participants attend at no cost to Rotary International. For registration information, refer to the conference Web site or contact the conference organizer.

Dates	Location	Convener/Organizing Chair
7 July	Tokyo, Japan	RI Director Kazuhiko Ozawa, convener Past Director Toshio Itabashi, organizing chair
11 - 13 July	Canberra, Australia	RI Director-elect John Lawrence PDG Len Goodman, organizing chair
18 - 19 July	Auckland, New Zealand	RI Director-elect John Lawrence PDG Andrew Meek, organizing chair
1 - 3 August	Johannesburg, South Africa *	Past Director Tony Serrano PDG Greg Stathacopoulos, organizing chair
8 - 9 August	Buenos Aires, Argentina *	Past RI President Luis Giay Past Director Carlos Speroni, organizing chair
15 - 16 August	Sao Paulo, Brazil *	Director Themistocles Pinho RRIMC Jose Antonio Antiorio, organizing chair
24 - 25 October	Merida, Mexico	Director-elect José Alfredo Sepúlveda PDG Jesse Devlyn, organizing
6 - 7 December	Vienna, Austria (Deutsch)	Co-conveners: Director Bernard Rosen Director-elect Catherine Noyer-Riveau Past Director Peter Krön, organizing chair
12 - 13 December	Leicestershire, England	Director R. Gordon McNally Past RIBI President John Hockin, organizing chair
9 - 10 January 2009	Phoenix, Arizona, USA	Director-elect Phil Silvers RRIMC Greg Podd, organizing chair

Rotary International Events



Dates	Location	Convener/Organizing Chair
5 - 7 February 2009	Cairo, Egypt *	Convener: Past Director Julio Sorjus Co-convener: PDG Azzedine Kettani PDG Mohamed Delawar, organizing chair
27 - 28 March 2009	Baltimore, Maryland, USA	Director-elect Mike Colusardo PDG Toni McAndrew, organizing chair

2009 RI Convention in Birmingham, England, 21-24 June

Be a part of history and celebrate the 100th Rotary convention, which will take place in Birmingham, the heart of England!

If you haven't been back to Birmingham since the 1984 convention, you may not recognize this former industrial town. Now a lively canal city known for its outstanding shopping and dining, Birmingham — or Brum, as the natives call it — underwent a dramatic facelift in the 1990s. The transformation resulted in a modern, more pedestrian-friendly city that retains traces of its medieval and Industrial Age roots.

Convention venue

The National Exhibition Centre is Europe's busiest venue, staging more than 180 exhibitions each year. Its 21 interconnected halls offer plenty of space for convention activities such as registration services, plenary sessions, the House of Friendship and exhibits, convention luncheons, workshops and interactive discussion groups, and the Rotaract and Youth Exchange pre-convention meetings. Find more information about the NEC - <http://www.thenec.co.uk/>

Download the [convention booklet](#) for more reasons to come to Birmingham in 2009.

Register early and save

First deadline: 15 December

Second deadline: 31 March

[Register online](#). It's convenient and secure. Your confirmation materials will be e-mailed to you.

Host events

Find out more about the Birmingham area and meet local Rotarians by participating in the events the Host Organization Committee has planned. Pre- and post-convention tours also are available. Purchase tickets online at www.rotaryconvention2009.com through a secure service, or download the [ticket order form](#) & fax it to the HOC:

Fax: +44 (0) 1789 765570

Mail:

Birmingham Convention 2009 Limited
Kinwarton Road, Alcester, Warwickshire, B49 6PB
United Kingdom

Questions?

Fax: + 44 (0) 1789 765570

Phone: +44 (0) 1789 765411



Important Notices

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

30 June 2008



Dear Club President:

In February of 2008 I wrote to request your assistance in contacting your Member of Parliament to urge Canada's continued financial support for Global Polio Eradication. Clubs throughout Canada responded to this call for action by declaring their own commitment to a polio free world and urging Canada's continued support. I thank you for your follow up to my urgent appeal.

I am pleased to report that the Government of Canada heard our collective voice and has announced a commitment of C\$60 million over the next three years to support polio eradication efforts in Afghanistan. I enclose information on this announcement, which can be viewed on the Government of Canada website at:

<http://www.canadainternational.gc.ca/canada-afghanistan/projects-projets/tuberculosispoliomyelite.aspx>

Minister Oda has also advised me that the Government is considering a further grant to assist the Polio Eradication effort that would be less country specific.

I encourage you to contact your Member of Parliament to express Rotary's appreciation for Canada's ongoing support. You may wish to highlight any efforts your own club is making as part of Rotary's \$100 Million Challenge Campaign to ensure we seize the opportunity to rid the world of polio once and for all.

I am confident that the Government of Canada will continue to demonstrate its longstanding leadership in support of global polio eradication, and I look forward to sharing news of our ongoing collaboration with the government of Canada toward our shared goal of a polio free world.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "W. J. Wilkinson".

Wilfrid J. Wilkinson
President, Rotary International

cc: Hon. Bev Oda, Minister for International Cooperation
Dr. Robert Scott, Chairman, The Rotary Foundation
Dr. Monty Audenart, Member, Rotary International Board of Directors

*Editor: *Please note the date the letter was written*



Important Notices



Member Access, online service changes

Rotary International Website Security

In July 2008, Rotary International will implement a more comprehensive registration and login process for Member Access and other password-protected online services. The new system will improve security and provide self-service features.

When the new system is fully implemented, all registered users will be able to reset their passwords and update their e-mail addresses. In addition, the new system allows Rotary to increase and improve secure online content and service to non-Rotarian constituents.

Starting July 2008, both new and existing users will be required to register, or re-register, with a unique e-mail address, password, and a secret question and answer.

If you use spam blocking software, Rotary International Website recommends you to add **secure@rotarymailings.org** to your approved sender list. This will ensure that you receive e-mails that support the new self-service features.

Need help registering on Member Access? A step-by-step Power Point presentation is available in this link.
http://www.rotary.org/RIdocuments/en_ppt/member_access_registration_en.ppt

New deadlines for retiring RI-CAS and RI-DAS

1. New deadline for ending RI support of software – 31 December 2008

Based on feedback from clubs and districts, RI will continue to provide support to users of the standalone versions of the software until the end of the calendar year, 31 December 2008. This means that Rotarians will still be able to download the software from Rotary's Web site, purchase it from the catalog, and discuss issues on the CAS/DAS forum on [Member Access](#) until 31 December 2008.

2. New deadline for online users of RI-CAS/RI-DAS – 30 September 2008

RI will continue hosting the online RI-CAS/RI-DAS versions until 30 September 2008. Web access for online users will not be available on 1 October and thereafter. Correspondingly, software support will continue for standalone users that have downloaded their online data to a standalone version of the software through 31 December 2008. Doing so allows three months of support to former online users to adjust to the standalone software version. RI is still investigating if another entity would be able to host the site at a reasonable fee basis to online users. We will announce the results about the viability of this option in early June 2008.

3. Other software alternatives to RI-CAS and RI-DAS

While RI cannot endorse or recommend another product, we have posted a [list of several Web sites](#) offering club administrative software tools for Rotarians. This list is not exhaustive, but can be used as a starting point to assist Rotarians in locating alternate software.

4. Archiving RI-CAS and RI-DAS knowledge-base

All of the information in the CAS and DAS User Forum will be converted to a PDF file on Rotary's Web site so that Rotarians can search it for information. No new questions or changes will be permitted to this file after 31 December 2008.



Important Notices

5. Synchronization of Rotary club data with RI data

Rotary International would like to provide the ability to synchronize data between the club and RI, but there are a number of issues that need to be resolved first. Protecting the privacy of our members' data is a key concern and worldwide privacy laws are complex. Many such legal questions would need to be addressed prior to deciding to provide this type of data interchange. RI is currently reviewing these issues and will only be able to provide synchronization functionality in the future if it complies with privacy laws worldwide.

6. Other alternative paths suggested by users

- Providing RI-CAS and RI-DAS Source Code

- Unfortunately, RI does not have working source code for this software. In software technical terms, this specifically means that the source code will not compile (generate an .exe file).
- In order for Rotary to release the source code, it would need to spend thousands of dollars to fix the source code and to verify that the code will generate an .exe file that does exactly what the existing RI-CAS and RI-DAS software does today. In addition, for protection of RI's trademarks, all references to Rotary would have to be removed from the code, further increasing the costs to update the source code before its release
- Finally, perhaps the most compelling reason that this option is not viable is that the underlying software technology is over eight years old. In the software industry, this is considered completely out of date. Current trends for administrative software have developed in a completely different direction and use different approaches (e.g. online access) to provide this functionality.
- Selling the software to a district, not-for-profit entity, or user group
- Given the current condition of the source code, it would be a massive undertaking for another group to take the code as is and clean it up as outlined above. Rotary International is also very concerned about not making the current situation for users worse by providing a sense of false hope. RI was unable to fully support this software or to promote its widespread use. Expecting another group to be able to change this situation may be unrealistic.
- Asking another entity to continue Providing support on a fee-basis
- We have not been able to come up with a workable business model. RI estimates that there are a total of about 1,000 clubs that use RI-CAS in the United States, Australia, and South Africa. Given what we know about the need to promote, upgrade, provide training, and support the software, all clubs participating in this type of arrangement would be required to pay a substantial fee on a yearly basis. Our research has shown that many clubs use RI-CAS because it is so cost-effective (free) for their small club and are not willing to pay a fee to continue using it.

Please visit these sites regularly for more updates:

http://www.clubrunner.ca/dprg/dxhome/_home.aspx?did=5040

<http://www.rotary.org/en/Pages/ridefault.aspx>



Features

Bob's Warm Guiding Light

By Gareth Cj. Wee

Passion, dedication, and service above self - these are the words that describe our District Governor for the Rotary year 2008 to 2009. His sense of camaraderie, magis, and his love for people and the community makes him one of the best candidates for DG. But what started the flame?

Bob Blacker's fervor for service sparked at a young age. He joined the **NSW Police Cadets** at the age of 17 and swore in as a constable two years after. Shortly after coming to Vancouver and marrying his wife, **Judy**, he joined the **New Westminster Police Department** - working his way up to being an Inspector. He was named *Honorary Aid de Campe to the Lieutenant Governor of BC*. He retired from the police force in 2000. He has also been the President of the **Royal City Rotary Club** year 2001-2002, Group Study Exchange leader to D9570 Queensland, Australia in 2005, and the Team Leader for the 2005 **Centennial GSE Team**.



Photo by Paul Bean

Everyone is excited for the new Rotary year. **District 5040 Newsletter** had a chance to grab a few minutes off Bob's busy schedule for a brief interview. Read on to find out what he has to say.

Who is Bob Blacker as a Rotarian?

"Service above self - local and international. I get a real kick out of helping people, in leadership, and doing things that they've never done before. When I see people who are not as fortunate as us, I'd really like to do something for them. I want to do what I can do to make sure that they have a better life."

What made you decide to run as the District Governor?

I had some folks come up to me and saying *"Have you ever thought about running as the Governor for the District?"* because I have been GSE Leader as well as the Chair, and I've learned a lot from that. That was my first taste of [the] district. Past District Governor and folks who I respect asked *"Why don't you put your name for it?"* I thought and spoke with Judy about it. I asked her *"What do I write down?"* she said *"Well, you do what you want. Whatever you decide, I'm fine with it."* I thought that this was a golden opportunity to get out there and do a lot more, not only for my own club, but for my district and British Columbia.

Was it a shock when you were elected?

Yeah, the interview process was very complete. Judy and I were interviewed and I remember the day very well because we just finished RYLA South and we had to get back real quick that day. When they asked me all these questions, I knew so much about Rotary that they couldn't shut me up.

What plans do you have for District 5040 that have not been done by past DGs?

The Rotary Alumni Club - I really believe that it is going to be extremely successful. It's for like-minded people who's been out there and done it. For the young, making the club to be one that would suit their



needs and do things that they've already done, especially group exchange members - they go overseas, they come back, they want to do something. This helps keep them in Rotary. Invite **Rotaractors** who are interested to do something about forming bonds with the **Interact** and **RYLA**. All the programs for these kids to say "*Well, there's some place I could go and everybody I can talk to in that club who's been there and done that.*" That would be the first club in North America and the third one in the world. **Kanawaga- Shounen in Japan** is the second, and a club in the **Philippines** was the first one. I think that it's time that we did that.

My other goal is *literacy*, a project with **Government House Foundation** because of my affiliation with Government House as an *Aide de Campe to the Lieutenant Governor*, which I still am. It was interesting - Lieutenant Governor and I were having a conversation when we were going up to *Whistler* one day and I said to him, "*We got to get Rotary more involved with our First Nations*" and he told me that there is a way. He said "*I've been up and down the coast in many isolated communities that don't even have books or libraries. They really need them and that's something that Rotary can do.*" We can do that real easy. We're ready to start on a project that is would really help these kids in isolated areas and the only way that you can get there is by boat or plane. They run their generation on diesel for electricity.

Would there be teachers or instructors for this Literacy Project?

We have got a great literacy chair who was actually an administrator with the school district in Richmond and she was a librarian in her time. She's going to be the one who's going to be coordinating this. We know that once we get started into this that it's going to lead to other directions. What we're saying to the clubs in our district is to adopt a village, so that way, the club and the village and all of us can get to know each other and build a relationship, and then keep them going for five or six years - you can't do this in one year.

What do you expect from your fellow Rotarians during your term?

There is a great buzz out there right now and that was created by **Dean**. She's done a great job in going around to all the clubs and getting them to embrace the idea of increasing their numbers and looking at projects that people will be interested in. People want to give out there, so you need to have something that picks their interest. She did that, and as a result, their numbers are going up astronomically. I want to carry that on. I want to give people areas where they can go out there and do some really good stuff.

Any messages to our Rotarians, Rotaractors, and Interactors?

Have fun, enjoy your fellowship, look at *service above self* and most of all, help your communities out because I know that you can do it and I know that it would be rewarded down the line.

Bob and Judy currently own a small business that ensures an easy and less stressful arrival for healthcare professionals from all over the world. He has assisted over 250 nurses and doctors from Australia, Germany, New Zealand, Saudi Arabia, and the United Kingdom. Even in his retirement as a knight of justice up to his own business and to his Rotary family - Bob is still inclined with public service, sharing his time, knowledge, and talents for the greater good. He is not just your regular Rotarian. He is a true noble man with a very kind heart who will blaze the trail for us in this year to *make dreams real*.



Photo by Paul Bean

Features



Dean Rorhs' message for Bob Blacker

Bob, this is going to be the most exciting year of your Rotary life. Enjoy every single moment of it and just go with the flow. Be flexible and understand that when things happen, it's not personal, but it's for the good of Rotary.

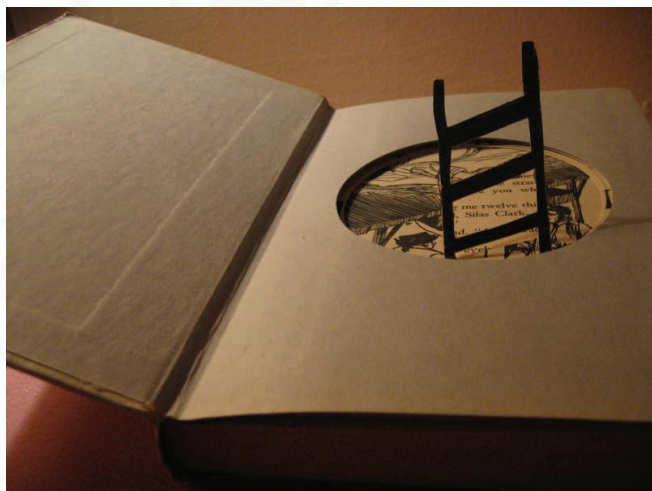
Whatever what choices that you make, whatever advice you give always think for the good of Rotary and for the good of District 5040. But the most important thing is enjoy every minute of it because it is an amazing adventure.



Helpful Resources for Club Presidents

Are you aware that Club and District Support (CDS) staff serve as your primary contact at Rotary?

Staff answers all Rotary questions as well as provide advice on club elections, constitutional matters, club traditions and customs, club operations, and RI Board policy. Below are some critical web resources to assist in leading and supporting your club in the year ahead.



- [Discover your CDS](#) team names and contact details.
- [Print a list of helpful resources](#) for club presidents and secretaries.
- Make online changes to your club's membership records, reference various Rotary Foundation reports, pay your club's dues, and report next year's club officers using [Member Access](#).
- Find [club publications](#), audiovisuals, software, forms and supplies.
- The [club president's checklist](#) is a monthly calendar for presidents and presidents-elect with reminders of club and district functions, as well as RI and The Rotary Foundation deadlines.
- The [Club Leadership Plan](#) is a strategic planning tool based on the best practices of actual Rotary clubs.

The RI Secretariat staff looks forward to working with you and supporting your club's service efforts in the year ahead. Be sure to contact your CDS representative whenever you may need help from RI Headquarters!

Check <http://www.rotary.org/en/members/runningaclub/DownloadLibrary/Pages/ridefault.aspx> for more resources.

Lobsters for Lives

By Kaylee Magee



Local Rotary Clubs have eaten their way into the hearts of aid recipients all over the globe! On June 14, 2008, the **Rotary Club of Vancouver Arbutus** held **LobsterFest 2008**, an evening of fun, laughter, and scrumptious, mouthwatering Atlantic lobsters. The event raised \$18,000 in total, \$9000 is to be used for the said club's international projects and \$9200 was raised for **ShelterBox** organization.

ShelterBox was founded in 2000 by the Rotary Club of Helston-Lizard in Cornwall, England. The original concept was to help provide temporary shelter to victims in the wake of disasters. Immediate disaster relief is generally focused on providing food, water, and

medical services, but the sudden widespread homelessness can take months to address. ShelterBox provides disaster victims with a box containing a tent and supplies for ten people to survive for six months. Other items in the box range from thermal blankets to cooking equipment to mosquito nets, with the exact contents determined locally to ensure they match the specific disaster at hand.

To date, ShelterBoxes have helped more than 500,000 victims of tornadoes, floods, and countless other disasters. ShelterBoxes have been sent to every continent, including those which helped 13 000 victims of Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Over forty counties have benefited from the help of Shelter Box, such as Pakistan for the Kashmir earthquake, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka for the Boxing Day Tsunami. A dedicated group of volunteers, known as **The ShelterBox Response Team** physically transports and hands out the boxes, ensuring widespread and timely assistance.

Rotary has always played a prominent role in work of ShelterBox. After founding the organization in England, Rotary clubs around the world continue to contribute half the funds ShelterBox receives each year. When a natural disaster strikes, ShelterBox stays in close contact with the local Rotary clubs, to learn how best to equip the boxes and how to distribute them most efficiently. The unique ties between Shelterbox and Rotary allows for the power of a large charity to be carried out with the effectiveness of a local, hands-on club.



Congratulations to the Rotary Club of Vancouver Arbutus for championing such a successful event. The \$9200 raised at LobsterFest will provide numerous ShelterBoxes for those in dire need. The evening had a perfect blend of inspiring charities, passionate volunteers, and talented chefs. While the local lobsters weren't too thrilled, everyone else had a great time!

To learn more about ShelterBox, watch the video here:
http://www.rotary.org/en/MediaAndNews/News/Pages/convention08_shelterbox.aspx

Rotary International News & Features



RI president stresses diversity

By Arnold R. Grahl

Rotary International President Dong Kurn Lee stressed that a diverse Rotary is a strong Rotary during a visit to the Rotary Club of Chicago on 1 July.

As part of a long-standing tradition for RI presidents, Lee addressed members of the Chicago club, the birthplace of Rotary, as one of his first official acts. He stressed the need to bring in new leadership to take over for the old as part of the 2008-09 RI theme, *Make Dreams Real*.

"Every Rotarian that we bring into our clubs helps to *Make Dreams Real*," Lee said, to a packed second-floor room in the elegant Union League Club in downtown Chicago. "Every single one is another pair of hands, and another mind, and another heart to do Rotary's work."

Lee called on every district to increase membership by 10 percent and to add two clubs during this Rotary year. "If we do not bring in younger members, we will miss out on a great deal of energy and expertise," he added. "And we will not be training a new generation of members to become club presidents, district governors, and senior RI leaders in the years to come."

Lee said the membership of a healthy Rotary club is made up of men and women of different ages, vocations, professions, skills, and talents. A club that is not diversified is less able to conduct ambitious projects and has a narrower range of resources.

As part of the push for growth, Lee asked Rotarians to be creative in promoting membership and to expand their quest for new members.

"There are many qualified professionals who may simply be overlooked because their professions are not typical for Rotary members," he said.

At the International Assembly in January, [Lee unveiled the 2008-09 theme and service emphases](#), urging Rotarians to become involved in clean water, literacy, and health and hunger projects aimed at reducing child mortality. He also encouraged them to contribute to [Rotary's US\\$100 Million Challenge](#) to eradicate polio.



"We will *Make Dreams Real* by giving children hope and a chance at a future," Lee said.

Chicago club member Ruth Ann Watkins said it is fitting for the new RI president to begin his year at the club. "Rotary started here. It carries historical significance and continues our focus on the future," Watkins said.

Club president Arol Augsburg, who was inducted during the meeting, said Lee's remarks hit all the right notes. He also praised Lee's theme choice: "We reach a much broader audience, and it broadens our sphere of influence to promote diversity."



Rotary International President Dong Kurn Lee (middle) with District Governor Michael Slevnik (left) and Rotary Club of Chicago President Arol Augsburg during Lee's visit to the club 1 July.



Rotary International News & Features

Convention book drive sets Guinness world record

By Ryan Hyland

Rotarians at the 2008 RI Convention demonstrated their commitment to literacy by setting a Guinness world record for the most books donated during a seven-day period. Exactly 242,624 books were collected this week for public school students in Southern California and Southern Nevada.

Danny Girton Jr., an adjudicator for *Guinness World Records*, confirmed that Rotary now owns the record for Most Books Donated in Seven Days at the final plenary session on Wednesday.

"This record demonstrated careful planning, creativity, and a true commitment from the heart," Girton told the audience. "We applaud your efforts and welcome you to the Guinness World Records family."

Ingo Werk, of the *Rotary Club of Wilmington*, California, who chaired the project, joined Girton on stage to thank and congratulate Rotarians for achieving such a meaningful record. "Rotary's commitment to literacy is a commitment with love, not only for our society at large but especially for our children. Love is all you need -- to read."



Rotary's *Wide World of Books* creator and chair, **PDG INGO WERK** (right) and **DANNY GIRTON JR.** (left)



RI Past President Wilf Wilkinson reading to children during the Convention with his wife **Joan** and *Los Angeles Times* Publisher and CEO **David Hiller**.

The book drive, cosponsored by the *Los Angeles Times* Reading by 9 program, will benefit public school students in kindergarten through grade 3 in the region, where studies show too many children read below grade level.

At the convention, a symbolic "mountain of books" display provided a backdrop for reading sessions allowing Rotarians, celebrities, and other notables to read to students visiting on field trips. Project organizers set a goal of collecting a quarter of a million books. Convention registrants from more than 140 countries brought books representing their home cultures and languages.

"Everyone here embraced this book drive, and I could not be more proud of our Rotary clubs and more grateful for the support we received from the public," said Werk.

RI Appoints first woman Director to the RI Board

By Gordon Dalglish



One other special "event" worthy of note took place in Los Angeles in 19th June. It occurred with little fanfare. It was the first meeting of the new 2008-09 RI Board of Directors. At the table was incoming RI Director **Catherine Noyer-Riveau** from Paris, France. After the meeting was called to order and the Board got down to business, she was quick to jump into the mix without missing a beat. This was truly another milestone moment in Rotary's history.



Club Submissions



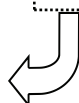
Vickie Sangster happily accepts the \$750 contribution from Tsawwassen Rotarian Dr. Graham Mallett needed to complete an essential rain water collection project with the Uganda Rural Fund where her daughter, Bridget, is working as a volunteer in the village of Kyetume, Uganda to eliminate the three km trek villagers now take to collect murky water.

On June 5 regular meeting, Rotary Club of Gibsons President Wayne Roy presented checks of \$2,500 to Cedar Grove Playground, \$1,000 to Sprockid Mountain Bike program, \$500 to Gibsons Girl Softball and \$500 to Gibsons Elementary School Lunch Program.



From left to right: Gord Galglish (DG Elect), Brenda Lowden, Terry Lehouillier (club president 2007-2008), and Maureen Park (club president 2008-2009)

The Lions Gate Rotary Club wanted to have some fun around Maureen's Scottish Heritage thus organized a Scottish themed dinner in her honor. Maureen is a Bank of Nova Scotia Manager, who brings the club her excellent Leadership skills. The club is very fortunate to have her lead us this year in *Making Dreams Real* on the North Shore.





Club Submissions

Rotary Club of Vancouver Fraser View

PRESIDENT GUS RATTAN AND THE EXECUTIVE FOR 2008-2009

PRESIDENT	GUS RATTAN
PRESIDENT - ELECT	HARJ GILL
TREASURER	KARNAIL NAGRA
SECRETARY	HARJ GILL
DIRECTOR MEMBER SERVICES	JASDEV AUJLA
DIRECTOR PUBLIC RELATIONS	SCOTT FRAMPTON
DIRECTOR ADMINISTRATION	NAIB BRAR
SEARGENT OF ARMS	SCOTT FRAMPTON

AWARDS:

OUTGOING PRESIDENT AJIT THANDI

♠ PAUL HARRIS PIN

AWARDED TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE EFFORTS AND EXCELLENT WORK DONE IN 2007-2008 AS PRESIDENT OF THE CLUB

ROTARIAN AND INCOMING PRESIDENT GUS RATTAN

♠ PAUL HARRIS PIN

AWARDED TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE EFFORTS AND SUPPORT TO ROTARY OVER THE YEARS AND IN PARTICULAR FOR THE WORK ON ROTARY GOLF TOURNAMENTS

SECRETARY AND PRESIDENT – ELECT HARJ GILL

♠ TWO STONE PAUL HARRIS PIN

AWARDED TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE EFFORTS DURING THE YEAR FOR HIS WORK AS SECRETARY AND FOR COMMUNITY FUNDRAISING EFFORTS





Overachieving students will save many lives

By Bryan Kelly



Joan Beaty of UNICEF (center) accepts the exceptionally generous proceeds raised by Tsawwassen students. Left to right: Interact Club members Krislin Stovall, Johanna Johnson, Goffery Boulding and Samantha Davie led SDSS and students from South Park, Beach Grove, Cliff Drive and Pebble Hill to raise \$5,000.00 to save lives by fighting malaria in Rwanda and Liberia.

Elementary students from four Tsawwassen schools joined with **SDSS** to raise \$5,000.00 in *Nickels for Nets* to far exceed their \$1,000 fund raising target! The amazing achievement by students of **South Delta's Interact Club** will save hundreds of children's lives in Rwanda and Liberia with insecticide treated nets.

As part of the UNICEF *Spread the Net* project, five hundred insecticide treated nets at a cost \$10.00 each will be purchased for distribution in the tropical countries. The nets protect sleeping African children from malaria-carrying mosquitoes.

"The students were so great and so supportive" said outgoing Interact Club, President Johanna Johnson, who tirelessly worked to enlist student and community support.

"This wonderful accomplishment will save hundreds of lives and help make rural African communities healthier. We are very grateful for the support" said Joan Beaty when accepting the funds as the representative of UNICEF on Thursday June 5, 2008 at SDSS.

Joan explained developed countries around the world each take a malaria burdened region to assist. "Canada has been paired with Rwanda and Liberia as countries that need malaria protection. A \$5,000.00 contribution is huge!"

Each insecticide treated net is large enough to protect a sleeping family of five. So the Tsawwassen contribution has the potential to help up to 2,500 people.

"The nets are not the total answer but they cut the infection rate in half giving many children a chance to grow" exclaimed Joan. "It is the small children and pregnant women that are very vulnerable. This will save many lives."

Also in attendance was teacher, Interact counselor, and local Rotarian, **James Brown** who said, "These Interactors are an excellent group of very responsible students. Rotary is proud to be involved with them." Students in the **South Park** grade 4 class of Mme. Maurice raised \$320.00 to win acknowledgement as the top fundraisers. Last week they received a Certificate of Achievement as well as a movie and munchies prize. Their efforts helped South Park raise \$1,500.00 to rank first among the schools that contributed to the program.



Local businesses **Harris Nursery** and **Video Land** provided major boosts to push the project well beyond the original target.

Other schools contributing to the project included: **Beach Grove, Cliff Drive** and **Pebble Hill**.

About UNICEF Spread the Net:

A U.N. sponsored campaign to raise awareness and help prevent death by malaria. The 3 year goal is to raise \$5 million to distribute 500,000 simple, effective insecticide-treated bed nets to families Africa.

Reaching Higher Ground by Working Together

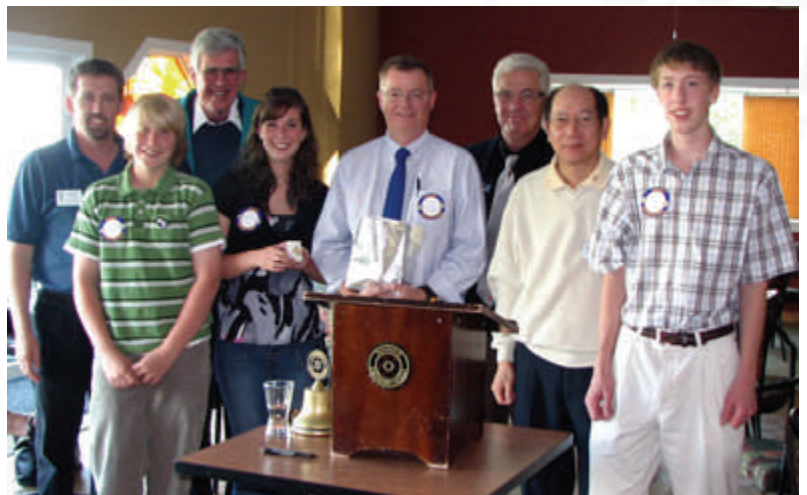


The Interact club of Elphinstone along with the Grad class of 08 and 09 raised \$1,650. The Interact Club presented a \$1100 Check, the Grad Class of 08 a check of \$300 and the Grad Class 09 a check of \$250 to **Wendy Bott** and **Dee Pearson**. The Interact club is a junior Rotary leadership program run by the Gibsons Rotary and Elphinstone teachers. This year's international project was to raise money for Burma. The money will go towards repairing the orphanage associated with Bott and Pearson.

Celebrate Interact Club School Advisor Ian Thomson Retirement

Photos and caption by Jim Ling

Rotary Club of Gibsons Youth Committee Chairman Jim Ling presented Mr. Ian Thomson a special retirement gift for his dedication in youth leadership at the Elphinstone Secondary School Interact Club for the last 10 years.

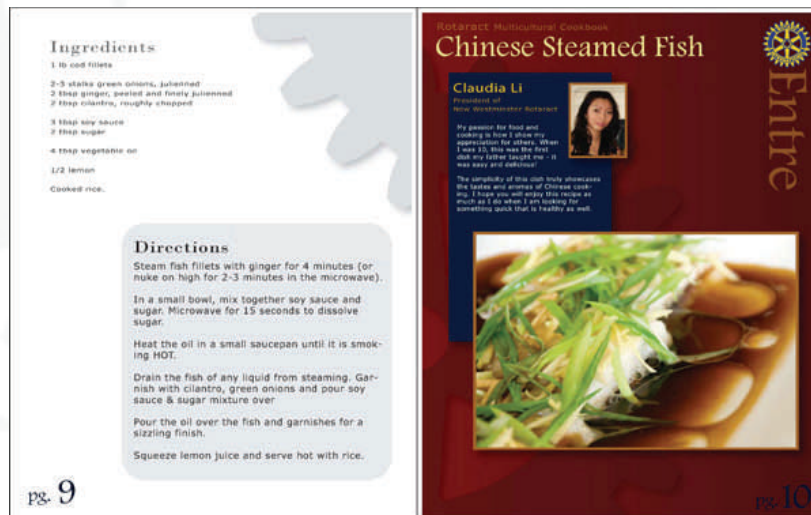




Hurray for Emily Parsons!

Youth Leader-Rotarian **Jill Moore** (left) offers congratulations to SDSS student **Emily Parsons**, the winner of the *Rotary Youth Leadership Award* and recently elected president of the Tsawwassen Interact Club. She will surely be able to do even greater things and help us to *Make Dreams Real*

The Rotaract Multicultural Cookbook now has officially 71 recipes!



The Rotaract Club of New Westminster would like to send out a big thank you for those who have contributed!

A special thanks to Dean Rohrs for inspiring us, Rick Molstad for being an amazing Liaison, Jen Peyton for showing us the way and Jim Ling for his endless support. Also a big hug to my Cookbook team (Tina, Cj., Courtney, Aaron)!

The Cookbook is finally being compiled and we look forward to sending out a sample copy by this August and offering it for sale in the Fall. The Playpump Project is on its way!

*Please note all contributors will be contacted with an update.

Signing off with a smile and spatula,

Claudia Li

Rotaract Multicultural Cookbook Champion
Rotaract Club of New Westminster| President 08-09



RYLA North Coordinator, Morgan Evans Makes Things Happen in I-RYLA

I was very fortunate to be a counselor at this year's i-RYLA. The international Rotary Youth Leadership Awards of 2008 took place prior to the international convention in Los Angeles, California. Over 100 participants were in attendance representing some 33 different countries worldwide. In my small group alone there were participants from South Africa, USA, Slovakia, Australia, Canada, Brazil, Japan, Mexico, and Sweden.



The group that I was a counselor for during i-RYLA



With another Canadian RYLArian from Vancouver, Jacqueline Wong, during a cultural night

Through large scale projects and small group discussions we were able to interact with one another to solve problems, develop action plans, enhance communication, and discuss issues pertinent to society today, such as the availability of clean water for all. The results we achieved were nothing short of remarkable, and our work culminated with a discussion of our roles as Rotarians by the year 2030.

I am very grateful to Rotary for the opportunity to represent Canada at such an influential event. Thank you Rotary Club of Terrace, and Rotary International.

Morgan Evans

Coordinator, RYLA North
Rotary International District 5040



RYLA North is now open for applications. We are calling on Rotary clubs in our district to sponsor one or more participants between age 19 and 25 by Aug, 2008.

For details and application, visit [RYLA North website](http://ryla.north.rotary.org). or contact Co-ordinator Morgan Evans at ryla@rylanorth.org and RYLA North Chair Kathi Travers at kathipg@telus.net



24 Hour Relay

By Kaylee Magee



Several local Rotaract clubs joined forces on June 14th and 15th to participate in the *24 Hour Relay*! The annual event is dedicated to giving children with special needs the opportunity to attend the ***Easter Seals Camps*** each summer. Working together, District 5040 Rotaract walked over 100km and raised \$2700 towards the \$1.3 million relay total.



The Rotaract team decided to go for a ninja theme for this year. The relay, run by the **BC Lions Society**, was filled with exciting games, live music and wild costumes all night long. The Rotaract team, comprised of members of the **Hollyburn**, **New Westminster**, and **Burnaby** clubs, loved working together for an amazing event and can't wait for next year's 24 Hour Relay!



Installation Dinner Pictures



Dean enjoys her birthday choir



Our great MC, Angi



Let's dig in with Angi's hubby, and great photographer

Our guest from Uganda



Of course, we can't forget our beloved DG Bob and Judy



Paul Harris Fellowship Awardees Chris Lee, Claudia Li, and Courtney Eng with Rick Molstad



DG Bob can't believe his eyes

Thanks to everyone who attended. It was a great night filled with scrumptious food, laughter, and honor. Together, let us strive to become better in what we do and give our best in making dreams real