



Building bridges is our business

President's Message

A short 14 months ago our eyes were fixed on Haiti where the disastrous earthquake threw the lives of that country's citizens into turmoil and created a landslide of support from individuals and nations alike. Today the devastation in Japan is on everyone's mind. Stories and reports of the earthquake, tsunami and nuclear power plant "melt down" flood our news media and Canadians, as people around the world, respond as they are able. Rotarians wrestle with how to best deal with the immediate challenges of disasters and the rebuilding efforts that will go on for years and probably decades after the news cameras and reporters have gone home or to another critical event. I appreciated how Zone 24/32 RI Director Ken Grabeau's applied RI President Ray Klingensmith's 2010-2011 Rotary Theme in his March 14th news release. RID Ken suggests that sometimes we have to "bridge continents" in order to "(re)build communities" – so it is as we assist the people in Japan.

CRCID is holding its Annual General and Public Engagement meetings May 13-15, 2011 in the Sheraton Gateway Hotel in Toronto. This singular face to face meeting of Members, Directors and the Secretariat provides a forum to reflect, learn and plan, setting the stage for the 2011-2012 Rotary year and beyond. We are delighted that a number of new District Representatives (who assume their responsibilities on July 1) are joining us for these meetings. I believe this action will better prepare these Members for the task ahead and I trust that this introduction to CRCID will

be the beginning of a mutually satisfactory association. We are hoping to have representatives join us from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) whose presence at last year's meeting set the stage for useful interaction throughout the year. We are most pleased to have Gord Crann, Secretary of the Microfinance Rotary Action Group and D7070 WCS Microfinance Chair, as the guest speaker for our Awards Dinner on Saturday evening May 14 – another highlight.

Bridging Continents to Japan

CRCID AGM May 13-15, Toronto

Quarterly Meeting with CIDA

Afghanistan School: Spreading the Word

CAO Kevin Webb together with Program Officer & Environmental Impact Specialist, Megan MacLean recently met with CIDA officials in Ottawa. This quarterly face to face meeting provides opportunity to clarify matters related to the Contribution Agreement and ensure an open and solid CRCID/CIDA relationship is maintained. While specific details arising from those conversations will be highlighted during our May 2011 meetings, it is important to note CIDA officials were very pleased with the steps CRCID has taken in advancing the environmental agenda within our program. Credit for the furtherance of this agenda is the result of Megan's leadership and the work of the Program Coordinators in applying the regulations.

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CRCID's

Annual General Meeting

will be held May 13-15 in Toronto. This year the AGM will be open for CRCID Members and Directors.



We need your help! See page 3

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Finally, I want to draw attention to two great opportunities we have to highlight our outstanding Centennial Project in Jalalabad, Afghanistan. First, CRCID Representatives and District leaders across Canada are looking to involve Rotarians in an initiative to increase public awareness of this project by speaking to local

high schools. Details for this initiative are available on the CRCID website or at www.afghanistanschool.ca. Secondly, many jurisdictions hold their District Conferences in the next three months. This would be an ideal place to set up an Afghanistan display. This is an opportunity to highlight this project and thank Rotarians and Clubs for their financial and moral support in making this peace building

initiative a reality. Please contact Morgan Shortt at CRCID if you are looking for resources to be featured in your display, which would of course feature your District's Afghanistan banner. Thank you for continuing your involvement.

Best wishes for a gentle spring.

Peter H. Peters
President, CRCID

Disaster Aid Training

Megan MacLean prepares for the worst

A CRCID Staffer and Rotarian Megan MacLean recently participated in a training session for Disaster Aid International in Victoria, BC for their DART (Disaster Aid Response Team) Member position.

Disaster Aid International provides humanitarian aid all over the world with their Family Survival Packs and SkyJuice water filtration systems. The aid is delivered by the DARTs. A DART Trainee who is successful in passing the training is then a probationary DART Member, becoming a full Team Member following a successful first deployment.

Megan reports that the training was extensive and strenuous, but that she still managed to have some fun and laughs with her fellow Trainees and the DAI Trainers. She noted that all the Trainers were extremely knowledgeable and that their personal stories of actual experiences in the field were a real asset to the learning process.



Megan and her team at disaster aid response training in Victoria, BC

She felt that training in this capacity would be extremely beneficial to any Rotarian wishing to be involved in delivering aid. **We are happy to announce that Megan passed the training course with flying colours and will be accompanying DAI on a future deployment.**

She is very excited for this opportunity and is very much looking forward to experiencing disaster response and development efforts first-hand. For more information on Disaster Aid International, please visit: www.disasteraid.ca.



We need your help!

AFGHANISTAN
SCHOOL.CA

The School

The school in Afghanistan opened to 4000 girls and boys in September 2010! Now that it is in use, Rotary has been working hard to improve the resources within the school. A computer lab and a playground are later additions. Rotarians will continue to do needs assessments on the school so that the program can benefit as many students as possible.

Engaging Canadians

Rotarians across Canada have shown a great interest in the Afghanistan School. 91 Rotarian volunteers have come forward and offered their own personal time to share the Centennial story with Schools and Rotary Clubs across the country. 31 schools have requested a classroom kit, some of which have also requested a Rotary speaker!

Presentations are now happening across the country to raise awareness on cultural differences and on Rotary's efforts. Our goal is to reach 400 presentations by December 2011! We can only accomplish this with YOUR HELP!

OUR ASK

1. **CONTACT** the Rotary Clubs in your District asking for volunteers to approach their local high school(s) and request the opportunity of giving the students a presentation on the school that Rotary built in Afghanistan.
 - Any Rotarian can request a Speaker Kit from www.AfghanistanSchool.ca or by contacting CRCID.
2. **VOLUNTEER** to do a presentation at a high school in your community.
3. **DO A PRESENTATION** or make an announcement at your Rotary Club and other Clubs in the District you are planning to visit (to recruit Rotary Speakers).
4. **INVESTIGATE** the possibility of setting up and staffing a booth for the Centennial project at your upcoming district conference. CRCID can provide additional resources if required. Please note that your current DG should have the official Afghanistan Banner for your District available for display purposes.



To request a Rotary Speaker Kit for high schools or Rotary Club presentations, visit www.afghanistanschool.ca





Confused? Ask an Expert



Dear Equity Deputy,

What is the difference between Gender and Sex?

Sincerely,
Gender Confused

Dear Gender Confused,
These are often terms that are confused with one another, but in fact they are quite different.

“Sex” refers to the natural biological and physical characteristics that determine if a person is male or female.

“Gender” refers to the mannerisms, habits, the socially determined ideas and practices that are most common for males or females.

As a woman, I could play a role that is typically male by working in the construction field, or as a mechanic.

However, to become one of the opposite sex is really much more complicated and unpleasant!

The use of the term gender expresses that there is an underlying awareness of the cultural and social differences between both sexes.

To see your question in the next CRCID Newsletter email: EquityDeputy@crcid.org



Dear EnviroNerd,

Why is it so important to assess the environmental impact of a project/program before we start it?

Sincerely,
Eco-Puzzled

Dear Eco-Puzzled,
Typically, developing countries focus on short-term survival which comes at the expense of the natural environment (ecological systems like soil, air, water etc.). The developing world has some of the most degraded environments on the planet. Because the environment is the very basis of human life, international development is becoming increasingly tied to environmental sustainability.

At CRCID, we ask that all programs that will be under-

taking physical works (eg: construction of any kind) complete an Environmental Checklist outlining all elements of the project so we can ensure that the project will not harm the environment at any stage of development. This kind of assessment is completed before the start of the project so the impact on the environment will not be a surprise and come back to bite you and the community it is supposed to benefit! We also want to make sure that project planners are thinking about the environment and its

importance before, during and after development. We would like for all of our programs/projects to have a positive impact on the natural environment in the short and long term. If that's not possible then they should have no impact at all. This doesn't have to mean a direct positive impact like removing a pollution source from a community; it could be something as simple as teaching children in the community about recycling!

To see your question in the next CRCID Newsletter email: EnviroNerd@crcid.org



Taking Rotary Assistance to Communities & Children

TRACC

The TRACC Program focuses on assisting AIDS orphans living in child-headed homes. Striving to provide opportunities for families to sustain themselves, the program offer children education on health and in particular about HIV/AIDS as their parents succumbed to this illness.

Community members are all encouraged to visit health clinics to get tested for HIV/AIDS. Emergency health services are provided when needed. Group counseling helps the children deal with life's issues and for many the grief they experience. For each child-headed home a trained guardian is found in the local community. This volunteer goes into the home every day to see how the children are faring.

Orphans are given assistance in caring for chickens, piglets and larger animals in some cases. They are also trained in how to care for their property, and to grow fruits and vegetables. Seeds are provided along with a number of other basic needs such as cooking utensils and school materials.

In the future, TRACC Program hopes to be involved in setting up a special fund for University Scholarships for orphan high school graduates.



This program is being carried out by three local Ugandan Rotary Clubs: Kyotera, Kalisizo and Masaka assisted by two local NGOs, Rural Development Services (RUDESER) and Rakai Aids Information Network (RAIN). More than 550 orphans are currently in the program.

For more information, contact Garth Toombs: GarthToombs@shaw.ca.

Upcoming TRACC Presentations

- April 29-30 District 5360 Conference (Presentation and Open Display)
- RI International Convention New Orleans. (TRACC Booth)
- Meeting of Canadian Fellowship of YMCA Retirees. Held in Toronto, Ontario.



Taking Rotary Assistance to Communities & Children

HELP Honduras

The HELP Honduras program strives to ensure that all children in Honduras can both enroll and succeed in school. Public education in Honduras is free, but families must provide the uniforms, books, shoes and school supplies which means that many of the children still cannot afford to go to school. The HELP Honduras program provides these school essentials and also offers counseling, monitoring and tutoring to children and families to increase the continued enrollment and success rate of the students. In addition, the program has provided hundreds of desks to Honduran schools and in the past has funded the establishment of community mobile libraries.

HELP Honduras has introduced a new component to the program this year. The "Programa de Madres" ("Mother's Program") is designed to add sustainability to the program. There are approximately 600 mothers who have children and youth already in the children's education program. Of these, 120 were selected to attend business courses that included marketing, sales, book keeping etc. 30 of these will move on to a Micro-Finance Program run by Uniendo America (funded by a Rotary 3H Grant in 1996). This will establish better businesses and increase their income – so that they may help pay for their children's education. Another 10 women will begin in a sewing program so that they will eventually establish contract sewing businesses. These



women will produce some of the school uniforms and book bags required by the children in the program. This is a Pilot Project which will hopefully be expanded next year.

This program improves the quality of life of children and families in Honduras. For more information on how your club or district can be involved with the HELP Honduras program, please contact Program Coordinator Ron Ross at rross@empac.ca.



Involve your Club!

Sponsor a primary student	\$100 CAD
Sponsor a secondary student	\$200 CAD
Sponsor a vocational student.....	\$250 CAD
Sponsor a university student	\$300 CAD



Monitoring & Evaluation Committee at work

All existing programs to be visited by 2012

By Paul Beaulieu, Chair

After months of planning, the Monitoring & Evaluation (M & E) Committee has been able to send Monitors to evaluate several CRCID Programs on-site. In 2009, eight Monitors were appointed to evaluate and monitor CRCID Developing Country Programs. These newly appointed Monitors attended a six day workshop with Mosaic International in Ottawa where they learned how to collect

information from the stakeholders. They were immediately able to apply their new techniques by participating in a real evaluation of an existing NGO program in Ottawa.

As of now, two CRCID Programs have been visited/are currently being visited by a Monitor. The M & E Committee would like to have all existing Programs visited by the end of 2012. The reports will be submitted to the CRCID Secretariat, remaining

completely confidential; ensuring that the Monitors feel open to express their true feelings without any restriction.

The monitoring process helps CRCID to learn from the successes and challenges (if any!) of the actual programs. That way, CRCID can effectively assist Clubs and Districts with planning for current and future projects/programs.

Quarterly Report to CIDA

Kevin Webb and Megan MacLean met with CIDA officials in a whirlwind trip to Ottawa on March 1st. By sitting down with CRCID's new program officer, Mr. Simon Leury, Kevin was able to cover many topics including CRCID's program budget and developing country program status updates.

Megan met with CIDA's Environmental Specialists to review the steps CRCID has taken thus far to ensure all of CRCID's programming is environmentally sustainable. Both Specialists were happy with CRCID's progress, and made suggestions for areas where CRCID can

further strive for excellence.

Finally, Kevin and Megan spent time with the CIDA Afghanistan-Pakistan Task Force (APTF) to discuss the current Rotary Afghanistan School public engagement campaign and future partnerships between CRCID and the APTF. The task force was very impressed with the public engagement Speaker Kit and noted that CRCID is one of few partners that have done such a successful campaign.

For anyone wishing for a more detailed report on the meeting, please use [this link](#).

