New Beginnings

President’s Message

The following quote from Lewis Carroll’s Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland provides a foundation for an introductory paragraph for CRCID’s summer newsletter. The White Rabbit put on his spectacles. “Where shall I begin, please your Majesty?” he asked. “Begin at the beginning,” the King said, very gravely, “and go on till you come to the end: then stop.” Clearly, the King was on to something and the challenge will be knowing when to stop, for the “end” is seemingly “unending”.

For CRCID “new life” came with the new 3-year Contribution Agreement with the Canadian International Development Agency. After months of conversation, submissions and resubmissions, our funding request was approved in late March and made public with the announcement at the Joint District 5550/5580 Conference in Winnipeg on May 15, 2010. This agreement carries through to March 31, 2013 and is an important source of funds for 8 approved programs, 4 in Africa and 4 in Central America. For details on each program please go to the CRCID Website, www.crcid.org. While 6 of these programs are an expansion of the 2006-2009 funding agreement, the Rural Development Program in Cameroon and the Pathways to Literacy Program in El Salvador are “new beginnings”. These educational beginnings will open doors of opportunity to participants who dream of making their world a better place for themselves and their families. The new Contribution Agreement had a further “new beginning” as we were pleased to welcome Stephanie Manson, CIDA’s new Program Officer assigned to CRCID. Stephanie comes with significant international experience and has demonstrated a keen interest in CRCID and our international work. Stephanie is most important in assisting the Secretariat to understand and work with the nuances of the CIDA maze and we are delighted with her participative involvement in our activities.

The Afghanistan Challenge is hardly a “new beginning” from the vantage point of CRCID conversation, but it is new in the sense that construction of the Jalalabad school is nearing completion and will put in place a “new beginning” for some 4,000 children. This new beginning will hopefully lead the way to a “peace filled” life, and for this opportunity these children thank Canadian Rotarians. As construction moves to completion, an extensive Public Engagement campaign is about to begin – a campaign you will hear more about in the coming months.

A final “new beginning” observation relates to the relocation of the CRCID office. After what seems like “forever” for members of the staff, who tried unsuccessfully for years to convince our landlord to take steps to improve the safety and aesthetics of the premises, we chose to relocate to more accommodating surroundings. New surroundings, which are for us, a “new beginning”.

With Warm Rotary Regards,

Peter H. Peters
President, CRCID
Public Engagement Campaign
Afghanistan School

The Canadian Rotarian Centennial Afghanistan Challenge is a partnership between the Canadian Government and Rotary in Canada. Together we are building a fully-furnished school in Afghanistan that will accommodate 4,000 girls and boys in three shifts throughout the day. The school is expected to open in September, 2010.

Education is a crucial element in improving the livelihood of the Afghan people. After learning that classes were taking place outside where the children were exposed to all weather and extremes in temperature, the decision was made that building a school was the top priority in this community.

Rotarians across Canada have been graciously donating towards the construction of the school and we have now raised $274,554!

Approaching Canadian Schools
Roberts Marketing and CRCID have developed a substantial public engagement component that will approach every high school in Canada through their Boards of Education. The goal of the public engagement campaign is to educate Canadian youth on cultural differences and the Canadian development efforts that are underway in Afghanistan.

The campaign will run throughout the 2010-2011 school year and will challenge Canadian students to learn more about Afghanistan through our national Education Competition – all the details and entry forms will be available online at www.AfghanistanSchool.ca. The campaign will culminate June 1, 2011, with the announcement of our winners in the Education Challenge. At this time we will also see if we have set a Guinness® World Record for the most unique entries in an online guestbook!

Get Involved
Become a speaker and a valuable representative of the Afghanistan School Project. As we approach Canadian high schools, we will also be approaching Canadian Rotary Clubs to help us bring presentations into classrooms. We will supply all speakers with the use of a database and a full classroom kit, including a PPT, CD of the Campaign Song “More I Want To Know” by Janie Grand, school fact-sheets, two AfghanistanSchool.ca posters, website information, speaker notes, 100 facts of Rotary, an FAQ document, an education challenge package to leave with the school and even a checklist to assist in a smooth presentation!

More information is available here.

PARTNERS
- Rotary Club of Calgary Heritage Park
- Rotary Club of Winnipeg
- Afghanistan Rotary Clubs
- Afghanistan Ministry of Education
- Canadian Rotary Clubs
- CRCID
- Canadian International Development Agency
The Rural Community Development Program addresses the issues of poverty and limited opportunity in Cameroon. It provides training in skills that will enhance the existing capacities in food production and processing, and provides vocational skills leading to self-employment by those marginalized through disability or under employment.

This program will work under the direction of the Rotary Club of Bafoussam in concert with three registered Cameroon NGOs to provide assistance in meeting the needs of rural villages. The areas of focus are improving water supply; training in agricultural production and food processing; literacy and nutrition training; and job skills for disabled young adults and under-employed youth. The program also offers assistance in establishing self-employment and gives assistance to female children in accessing educational opportunities. Vocational training focuses on physically disabled young adults who lack the means of self support.

The trainees for the program are a subset of the marginalized younger population identified by their physical disabilities which tend to render them forgotten members of society. The plan is to provide them with skills for self-employment rather than equip them for a general workplace environment.

The second group of youth targeted for vocational training is youth from rural villages in the South West region of Cameroon where few opportunities exist for employment. In addition to the agricultural skills training noted above, two other skill sets have been identified by the Sustainable Livestock Foundation. These are woodworking and sewing/dress making. The equipment and provision for training of the initial group is included in the Rotary Foundation 3H Project with the CRCID part of the program intended to extend the training opportunities at the Bolifamba Training Centre, near Buea, South West Region. The intent of vocational training at Bolifamba is to equip these rural youth with skills that they can use to set up their own business enterprise.

If a club in your district is interested in participating in this program through either financial contributions or implementing a program related project, please contact Ab Moore at gabmoore@mac.com.

A complete fact sheet, including budget, for this program is available here.
Pathways to Literacy
El Salvador

The El Salvador program works to remove barriers that are preventing children from obtaining an education, by improving access to educational facilities and participation in school. This program will reduce poverty by preparing children to competitively seek employment: by teaching their families about balanced nutrition, clean water use and the environment; by providing access to health care; and by developing their problem-solving skills. The program will result in less child mortality, less dependency on foreign aid, and less use of country medical systems. Although the program has not formally incorporated children's rights into the program activities, it does focus on assisting children to gain access to school. The program will increase human dignity as well as give hope for positive improvement in the future for these communities.

Nutritional and Health Support
The El Salvador program will assist in the establishment of legal identities for children in the program. This will allow them to receive a birth certificate and other forms of identification. Through this approach the El Salvador program will begin to break down the many barriers for accessing the educational system.

The inability of many children to enter school often leads to:

- Increased poverty from lack of employment opportunities;
- Perpetuation of family poverty which results in poor health, early death, and lack of nutritional knowledge;
- Unavailable legal identity documents resulting in a lack of access to school and future life in the informal society; and
- Shortage of funds towards medical programs, leading to poor health and a high mortality rate for the unemployed.

Where there is an absence of available space for learning, the program will undertake the construction of a new school facility or renovate an existing school structure. This will provide more spaces for students in a safer, healthier environment, as well as potentially provide a night school for adults.

If a club in your district is interested in participating in this program through either financial contributions or implementing a program-related project, please contact Lynne Ternosky at lynneternosky@gmail.com.

A complete fact sheet, including budget, for this program is available here.

For details on all of CRCID's current programs, please visit our web site.
crcid.org
CRCID Signs 3-Year Contribution Agreement

After more than a year of delays and new requirements, CRCID signed a new 3-year Contribution Agreement with CIDA on March 29, 2010 for a total of $3,047,000. The new agreement provides funding for Rotary sustainable development programs in 8 developing countries (see chart below).

For more information on each of these programs and how you or your club can get engaged with a program please visit the Projects page on the CRCID website.

CRCID is unique! It is the only Rotary organization (other than the Rotary Foundation) that can access Government funding to implement Rotary initiated international development projects and programs.

CRCID provides Canadian Rotary with the opportunity to access:
- Government of Canada’s funding through CIDA for Developing country programs and projects; and,
- CIDA staff and Specialists who have assisted and are assisting CRCID and Rotary to implement programs and projects that meet the increasingly stringent international standards for development.

As part of its overall plan to provide value added services to its Canadian Rotary partners, CRCID:
- Will shortly have two Program Officers on staff each with a specialty in Gender Equality or Environmental Sustainability and who will provide administrative support to the programs.
- Has 8 Monitors trained in Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation who will monitor and evaluate each of the CRCID funded programs;
- Has a Development Education workshop on Sustainable Development that can be facilitated by one of the 5 CRCID Regional Trainers; and
- Is engaging Canadian Elementary and Public School students through its www.AfghanistanSchool.ca public engagement initiative that is part of the Canadian Rotary Centennial Project.

As the Bob Dylan song goes “The times they are a changing”, but CRCID with its dedicated professional staff, committed Board, and dedicated members is meeting the challenges brought about by change.

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<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Rotary Program</th>
<th>CRCID Staff Liaison</th>
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After occupying the second floor at 1579 Hyde Park Road in London, Ontario for the past 10 years the CRCID office has moved, effective August 1, 2010. We didn’t move far. In fact, we are only around the corner from our old location. Therefore only the physical address has changed (see below). Our phone number, fax number and email addresses remain the same.

Change is always challenging and moving after 10 years (31 years for Executive Director John Eberhard) was challenging yet welcome. The building was deteriorating to the point where it was becoming a health and safety issue. There were a couple of ceiling collapses and more than a couple of significant water leaks, with one in the Boardroom like a waterfall. There was also concern about the growth of mold.

Our new premises are located in a single-floor commercial complex with a large variety of other companies as neighbours. The 3,000 square feet provides CRCID with sufficient space for individual offices, kitchen, boardroom, and a secure room for the network server. With the hiring of Morgan Shortt as a Program Officer/Gender Specialist and with shortly hiring a second Program Officer/Environmental Specialist, having this additional space was very important.

The Rotary Foundation Canada office moved with us and both David Prowse and Wanda Versteegh are very pleased with their new accommodations. There is also a “spare office” that can be rented out sometime in the future, preferably to a Rotary group.

New CRCID Address
1615 North Routledge Park, Unit #7
London, Ontario, N6H 5L6

When you are in London we would welcome a visit. The coffee (or tea) is always on.