



# The Miner's Lamp

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



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## January is Rotary Awareness Month

### IN THIS ISSUE

Fertile Ground in Assam	1
Announcements	2
Rotary Moment	3
Attendance	3
Birthdays and Anniversaries	3
Parting Shots	4
December Programs	4

**Rotary clubs, under the Board's leadership, conduct a semi-annual review of membership, PR, Foundation and other goals including a progress report on projects.**

## Fertile Ground in Assam



Leighann Vaughan and her son Onyx were our guest speakers on Tuesday. Leighann and Onyx explained the work of Fertile Ground helping tea farmers in Assam change from old farming practices to sustainable practices. Their work focuses on vermin-composting and non-chemical solutions to pest control. In addition, they have

raised funds to repair a school and help establish a new school that provides education in the mother tongue of the people of the region. Onyx talked about the Kids-to-Kids connection that he and three other friends have made with their counterparts in Assam through raising funds for school supplies and exchanging letters with one another. Onyx and his mom are raising money to fund their planned trip to Assam for three weeks in March. Onyx expressed his excitement in anticipation of his first visit to India. Fertile Ground has existed for about 7 years and has made a difference to the lives of many small tea growers in Assam. They have received assistance from a number of Rotary clubs.

See: <http://www.fertile-ground.org/>

## Announcements

Life is full of setbacks. Success is determined by how you handle those setbacks.



- 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: Thank you from Mountainaire Avian Rescue Society for our \$500 donation.

- **January Greeters:** Steve Galbraith and .
- **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



### Rotarians Increasing Immunization in Congo

Rotarians in the Republic of the Congo are stepping up their efforts to help stop the recent outbreak of wild poliovirus in their country. The national PolioPlus committee has produced more than US\$100,000 worth of posters, pamphlets, banners, T-shirts, and other materials to help mobilize public support for eradicating the disease.

At least 179 people have died in the outbreak, with 476 cases of acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) reported as of 7 December. Most of the cases involve young people between ages 15 and 29 and have occurred in the city of Pointe-Noire. To date, 12 of the AFP cases have been confirmed as polio.

Georges Moyon, the nation's health minister, says the Rotarians' support was well targeted and timely. "All you have offered, Pointe-Noire has lacked," he says. "The weakness is a lack of social mobilization."

Rotary International and its partners in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative -- the World Health Organization, UNICEF, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention -- are responding strategically to the outbreak. Rotary has provided a total of \$500,000 in emergency grants to WHO and UNICEF for immediate polio immunization efforts throughout the country.

The outbreak is due to imported poliovirus that is related to the virus circulating in Angola. The Congo Republic recorded its last case of indigenous polio in 2000, and urgent action is required by government and partner agencies to again make the country polio-free.

"Polio outbreaks highlight our global vulnerability to infectious disease," says Dr. Robert Scott, chair of Rotary's International PolioPlus Committee. "It reinforces the fact that polio 'control' is not an option, and only successful eradication will stop the disease."

The Congo Republic carried out National Immunization Days (NIDs) in November and early December, and NIDs are scheduled again for 11 January. "Every man, every woman, every child will be immunized irrespective of their past immunization status," says Dr. Luis Sambo, WHO regional director for Africa. "This way we can be assured that everybody is reached, including young adults, whose immunity may be low."

Outbreaks of imported polio cases are not uncommon during eradication efforts, underscoring the critical need to stop transmission of the virus in the remaining polio-endemic countries: Pakistan, Afghanistan, India, and Nigeria. "Our experience shows that where polio transmission has been stopped before, it can be stopped again," Scott says. "A fast, large-scale, high-quality immunization response using the new tools at hand, along with strong surveillance, is absolutely critical."

Source: Rotary International News / Courtesy : eFlash\_Rotary [www.eflashonline.org](http://www.eflashonline.org).

## Attendance

14 Cumberland Rotarians attended our meeting on 28 December. We missed the company of: Bill, Leslie, Dodie, Jill, Jay, Cathe, Robb, Steve, Debbie, Kurt, Linda, Stefan, Kim, Keith, Jon, Adri, Casper and Gale . Visiting Rotarians: Chip Ross of the RC of Strathcona Sunrise. Guests: Leighann and Onyx Vaughan and Lois Harvey of Fertile Ground, Anatol and Vincent Gudenus, Penny Vroom, Plan and Peg Challenger.

## Birthdays and Anniversaries in January

Birthdays: 4 David Bossom, 10 Deb Nolan, 30 Robb Flannery. Anniversary: 30 Rob and Margaret Neal. Best wishes to everyone.

## Parting Shots



Paul Vroom, our newest member, was welcomed to the club. Vincent Gudenus presented a banner of Interact club of Vocklabruck, Austria. Leighann Vaughan presented a thank you to DS

## January Programs

4 Billy Strachan 11 Comox Valley Conservation Strategy 18 Club Assembly 25 Mexican Project

## Chuckle Corner

### The Official Canadian Temperature Conversion Chart

- 50° Fahrenheit (10° C) Californians shiver uncontrollably. Canadians plant gardens.
- 35° Fahrenheit (1.6° C) Italian Cars won't start. Canadians drive with the windows down.
- 32° Fahrenheit (0° C) American water freezes Canadian water gets thicker.
- 0° Fahrenheit (-17.9° C) New York City landlords finally turn on the heat. Canadians have the last cookout of the season.
- 60° Fahrenheit (-51° C) Mt.St. Helens freezes. Canadian Girl Guides sell cookies door-to-door.
- 100° Fahrenheit (-73° C) Santa Claus abandons the North Pole. Canadians pull down their ear flaps.
- 173° Fahrenheit (-114° C) Ethyl alcohol Freezes. Canadians get frustrated when they can't thaw the keg
- 460° Fahrenheit (-273° C) Absolute zero; all atomic motion stops. Canadians start saying "cold, eh?"
- 500° Fahrenheit (-295° C) Hell freezes over. The Toronto Maple Leafs win the Stanley Cup