



Clubs in Action

February 2008



Halifax Northwest

Other than building snowmen and preparing to shovel or dig out our umbrellas (who can tell which) we are busy polishing the silverware and digging out the paper plates in preparation for the much anticipated visit of RI President (and Canadian) Mr. Wilf Wilkinson. so book your flights, gas up the car and join us on Tuesday, February 19th for a once in a lifetime (maybe twice) chance to meet our Rotary leader. Tickets are a mere \$65 for food, Rotary camaraderie and fellowship, and a chance to shake hands with royalty - well, at least Rotary royalty. In addition to being pretty excited about this visit, we are also pretty pleased to be looking young, spiffy and energetic as we celebrate our 50th birthday on the 19th. So join us - contact Stan Ferguson to arrange a ticket, or two or three at stan.ferguson@ns.sympatico.ca.

But even though we are busy polishing we still find time to make breakfast at Chebucto Heights Elementary School, to read out loud (my favorite thing) to several grade three classes or to help individuals students with reading skills. We manned Christmas kettles, are preparing an inauguration ceremony for our new Interact Club at Halifax West High School and interviewing students for the upcoming Adventures in Citizenship program in Ottawa. So we are busy, and hope that you will forgive us if the dinner on the 19th (remember that?) is just a bit burned at the edges. Not to worry, Rotarians are not cooking!

Other news: We continue to find ways to recruit and retain members, and are always looking for advice on this topic. We continue our discussions with the community at large to help us define our role in that community going forward. Word on the results of that should be coming soon. We still tell awful jokes at our lunches and we think that somehow one of our members has fixed our snowball draw - he waits until it gets really big, and then wins - twice already. Investigation is ongoing.

So we are surviving the winter quite nicely. We would love to have your company on the 19th. and promise to be on our best behavior when Mr. Wilkinson comes to visit.

Port Hawkesbury

Greetings for a happy and prosperous New Year from The Rotary Club of Port Hawkesbury! Our club wrapped up an exciting year on a high note having hosted an uplifting visit from District Governor Bette Douglas in November. Bette left us energized and ready for the challenges a new year presents. In conjunction with Bette's visit we were able to recognize one of our most active and outstanding members, Mary MacDonald, who was presented with the True Rotarian Award.

Our club was able to participate in the recognition of a former member of the Rotary Club of Port Hawkesbury, Kevin Soehner, now a member of the Rotary Club of Amherst, as he received the Paul Harris Fellowship. Several members traveled to Amherst to attend the ceremony and to enjoy the wonderful hospitality of the Amherst club.

The club continues to support various local and international projects such as RIMES, spear-

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headed by our club member and PDG, Pete Smith. In mid–November we hosted our annual “Coady Night”, a visit from international students who attended the Coady International Institute of St. F.X. University. The evening provided us with a wonderful opportunity to increase our multi-cultural awareness by interacting with students who represent community development initiatives around the world. We were also joined for the evening by the Interact Club of Richmond Academy.

We topped off the year with a successful fundraiser, raffling tickets with prizes including 2–West Jet passes (donated by a grateful recipient of the club’s help a number of years ago), a GPS unit (donated by club member Claude Landry of Canadian Tire) and 4 passes to the upcoming Beer Wine and Spirits Showcase (donated by the club).

The upcoming year promises to be busier and more rewarding than ever as our small club strives to make a difference both locally and internationally!

St. John’s NW

We missed two meeting dates due to the Christmas Season but we made up for it in our charitable activities from our club itself and individual members whose extra contributions went into the Community Service budget which was earmarked at \$1000. Accordingly, \$250 each was given to each of the following four groups:

1. The Virginia Park Community Centre
2. Corpus Christi St. Vincent de Paul Society.
3. Buckmaster’s Circle Community Centre
4. St. Teresa’s Church.

We were very pleased to be able to do this as we have done in the past.

Summerside

From “*The Journal Pioneer*” in Summerside, PEI.

Derek Key has a new volunteer award in his living room. But he claims he didn’t really do the work. The 51-year-old recently received the Hon. George J. Tweedy Rotarian Volunteer of the Year Award.

Helping to establish an expanded library. Create a facility for the mentally and physically challenged. Develop a natural park for Summerside — just some of the projects listed in the award presentation.

“None of them are done by me,” says Key, chatting from home in Summerside. “Each one of them by necessity really was started by a group of people who had the seed of an idea. And then you had another group of people who did a whole bunch of planning, and then you had another group of people who went out and raised a bunch of money, and then you had another group of people who ultimately implemented and executed whatever was necessary to actually make it happen.”

If Key didn’t make the projects happen, he gave them a proverbial push.

“It is difficult to find a facet of community life which has not felt Derek’s influence,” reads the presentation.

Key has belonged to the service organization Rotary for 26 years — even recruit-



Derek Key and his wife, Nancy, display the Hon. George J. Tweedy Rotarian Volunteer of the Year Award. Derek Key recently received the honour for his contributions in Rotary and the community.

“Common People... UNCommon Purpose”

ing his dad. He's assistant district governor and has been Summerside club president. Other roles have included chairing the finance committee for the Friendship Park campaign, the fundraising committee for the Community Connections facility; leading a study exchange to Nigeria; and co-chairing the library campaign and a public accessibility campaign. His community contributions extend to church, Scouts, the law society, chamber of commerce, Slemon Park Corporation, Canada Games and the Prince County Hospital Foundation, to name a few.

Why does he volunteer so much?

"To get out of the house," quips his wife Nancy, pointing out they work together as law partners at Key, McKnight and Maynard.

After a good laugh, Key says he gets tremendous satisfaction from volunteer projects.

Summerside Rotary Library is one example.

"It's still, was, and continues to be — and will be for awhile yet — a very active, people-centered, significant part of the community and if we hadn't gone off and done that, I don't know who would've. You can take that example with the Community Connections building, or with the park, or water in Nigeria. Somebody has to go do it."

The Keys have four children but are now empty nesters in the city condo where they winter. They've both had medical issues: Derek badly injured his ankle in a boating mishap during a summer storm and then Nancy was diagnosed with breast cancer. But they report they're doing well.

"Whatever happens, you take the cup half-full approach," Nancy explains. "Life is good."

The Rotary Club of Summerside now has a website. Please visit us at:
www.summersiderotaryclub.com

Waterford Valley

Mt. Pearl Christmas Parade – *Keeping the Fun in Rotary*

The Rotary Club Waterford Valley, NL. is over thirty years old. During the first twenty years of its history it participated a number of times in the annual City of Mt. Pearl Santa Claus Parade. The tradition was revived during the recent Christmas season as the club, in collaboration with the Beavers and Cubs in Mt. Pearl, entered a float in the parade.

The photo shows the float and some of its participants. The Rotary Club of Waterford Valley is proud to have participated in the parade and would like to thank the Mt. Pearl Beavers and Cubs, Steve Kent, MHA Honourary Club Member, East Coast Fleet Repair for the warehouse space, Dental and Hearing Crafts Ltd. for the trailer, Ray Woodrow for towing the float and Santa's Magical Elf Earl.



Windsor

President Judy Rockwell inducted a new member, Paula Lunn on December 3/2007.

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Bridgewater & District

Our club hosted U.S. Consul General for Atlantic Canada, Harold Foster, at our Jan. 15th meeting. Mr. Foster thanked Rotarians for their community and international work. During his talk he stressed the importance of now having valid documentation at border crossings to insure and facilitate safer travel. His message, from the U.S. State Department's perspective, was that the passport is the gold standard of travel documents and he encouraged everyone to obtain one if they do not already have one. Mr Foster was a thought provoking speaker who readily participated in a question and answer period after his talk. Members appreciated his visit especially coming from Halifax on such a snowy day.