



The Miner's Lamp

Bringing the Light of Service to the Community and the World Through Rotary

20 May 2008



Volume 13 Issue 5

**Let's Make May
Rotary Awareness
Month!**

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Rotary International has not designated a particular theme for the month of May. Each of us could do our bit to raise awareness about Rotary in our community by wearing our pins every day, talking to people and inviting them to Rotary.

Well Project - Kenya



Our guest speaker on 13 May was Patricia Crossley of the Rotary Club of Victoria. She and her husband Rod spent several months a year in Kenya working with CHES, a Canadian sponsored group that works hard to make it possible for Kenyan youth to attend school. Patricia provided a wonderful slide show of her work with the Rotary Wells Project, that our club supported as a

world community services project last year. Patricia took us through the process involved in determining the site for a well and the involvement of the local community in it's ownership. By providing a reliable source of clean, potable water near to where the people live, reduces the time taken by women and children to fetch water for their daily needs. In many villages, women walk as much as 15 km in each direction carrying forty-litre containers of water, much from contaminated sources that brings illness and in many cases, death to the villagers. With a well in the community women and children have the freedom to work in their gardens and attend schools.

Announcements—What's Happening in our Club—Please Read

- Jill Cornwell continues to be interested in suggestions for speakers: jcornwell@shaw.ca She is also accepting donations of good books for the Cumberland Lodge Library we have helped establish.
- President Keith announced details of a Rotaplast Fundraising Dinner presented by the RCs of Vancouver Chinatown and Richmond Sunset in cooperation with Rotaplast Canada on Sunday, 8 June; reception at 6 PM, dinner at 7 PM, at the Continental Seafood Restaurant, 150-11700 Cambie St (at No 5 Road) in Richmond. Tickets \$100. Guest speaker: RI Past President Richard King. For reservations and tickets: phone 604-214-8833 or e-mail "mleung@westernmba.ca.
- AG Kim Sleno reminded everyone of the District Conference in Parksville 29 May to 1 June. www.rotary5020.org President Keith, PE Linda and Secretary Alan have registered so far.
- Our 2008 Installation dinner will be on Tuesday, 24 June at the Kingfisher. Meal will be a barbecue. \$25 per person. See John C. for tickets while Dave Stevens is away during the remainder of the month of May.
- Linda read a message from Ken Dunsire, one of our charter members who has moved to Cranbrook to take up a new position in the automobile sales industry. Linda and President Keith thanked Ken for his contributions to our club and the community during the past 2 years and 11 months.
- Linda announced her plans to hold another meeting of the club to continue discussion of the hospice project and to look forward into the coming Rotary year. She's looking at the first Monday of June and will advise.
- Debbie Lemire asked that all who have volunteered to assist with the traffic control at the Empire Day Parade on Monday, 19 May, report to the registration tent at the Cumberland Peace Park at 8:30 AM on Monday.
- 12 May was International Nurses' Day, If you didn't hug a nurse you know on Monday, do so at your next opportunity. <http://www.icn.ch/indkit.htm>
- **Program 20 May:** Louise Chivers - Two Horses Counselling
- **Greeters' Duties:** Arrive by 6:30 AM, set up room, greet everyone as people arrive and hand out badges, help with visitors' name tags and make-up cards. Return room to original setup.

Rotary Moment



Pursuing a Better Vision of Eye Health in India

The Rotary Club of Coimbatore Central, Tamil Nadu, India, has sponsored numerous projects to prevent blindness among thousands of Indians. Photo courtesy of Rotary News/Rotary Samachar. The Rotary Club of Coimbatore Central, Tamil Nadu, India, is at the center of an international effort that has helped prevent avoidable blindness throughout the country for nearly 20 years.

According to the Blind Foundation for India, about 80 percent of the approximately 15 million cases of blindness among Indians are curable or preventable. Cataracts, corneal disease, and diabetic retinopathy are among the conditions that account for the scourge. Concerned about this situation, the Coimbatore Central club partnered in 1990 with the Sankara Eye Foundation, an organization that is dedicated to preventing avoidable blindness and has several facilities throughout India. The club coordinated a US\$167,000 Health, Hunger and Humanity Grant from The Rotary Foundation with support from Indian and U.S. districts that served a population of 1.85 million and funded nearly 10,000 eye surgeries over five years at the Sankara Eye Centre in Coimbatore.

Since then, the work of the Coimbatore Central Rotarians has only gained momentum. The club has headed up six Matching Grant projects, including an effort in 2007 that involved six districts from India and U.S. joining forces with a group of international charities to support a program that screens rural citizens over age 40 for diabetic retinopathy using state-of-the-art mobile equipment. Through 5,613 screening events, this Gift of Vision outreach program served a five-state area with more than 32 million people and provided over 362,000 free eye surgeries.

Clubs from several other countries have also worked with the Coimbatore Central club through district-level service projects not funded by the Foundation. A collaboration with the Rotary Club of Bremen-Hansa, Germany, for example, led to a multidistrict project that paid for about 1,500 curative eye surgeries. When Rotaractors in the Netherlands heard about the Sankara Eye Centre effort, they collected \$23,000 to help operation rooms. Adapted from a story by Varsha Makhija in the February 2008 issue of Rotary News/Rotary Samachar, the regional magazine serving districts in Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. - Source: Rotary International News

Attendance

21 Cumberland Rotarians attended our meeting last week. Visiting Rotarians: AG Kim Sleno, Maureen Fritz-Roberts of the RC of Comox, George Smyth of the RC of Courtenay and Graham Bruce of the RC of Strathpine, Queensland, Australia, District 9600 and Patricia Crossley, our guest speaker, of the RC of Victoria and her husband Rod. Bayne Mann was a guest of his mom, Deb Nolan

May Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays: 7 - Courtney Jackson and John Jones, 24 - Mac Fraser, 27—President Keith Tatton. Anniversaries: 23 - Karen and Chip Ross. . Best wishes to all of you from all of us..

Parting Shots

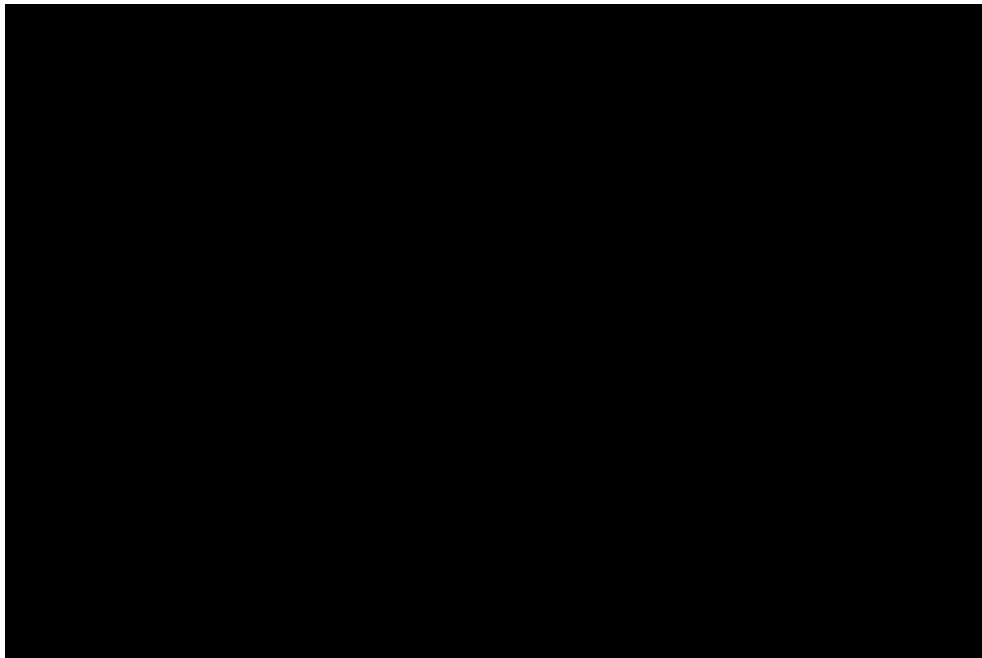


Graham Bruce of the RC of Strathpine, Queensland accepted a banner from President Keith.



WCS Director Stefan presented a cheque for \$1600 to Dodie for food for AIDS orphans in Ethiopia.

Chuckle Corner



One thing I can give and still keep...is my word.

Cumberland Centennial Rocks!