

# District 5020 News

July-August Newsletter for Rotary District 5020, Vancouver Island B.C. and Coastal Washington

## A Word from 2006-07 District Governor Erik Frederickson

Greetings to all Rotarians of the District 5020 and welcome to Rotary Year 2006-2007, the "Lead The Way" year. This year's Rotary International President Bill Boyd of New Zealand has selected "Lead The Way" as the theme for this year as a reminder to us of our place in the world of service and also as a challenge to us to expand our horizons as we seek to help make our world a more peaceful place.

Speaking personally, I at times feel frustrated by what appears to be an increasing incidence of misunderstanding and conflict, hunger, sickness and discrimination of all types exhibited on the world stage. I add to that concerns in our own communities involving violence and substance abuse and what we are now becoming aware of as undeniable environmental degradation. The horizon can indeed seem bleak. But gratefully Rotary provides us a multitude of opportunities in which to use our energy, our talents and our assets to make a difference in the lives of the less fortunate – by far the majority of our world's inhabitants.

If we feel frustration, the perfect antidote is action and Rotary is the perfect vehicle.



**Erik & Marnie Frederickson of Port Townsend**

We in the developed world are indeed among the "blessed" of this earth but for little more reason that we were fortunate enough to be born, or to immigrate, here. If that's true then it follows we could have been less fortunate and been born elsewhere – say in the poverty of Tanzania, Guatemala, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, or any other spot in the developing world.

So, if you agree that we are fortunate, that our world needs help in so many ways and we happen to belong to a Rotary Club – what comes next? "What's next?" is what I'll be asking as I visit around the district this year. We've done much, but there's so much more to do. Rotary provides a perfect vehicle to help carry us along the bumpy road toward the goal of all people of goodwill, the goal of peace.

"Rotary Serves Peace" will be our district theme for this year, a theme I'll expand on as the months ahead unfold. I wish you all success in your Rotary endeavors of 2006-2007 and offer the help and support of the entire district organization to help accomplish your service goals.

Kind Rotary regards,  
Erik Frederickson  
2006-2007 District Governor

# Port Townsend Rotary greets its own: New District Gov. Frederickson

## Oak Bay's MacPherson passes home banner to PT's new President Jim Marshall

**By Scott Wilson**  
**District 5020 Newsletter Editor**  
**Port Townsend Rotary Club**

Before 100 guests in the Fort Worden State Park dining hall in Port Townsend, Wash. on July 11, Erik Frederickson gave his first club presentation as the new District Governor for District 5020.

Frederickson was officially introduced by outgoing District Governor Joan Firkins. He spoke to his club and a large contingent of guests with a message about peace, personal responsibility and the unique role of Rotary in today's world.

Frederickson and his wife Marnie will be taking that message to the 87 other clubs of District 5020 in the weeks and months ahead. (We won't spoil it for his future listeners here, except to say that this is one DG presentation you will not want to miss.)

Frederickson said that his appreciation of what Rotary can do was his inspiration for accepting the post of District Governor, in which he and Marnie embark on 12 months of travel, meetings, organizing tasks and representing the world's largest service organization, with 1.2 million members and 32,000 clubs worldwide. Embracing the theme of Rotary International President William B. Boyd of "Lead the Way," he added his own personal theme for District 5020: "Rotary Serves Peace."



**DG Erik Frederickson gave his first club visit speech in Port Townsend on July 11.**



**Outgoing DG Joan Firkins presented the President's Award to outgoing Port Townsend Rotary President Steve Rafoth.**



**Port Townsend Rotary President Jim Marshall, left, accepts the banner for Home Club Governor from Oak Bay President Tav MacPherson.**

He called on members of his own Port Townsend noon club and the other 5,000 members of the Northwest district over which he presides to approach their projects and work with a willingness to take

responsibility for making a difference.

Peace, Frederickson has written, "is attained when the starving are fed, the thirsty quenched with clean water, the ill and injured healed and the illiterate educated. We Rotarians build peace one person at a time by alleviating their pain and their anguish."

The challenge is especially important, Frederickson said, because of the imbalances and injustices in the modern world. The gap between the haves and the have-nots in the world is growing, said Frederickson.

Frederickson's home club in Port Townsend has been involved in building houses for the poor in Guatemala, building wells in India and assisting with schools and the mine removal project in Vietnam. Erik and Marnie were part of the team that went to Guatemala to construct sturdy homes for the poor of a mountainous village, and have also traveled to England on behalf of Rotary.

Taking his message throughout the district means extensive travel. District 5020 is the sixth largest of the 530 Rotary districts in the world. Geographically it extends from the northern tip of Vancouver Island south almost to Vancouver, Wash. It is one of the few Rotary districts in the world that crosses international boundaries.

#### **Electrician by trade, Rotarian by choice**

Frederickson was born in California and obtained a bachelor's degree in education from California State University. He moved to Washington in 1968, married Marnie in 1971, and moved to Port Townsend in 1973. They built Jefferson County's largest electrical contracting firm, Frederickson Electric, housed in Glen Cove, and raised three sons. One is an accomplished classical musician in New York, one lives

in Los Angeles and the third has joined the family business in Port Townsend.

Erik joined Rotary in 1992 and became president of the Port Townsend club in 1998. He noted when he took that post that it was an odd turn of events for a man who spent many earlier years in tie-dyed shirts following the likes of the Grateful Dead and Janis Joplin. He has been active with United Good Neighbors and the Jefferson County Family YMCA, and was selected Port Townsend's "Citizen of the Year" in 2003.

In recent years he has increasingly turned his attention to the avenues for volunteer service offered through Rotary. He became involved in district affairs and has moved up the ranks of district-wide offices. He follows Firkins of the Oak Bay, B.C., club as District Governor. Tav MacPherson, president of Oak Bay Rotary, was on hand at the July 11 event to formally present the banner denoting Port Townsend as the new home club of the District Governor to Port Townsend Rotary President Jim Marshall. Assistant District Governor Jim Pickett and other longtime district leaders were also there.

Firkins also used the visit to present Rotary International's President's Award to outgoing Port Townsend Rotary President Steve Rafoth for accomplishing many goals.

Marnie Frederickson is accomplished in her own right. She has been a club member since 2001, and for three years has chaired its Community Development Committee, doling out thousands of dollars to local causes and projects. She has also been active in efforts to launch an arts center in Port Townsend and is on the board of the Youth Arts Council.

## A (late) word from the Newsletter Editor

Please accept my apologies for the tardiness of this first newsletter for District 5020. I have been challenged by the technical aspects of this new responsibility and have gone through a "learn by doing" process that has taken longer than anticipated. Future newsletters will be more timely, starting with the August-September newsletter which you should see in mid-August. Thanks and congratulations should go to the previous newsletter editor, Anne Ohlgren, who did an outstanding job. I can attest that it is hard, behind-the-scenes work. Also kudos to Don Bonner who, thankfully, continues in his role to get the material posted on the web. My thanks to my friend and Rotary inspiration Erik Frederickson for his guidance, patience and understanding.

In terms of submissions, each area has been asked to submit articles about activities in the course of the year. Please comply – your activities will be an inspiration to the other clubs of this great district. All articles are subject to editing for length. You can get information about submissions from your Assistant District Governor, or you can contact me directly at the following email: [scott@rotary5020.org](mailto:scott@rotary5020.org). Thank you, and after a rough start I'm looking forward to getting the good word out to Rotarians everywhere.

**Scott Wilson**

# Comox Rotary helps Habitat

By John Challender  
Comox Rotary

More than 100 people, made up of Habitat volunteers, sponsors, suppliers and supporters gathered at the Driftwood Mall in Comox for breakfast on June 17. Thanks to the management and staff of the mall, Tom at The Eatery who supplied the coffee, the Rotary Club of Cumberland Centennial whose members cooked the pancakes with the support of the Rotary Club of Strathcona Sunrise and Plates Eatery and Catering everyone enjoyed a hearty breakfast. The large crowd was honoured by Habitat Board Chair, John Toogood, for their selfless kindness that is making the "Miracle on 26th Street" possible. In just six days two homes have risen on the foundations at the corner of 26th Street and Kilpatrick Avenue in Courtenay. Work has been underway from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. every day since Monday, 12 June and everything is on schedule.

On Monday morning the walls were raised and by Saturday, the roof was tight, the wiring and plumbing were completed, all windows and doors were in and the drywall and cedar siding were being installed. The project has brought together community leaders, private citizens, businesses and service organizations who have become friends through their efforts to help give the Beans and Foresman families a hand up.



**A large crowd that gathered for breakfast and fellowship at the Driftwood Mall at 7 a.m. on Saturday, June 17 and were honoured for their support by Habitat for Humanity. Photo by John Challender**

# Sequim Sunrise completes ramp for disabled at historic school



**Cliff Brehan, Tom Schaafsma and Bob McCrorie, all hard-working members of the Sequim Sunrise Rotary Club, put their special touch on a new concrete ramp to serve the handicapped who want to enter the historic Dungeness School just north of Sequim. The work was completed in June. The ramp will allow those in wheelchairs or others who are impaired to enter and exit the historical schoolhouse.**

Photos provided by Bryce Fish and Jim Pickett



# Cumberland youths' initiative to eradicate polio is a success

**By John Challender  
Past Assistant Governor  
Comox Valley, B.C.**

Last Fall, Vanier Grade 11 students Ross Birchall and David Madill decided to raise awareness among the schools in School District 71 of Comox, B.C. about the need to eradicate polio from the four remaining polio-endemic countries in the world: Afghanistan, India, Nigeria and Pakistan.

In addition to raising awareness, the young men were able to motivate other students to join in a campaign to raise funds to support Rotary's "Polio Plus" campaign. The "Plus" in "Polio Plus" indicates that immunization is provided for five other diseases in addition to polio: measles, tuberculosis, diphtheria, whooping cough, and tetanus.

On Tuesday, 4 July, Birchall spoke to the Rotary Club of Cumberland and reported that the young people of

the Comox Valley had raised close to \$1,500 through bake sales, a pancake breakfast, raffles and other schemes. To show Rotary's gratitude and support for the efforts of the Valley's young people, Cumberland Rotary President Dave Stevens presented a cheque to Birchall for \$300.00 to add to the total. Birchall and Madill will turn over their final amount, which will continue to grow in the interim, to the Rotary Club of Strathcona Sunrise for deposit with the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International. Birchall was praised for his concern for others and his involvement in the polio eradication campaign which



**Cumberland Rotary President Dave Stevens presented a cheque to Vanier student, Ross Birchall, to add to the total raised by Birchall and David Madill through their initiative to raise awareness among youth about the crippling scourge of polio.**

for him began in 2000 when he was ten years old. In 2000 Birchall was a grade-five student at Huband Park Elementary School. His initiative at that time involved speaking to 11 elementary schools in the Comox Valley and raising several hundreds of dollars. In recognition of his humanitarian service on that occasion, Birchall was made a Paul Harris Fellow by the Rotary Club of Courtenay.

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