

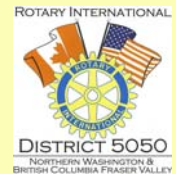


Rotary District 5050

Peace



Arch



Volume 22 Issue 4

October, 2008

Officers of Rotary International District 5050

Governor *Chilliwack, B.C.*
Larry Stinson (Karola)
42383 Sinclair Road
Chilliwack, BC, Canada
V2R 4N8

Res 604-823-4294
Bus 604-792-1376
FAX 604-792-8711
E-mail
lstinson@bakernewby.com

Governor-elect *Everett, WA*
Larry Jubie (Linda)
328 Alverson Blvd.
Everett, WA 98201

Res 425-258-1215
Cell 425-327-1555
FAX 425-258-9618
E-mail:
lwjubie31@hotmail.com

Governor-nom. *Langley, B.C.*
Wayne Weibe (Arlene)
7734 209A Street
Langley, B.C. V2Y 2E4
Res 604-534-2824
FAX 604-534-2824
E-mail:
wayneweibe@shaw.ca

MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT GOVERNOR

Greetings Fellow Rotarians:

September was a busy month for our Group Study Exchange program. Team Australia (our aboriginal exchange with Western Australia) put the finishing touches on their presentation and launched it at the farewell reception held on September 21st in Abbotsford. This is an impressive team and you will be able to follow their travels on their "blog" <http://gse2australia.blog.com>. At the same time, Team Ecuador is getting organized, having held interviews for team members on September 20th in Bellingham. There is considerable work involved in the planning and execution of these exchanges and I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to our District Chair Bert van Dalfsen, our Outbound Coordinator Elaine Howardson, our Inbound Coordinators Danielle Mullen and Ron Goldfinch, our Team Leaders Tage Cawley and Bev Harrington, their backup Team Leaders Jackie Kendziorek and Linda Murray, and the many others who support the program in so many ways.



District Governor
Larry Stinson

October is Vocational Service Month in the Rotary World and a time for us to reflect on the second Object of Rotary, namely to encourage and foster high ethical standards in business and professions, the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations, and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society. Never before has the need to instil adherence to high ethical standards been more apparent as we await the outcome of the investigations into the sub-prime mortgage meltdown and its' impact on the global economy. Ethics in business is an ideal that must be fostered early, in our Interact Clubs, our Rotaract Clubs and in our schools. Many Clubs have 4-Way Test Programs and I would encourage all Clubs in the District to consider adopting one – it would be a sound investment for the future. The following is the website for a sample 4-Way Test Program:
www.rotary5440.org/fortcollinsco/4waybrochure.

Let's "Make Dreams Real" by inspiring high ethical standards in our next generation.

Your Governor,
Larry

Index for some of the articles

2. Traveling Peace Arch/ LobsterFest
3. W-H-H Projects/ Foundation Dinner
4. Planned Giving/ Chiapas, Mexico
5. Assorted Items/
6. Club President Hart/ Notes from DG
7. AG Pollett/ More on November dinner
8. The legacy of Rotary Youth Exchange
9. Why I am a Rotarian!/ GSE Farewell

A Reminder of Our Task: Matching the Gates Foundation Grant



National Immunization Day in Moradabad, India

Photograph is 2007 Copyright, Rotary Images/Alyce Henson



The Traveling Peace Arch Alert

The recent experiences of the club presidents for South Everett-Mukilteo and White Rock Peace Arch indicate that you may get a surprise visit with a little gift.

The following is a report by Club President-Elect Collin Rogers:

On Friday, September 5, 2008, we made a visit to the South Everett-Mukilteo Rotary Club where our President, Jackie Smith, bestowed the Traveling Peace Arch on the unsuspecting or surprisingly grateful SEMR President, Rene Porubek.

The following posse of 6 Chilliwack-Fraser Rotarians made the day-trip down to the southern-most club in District 5050: Tim Affleck, Gary Elliott, Richard Palmer, Collin Rogers, Jackie Smith, and Ron Sturm. Another of our members, Tim Bohr, was on a training weekend with the US Army Reserves and was able to join us for a total of 7 members from our club in attendance. It was touching when the American club gave Tim a standing ovation after his introduction in his army fatigues.

In addition to the presentation of the Traveling Peace Arch and the customary banner exchange, we also presented a book of photos taken around Chilliwack by Stephen Baker. Not only did we enjoy good fellowship with our fellow "Children of a Common Mother", but we were also privileged to hear PDG and RI UN Ambassador Doug Vincent give a report of the history and status of Rotary and the United Nations. Mr. Vincent also spoke about "The Power of One" and the "Magic of Matching Grants".

No photographs were available for the above presentation.

The following is a report by Club President Rene Porubek:

Das arch is on the move! The Jubie brothers referred to it as a "hot potato" and advised us to get rid of it ASAP! We received the Arch on Friday, September 5th and delivered it to the lucky recipients at White Rock Peace Arch on the 8th. It was a great group, but very skeptical of my visit. And they were right!

In the photograph on the right side, White Rock Peace Arch Club President Dee Makepeace seems to be not too receptive to the gift about to be received.



The Rotary Club of White Rock's LobsterFest 2008

Saturday, October 25
Pacific Inn Resort & Conference Centre
1160 King George Highway
Surrey, B.C.

Times:

Cocktails at 6:00 p.m. & Dinner at 7:00 p.m.

Cost: \$75.00 per person

Come prepared to have lots of fun:

The first lobsters will be piped in by two bag pipers from the Seaforth Highlanders.

Dress casual and be prepared for a traditional East Coast LobsterFest Menu with 1 ¼ - 1 ½ lb Nova Scotia lobster with lots of butter, coleslaw, potato salad, rolls and assorted fruit pies. Wine, beer and other beverages will also be available. There will be a live and silent auction throughout the evening, with entertainment that will include fiddlers.

Funds raised will be directed to the Integrated Centre for Health Improvement in support of Peace Arch Hospital and Community Health Foundation: **Partners in Caring.**

For tickets: Please contact Rotarian Peter Short by E-mail at pdshort@shaw.ca or at his cell phone number: 778-389-7362, or any member of the Rotary Club of White Rock.

Do not miss out on this event: Tickets are on a first come basis and can be paid by cash, cheque, or Visa.

The Peace Arch Journal
District 5050

Larry Stinson Governor

The *Peace Arch Journal* is published monthly as a service to District club officers and members. It is intended as a source of news and opinion from throughout the district.

The mission is to promote communication, understanding, fellowship, and fun beyond club meetings, in a manner complementary to shared efforts at placing *Service Above Self*.

Please send articles and news in MS Word docs, with or without pictures, attached to emails and make some kind of reference to Rotary in the subject line. Note that the editor is not a professional journalist, and he appreciates conservation of space in order to meet the sender's needs and the editor's time.

Deadline is the 15th of the month.

Address any and all information to *Peace Arch Journal* editor:

Bob Knight *Snohomish*
PO Box 612
Snohomish, WA 98291-0612
Phone: 360-568-5629
E-mail: RDKPDK@aol.com

Visit District 5050's website at:

WWW.district5050.org

District 5050 Administration

Secretary *Langley Central*
Bert Monsma (Susan)

6896 Sussex Cres
Delta, BC, V4E 2P3
Res 604-805-7045
Bus 604-590-7238
FAX 604-590-0902
E-mail: monmsma@dccnet.com

Treasurer

Jodi Widmann

1031 State Ave., Suite 204
Marysville, WA, 98270
Phone 360-657-3145
Fax 360-657-3149
E-mail: jodiw@northcountybank.com

District Administrator *Everett*

Linda Murray

4943 Ocean Avenue
Everett, WA 98203-
Bus 425-348-3850
Res 425-347-6738
Cell 425-422-9141
FAX 425-353-8934
E-mail Linda@evergreensecurity.com

Editor's note: The following is another of the series of articles and photographs that Don has provided the PAJ. Other recent articles can be found on page 5, April, 2008, and on page 3, July, 2008.

Adventure & Misadventure in One Club's Overseas Projects

by Don Anderson, District 5050 Chairman:
Water, Health & Hunger District Operations Group

Looking back over fourteen years of water projects in Mozambique, Everett-Port Gardner Rotary Club exhibited resilience in the learning process for projects in remote third-world countries. Simply finding and funding worthy projects is not sufficient. Solid reliance must be established upon both host-country club and contractor. Therein lives the learning.

In 1995 we first trained a drilling crew to operate light weight rigs and install pumps. More training/equipping trips followed, but we lost contact, time and again – a common occurrence in third world projects. (Learning!) Theft is a constant hazard. Stolen over the years: photo-voltaic panels, pumps, tools, and a small truck. (Learning!) Nevertheless, Justino Macamo, the engineer we first trained, installed thirty wells. Reputation established, he survived schism in his local support. As we advised, he founded a certified NGO (non-governmental organization): "APAS". But he'd worn out critical parts in the drilling rig. Work came to a halt. He was out of touch again. (Learning!)



The site of a stolen pump

We connected with a Maputo club for joint application in matching grant funding. Then we discovered: they had overdue reports – disqualified! (Learning!) In 2002, without a matching grant, we re-invigorated

APAS with advanced training and parts shipment. However, shipping papers lacked pre-shipment customs certification, requiring weeks to clear. (Learning!) In 2004 Past Club President Wallitner visited Mozambique, witnessing operations. He successfully launched a new project in partnership with another Mozambique Rotary club: a matching grant-funded drilling rig. That club has since dropped out. (Learning!) APAS now operates two rigs. A new project is ready, with the Rotary Club of Matola. We've learned. Back-up contingencies at every step!

Map resource:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matola>



Justino at a drilling rig



District 5050's Annual Rotary Foundation Dinner

Date: Friday, November 7, 2008, from 5:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Location: McIntyre Hall, 2501 E. College Way, Mount Vernon, WA.

Cost: \$65.00 USD **Register on-line at:** www.district5050.org

**Rotary International District 5050
Assistant Governors**

Area "A"

Ron Goldfinch (Marie)
45948 Higginson Rd.
Chilliwack, BC Canada V2R 2A7

Res 604-858-8451
E-Mail: rgoldfinch@legacypacific.com

Area "B"

Bill Dickson
32510 Badger Ave.
Mission, B.C. V2V 5S6

Res: 604-820-1581
E-Mail: bill.dickson@sd75.mission.bc.ca

Area "C"

Brian Thomasson
1769 - 272nd St.

Aldergrove, B.C. V4W 2N5
Res 604-856-6990
E-Mail: blthoma@telus.net

Area "D"

Denis Boyd (Maureen)
831 Cottonwood Ave.
Coquitlam, B.C. V3J 2S9

Res: 604-931-7211
E-Mail: denboco@shaw.ca

Area "E"

Christiana Flessner
3325 Canterbury Dr.
Surrey, B.C. V3S 0J4

Res 604-536-8031
E-Mail: cflessner@wheelchairfoundation.ca

Area "F"

Larry Pollett (Minnie)
4595 Lost Creek Lane
Bellingham, WA 98229

Res 360-734-1583
E-Mail: lmpollett@comcast.net

Area "G"

Jane Helten
4628 Rodie Lane
Freeland, WA 98249

Res 360-331-0706
E-Mail: janelhelten@yahoo.com

Area "H"

John J. Piazza (Dottie)
12565 Eagle Dr.
Burlington, WA 98233

Res 360-757-4476
E-Mail: johnsr@piazzaconst.com

Area "I"

Lee Harmon (Judy)
635 N. Sunset Dr.
Camano Island, WA 98292

Res 360-387-1501
E-Mail: rlh@wavecable.com

Area "J"

Amy Black (Bob)
18817 SR 2
Monroe, WA 98272

Res: 360-794-9780
E-Mail: iskreemlady@msn.com

This is a follow-up to the article in the September, 2008, page 8, "The Rotary Foundation: Donor Advised Fund".

How Rotary Can Save You Money!

Written by PDG Dave Robinson, Permanent Fund Development Chair



PDG Dave Robinson

The Planned and Major Gifts Division of Rotary International often advises members who are considering donations of US\$10,000 or more on how to maximize the impact of their gifts, as well as the potential U.S. tax benefits.

A charitable remainder trust is one in which the donor irrevocably places assets in exchange for an income, either for life or a certain number of years. This type of trust allows donors to reduce capital gains taxes on gifts of appreciated property and is a great strategy for incorporating charity into estate plans. It can be funded with cash, real estate, publicly traded stock, closely held stock, bonds (including tax-exempt bonds), and certain other assets.

Income will be earned at a rate agreed upon by the donor and the Foundation, with a minimum of 5 percent of the initial trust principal. If Rotary is named the trustee for your charitable remainder trust, it will cover up to 50 percent of the fee charged by the custodian bank, North-ern Trust, to administer the trust.

Karena Bierman, senior planned giving officer for The Rotary Foundation, says that, for U.S. residents who include the Foundation as a beneficiary of a charitable trust, a charitable remainder trust passes the "four-win" test: Donors can receive a tax deduction in the year the gift was made, avoid capital gains taxes on the donation of appreciated assets, receive lifetime income from the donation, and enjoy recognition for the gift that supports the Foundation while they are still alive.

"Trust assets are invested right away to enable the Foundation to get the most out of the gift," Bierman says, "while the donor gets income and a tax benefit. That way it maximizes the benefit to both the donor and Rotary.

Your questions may be emailed to PDG Dave at dbrobin@uniserve.com.

The following article was provided by Valerie Giles, member of the Rotary Club of Semiahmoo (White Rock), BC.

Rotary Sponsored Mission to Chiapas, Mexico

In the middle of July, 2008, Doug Waymark, a member of the Rotary Club of Semiahmoo, his family, and seven other members of their church, traveled to Chiapas Mexico on a 10 day mission trip. Chiapas is the southern most state in Mexico bordering on Guatemala. It is considered one of poorest states and has the highest population of indigenous people.

One of the activities of the trip was to visit a prison just outside of Palenque. The team prepared and delivered 400 chicken tortas (sandwiches) for the 250 prisoners. Needless to say for neophyte Canadians, entering a prison in a foreign country, where social and language barriers were formidable, there was a little trepidation. However after spending a few hours there, providing food and entertainment, the atmosphere was much more relaxed and almost festive.



Doug and one of the prisoners made from the thread that was purchased by Semiahmoo Rotary.

The Semiahmoo Rotary Club generously sponsored the purchase of \$500.00 worth of thread that the prisoners could use to make hammocks (shown in photo) and other products for their families to sell. There is no means of support for the families if the primary income earner is incarcerated. These colourful hammocks are seen throughout Mexico in the markets of most of the major tourist areas. This gift and their visit made a difference in the lives of others.

For additional information you may contact Doug Waymark by toll free telephone at 1-800-663-4664 or by E-mail at doug.waymark@rbc.com.

Assorted Items from District 5050



DG Larry Stinson, Club President Valarie Cicrich, and AG Jane Helten



At Larry & Karola's ranch



The large & the small of it

On Tuesday, August 5, 2008, District 5050 Governor Larry Stinson and Assistant Governor Jane Helton joined with the members of the Rotary Club of Oak Harbor (WA) as part of the DG's official club visitation.

We understand Larry was so excited about the small tractor that was presented to him that he went out and bought one that is full size.

New Rotarian is a Winner!



Hats off and a well deserved Congratulations goes out to **Jennifer Dawkins** who is one of the newest members of the Rotary Club of Meadow Ridge, BC. She has just returned from the three-day long "2008 Ultraman Canada Championships".

This is a grueling endurance race took place in Penticton, BC, from August 29 - September 2, 2008. It involved a 10 Km swim, a 418.3 Km bike, and a 84.3 Km run. Jen placed in second place among woman in the race... The first place woman is 11 years younger!

The 36 year old firefighter has previously competed in the Ultraman Canada 2007 (relay), Ironman Arizona, Ironman Canada, and the Skaha Ultra Swim.

Thanks for Club President Robert Campbell for sharing Jennifer's accomplishments.

Thursday, September 11, 2008, was a "big night" for our **District Governor-Elect Larry and Linda Jubie**. They were walked down the aisle at the Zone 22 Institute's Gala in Victoria, B.C. Larry & Linda were formally introduced to Rotary International President (2008-2009) DK Lee and other dignitaries as our District's Governor and First Lady for Rotary Year 2009-10.



Linda and Larry

District 5050 Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI)



On Saturday, September 20, 2008, Rotarians gathered at the Hawthorne Inn, Arlington, WA, to experience part one of the three part Rotary Leadership Institute. The class of sixteen was led by a faculty that included: AG Denis Boyd (dean), PAG Bonnie George, PP Ed Nadort, and PP Gene Vickers.

All three parts of the RLI will be offered on Saturday, October 18, 2008, at Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Surrey, B.C. In order to take part two, the attendee must first have taken part one. See www.district5050.org for information.



**Lana Hart (Ron)
Rotary Club of North Delta, BC**

Rotary Club President (2008-2009)

I joined the North Delta Rotary in 2001 - late bloomer!!

During my involvement with Rotary I have had most of the positions on our Board of Directors - haven't traveled outside of my community with Rotary but would love the chance to do so.

I am an Arts Manager, but in real life I am the Executive Director of the Delta Arts Council and an artist in my spare time - or is it the other way around? How would others describe me? -as outgoing, and happy - and I am, although my insides are not so outgoing. I am really shy. Yes, I am - stop laughing. Oh, well, at least I amuse you.

I am married to Ron who is retired - or just tired. I have 3 great kids - well they are grown up now. BUT - the best for last - I have my first grandchild!! A little girl came into our lives (by way of my youngest son and daughter-in-law). She is 5 months old now and has captured our hearts. Truly the reason for having children!

Rotary is another Best in my life. The work done throughout the world in the name of Rotary absolutely astounds me. That and the camaraderie at our weekly meetings rounds out a pretty lucky life for this Lana Hart!

**Monroe Rotary Barn Dance!!!
Saturday, November 8, 2008
5:30 p.m. - 10 p.m.**



(not the real location)

**Come Dance the Night Away!
Yummy BBQ! Silent Auction**

Support Rotary Scholarships &
Community Service Projects

The band 'Big Luv' will be performing

Cost: \$25.00 per person

Real Location:

Evergreen State Fairgrounds,
4-H Building
14405 179th Avenue SE
Monroe, Washington

For information contact
Monroe Club President Mark Mason
at mark@pacsourc.com or
telephone him at 425-483-5511

Some notes from DG Larry's weekly messages to club presidents

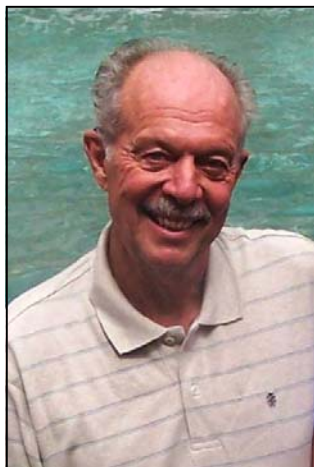
\$30 Million Grant for Polio Eradication from Canada - It's amazing what the Gates Foundation \$100 Million Challenge Grant has started. The Canadian Government has just announced an additional \$30 Million Grant (in addition to the \$60 Million committed in June) in partnership with Rotary to assist in the immunization of children in sub-Saharan Africa.

Youth Exchange 2009/2010 - Many clubs who are not currently involved have indicated a desire to participate in the Rotary Youth Exchange program in the future. It is very important for those clubs contemplating or actively pursuing participation in the 2009 - 2010 Rotary Year to contact our District Youth Exchange Chair, Dennis Rook, respecting compliance requirements for participating Clubs. Dennis can be reached by E-mail at dwrook@shaw.ca.

GSE Team Australia - Our team travelling to District 9470 in Western Australia will be leaving shortly as District 9470 holds their District Conference in October. You will be able to follow their travels via their "blog" at <http://gse2australia.blog.com> I would like to thank the Rotary Clubs of Abbotsford, Abbotsford-Matsqui, Surrey, Chilliwack, South Everett/Mukilteo, Marysville and White Rock Peace Arch for sponsoring the team members. Our GSE exchanges are a highlight of each Rotary year and I would encourage all clubs in the District to try to involve themselves in some manner.

GSE Hosting - We will be hosting two GSE Teams next May, one from Western Australia (our Aboriginal Exchange) and one from Ecuador. We will need six clubs on each side of the border to participate in the hosting of these teams (clubs in the same area may also wish to partner with one another in acting as a host). If your club is interested in this very rewarding opportunity please contact our GSE Inbound Coordinators: Ron Goldfinch rgoldfinch@legacypacific.com in British Columbia and Danielle Mullen travelady2@comcast.net in WashingtonState.

PolioPlus Dinner Event - Don't forget the banquet to be held October 9, 2008 in Chilliwack with Bob Scott as the feature speaker in support of PolioPlus. This man is **THE** authority on polio eradication and Rotary's part in it - so if polio eradication is your passion you won't want to miss this opportunity. More information is available on the District Website www.district5050.org including the Ticket Order Form.



**Larry Pollett (Minnie)
Rotary Club of Whatcom North, WA**

Assistant Governor, Area F

I was born and raised in Southern California. I relocated to the Northwest in the early '60's. I have spent my working years in a variety of aspects of construction. Many years were spent building custom homes all around Whatcom County with my own construction company. I also worked for Ferndale School District as their Director of Buildings and Grounds, supervising their many construction projects, including the remodel of FHS in 1983. From there, I went back to the real world and worked in commercial construction, bidding and managing projects. I retired in 2004.

I joined Rotary in 1984 as a member of the Whatcom North Club, which at that time, was in Ferndale. I served as the Club Secretary for 6 or 7 years in the '90's. I served as the President in 2004-2005. My wife, Minnie, and I are both Paul Harris Fellows. Together, we traveled to Osaka, Japan for the International Convention, then on to China with a group of fellow Rotarians and greatly enjoyed the experience! When you go to an International Convention, it really makes you appreciate Rotary and the things we've been able to achieve internationally.

One of my favorite projects with Rotary happened at the time of my retirement from construction. Our club had completed fund raising to build a new Food Bank Building in Ferndale. I was able to devote four or five months for hands-on construction of this project. I still had my tools and equipment for use in completing this project and I was able to use all of my connections in the building industry to achieve numerous contributions and volunteers for labor. We brought the project in well under budget and were then able to award seven Paul Harris Fellowships to major contributors. This was an extremely rewarding experience. Other fond memories include chasing rubber ducks down the Nooksack River for another fund raising activity that our club used to put on.

My wife and I have raised four children, 2 girls and 2 boys. They are all happily married and gainfully employed and have blessed us with a total of ten wonderful grandchildren, ranging in age from 6 to 22 years old. We spend much of our time attending their various activities and sporting events. In addition to spending a lot of time with our family, I enjoy bike riding, snow skiing, fishing, reading, and working outside on our property. I seem to be always involved with some sort of building project between all of our kids.

Rotary had given me a great opportunity to give back to our community, as the community has been very good to our family. I hope to continue to enjoy the great friends and camaraderie within Rotary for many years to come.

Annual District 5050 Foundation Dinner

The 2008 District 5050 Foundation dinner will be held on November 7, at McIntyre Hall in Mount Vernon, WA. Cocktails start at 5:30 p.m., with dinner being served at 7:00 p.m. Dinner will be roast beef medallions and halibut steaks.

The eight Rotary Clubs in the greater Skagit Valley each made a significant financial commitments to build McIntyre Hall and Performing Arts Center, so it is a fitting place to locate our dinner.

In addition to our Group Study Exchange Teams, our Ambassadorial Scholarship Candidates and other District programs, we are privileged to hear from Penny LeGate, who is a newscaster for Channel 7 in Seattle. Penny is a sought after and inspirational speaker who, with her enthusiastic and informative presentation style, will be a program you won't want to miss. Penny will talk about her most recent trip to immunize children against polio and other diseases in Ethiopia and about the progress we have made and what still has to be done to win the battle to rid the world of this terrible disease.

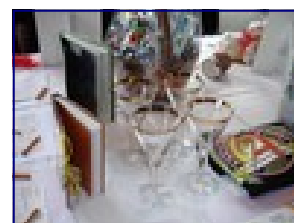
Back by popular request, we'll have a silent auction to raise additional funds for the Polio Challenge for this year. Each Club is requested to bring one or two auction items worth about \$100.00. Last year we raised an additional \$4500.00 and maybe this year we can do even better!

Tickets are \$65.00 each. Register on the District web site and pay at the door when you come!

For directions and information about McIntyre Hall visit the following web site:

http://www.mcintyrehall.org/news3.asp_Q_pagenumber_E_1855

For more information, contact District Foundation Chair Rob Martin at (360) 428-0140.



Editor's note: Thanks to CP George for his excellent article from which we have included an excerpt from the August 19, 2008, edition of *The Rotary Rooter*, The Rotary Club of South Whidbey Island's weekly club bulletin.

Youth Exchange

"The legacy we leave is not measured by how much we have, but by how much we give to others."

George Henny, Club President (2008-2009)

Have you experienced a "WOW!" moment in Rotary? Last year, I did. It ended with a far-flung European travel plan that blew my socks off. It started years before that, on Whidbey Island.

Before I got involved in the Youth Exchange Program, I had been told that the experience was as much for us as it was for the student. The goal of the program is to foster world peace through understanding - one person at a



(L to R) George, Liam, Ann Courbois (Exchange Student 2004-2005), Kiana, Tonya, Taryn at the fountain in Liege, Belgium. We enjoyed lunch with Ann at a nearby restaurant.



Moritz Fischer's dad Olaf barbecuing the seven different types of meat, cooked to absolute perfection!



All of us together at the Fischer home, having experienced some of the warmest hospitality in our lives.. Back row: Louisa Fischer, Moritz Fischer, Tonya Henny, Taryn Henny, Kiana Henny, Moritz's mom, Therese (Moritz's girlfriend), and Olaf. Front row: George Henny, Moritz's grandmother, Liam Henny, and Moritz's cousin.

time. You see, when you get to know someone from another country and culture, it changes you - bit by bit, stereotypes and assumptions melt away (for both host and student), and each develops a greater sense of humility and global citizenship.

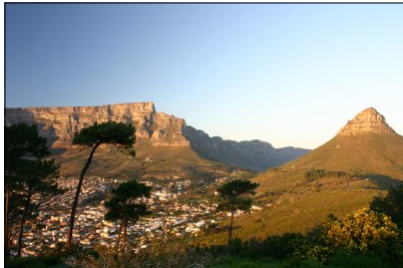
The plan was set - a week in Nice, then drive up the eastern France, through Luxembourg, and in to Belgium to visit three Youth Exchange students from Belgium, all from around Liege. Stephanie VanderHeyden stayed with our family in 2000, and loves Oreos, marshmallows and Cardini's Caesar's salad dressing. Anne Courbois, who visited in 2006, is not only charming, but a phenomenal pianist, and I got to play a Mozart piano duet with her for the Christmas party (she was very tolerant!). And then there was Lauriane Haumont, who was just about to start her exchange year. Finally, the plan was to visit Moritz Fischer near Dresden, Germany, who was our exchange student in 2006.

I thought I understood hospitality - and then my "Wow!" experience came. Again and again, we were shown such hospitality and welcomed as family - and we felt it. It didn't matter that our French or German was challenged - hugs and smiles, laughs libations, food and festivities, music and memories know no borders or cultures. At one point, I realized that almost half-way across the world, we were at home, with family. Stephanie, Lauriane and Moritz were all amazing translators, which made any potential language barrier evaporate, and before I knew it, we had forgotten that we didn't really speak the language well - we were just people, sharing stories around a table. (The wine didn't hurt, either!)

I remember one very special moment. The last night with Moritz and his family, his father Olaf showed off his exceptional grilling skills, expertly preparing seven different meats, grilled to perfection. Here we were, in former East Germany, being treated so graciously and with such genuine warmth and love that it still astonishes me to this day. I remember thinking, "Wow, this is Rotary! We DO make a difference in the world!" All this because our Club chose to reach out and embrace the Rotary Youth Exchange Program. Wow!

Editor's note: Some weeks ago PDG Rob Martin sent me a copy of the following article that can be found in the web site for the Rotary Global History Fellowship (www.rotaryhistoryfellowship.org). Being a little curious who the author of the article is, I located Trevor Wilkins, Past President of the Rotary Club of Cape Town, South Africa, by going to the web site for District 9350. He quickly responded to my email letter.

Trevor is a professional photographer who follows his passion in focusing on a range of water-related sports, such as yachting, high performance dinghy sailing, power boating, etc. He recently sailed a catamaran from Fort Lauderdale (Florida) via the Bahamas, Exuma Islands, Cuba, Jamaica to Panama - again another photographic expedition.



In addition to photography and yachting, Trevor and his wife, Liz, own a bed and breakfast (<http://welgemeend.blogspot.com/>).

B & B located in the lower left side, in the lower slopes of Table Mountain that stands high about Cape Town.

Why am I a Rotarian? - Trevor Wilkins

It is when you stand at the airport waiting to meet you wife - there is a tap on your shoulder and a person neatly dressed in a suit with a great warm smile on his face greets you.....Wow! but a few years ago he was a gangster in a squatter camp and now through a development programme initiated by myself he is in a stable job and a proud youngster..

It is when you spend time with disadvantaged young people who have just completed a sailing circumnavigation of Africa....all these youngsters from disadvantaged communities...and you learn of their progress and development.

It is the time when one has nurtured a young girl who lost her father and had no money for university – the moment when she graduates as a doctor, is invited to dinner and meets her benefactor, an old Rotarian, over 90 whom she had been caring for and never known that he was the Rotarian who had sponsored her.

It is when you switch on the TV and there in your lounge is the smiling face of a young girl who came from a iron shack with no electricity, water, sanitation ...with a candle to study and a wet floor in the winter...a person whom we as Rotarians took by the hand and walked with. She blossomed, completed her education and today is a South African presenter for major sports events – even the Olympics were covered by her.

It is the years of working with young folk on youth exchange and the post graduates from the Ambassadorial Scholarship programme – then the time when you meet them after they have returned, settled down and are now contributing to their own community when you share once again in their formative experiences for which Rotary has made so much of a difference in their lives.

These and the working with families in the squatter camps are the “return on the sweat equity investments” that recharge my batteries and keep me going. Thank you Rotary!



Trevor & Liz Wilkins

Photographs are the property of Trevor Wilkins and have been printed with his permission.



GSE Team to Australia

District Governor Larry Stinson is shown wishing the team well. The team members include:

Tage Cawley (Team Leader), Jay Havens, Paula Tait, Niki Cleary, Keetah McBeath, & Carlos Eschevarria

Photo by Danielle Mullen



Coming in November's PAJ
A letter from Cape Town
 by
Ambassadorial Scholar
Christina Kirkley