

# ROTARY CLUB OF KITCHENER GRAND RIVER



## ***MISSION STATEMENT***

*We are community leaders who provide humanitarian services, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations & help build good will & peace in our community and internationally.  
Our focus is making a difference 'with Youth', Fellowship and the good feeling of being part of a good cause.*

## ***PRINCIPLES OF OPERATION***

*4 Way Test  
Is it the truth?  
Is it fair to all concerned?  
Will it build good will & better friendships?  
Will it be beneficial to all concerned?*

## ***MOTTO***

***“SERVICE ABOVE SELF”***

ROTARY CLUB OF KITCHENER-GRAND RIVER BULLETIN

March 27, 2007

Offsite to the KW Children's Museum

Today

Apr 3

April 10

Sgt. At Arms

50/50 Draw

Greeter

POD#1

POD#1

POD#1

Blessing

Introduction

Thank-You

Exchange Student

Jim Macarthur

Tony Maruna

Peter McCann

Last Week: Sri Lanka's Tsunami Recovery - Jennifer King & Chris McIntyre



Jennifer and Chris were

volunteering virgins when they decided to go to Sri Lanka to try and make a difference in helping the country recover from the devastation caused by the Dec 04 Indian Ocean tsunami.

Approximately 2/3 of this coastline of this island, located off the southern tip of India, was affected by the tsunami with over 35,000 people killed and over 500,000 people displaced of the total population of 20 million (approximately 2.5% of the country's population).

Jennifer and Chris were employed by 2 different Non Governmental Organizations and were primarily located in the capital of Colombo for their 14+ month tour. They were participating in the first year of a five year project to assist people of Sri Lanka to rebuild and become self sustaining with respect to industry and agriculture. The lifestyle that they left in Canada was substantially different from that that was available in Sri Lanka. For example, the per capita GDP of Sri Lanka is \$1200US vs. \$35k for Canada. The resulting

lifestyle, while initially a shock, became their new normal



Rebuilding of the country is severely hampered by the Civil war, which has been on and off for over 24 years, between the government and the Tamil Tiger rebels. The Tamil Tigers are fighting for independence of the north and east of the country and there has been over 60,000

people killed since the conflict began. During Jennifer and Chris' stay in Sri Lanka in late 2005, renewed hostilities broke out and they were witness first hand to some extreme violence (that has killed 4,000 people since Nov 05).

Jennifer and Chris returned to their family and life in Canada with a new appreciation of the diversity, respect for different cultures, and rights that we enjoy. They put their Canadian life of privilege on hold to explore the challenge and to try and make a difference in the world.

They have learned a lot about themselves and vow not return to the materialistic consumerism that is both our North American history and tendency.



We were joined by Peter Millar, Program Co-Ordinator, of JA Waterloo Region. He thanked our club for our past and future support for JA specifically for the

ESIS (Economics of Staying in School) program. The program is running at Stanley Park School on May 31.

Some JA facts:

- JA started in US in 1919 inspired by the 4H club
- JA started in Canada in Windsor
- JA of Wloo Region:
  - serves almost 13,000 young people each year
  - utilizes almost 700 volunteers annually

JA depends on the community for funds, volunteers and guidance on the success and direction of their programs. We have supported all three of these requirements and with our help, JA will continue into the future to help young people discover leadership, entrepreneurial and workforce readiness skills so they can achieve their highest potential and future successes as citizens of the global community.

There is a fundraiser presentation of Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story for JA being held at the St. Jacobs Country Playhouse on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Included in the evening's event, is a buffet reception with complimentary refreshments, silent and live auctions. Tickets are \$125 and available by contacting Tony Maruna.



## Start Time

A reminder to our members that our meetings start time is 7:20. We are going to try and keep to this schedule to make sure we are done our meeting on time each week.

## Follow up-Naimh Webster

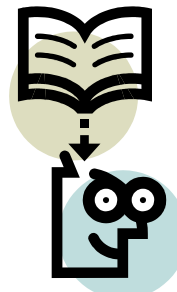
For those members who wanted further information on Niamh Webster's (our Irish Dance Speaker's) Dance Studio, the website is

[www.tirnanogacademy.com](http://www.tirnanogacademy.com) and phone # is 519.589.4732.

She is also holding a dance recital on April 21st at 7pm at the Country Hills Community Centre in Kitchener. They would welcome any of our members there. The recital runs for just about 2 hours. (not four like a lot of dance recitals.) Club members are invited to come along with their families!

## Rotary Moment

What is Rotary Literacy Month?



Rotary Literacy Month highlights literacy and education issues around the world.

Celebrated in March each year, Rotary Literacy Month is an excellent opportunity for Rotary clubs and districts to raise awareness literacy, launch new literacy initiatives and projects, and recognize literacy accomplishments from the past year. Rotarians everywhere are encouraged to participate in Rotary Literacy Month by engaging in service activities that specifically address literacy and education issues either in their communities or abroad.

Why is literacy important?

According to the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) nearly 800 million people over the age of 15 lack even basic reading and writing skills worldwide. In addition, there are roughly 137 million school age children who are illiterate around the world. Sadly, over 64% of all illiterate people in the world today are women.

## PODS

What is a POD for our weekly meetings?

- o on **P**urpose
- o **O**rganized
- o **D**ynamic

POD #1 has done a great job so far!  
Keep up the great work!!

### 50/50 Card Draw:

We went back to the card draw last week and were unable to find a winner on draws by Anne, Fraser and Les.

Unconfirmed reports were that the total in the pot is now exceeding \$200. My count has 21 cards drawn out of a total deck of 52 so you can calculate the ever-improving odds!



### Curling

- March 30<sup>th</sup> at Westmount
- 36 attendees registered at last report
- Some nibbled food will be avail
- Casual dress
- No experience required
- Just bring clean runners and a hard hat (ha ha)

### Sgt at Arms Report

Total of 30 members and 3 guests!

### Membership

What is a good prospective Rotarian?

Qualified candidates for Rotary membership are adults of good character and good business and professional reputation, who are decision makers in any worthy and recognized business or profession.

For further info please see:

<http://www.rotary.org/membership/development/faqs.html#20>



## Mudpuppy Chase:

The website is up and ready. Registration forms are available and we are now marketing

for runners. Please keep your eye open for possible runners. If you need a registration form or any further information for prospective runners, refer to the website at:

<http://www.mudpuppychase.com/>.

We already have runners registered and hope for a much larger turn out this year, supported by the school initiative "Kids with Kids" by a non Rotarian sub committee, headed by committee member Mary Jane Schlegel.

**The Challenge: for everyone in our club to recruit TEN participants.**

### Bulletin:

Please forward any information for publication to Rob Dippell at [rdippell@knells.ca](mailto:rdippell@knells.ca).

### Coming Soon to Your Rotary Club:

- Mar 30 Curling night @ Westmount Golf and Country Club
- Apr 3 Caillie Holt – returning youth exchange student from Japan
- Apr 10 Community Renewable Energy Waterloo
- Apr 17 morning meeting cancelled for evening Austrian night hosted by Les Toth
- Apr 24 Board of Kitchener-Grand River
- May 6 Mudpuppy Run
- May 3 Camp Enterprise
- May 31 Economics of staying in School
- Jun 26 Annual President Changeover meeting