



**PORT ELIZABETH INCLUDED IN WORLDWIDE "ROTARYSWIMARATHON"!!  
ROTARY'S CAMPAIGN TO END POLIO**

Yes, not only is Port Elizabeth renowned for its friendliness, but its kindness should never be underestimated!

The City now has the golden opportunity to participate in the WORLD WIDE **RotaryGlobalSwimarathon**.

To bring you in the picture, the past 22 years have seen the Rotary Club of Grantham, England hold a highly successful "RotarySwimarathon" raising over £500,000 for local charities and deserving causes.

In 2012 they are holding an **extra event** - this will be in the form of a **Rotary Global Swimarathon** - setting a new World Record for the most number of people swimming at the **same time** anywhere in the world (the number presently stands at 2533). Through this exciting event, Rotary aims to raise funds towards Rotary International worldwide project to eradicate Polio.

The event will take place on Saturday 25th February 2012 at midday GMT, therefore 14h00 here in Port Elizabeth, at the Newton Park Swimming Pool cnr or Worraker Street and Third Avenue, Newton Park.

To qualify for the World Record attempt, swimmers will have to swim just 100 meters (2x 50m lengths) without stopping within the hour. There will be an entrance fee of **R20 per person** which will all go to the Rotary Foundation, which will assist the campaign to rid the world of Polio. If you are not able to participate, you can sponsor (a) swimmer(s), and donations are always welcome.

It is interesting to note that after 20 years of hard work, Rotary and its partners are on the brink of eradicating this tenacious disease, but a strong push is needed now to root it out once and for all: it is a window of opportunity of historic proportions!

Your contribution will help Rotary raise \$200 million to match \$355 million in challenge grants received from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The resulting \$555 million will directly support immunization campaigns in developing countries, where Polio continues to infect and paralyze children, robbing them of their futures and compounding the hardships faced by their families.

As long as Polio threatens even one child anywhere in the world, children everywhere remain at risk. The stakes are that high.

Event Chairman Roger Graves said that through the Global Swimarathon we hope to achieve the following across the world:

1. *Set a new World Record for the most number of people swimming at the same time*
2. *Raise funds towards the elimination of Polio*
3. *Increase the awareness of Rotary*
4. *Encourage more people to swim and stay fit*

The biggest challenge for the Committee is the communication around the world and via the media, and they are asking for **your** help in this respect.

So far registrations for the event have been received from New Zealand, Australia, The Philippines, South Africa, Hong Kong, Portugal, India, USA, Canada, Croatia and the United Kingdom and entries are increasing daily.

So come on, Port Elizabethans, dust off those swimming trunks and bathing paraphernalia and start practicing to be part of this momentous event that will be remembered forever! Make it a fun aquatic experience in which you can simultaneously help act against a destructive illness which could be entirely eradicated by your kindness.

Schools teams, business groups and individuals must please contact **Ron Cleland** at **083 650 3352** or **cleland@intekom.co.za** for information regarding entry forms, requirements, etc.

Rotary Club of Port Elizabeth South, thanks you in anticipation for your support and willingness to participate!