

# Rotarians take vaccine to children

*Continued on page 8*

I felt that way - we were signing autographs and the children were just like - you know their eyes got huge when they saw us and they wanted to be with us and walk with us," Yateman said.

Despite precautions, Yateman became ill at the end of the trip, and it took a while to recover once she came home. But, that didn't deter Yateman; she is already planning to make a Rotary PolioPlus trip to Africa next year.

Rotarian Emrys Jenkins, who introduced Yateman to the PolioPlus project, said the trip gave him a "huge sense of satisfaction."

Jenkins said they saw primitive poverty, horrendous traffic with non-stop noise, but also sumptuous hotels at cheap rates. He said along with administering the vaccine, their work promoting the PolioPlus program with press releases and meetings with health officials and villagers was just as important.

Jenkins said the Rotary Club's sponsorship of the program was demonstrated in one village where a doctor took them to a house where the parents had repeatedly refused to have their children immunized, until Rotary officials, including himself, showed up at the door.

"As the gossip got around the village that there were Rotarians there who had actually purchased the serum and were there to endorse the program, people brought their children out," Jenkins said on Sunday, adding, "we made a difference."

That sentiment was echoed by Rotarian and Acton businessman Rob Charette, the Acton Club's international director, who said he got a lot more out of the trip than he gave.

"It was an amazing education," Charette said on Monday.

"It was cultural, it was geographic, it was historical and it was emotional," he said.

Charette said he was amazed that in a country seven times smaller than Canada, with 1.2-billion people, it was not "solid people," but they worked in little villages with mud roofs and thatched huts out in the middle of nowhere, surrounded by beautiful farmland.

He said the highlight of the trip for him came when he was walking through the slums of Lucknow with another worker, knocking on doors looking for children younger than five to immunize against polio.

He said an elderly, poorly dressed man came to the door of a tiny hut, holding a plate of food, and after saying there

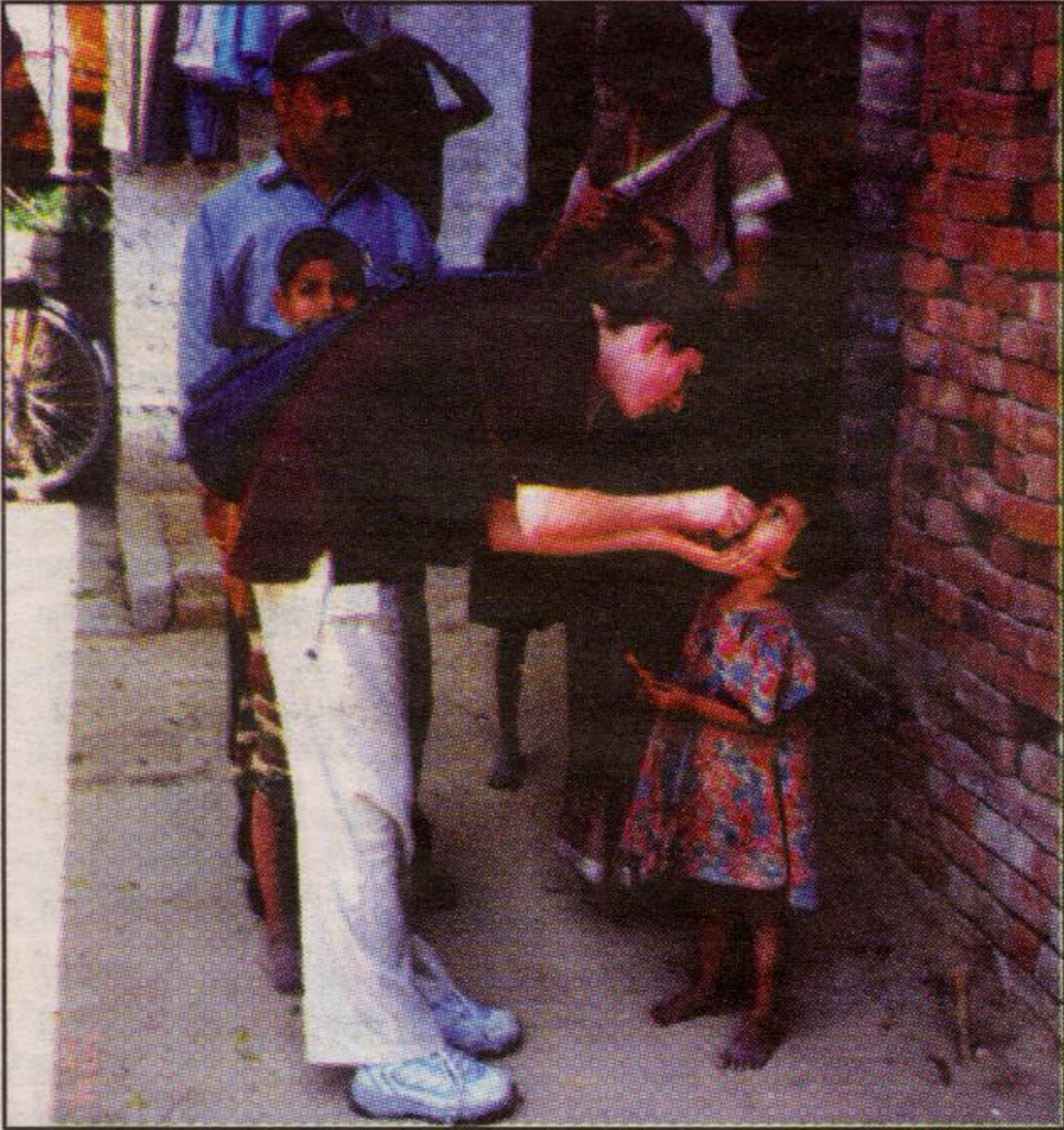
were no children of that age, invited them to dinner.

"There wasn't enough food on that plate to feed one person, never mind six, but yet they were still willing to share that food because guests are God," Charette said, explaining that people think that if God sent a guest to their door, they are living life right.

"I walked out of there in tears."

Charette said he'd participate in another PolioPlus program "in a heartbeat" and is looking into a trip to the Philippines.

The Indian trip was the first time the Rotary Club of Acton had sent members to participate in an international program, other than exchange students, although the Acton club has supported the PolioPlus program with money for the past 10 years.



**POLIO FIGHTER:** Acton's Amy Yateman dispenses a dose of oral polio vaccine to a child in the Indian village of Ononau during her recent trip with Rotary Club of Acton members on a humanitarian mission. - Submitted photo



**BLARNEY & BALLOONS:** There was no hiding the Irish ancestry of Sobey's franchisee Bill Graham as he and partner Elizabeth Green celebrated St. Patrick's Day early on Friday with Irish food and song at their Acton store. - Frances Niblock photo

**NEW Wash & Fold Service**

**Tuesdays & Thursdays 79¢ lb**  
*Beginning March 23!*

*Spring Cleaning?*  
Try our extra capacity  
**TRIPLE LOAD WASHERS & DRYERS**

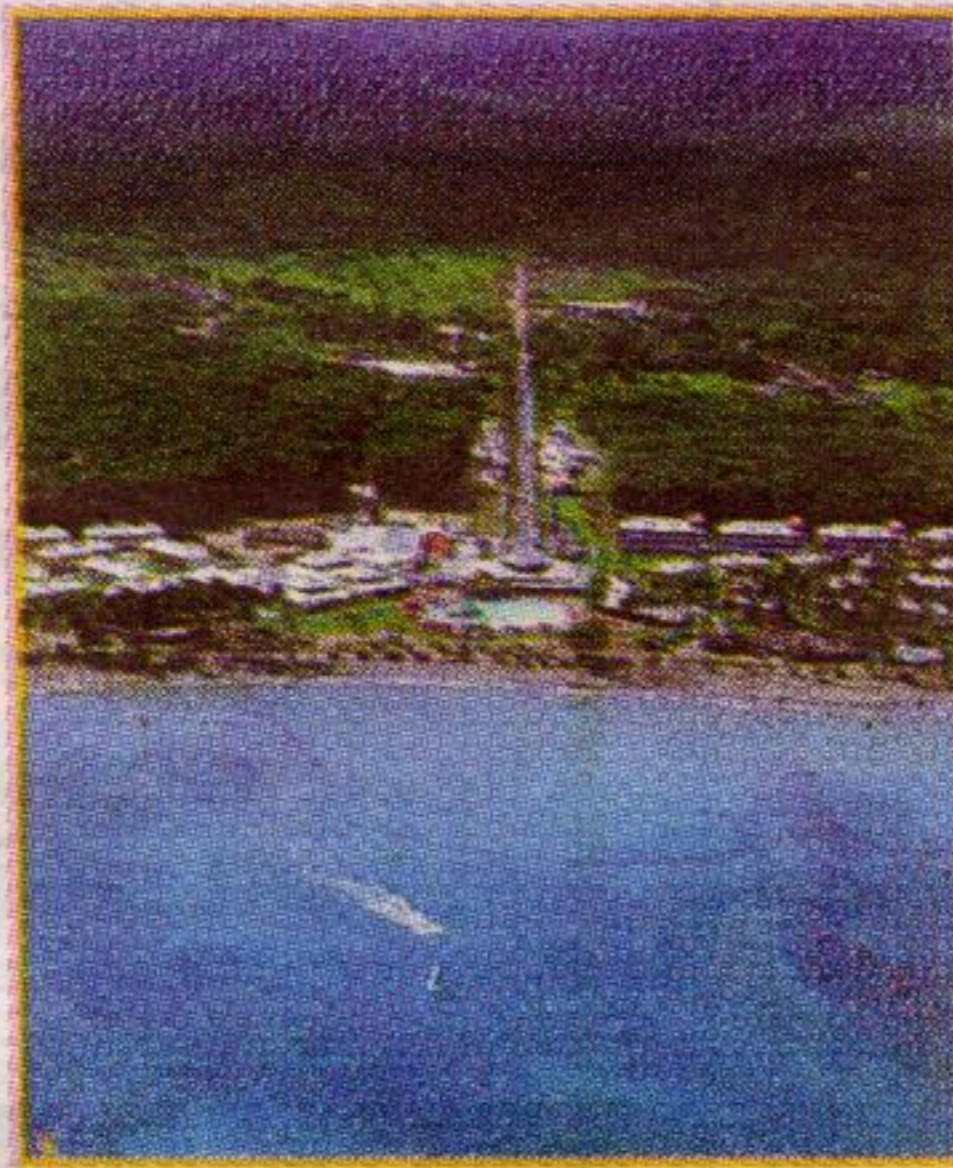
**ACTON LAUNDRAMAT**

Mill & Willow  
Open 8-8 daily Plenty of Parking

## BEACHES & ISLANDS

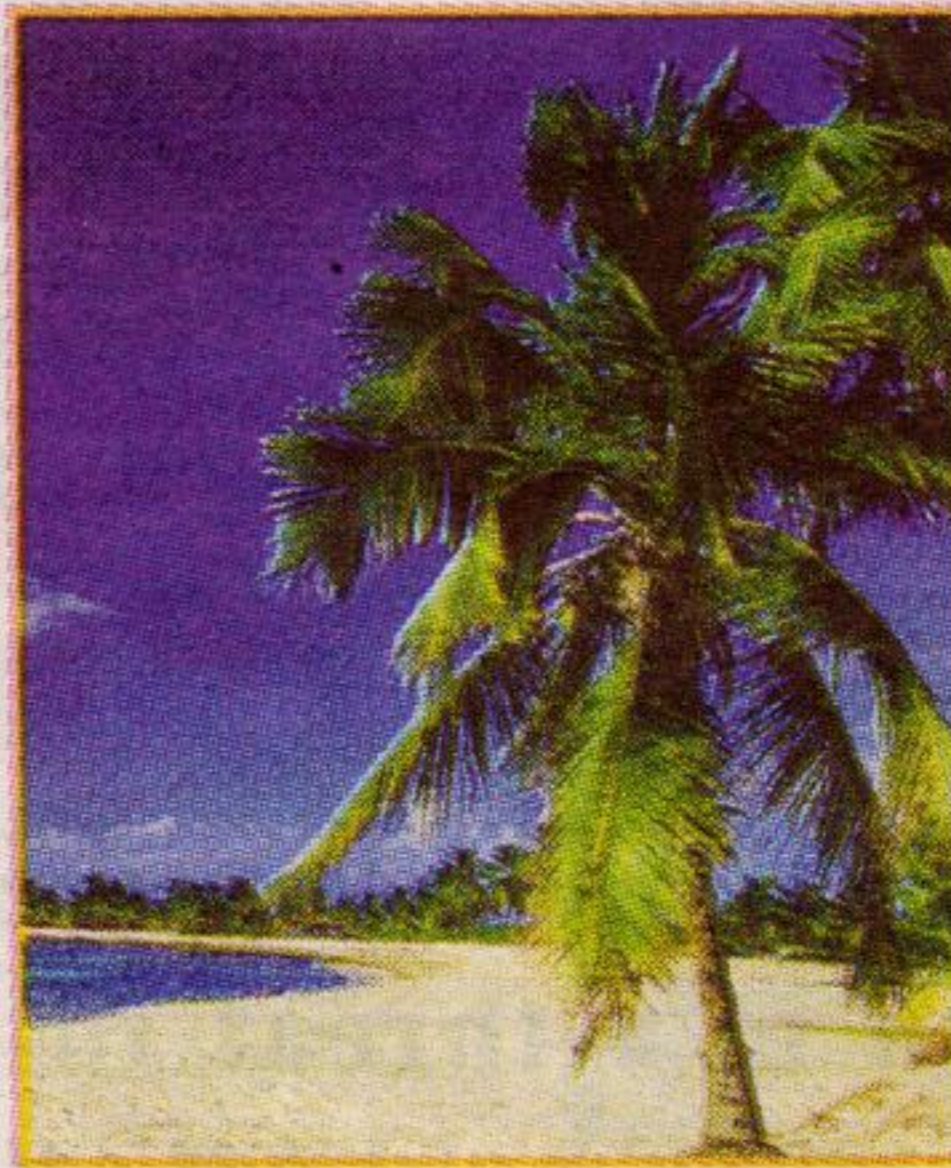
PUERTO PLATA • MAYAN RIVIERA • VARADERO

Bahia Principe Clubs & Resorts offer guests a host of ways in which to relax and enjoy their leisure time.



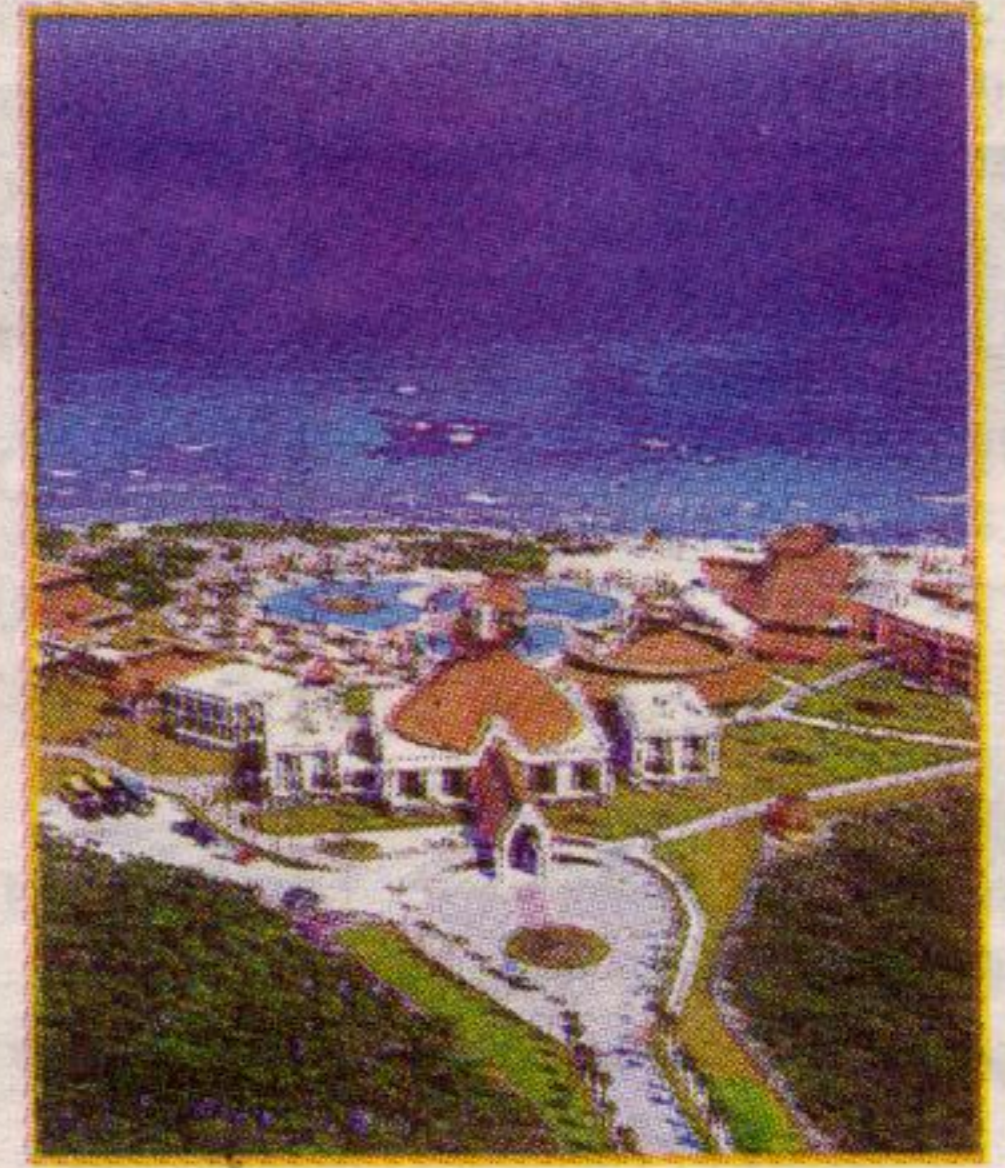
**PUERTO PLATA**  
Bahia Principe San Juan  
★★★★ 24-HOUR ALL INCLUSIVE  
7 NIGHTS  
April 17, 24, May 8

**1199**



**VARADERO**  
Bahia Principe Varadero  
★★★★ 24-HOUR ALL INCLUSIVE  
7 NIGHTS  
April 16, 23

**1249**



**MAYAN RIVIERA**  
Bahia Principe Tulum  
★★★★ 24-HOUR ALL INCLUSIVE  
7 NIGHTS  
May 2, 9, 16

**1459**

Flights from Toronto VIA Air Transat. Prices shown are per person, based on double occupancy. Prices subject to availability at time of booking and subject to change. Taxes and travel related fees are extra. For full details refer to the World of Vacations Beaches & Island brochure. Ont Reg. #50009487 & #50009488.



*"Best Price,  
Best Service  
Since 1972"*

519-853-1553  
1-888-833-8953  
FAX: 519-853-1559  
379 Queen St.,  
Acton ON L7J 2N2

## BRONZE SALON TANNING STUDIO

130 Mill Street East, Suite #102, Acton  
(519) 853-1333

Keep your holiday tan looking like you just stepped off the beach!

We offer a variety of Tanning packages & lotions.

