



# Rotary International Zone 22 Russia • USA • Canada • France

Jan./Feb. 2009

A Newsletter for  
Rotary Leaders in  
Zone 22 (24)

Editor: Elly Contreras-Vermeulen

Send your submissions  
before March 15, 2009  
to [miselly2@platinum.ca](mailto:miselly2@platinum.ca)



## IMPORTANT DATES

• • •

Jan. 30-31, 2009 - Zone 22 West  
Regional TRF Seminar - Vancouver

• • •

Jun. 21, 2009 - RI Convention  
Northern Lights Breakfast

• • •

Jun. 21-24, 2009 - RI Convention  
Birmingham, England  
[www.rotaryconvention2009.com](http://www.rotaryconvention2009.com)

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Sep. 14-20, 2009  
Edmonton Rotary Institute  
[www.EdmontonRotaryInstitute2009.ca](http://www.EdmontonRotaryInstitute2009.ca)

## Another \$255 Million from Gates Foundation

*RI and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation have announced they will contribute a combined \$355 million in new funds for polio eradication.*

The Gates Foundation is awarding Rotary a \$255 million challenge grant, which Rotary will match with \$100 million raised by its members and supporters over the next three years. As a spearheading partner in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI), Rotary's chief role is fundraising, advocacy and mobilizing volunteers. The announcement came during the Rotary International Assembly, the humanitarian service organization's annual leadership conference. "Rotarians, government leaders and health professionals have made a phenomenal commitment to get us to a point at which polio afflicts only a small number of the world's children," said Bill Gates co-chair of the Gates Foundation.

"However, complete elimination of the polio virus is difficult and will continue to be difficult for a number of years. Rotary in particular has inspired my own personal commitment to get deeply involved in achieving eradication."

In accepting the Gates challenge, Rotary Foundation Chair Jonathan Majiyagbe said the funding partnership will inspire other polio eradication allies, both current and new, to ramp up their support. "With the support of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, we are on the brink of eradicating one of the most feared diseases in the world," Majiyagbe said. "This shared commitment of Rotary and the Gates Foundation should encourage governments and nongovernmental organizations to ensure that resources are available to end polio once and for all."

This partnership of Rotary and the Gates Foundation offers a historic opportunity to rid the

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Our Director

RIVP, Monty  
Audenart  
&  
Liz  
Audenart

NORTHERN LIGHTS NEWS

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world of a disease that robs children of their futures," said RI President Dong Kurn Lee. "It is a significant boost toward making real our dream of a polio-free world."

Rotary will spend the grant money in direct support of immunization activities carried out by the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, which is spearheaded by Rotary and its partners, the World Health Organization, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and UNICEF. Rotary will distribute the funds through grants to WHO and UNICEF.

Polio eradication has been Rotary's top priority since 1985, and since

then Rotary clubs have raised nearly \$800 million for the effort. Although the initiative has slashed the number of polio cases by 99 percent, the wild poliovirus still persists in four countries:

Afghanistan, India, Nigeria, and Pakistan, and imported cases from those nations threaten to reinfect countries where the virus has been stopped. The initiative currently faces a critical funding shortfall that must be closed if eradication is to be achieved.

This is the second challenge grant Rotary has received from the Gates Foundation for polio eradication. In November 2007, Rotary accepted a \$100 million challenge grant, which

Rotary is matching dollar-for-dollar. The two challenge grants represent a combined total of \$555 million in polio eradication funds. Rotary's three-year effort to raise the matching funds for both grants is called Rotary's \$200 Million Challenge.

At the same time, the United Kingdom is giving an additional \$150 million (£100 million) and Germany is giving an additional \$130 million, both to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. This is more than \$630 million in new funds to fight polio.

Visit [www.rotary.org/endpolio](http://www.rotary.org/endpolio) to learn about polio eradication and contribute to the challenge match.

## END POLIO NOW - Car Magnets a Big Hit

In response to the \$100 million challenge by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the 22 member Rotary Club of Washago and Area - Centennial in Ontario, Canada has initiated a new program that will not only raise money for Polio Eradication, but will also raise community awareness and help other Rotary clubs to focus on Polio Eradication Efforts.

The club has acquired 5,000 Car Magnets that Rotarians can purchase to display on cars, gym lockers, filing cabinets, or any other metal surface. The magnets are 3.15 inches by 3.9 inches and proudly show the END POLIO NOW logo. They cost \$2 each and shipping is included anywhere in North America.

Project chair Janet Stead who is a member of the Rotary Club of Washago and Area - Centennial says "Originally we wanted to sell one car magnet to every Rotarian in Canada, but the idea is really catching on and we have received orders from Rotary Clubs in Germany, Switzerland, England and The USA. That's the power of the internet." Stead also says "There is a small cost to shipping the magnets to destinations outside North America, but it is minimal."

The idea was conceived by Stead after she and some fellow members attended the grand opening of a local sports complex. The grand opening was hosted by the five Rotary Clubs in the District of Muskoka in Central Ontario, Canada and the focus of the event was on accessibility. Stead said "We were all given a Rotary, END POLIO NOW lapel pin at the grand opening, and when I walked through the parking lot after the event, I thought that it would be great to see the logo on all the cars that were owned by Rotarians."

So she took the idea to her club and they all thought it was a good idea. She sourced out the best price for the best quality magnet and placed the order. The idea is now a reality and the car magnets are ready to ship.

Stead says "This idea has really taken off. Most orders are coming from clubs who are ordering enough for their entire membership and at \$2 each, they can re-sell them to their own members at a profit and turn even more money into Polio Plus.

Stead hopes to raise over \$5000 from the first order and is ready to acquire more to meet the growing demand. You can read about how to order these unique magnets on the club's website at [www.washagorotary.ca](http://www.washagorotary.ca)

# The Last Great Race

To raise awareness about the final push to End Polio Now, Rotarians in District 5010 are partnering with the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race, known worldwide as “The Last Great Race”. Taking advantage of the extensive attention the race attracts, the message will be delivered on several fronts.

During the 2009 Iditarod, which starts March 7th, all 73 competitors from North America and Norway will wear bibs that display “End Polio Now – Rotary”. In 2008, 550 members of the media from around the world converged in Anchorage for the race start. The Rotary story about polio and the Gates Foundation Challenge will be a part of this year’s media briefing packages.

To reach non-Rotarians, Rotary District 5010 is sponsoring four time Iditarod Champion Martin Buser who will carry the message about polio eradication in a number of ways. As a long time advocate for childhood immunization, an articulate speaker, multiple Paul Harris Fellow and an honorary Rotarian, Buser is passionate about ending polio. As the

spokesman for Rotary’s End Polio initiative, he will have the opportunity to speak to groups ranging from business leaders to elementary school children. For a year, his truck will display bold “End Polio Now” logos. His racing kennel’s website [www.buser-dog.com](http://www.buser-dog.com) prominently notes End Polio Now as a sponsor, and a simple click takes viewers to [www.rotary.org/endpolio](http://www.rotary.org/endpolio). Viewers watching Iditarod coverage on television and the internet will see “End Polio Now” on bold patches next to Buser’s face as he mushes his way to Nome.

Alaskan Nomad Productions, an Anchorage and Los Angeles based video production company is producing a public service announcement with historic Iditarod footage, scenes of Rotarians immunizing children during NID’s, and a personal message from Martin Buser with his dog team. The PSA is available to all districts that are home to this year’s Iditarod competitors.

During the week before the Iditarod start, several local clubs are using the heightened awareness for fundraising events. Chillkoot Charlie’s, named the best bar in America by Playboy



magazine, and owned by Rotarians, will host a dinner and auction with all proceeds to polio eradication. Other projects are underway.

The Iditarod is a grueling 1150 mile race from Wasilla, Alaska to Nome, on the Bering Sea. In 1925, part of the Iditarod Trail became a life saving highway for epidemic-stricken Nome. Diphtheria threatened and serum was brought in by intrepid dog mushers and their faithful hard-driving dogs.

It is easy to draw a comparison between the race to eradicate polio and the race to deliver life saving Diphtheria serum.

Go to [www.rotary5010.org/endpolio](http://www.rotary5010.org/endpolio) for more about this initiative.

## Project Amigo Vision Clinic; A real EYE opener

A group of 20 plus Rotarians from Alberta, Alaska, Washington, California and Oregon traveled to Mexico to take part in an eye clinic for the poor. As many as 1,000 people from various parts of the state Colima, ranging in age from 6 months to 106 years, underwent a vision check, supervised by three optometrists from Washington, Oregon and Mexico. For many volunteers this was their first visit to Project Amigo, which has been operating for over 25 years. Other Work Weeks include, 2 Literacy weeks, where books are provided to school children, and Christmas Fiesta week during which the Rotary Club of Colima hosts a party for 250 poor children from the area. Project Amigo’s mission is to enable poor children to achieve their highest potential by providing education and support in various forms. For more information about Project Amigo or to take part in a workweek, visit: [www.projectamigo.org](http://www.projectamigo.org)



# What will our Zone look Like?



As of July 1, 2009 our zone will change from Zone 22 to Zone 24.

As Rotary Leaders, it is important that we keep informed on the progress of the new structure.

Our new Zone will include 35,000 Rotarians (up from 30,000).

## Zone 24 comprises:

Canada, Eastern Russia, St. Pierre & Miquelon, USA - Alaska, Maine, Michigan, New York, Washington 5010, 5040, 5050, 5060, 5360, 5370, 5550, 6330, 7010, 7040, 7070, 7080, 7090, 7790, 7810, 7820.

Seven Districts will be part of different zones.

- Zone 25: 5020, 5080,
- Zone 28: 5580
- Zone 29: 6290, 6380, 6400
- Zone 32: 7850

Zone 24 will rotate its seat on the Board with Zone 32. For 2009-2010 Rotary year, Director from Zone 32 is Mike Colasurdo. He and his wife Ann reside in New Jersey. Mike will be completing his second year on the Board and will join us for the Edmonton Rotary Institute. The Rotary Institute in Zone 32 will be held in Niagara Falls Sept 11-13, 2009.

Zone 24 is a very large Zone, and in the future it may not always be possible to have combined Rotary Institutes between Zone 24 and 32. In those cases, separate Rotary Institutes may be held. For the Rotary year 2010-2011, Director Nominee Ken Gabreau is working closely with Zone 24 for a possible combined Institute. When the arrangements are complete, past, present and future officers in our Zone will be notified.

Other initiatives include, a joint Zone 24 and 32 Website, and Newsletters and a combined contact list so communication from Directors to past, present and future officers in either Zone can be easily transmitted.

## MESSAGE FROM RIVP MONTY



The Edmonton Rotary Institute marks another remarkable historic period for Rotary in Zone 22. As of July 1, we become a newly structured Zone with new boundaries and a new number, having gained some entire districts and sent others to Zones south of the border. The Institute will be both a "NEW BEGINNING" and a "FOND FAREWELL", a time when some of our Rotary friends will begin to drift to their new Zones. It truly is "A season of Change". I want to invite Y'ALL to come to the Edmonton Rotary Institute to revisit the friendship of past years in Zone 22 and to say hello to the new Zone 24. See you at the PARTY ON THE PRAIRIE.

Even if you are no longer part of this zone, You have many friends and classmates who would like to see you.

**If you have not registered yet, you can do so by visiting:**

**[www.EdmontonRotaryInstitute2009.ca](http://www.EdmontonRotaryInstitute2009.ca)**



# FAREWELL TO PDG TOM EWEN

Story by Janis Ramsay, Barrie Advance, Barrie ON

Barrie's PDG Tom Ewen was a passionate man, and he used that to help others through his work with the Barrie-Huron Rotary Club.

He died Monday, Jan. 19 at the age of 77, and will be remembered for his major contributions to eradicating polio worldwide.

It is his wisdom and leadership skills - and his international contacts - that will be missed by the community and fellow Rotarians.

"When I first met him, I was incoming president of the (Barrie-Huron) club and he was incoming District Governor," said Dr. Ken Robinson, PDG, who met Ewen in 1985 and said Ewen was very soft spoken and sincere.

"That was when the Rotary's polio initiative launched and it really captured his imagination. I don't know why - if he had a family connection, someone with polio."

In 1986, Ewen became chairperson of the District PolioPlus Committee, and he had the responsibility of fundraising for the new project. "Our goal was \$120 million U.S. and he doubled that because of his involvement," said Robinson.

"We realized it was more than just buying the vaccine. We needed to get the message out so we made posters, ball caps and provided bikes to let people know about these national immunization days."

Ewen visited Nigeria several times to oversee the project, first in '87 to introduce local Rotarians to the project, then again in '90 and '93 to review the progress, and again in '94 for a train-the-workers workshop. He also went to Kenya, Nepal and Thailand in support of the PolioPlus project.

But polio wasn't the only cause Ewen supported through Rotary. He helped many youth visit the area through the club's exchange program.

He was chairperson of the District Youth Exchange Committee for 3 years, starting in 1981, and was sneaky enough to book a better hotel rate for his team the same year Rotary International held its convention in Toronto.

Robinson said the advice he'll remember most from Ewen was when the local club was having problems with an Australian exchange student. "He was breaking the rules and the district committee wanted to send him home, but the hosting club didn't. We talked through the situation and he said we have to support the district, or we lost our credibility. He could see all arguments and gave us a clear direction. And he was right," said Robinson.

Ewen was married to wife Penny for 45 years, and they met when he was a patient in hospital. "He was recovering from an injury (in 1963) and Penny was a nurse there."

At the time, Ewen was a widower with three children, and the new family expanded by two more children.

Ewen's passion for Rotary influenced the rest of his family, with each of his five grown children - and Penny - receiving the club's Paul Harris fellow award.

Aside from Rotary, Ewen had a notable career. He spent 20 years in the Royal Canadian Navy, serving most of his time in landlocked bases, but also worked as a spy. When he retired from the navy, he worked for 20 years in hospital management at St. Joseph's Hospital in Parry Sound. It was his boss there who sponsored Ewen as a Rotary member back in 1974.



With his health care background, Ewen was able to gather medical and educational supplies for the Dominican Republic and flew down with the supplies in his early Rotary career.

"If he had hobbies besides Rotary, I didn't know about them," said Robinson.

And Ewen's legacy lives on, as Rotarians are still raising money for the fight against polio.

Ewen will be interred this spring at Beechwood Cemetery Military Section, Ottawa. In lieu of flowers, donations to Rotary Foundation or the Rotary PolioPlus Campaign would be appreciated.

Along with being a Paul Harris fellow, Ewen received the Citation for Meritorious Service in 1990, the Service Above Self Award in 1994-95 - which is Rotary's highest honour and only 150 recognized each year, the Distinguished Service Award in 1995 - only 50 Rotarians worldwide are recognized each year, the Regional Service Award for Polio Free World in 1996-97 and the International Service Award for Polio Free World in 2000-01.

Last spring, The Barrie-Huron Rotary Club also honoured Ewen by creating the Lifetime Achievement Award specifically for him, and he was given that award on April 22.

## President D.K. Lee urges you to plan ahead

In Rotary, we know that planning ahead and planning wisely are the keys to successful service. This is why I urge all of you to plan ahead - and plan wisely - by registering now for the 2009 RI Convention in Birmingham, England.

If you have been to a convention before, you already know how wonderful this annual event can be. And if you have never been to a Rotary convention, Birmingham is the perfect place to start.

Like Rotary, Birmingham is a mix of the old and the new. With a pedestrian-friendly downtown area and excellent public transportation, the city offers diverse neighborhoods, historical interests, great dining, and ample shopping. And Britain's extensive rail network makes it easy to get to many sites in less than an hour. The excitement of London, the natural beauty of Wales, and all the charms of the English countryside are close enough for a daytrip and engaging enough for a postconvention vacation.

With its own airport and rapid rail links to London, Birmingham is an easy destination from anywhere in the world. And once you're in Birmingham, your stay will be more than worth the trip. There, you will join thousands of Rotarians from dozens of countries as you celebrate a year in which we have worked together to Make Dreams Real for the world's children.

It is impossible to describe the energy and excitement of a Rotary convention. It is the highlight of the Rotary year and an event that I look forward to from

the end of each convention until the beginning of the next. I know I will see old friends and make new ones, learn about Rotary projects throughout the world, and find new ways that my club can put Service Above Self.

Each convention is different, but each one promises the same friendship, fellowship, and inspiration. Each one is unique, and each one is memorable. Each one is an opportunity that will not come again.

I strongly believe that every Rotarian should experience a Rotary convention at least once. It will forever change how you see Rotary. And after you leave, you'll find that you are already planning for the next convention. Young and I look forward to seeing you in Birmingham for the 100th convention of Rotary International.

*Dong Kurn (D.K.) Lee*  
President, Rotary International

### Inspiring Speaker to address audience in Birmingham

Artistic and critical success...came to Mia Farrow at an early age. Following her young life in 1940s Hollywood as the daughter of Hollywood royalty, she gained national attention through her role in the television classic "Peyton Place".

Farrow went on to star in over forty movies, including such classics as "Rosemary's Baby" and "The Great

Gatsby"...Her personal life was marked with many struggles.

Mia Farrow has devoted her life to humanitarian efforts and the care of a truly remarkable family. She has been a high profile advocate for children's rights . . . She is a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador and has worked extensively to draw attention to the fight to eradicate polio, which she survived as a child.

Farrow reflects on her ever-evolving life journey in her sincere and candid best seller, "What Falls Away". In what Newsweek calls "a simply elegant memoir", she presents a revealing account of her personal struggles and successes, and the quest to find deeper meaning in her life. Expanding on this memoir, Farrow graces the lecture stage with her eloquence and honesty in a unique presentation that is sure to inspire any audience.



**2nd Registration Deadline:  
31 Mar. 2009**

[www.rotaryconvention2009.com](http://www.rotaryconvention2009.com)

**Did you know, that 144 new Rotaract clubs (7,472 total) and 171 new Interact clubs (11,866 total) were chartered the quarter ending December 31, 2008**