

Q&A WITH THE ELPHINSTONE SECONDARY INTERACT CLUB



The Elphinstone Secondary Interact Club, left to right: Rowan Mee, Emily Back, Rob Steeves, Kevin Graham, Marcel McNab, Alex Cloherty, Selene Rose, Robin Maser, Taysha Grindon, Laurene Karmel, Richelle Eger, Dylan Rowsell, Dean Walford, Lauren Burow, Kathy Sheehy and Scott Chamberlain. Missing are Anna Veale, Lucy Webber, Hannah Kellet, Roshnara Dias, Desiree Visser and Charlene Smith.

CATHIE ROY

Kids Giving to Their Community

INTERVIEW BY **CATHIE ROY**

What's a lot of fun, does a lot of good in the community and is 20 years old? Why it's the Gibsons Interact Club at Elphinstone Secondary School. An important part of Rotary International's youth programs, Interact is intended as a way for young people to get involved in community service. Each year the club does two projects, one of which must further international understanding and goodwill.

The Rotary Club of Gibsons sponsors the Interact Club. Rotarian Jim Ling was a chartered member of an Interact Club in Hong Kong. So when he immigrated to Canada it was a natural for then Gibsons president, Bill Hughes to approach Ling and put him to work. Not only did Ling start the first Interact Club in Gibsons

but also it was the first one in the district (most of B.C.)

Recently Coast Life sat down with 14 exuberant youth to discuss just what Interact is and why they're part of it.

CL. What does your Interact Club do?

GI. We have a lot of fun raising money for different causes. Last year we raised \$800 for Habitat for Humanity locally and \$2,869.05 for shelters for Haitians. This year we are fundraising for Children's Hospital. We also had a food drive at Halloween and are collecting Pennies for Penny. Penny Offer is the Rotary District 5040 governor this year and we are collecting pennies to help eradicate polio in her honour.

CL. What makes you want to be an Interactor?

GI. We love making a difference, getting involved locally and internationally. It's nice to see things come together. It's also so nice to see all the generosity in our community. The student body is very supportive — even kids that don't have a lot of money are donating.

(To a person they all said it just makes them feel good knowing they can make a difference.)

CL. Have you learned any skills from Interact?

GI. We have. We've learned how to run meetings. We're getting better and better at it all the time. We've also got to know each other better through our fundraising efforts.

CL. Tell us what the Gibsons Rotary Club does for you.

GI. We get a lot of support from the club and especially from our sponsor, Dean Walford. We get to help at the annual auction in November and it's lots of fun. It's crazy and chaotic in a good way.

CL. Who are your teacher sponsors?

GI. Rob Steeves is our teacher advisor and Derek Apple is the Interact advisor, he's a counsellor. They're great.

CL. Would you recommend it to other kids?

GI. Definitely. **CL**