

**Rossland Rotary Pennies for Polio Event Helps Eradicate Polio Worldwide  
Rossland Rotary Donates \$10,000 to Skatepark Association**

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## **Welcome to the Rotary Club of Rossland**

### **Rossland Rotary "Pennies for Polio" Event Helps Eradicate Polio Worldwide**

To raise awareness and critically-needed funds to fight the crippling disease polio, the Rotary Club of Rossland recently collected Pennies for Polio during Rossland's Rekindle Christmas. Rotary volunteers collected donations in front of Ferraro's from noon till 4pm. Over four hundred Rosslanders, including many children, emptied their pockets and donated their spare change in support of Rotary.

The effort raised over \$650.00 for Rotary International, the volunteer fundraising arm of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative—a public-private partnership that also includes the World Health Organization, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, UNICEF, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. This donation was tripled thanks to a 2:1 match by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, given through a current fundraising partnership with Rotary.

This comes at an important time in the fight to eradicate polio, which would be only the second human disease to be eradicated. Only three countries (Nigeria, Afghanistan and Pakistan) have never stopped transmission of the wild poliovirus.

Overall, remarkable progress has been achieved in the fight against polio. Since 1988, the number of polio cases has been reduced 99% from 350,000 a year to about 400 in 2013. In 2014, Southeast Asia was certified polio-free after India eliminated the disease from its borders, an incredible feat for a country once considered the hardest place on earth to stop polio.

However, in 2014, the Director-General of the World Health Organization declared polio to be a public health emergency of international concern. As such, WHO urges polio-impacted countries to ensure travelers leaving their borders are immunized against the disease. This decision puts additional measures in place to ensure we protect our incredible progress against the disease, and also end the remaining 1% of cases.

Rotary, a humanitarian service organization with nearly 34,000 clubs in more than 200 countries and geographical areas, made polio eradication its top priority in 1985. Rotary has since contributed **US\$1.3 billion**, and its members have logged countless volunteer hours to help immunize more than **two billion children in 122 countries**.

A highly infectious disease, polio still strikes children mainly under the age of five in parts of Africa and South Asia. Polio can cause paralysis and sometimes death. There is no cure for polio, but for as little as 60 cents worth of oral vaccine, a child can be protected from the disease for life.

#### **CONTACTS**

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For further information, or to donate, visit [www.endpolionow.org](http://www.endpolionow.org). To learn more about the Rotary Club of Rossland and/or sign up to receive periodic emails, visit [www.rosslandrotary.org](http://www.rosslandrotary.org)

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## Rossland Rotary Donates \$10,000 to Skatepark Association

Our support of the Rossland Skatepark Association continues by writing a cheque for \$10,000, presented on December, 6, 2014. (See the Rossland News facebook page info and photo: <https://www.facebook.com/rosslandnews>).

The Skatepark Association has a fundraising matching opportunity which ends in December. As such, the Rotary Club of Rossland is making part of its donation now, in December.

The Rotary Club of Rossland will continue to set aside funds for the Skatepark Association, apply for matching funds from our sources, and work to setup a contingency fund.

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## What programs do Rossland Rotary funds support?

With your financial support we are then able to support local and international programs.

### Local programs and events:

#### For youth:

Rotary Youth Exchange  
Rossland's Rotary International Interact Club Programs  
Adventures in Citizenship in Ottawa  
Rotary Youth Leadership Programh  
Rossland Skatepark  
Student Education Scholarships

#### Other:

Rossland Miner's Hall Kitchen Renovation  
John Heintz Relay Cup Race  
All Canidates Forum

### International programs:

PolioPlus  
Rotary International's Areas of Focus  
HELP Honduras (fka Tegucigalpa Market Children)  
Shelter Box

### We raise funds through:

Rossland Rotary Annual Wine Festival  
Panhandling for Polio  
Rotary International Grants  
Private Donations and Sponsorships

*To learn more about these programs and more, visit our new website, [www.rosslandrotary.org](http://www.rosslandrotary.org)*

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## Meetings

The Club meets Mondays, 6:15pm, Rock Cut Pub, Rossland, BC, Canada.

We welcome you to attend a club meeting to visit and learn more about us, propose a project, make a presentation, or contribute to a particular project. The club is not affiliated with any particular

religious or political organization (there is no secret handshake!), and we always appreciate the opportunity to get to know community-minded and service-oriented people who like the idea of "giving back" to one's community.

To attend a meeting, reply to this email to contact our current President, Fred Behrens. He will be able to confirm the meeting date, time and place.

To learn more about us and subscribe to this newsletter, please view our new website, [www.rosslandrotary.org](http://www.rosslandrotary.org)

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