

December is always a busy month as Christmas approaches and we look forward to a new calendar year. Christmas lights are starting to appear making every where bright and festive. Our social calendars are filling up with plans to visit family, friends and neighbours over the Christmas season. Our days are filled with shopping, baking, cards, decorating and anticipation of the coming weeks.

In Rotary, we are nearly halfway through the Rotary year 2010-11. All my official visits to the clubs are finished except one. Each club has a unique personality and Chris and I enjoyed visiting them all. We hope to get back to many of the clubs during the second half of the year.



I am delighted that we have two new Provisional Rotary clubs in the District - Powell River Sunrise and Bowen Island. Both groups are working hard to establish their membership to be chartered later this Rotary year. Powell River Sunrise is sponsored by the Rotary Club of Powell River and Bowen Island is sponsored by the Rotary Club of West Vancouver Sunrise. Both new clubs would be delighted to have visitors.

Clubs including Interact and Rotaract rose to the challenge from the Rotary Club of Vancouver Quadra to raise Pennies for Polio. Please remember to let us know how many Penny Weights you have collected so that we can give you a full tally of the amount raised in the District. Thanks to all the Rotarians and the club Presidents, Penny's Posse, for rounding up those pennies.

In the new year we will charge Penny's Posse with rounding up new members and donations to the Annual Programs Fund of The Rotary Foundation. We need to work on both in our clubs in the next six months if Rotary is to be Bigger, Better and Bolder in District 5040. Each of us as Rotarians can bring new members into our clubs. We can also each support our Rotary Foundation financially so that we in Rotary can continue to have matching funds for local and international projects. Watch for more information and ideas on membership and the Foundation in the coming months.

And finally, December is Family month in the Rotary calendar. A month when naturally we focus on those near and dear to us. A month when we want to also remember our Rotary family - our club members and their families, our Interactors and Rotaractors, Youth Exchange students, Alumni, former members and their families. Take some time in this busy month to recognize and involve our Rotary family in your Rotary activities.

Chris and I wish you all a wonderful Christmas and happy New Year and a very special holiday season to you and your family.

**District Governor Penny**

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