



Kathy & Mike Smith

Rotary International District 5360

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District Governor's Newsletter

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DG MIKE – DECEMBER IS FAMILY MONTH

This is the first year for there to be a Family Month in the Rotary calendar. The designation is to encourage us to **Lend a Hand** to the needy families in our communities. Also, to extend the warmth and activities in our clubs to our own families, so that Rotary becomes their life too. It took me by surprise and leaves me somewhat wordless, because we have written and spoken frequently about the Family of Rotary, introduced a fine Family of Rotary logo, and recorded the many activities related to President Jonathan Majiyagbe's concept that have already been conducted in our district.



**FAMILY OF ROTARY
District #5360**

Then suddenly the words came to me. Rotary curling in our district is one of our premier fellowship activities. One of the two curling teams in my club held a dinner and invited a 16 year old (Hindu) Rotary exchange student from India to join them. They decided to also welcome the governor and his wife, just back from making their official visits to the clubs.

At each place setting on the dinner table, surrounded by all the Christmas festive decorations of a Christian family, was a Rotary cookbook that had been published as a major fundraiser for "The Community Kitchen Program of Calgary". Each meal course was taken from this cookbook. The meal was excellent and the conversation was wide ranging, a balance between the thoughts and experiences of a lone teenager from overseas and those of the much older Rotarians. Following desert, any barriers and differences really came down with the introduction of a very funny party game around the table. Truly this dinner was what the Family of Rotary is about.

GOVERNOR'S TRAVELS

Governor Mike's official visits to the 47 clubs and one Rotaract club are now completed. He enjoyed sitting in on the committee selecting the Group Study Exchange team members to Ukraine; attending an elegant Christmas Dinner by Calgary West at Heritage Park; participating in the charter night of the Medicine Hat High School Interact Club; and making a second visit to the Medicine Hat club, Medicine Hat Sunrise and Calgary. He even made it to his own club for the first time in months.

INTERACT

On November 24th, I had the pleasure of attending the inaugural meeting of the Interact Club at Medicine Hat High School, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Medicine Hat. Also attending were District Governor Mike Smith and Kathy and Past District Governor Sandy Mackay and Jane.

On November 27th the three Red Deer clubs chartered an Interact Club at Notre Dame School, with additional members drawn from two other high schools.

Currently there are three clubs in Lethbridge, three in Calgary, along with clubs in Fort Macleod, High River, Medicine Hat and Red Deer. Ponoka has one in the planning stage.

RI President Jonathan has the theme of “Lend a Hand” for this year. For Rotarians in this instance it can be “Lend a Hand” to form more Interact clubs. For Interactors it can be to “Lend a Hand” in their school, community and internationally. He has also challenged Rotarians with “The Family of Rotary”. Let’s form more Interact clubs and bring them into the “Family of Rotary”. It is very simple to do and most rewarding for all concerned. All you need to get started is the Interact Manual, available for download at www.rotary.org.



High school students become very motivated Interactors. They, alone or in conjunction with their sponsoring Rotary Club can make a big difference. Here are some ideas for Interact and Rotary.

Do joint fund raising ventures leading to joint projects. Match a Rotarian with an Interactor as a mentor. Attend each other club’s meeting.

Interact projects that are under way are support for an orphanage in Mexico; mentoring elementary school children; participating in the 25 hour famine; reforestation in Alberta and B.C. following the summer fires; Top drop – over 100 toys already collected for Christmas; Santa’s Anonymous - \$4000 raised to provide over 50 food hampers for the needy at Christmas.

- Submitted by Bob Jones, district chair Interact

ROTEX Winterfest

Another Winterfest has come and gone, but the inbound (& some outbound) rotary exchange students and Rotex were left with many memories, and anticipation for next year.

On Friday December 7th, Rotex President Mark Jones and Vice-President Jon Salonga started the weekend for the students with a real Canadian activity - HOCKEY. The day began with a viewing of the Minnesota Wild team practice. This was followed by a comprehensive tour of the Saddledome. In Jon Salonga's words "We learned that there are actually big ads plastered on the ceiling of the concourse, and that people can get a 'suite view' (no pun intended) of the game without having to actually pay for the suite." So, even Calgarians found themselves experiencing new things.

The 'Amazing Race' featured many activities designed to promote inter-exchange/Rotex student relations while having fun at the same time. The students were split into six teams and wandered throughout various malls and provided entertainment to many spectators. The funniest event was when a team became live mannequins at Fairweather, while the most embarrassing was when a male member from each team had to wear boxers over their pants and excuse their actions with large signs around their necks declaring 'I am an exchange student in a contest'. The one event shared by all teams was taking turns ringing bells and collecting donations for the Salvation Army, raising approximately \$400.

Friday's highlight was a Calgary Flames vs. Minnesota Wild hockey game. Students expressed their Canadian pride (even if they were inbounds) by painting names on their chests and showing them to other spectators. The game ended with a score of 2-1 for Calgary. Talk about an exciting game to end an exciting day - the second goal was scored with only 22.8 s left in the third period, causing quite a commotion. Go Flames!

Saturday began with yet another Canadian ice sport, this time curling. Many students had never thrown a curling rock in their lives, yet they could be seen enjoying themselves at all times. This was followed by a game called 'Bigger or Better'. Students began with a candy cane and some chocolates, and were sent out to wander the Huntington Hills community to trade with homeowners for bigger/better commodities. We finished with various items such as sports equipment and a 2 kg box of spaghetti.

Following this was the potluck dinner; it was a great way for people to be able to sit down and chat and enjoy new types of food. Chairman Bob Holland followed his personal tradition and supplied us with two boxes of mandarin oranges. After dinner and a quick cleanup, the One World Drum Company provided the evenings entertainment. Students were given their own drums and taught the language of music. Even if you didn't have a drum, it was possible for you to sit back and just listen to the sounds of the students enjoying themselves, tap your feet or even join in the shouts of "goo - doo" and other various sounds. Somewhere near the end, just as everyone's hands were red and sore, Naty (Argentina) and Ericka (Finland) decided they needed a break, and began to dance. However, the drummers were too engrossed with their attempts to keep the beat to pay much attention to them.

5360 Attendance for November 2003

Club	Members	Attendance %
Airdrie	*	*
Banff	*	*
Brooks	*	*
Calgary	287	59.71
Calgary Centennial	49	82.45
Calgary Chinook	84	71.79
Calgary Crowchild	21	82.89
Calgary East	35	76.04
Calgary Fish Creek	19	73.33
Calgary Heritage Park	42	90.00
Calgary Millennium	27	77.78
Calgary North	59	77.68
Calgary Olympic	38	66.94
Calgary Sarcee	27	61.54
Calgary South	182	82.52
Calgary West	87	76.67
Canmore	82	59.21
Cardston	30	93.33
Coaldale	*	*
Cochrane	44	70.93
Drumheller	42	84.15
Fort Macleod	24	63.64
High River	75	60.78
Innisfail	51	69.32
Kananaskis	*	*
Kindersley	16	59.38
Lacombe	53	80.32
Lethbridge	127	60.28
Lethbridge East	31	64.37
Lethbridge Sunrise	28	57.14
Maple Creek	17	85.94
Medicine Hat	104	65.46
Medicine Hat Saamis	*	*
Medicine Hat Sunrise	31	81.67
Okotoks	*	*
Olds	33	77.42
Pincher Creek	45	77.78
Ponoka	*	*
Raymond	16	81.25
Red Deer	*	*
Red Deer East	47	94.81
Red Deer Sunrise	36	83.82
Rocky Mountain House	17	58.33
Stettler	50*	57.07
Swift Current	*	*
Sylvan Lake	27	70.19
Taber	14	69.64

After this, the students proceeded to the Boys and Girls Club, where they enjoyed candlelit talks about anything you could imagine. They didn't fall asleep until the wee hours of the morning, around 5:00.

Sunday morning began with a delicious breakfast of French toast. There were no activities planned for this day, and the students were sad to have to leave each other so soon. After a quick cleaning up of the Boys and Girls Club, students were ready to return home. By 2:00 pm everyone was either home or on a bus returning home.

Rotex would like to thank everyone who was involved in planning this weekend, as well as the Rotary Club of Calgary Centennial for their support.

- Submitted by Tina Pon, Rotex Reporter



Exchange students in district 5360 relaxing during the ROTEX Winterfest weekend of December 5 2003.

ROTEX is the group formed by returned Youth Exchange students