

# The Miner's Lamp

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



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## March is Literacy Month

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Rotarians have a long history of helping develop literacy and numeracy in all parts of the world. Most recently, at the RI Convention in Montreal in June 2010, Rotarians lent their support to Dolly Parton's Imagination Libraries project that provides one book per month to every child registered until they start school. There is no greater gift for a child than the love of reading.

## Fellowship

An unforeseen situation led to a change of venue, which allowed us time for fellowship at Zocalo's.



## Announcements

22 March—World Water Day

- Jill Cornwell is always interested in suggestions for speakers: [jcornwell@shaw.ca](mailto:jcornwell@shaw.ca) Jill is also accepting donations of good books for our library at Cumberland Lodge.
  - From President Alan: Reminder to register for the DLTA being held in Victoria on 2 and 3 April. AG Lana Eagle will be visiting our club next week. President Alan led us in singing Happy Birthday to Debbie.
  - Liz reminded everyone that the next, scheduled Guess Who's Coming to Dinner is Saturday, 26 March. E-mail to participants is imminent.
- Liz suggested we consider a social event involving a trip to Chemainus on a Sunday for brunch and theatre. Normal cost \$50 per person but a group discount can be obtained. Thoughts on chartering a bus were also discussed. More to follow. Contact Liz if interested. Date TBA.
- Jill reminded us that our meeting on 12 April will be at Zocalo's with a special appearance by a harpist. See calendar on the website for more details of April's meetings.
- **March Greeters:** Jay and Keith.
- **Greeters' Duties:** Arrive by 6:30 AM, set up room, greet everyone as people arrive and ha

## Rotary Moment



### Rotaractors Make Splash for Australian Charity

By swimming thousands of miles in their annual Splash for Cash swim-a-thons, Rotaractors in Australia have helped raise more than US\$557,300 to aid children with severe sensory impairments. Started in 1984 as a joint venture between Rotaract clubs in District 9680 and the Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children, Splash for Cash has become one of Australia's longest-running fundraising events. In its first year, 40 swimmers raised nearly \$10,000 for the institute. Since then, the event has attracted more than 200 participants each year. During the 28th annual Splash in April, the Rotaractors aim to raise \$100,000. Swimmers and teams receive sponsorships for the number of laps they complete during the event, held at the Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Center. All funds raised from the sponsors go directly to the institute's Teleschool, which provides educational programs to children with hearing or visual impairments in remote areas of Australia. "My club is always very supportive of each other's passions. What began as an event to participate in soon became an annual event to challenge each other to raise as much money as we can," says Krissie Bredin, past president of the Rotaract Club of Crosslands. The institute "is now easily the organization that has benefited the most from the work of our club."

In 2010, Bredin swam 342 laps for the cause. To up the ante this year, she will be swimming with blacked-out goggles to call attention to the challenges that blind children face daily. Bredin says Splash for Cash was a major reason she joined Rotaract in 2006. The popularity of the event has helped her club's membership quadruple since 2008 and strengthened its reputation within the community. "If you told me five years ago that I would raise tens of thousands of dollars for my favorite charities [through Rotaract projects], I wouldn't have believed it," says Bredin. "With the support of my fellow Rotaractors, we will keep taking the world by storm." Evan Burrell, district Rotaract representative, says delegates from the district will attend the 2011 RI Convention in New Orleans to promote Splash for Cash and encourage other districts to adapt it for their own use.

### Attendance

20 Cumberland Rotarians attended our meeting on 22 March. We missed the company of: Bill, Christine, Robb, Mac, Steve, Judythe, Deb, Kurt, Chantal and Jon. Visiting Rotarians: Joan Firkins of the RC of Oak Bay, Terry Nielsen of the RC of Strathcona Sunrise.

### Birthdays and Anniversaries in March

Birthdays: 4 Chantal, 22 Debbie, 26 Kurt. Anniversaries: 5 Stefan and Annemarie, 23 Adri and Casper. Best wishes to all from our club.

## Parting Shots

### **New bike racks for the Village**

#### March Programs

29 - Extreme Kindness

#### Chuckle Corner