

Front page

Service above self

It was 100 years ago, Rotary became Rotary International with the first meeting of a group of business men in Winnipeg, Man. Until that time, the only Rotary clubs were located in the United States. The vision of our founder Paul Harris had taken its first step to becoming a World leader in humanitarian service.

What started in Winnipeg quickly flourished through out Canada and North Bay was soon to join in. The Rotary Club of North Bay began in 1923 when a group of 25 local business and professional men began meeting during lunch under the Rotary banner. Dr Rupert Dudley was named the first president of the Club.

It is 87 years later and the family of Rotary in North Bay involves three distinct clubs, The Rotary Club of North Bay, The Rotary Club of North Bay-Nipissing and the Rotaract Club of North Bay-Nipissing. Our numbers have now soared locally to more than 150 women and men dedicated to both our own community and international service projects. Canada has more than 27,000 members in Rotary spread over more than 700 clubs. Today Rotary International has nearly 34,000 clubs throughout the world with more than 1.2 million members. Our motto, Service above Self reflects the dedication of all our members internationally, in Canada and here in North Bay. Rotarians make a real difference.

North Bay Rotarians have always been ready and willing to take on what ever projects are required; be it a new hospital (\$500,000), therapeutic pool (\$750,000), a new Learning Library (\$125,000), breast screening equipment (\$220,000) or other projects that serve the best interests of the community. We are currently working on a children's activity park to be located in the still to be developed Waterfront redevelopment site (\$125,000).

Our club has adopted a primary focus towards helping children and youth overcome adversity.

Whether it be building handicapped access, mechanical lifts, medical financial assistance or honouring academic excellence, Group Study Exchanges, scholarships and much more, Rotary is there when required.

One hundred per cent of every dollar of profit from our "Rotary For Kids" Longest Radio Show goes into our community youth programs. Our partnerships with NADY (Nipissing Association for Disabled Youth), One Kid's Place and the YMCA are vital to ensuring these dollars are invested wisely. Rotary Bingo has raised over \$1 million for youth and other projects since we began TV Bingo. Through the generosity and support of North Bay and area citizens, Rotary was committed to work for youth, seniors and community betterment during the last 87 years.

Rotary Canada also supports literacy improvement projects in places like Guatemala, Pakistan and Africa. We have helped build clean water access in developing countries around the world. We have been there with Shelter Box (temporary housing) initiatives in Haiti after the devastating earthquake and we are elsewhere when disaster happens regardless of the cause.

Canadian Rotary Clubs have contributed more than \$2 Million towards the elimination of Polio worldwide. It is Rotary International's focus project and we will not stop until the disease is eradicated.

All Rotarians strive to adhere to a four-way test in both our professional and personal lives.

- Is it the truth?
- Is it fair to all concerned?
- Will it build goodwill and better friendships?
- Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

If you are interested in becoming a Rotarian and this 4 way test is something you think is reflective of the way you live your life then we would like to welcome you into Rotary. Somewhere within our three Clubs there is a place for you and we will help you to decide which Club best fits your talents and desires.

The citizens and businesses of North Bay and area (as well as Canada) have always supported us and without them Rotary could not accomplish the great work we do.

Thank you to all who support Rotary!

Tom Tucker

President, Rotary Club of North Bay

Rotaract Club of North Bay — Nipissing

Despite being only two years old, the Rotaract Club of North Bay-Nipissing has a lot to celebrate. Since its inception in 2009, the club has held a number of successful fundraising events and initiatives benefitting a diverse group of charities and organizations in the North Bay community.

The club's first major event, Up the Creek Without a Paddle, was a resounding success, raising more than \$14,000 for PADDLE (Providing Adults With Developmental Disabilities Lifelong Experiences), a day program for disabled adults.

The event featured local business leaders, politicians and community members stranded in dragon boats on Trout Lake where they had to solicit donations from friends and family to return to shore.

The second annual event held in August raised an additional \$12,000 for the program.

In addition to raising funds for local causes, Rotaractors also aren't afraid to roll up their sleeves

to help those in need.

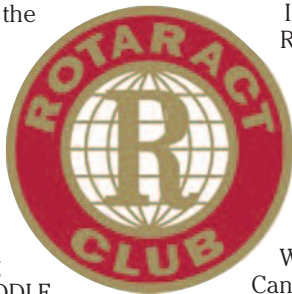
In January, they partnered with both Rotary Clubs in North Bay to offer a Day of Giving aimed at helping the elderly with household tasks such as shoveling driveways and changing light bulbs.

Rotaract's next event, the 2nd Annual Daffodil Gala, will take place on Saturday, April 2, 2011 at the Best Western in support of the Canadian Cancer Society. Tickets may be purchased in advance for \$50 by emailing .

Rotaract is a Rotary-sponsored service club for young men and women ages 18 to 30. It is one of Rotary's most significant and fastest-growing service programs with more than 8,400 clubs in about 170 countries and geographical areas.

The Rotaract Club of North Bay-Nipissing is always looking for new members.

Anyone interested in joining or learning more about its upcoming events should e-mail or visit its Facebook page at www.facebook.com/RotaractNBN.



Congratulations to Rotary

Congratulations to the North Bay Rotary Club for all you do for your community in the name of Rotary International. As your 2010-11 Governor of Rotary District 7010 I am absolutely amazed at what your club and the other 44 clubs in our central and northeastern part of Ontario and north-western Quebec do to make not only our part of the world a better place to live but many other communities in nations far away. During the past seven months my partner George Owens and I visited most of our 45 Clubs, not only speaking with Rotary leaders and members but also visiting their local projects.

We saw hospitals (like yours), health centres, playgrounds, literacy centres, schools, first nations reserves, a wild animal refuge, training centres, tourist attractions, parks, an outdoor theater, a children's camp, Rotary signs and Rotary plaques and some amazing sports centres, just to name a few.

Rotarians in the District are also currently involved in many international projects including our many efforts to eliminate polio from the face of the earth.

Some of the other projects that we are currently supporting include building wells in Sierra Leone, West Africa; a water project and the building of 10 latrines in Haiti; the implanting of intra-ocular lens in India; supplying computers in St Croix; and the feeding of street children in the Philippines. This year we selected and for the first time will be sending a scholar from the North Bay area to study Peace and Conflict Resolution in Japan.

She will return to the North Bay area very skilled after two years of study at the master's level. Also, our district currently has a team of young professionals (ages 25 to 40) in Central America on a Group Study Exchange; their counterparts from El Salvador spent a month here last summer enhancing their own professional careers.

Rotarians believe our future lies with our youth. This year we have 14 students (age 15 to 18) on a year long exchange in: Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Mexico, Germany, New Zealand, Taiwan, Thailand, Ecuador, Denmark, France and Switzerland and 13 inbound students from many of the same countries.

Rotary also has a short-term exchange with high school aged students spending two months in another country with a family in exchange for hosting a student from



Dawn Straka

abroad for the same length of time here in Canada.

RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Award) is yet another youth training session that will be held in April in the Orillia area for high school aged students selected by their local Rotary Clubs to learn leadership skills.

Rotary International turned 106 years old Feb. 23. In Canada, our first Club started in Winnipeg in 1910, 100 years ago. Rotary now exists in 200 hundred countries and geographical territories and there are almost 34,000 Rotary Clubs worldwide.

As business, professional and community leaders, Rotarians volunteer all their services. Most funds Rotarians raise go back into their own communities with a percentage (determined by each club) going to help their service projects in developing nations.

Each year, our international president names a new motto. This year's theme reflects what we do best which is "building communities and bridging continents." Keeping up with the times, Rotary is changing and prepared to look at new models of operation.

Rotarians also recognize that strong membership is what gives us the energy to do what we do and to take on more service projects.

Our local clubs are always looking for members who will help carry their projects forward. North Bay has two strong Clubs. Consider the satisfaction one receives helping others in need as well as the friendships that grow through working with other like-minded men and women.

Consider giving back to your community and to others who desperately need our help.

Consider joining Rotary.



One Kids Place
says, *thanks*
to Rotary Club

On behalf of the children, youth and families we serve at One Kids Place, the board and staff would like to congratulate and thank the Rotary for 100 years in Canada and the Rotary Club of North Bay for make our community stronger.

As we pause to reflect on the great success of the Rotary Club of North Bay, it is important to recognize the individual and collective dedication of the many Rotarians whose efforts continue to have an impact on the lives of children and youth in our community.

Your contribution of more than \$250,000 towards the new Children's Treatment Centre and your tireless efforts through Rotary for Kids, to support individual children and youth in need of specialized equipment, continues to help shape the future for kids with special needs and their families.

Thank you to the many Rotarians and their families of the Rotary Club of North Bay — we are so very proud to partner with you.

The leadership and support you provide to the community is truly making a difference.

Rotary Foundation — doing good in the world

The mission of The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International is to enable Rotarians to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through the improvement of health, the support of education, and the alleviation of poverty. It is a not-for-profit corporation supported solely by voluntary contributions from Rotarians and friends of the Foundation who share its vision of a better world.

The Foundation IS truly unique for several reasons – it addresses all of the greatest educational and humanitarian needs; its world reach is greater than the United Nations in that it can go where politicians and religious groups cannot; and 100% of funds raised go to the programs.

To quote Bill Gates, Sr., “Back when Rotary became involved with polio, most people thought volunteer organizations were about tackling projects down the street or across town — not across the world. Rotary changed all that, and in the process, you reminded us that there is no human problem so daunting that it can't be overcome by people.”

The Rotary Foundation, which will celebrate its 100-year anniversary in 2017, is approaching the US\$3 billion mark in support of the Foundation's programs.

As of January of this year, the Rotary Club of North Bay has contributed more than US\$370,000 towards this amount.

Through Foundation's Humanitarian Grants Program and Educational Programs, Rotarians and other contributors help change the world. They can finance a well for a village that lacks clean water, improve the environment, or provide scholarships to educate the next generation.

Further, it allows Rotarians to realize Rotary's humanitarian mission throughout the world, including its number-one goal of eradicating polio.

Donors may direct their gifts to three main funds — the Annual Programs Fund, which supports the foundation's humanitarian, educational and cultural exchange programs worldwide; the Permanent Fund, which provides an endowment and the PolioPlus Fund. Individuals contributing US\$1,000 or more, or who make a commitment through their estate, receive special recognition from the Foundation.

To date, 206 members, and non-members affiliated with the North Bay club, have been honoured. For more information visit www.rotary.org.

Memories for youth and families made at Rotary's Camp Tillicum

The Rotary Club of North Bay owns Rotary's Camp Tillicum located on the south shore of Lake Nipissing. The camping and recreation facility evolved from the interest two North Bay businessmen, James Nightingale and T.M. Palmer, had in providing a summer camping experience for young people, initially Boy Scouts.

This began in the late 920s and grew to include use by Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, church groups the YMCA, the Canadian military for cadet programs, schools and community groups.

The property was gifted to the Rotary Club of North Bay in 1949 and continued to provide lasting memories for many North Bay area children.

The old recreation hall interior is decorated inside with hundreds of names documenting their "Tillicum Memories."

During the '70 and mid-'80s the facility was the northern base for Army and Sea Cadet camping and in 1986 a long standing operational partnership with the YMCA was launched.

Both local Rotary Clubs support the capital funding of the property and the YMCA operates a very active day-camping program in the summer.

Plans are currently being developed for the complete rejuvenation of the site and the facilities, looking to the future ensuring a commitment to serving youth, families and the community.



NADY and Rotary Club partners

The Nipissing Association for Disabled is proud to join our community in congratulating the North Bay Rotary Club for its contribution to children with physical and developmental delays in our community. NADY, as we are known, developed as a charitable organization in partnership with the Rotary Club of North Bay.

Shortly after we obtained our charter, in 1982, Rotary funded our 100 Voices survey. This study put us on the path to improve the services for children with special needs.

The first goal was to establish a therapeutic pool in our community. Rotary raised 750,000 dollars towards this goal. It took many years but today we have an amazing therapeutic pool at the YMCA.

Our children can enjoy all the benefits of this totally accessible facility.

Shortly after its incorporation NADY, with the help of Rotary, was able to obtain a wheelchair accessible van from Variety Village.

Because we were such a small organization of parents, we needed to count on Rotary for the vehicle maintenance and gas.

Before the closing of Northwood Camp, Rotarians would give up their Saturdays during summer, to drive children with disabilities to camp Northwood.

Friendships developed between the Rotarians and the campers and Rotarians became more and more enthusiastic about helping these special kids.

They held Christmas parties for them and became involved with telethons to raise funds to help the children of

this community.

The emphasis was on making sure the funds would all stay in the community with very little money paid for administration.

The money was for the kids. The MCTV Super Telethon evolved into the EZ Rock radio Marathon, the brainchild of Rotarian, Steve Haws and then morning show host Scott Clark. Scott and Christa, then Scott and Catherine were followed by Dan and Jamie and this year we welcome Joel and Kevin.

This fundraiser is a huge undertaking requiring an enormous amount of volunteer hours which Rotarians provide for the love of our kids.

The radiothons alone have raised more than \$600,000 in the past eight years.

This money is a lifeline for NADY and the families it serves.

More than 52 special needs youth enjoy eight weeks of summer fun at the NADY summer program.

They also look forward to Saturday afternoons during the school year where they get together with their friends and the counsellors to socialize and do various activities.

NADY together with Rotary and many volunteers at Laurentian Ski Hill have been able to provide the thrill and excitement of downhill skiing to youth with special needs. This requires specialized equipment which we have been able to provide with the support of the community.

Therapeutic horseback riding is another experience that NADY is able to sponsor with Rotary's help.

We also continue to provide a wheelchair accessible van



for our programs and for local families who have children in wheelchairs to use for medical trips and special occasions.

We are so thankful for the support of the North Bay Rotary Club for helping NADY provide opportunities for disabled youth.

Their ongoing commitment to special needs youth and their families in this community will help ensure a continued enrichment in the lives of our kids.

Looking back at Rotary Club of North Bay

The Rotary Club of North Bay places its greatest emphasis on assisting and supporting disabled youth. Since 1923, it has initiated and sponsored local projects and programs that helped those in need and actively participated in campaigns that promoted community development and betterment.

In early pioneering days in Northern Ontario every man was ready to help his neighbour, a way of life made necessary by the rigorous conditions of the time.

The service rendered was intimate and personal. In this more complex world, in which we now live, the spirit of the old time personal spirit still survives, but it now finds expression in the Service Club. The services rendered are no less personal and humanitarian, but, through organized effort, they are much more broadly based and they are continuous.

Rotary clubs are nonreligious, nonpolitical and open to every race, culture and creed. Rotary does however use a classification system for membership to develop a pool of resources and expertise to advance service projects.

A classification describes a member's principal business or profession. Membership from each profession is limited so that the club represents a cross-section of community interests.

Brief overview - Rotary Club of North Bay.

1923

Rotary Club of North Bay chartered. Founded by 25 leading business and professional men with a conviction that the time had come to organize a service club in the Town of North Bay.

1924

■ Through efforts of the Boys' Work Committee, the club built outdoor rinks on Main Street East and at Wallace Park. Organized Boys Hockey League.

■ In the summer, Boys' Work Committee drew up a baseball schedule for teenage boys for hardball games played at Wallace Park.

■ North Bay Rotarians attended Rotary International Convention held in Toronto.

1925-1926

During 1925-26, the club became interested in Crippled Children's Work (as it was called then). Led by Rotarian Dr Duncan Campbell, the first Crippled Children's Clinic was held in the summer of 1926 with Dr. R. I Harris of Toronto the surgeon in charge.

Some 40 boys and girls were recommended for treatment. At that time, the club numbered 40 members so it was decided to assign a child to each member. It was the responsibility of the Rotarian to see his boy or girl received the treatment recommended.

Some children were treated locally while others were sent to Toronto Children's Hospital for surgery. In either case, the Rotarian transported his child to the hospital or the train. Toronto Rotarians met the children and accompanied them to the hospital. It was remarkable the thrill and satisfaction the club received from its first year in Crippled Children's Work.

To finance this major activity, the club needed money and at that time there was very little in the treasury. The first move to raise money was to ask the Rotarians to contribute. About \$1,200 was subscribed.

With this beginning, the club appealed to the public for



financial assistance and the people of North Bay responded in no uncertain terms. The club was convinced Crippled Children's Work had the support of the people of this city and with that assurance it carried on a successful crippled children's program to the early 1980s.

1929

Crippled Children's Club formed to raise funds for Crippled Children's Work. Tickets sold to Rotary Frolic in December with chance to win Marquette Sedan automobile.

1932

Camp Tillicum. Rotary members drove 30 North Bay boys ages 12-15 to Camp Tillicum for a 12-day camping experience. Boys participated in volleyball, softball, horseshoe pitching, nature study, woodcraft and swimming instruction. An evening tour of Lake Nipissing on Steamer Seagull was highlight of the program.

1937

Merry Mystery Minstrels Show at the Capitol Theatre. Fundraiser for Club's Crippled Children's Work to assist children from North Bay and surrounding district. Events like Rotary Frolics and Community Days helped defrayed costs of hospitalization, transportation, and appliances such as braces, special shoes, x-rays, artificial limbs, ambulance and associated expenses.

1939

Rotary Big Ice Carnival at the North Bay Arena was held to raise funds for Crippled Children's Work. The event fea-

tured Nat Wally, World's Champion Professional Figure Skater, a comedy show and Burlesque Broom Hockey between members of Lions Club and Rotary Club.

1941

■ In reviewing Crippled Children's Work, Club reported that \$20,000 had been spent to bring "joy to kiddies." Rotarians Dr Duncan Campbell and Dr William Butler provided details of treatment and urged the club to continue its much-needed work.

■ Rotary Cadet Corps formed for boys ages 12-18. Cadets participated in physical exercises, group games, military drill, rifle shooting, first aid, signalling, civic duties, patriotism, hygiene and lectures on citizenship.

1943

In the summer, Rotary cadets travelled to Bolton, Ont. where they joined other cadets from the province to participate in exercises and learning life skills. Rotary sponsored the training, supplied uniforms and arranged for instruction.

1946

Rotarians sought out disabled youth for treatment. An advertisement in the Daily Nugget read: "Do you know a crippled child who needs help?" Rotary appeal was aimed at parents financially unable to provide such care for family members.

1949

Rotary inherited the Tillicum property and stepped up its program to provide a summer recreational experience for youth in this area. The camp was under the direction of the Boys' Work Committee and served as new summer home for Rotary Boy Scout Troop.

1951

Rotary Rose Day is an annual tradition that has raised more than \$700,000 and distributed more than 120,000 dozen flowers.

1955

Rotary Spring Fair is one of the city's big annual events. Featured square dance competitions and refreshment booth (The Hub) where best hamburgs, Rotapups, homemade pies were served up by Rotarians and their families. It continued annually for 10 years at Memorial Gardens.

1973

Rotary Club of North Bay celebrates 50 years of community service in North Bay and surrounding area.

1985

■ Rotary Club of North Bay sponsored new Rotary Club of North Bay-Nipissing. Both clubs partner in various activities to promote Rotary community and international service.

■ Rotary International kicked off PolioPlus, its most ambitious world community service, to immunize children against polio. PolioPlus has been an overwhelming success and in 2011 is in its final stage of polio eradication. The Gates Foundation gave \$355 Million and Rotary International committed \$200 Million in determined effort to take the mammoth undertaking to the finish line.

■ Rotary Club of North Bay launched a campaign to raise funds for a therapeutic pool at the YMCA. The members jumped at the opportunity after NADY (Nipissing Association for Disabled Youth) urged Rotary to spearhead construction of needed facilities for disabled youth. Rotary contributed \$700,000 to complete the pool.

Timeline continues

1986

The Travel and Adventure Series commenced. Guided tours of distant travel destinations in a film format have become annual event. The film presentations are an interesting series for vacationers and seniors. Club members donate subscriptions which are distributed to qualifying seniors so they may enjoy the well-documented films.

1987

A Youth Exchange program is a Rotary initiative. Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA), adopted by Rotary in 1971 has become popular with high school students. Every April or May 40 to 50 students, selected by district Rotary clubs, meet in a rural setting for an extended weekend of leadership training. The first camp took place in North Bay in 1987.

1989

Rotary International eliminated male-only provision opening up membership to qualified women. Since then, Rotary has thrived as women have taken a leadership role.

1993

Rotary Club of North Bay kicked off Rotary-at-Home TV Bingo on Cogeco TV.

1995

Rotary Club of North Bay established a \$30,000 Canadore College Scholarship for disabled youth.

1997

Rotary Club of North Bay raised \$220,000 to establish a local affiliate for the Ontario Breast Screening Program.

Rotary Club of North Bay contributed \$100,000 for AI Jackson Laboratories at Nipissing University.



2000

Great Student Award. To recognize students from our secondary schools who best exemplify Service Above Self. An annual event, each secondary school selects a student who is honoured by Rotary for outstanding service at school and in the community. The students are presented with a certificate of recognition and receive an honorarium from Rotary.

2001

Rotaract Club chartered in North Bay. Rotaract is a youth organization, similar in purpose to Rotary.

Rotary Club of North Bay funded 2 wheelchair accessible chariots for families at the Waterfront Carousel.

2002

Rotary Club of North Bay participated in a campaign to launch the North Bay Regional Health Centre by donating \$500,000.

Rotary Club of North Bay donated \$275,000 for the construction and operation of One Kid's Place (formerly Children's Treatment centre).

2003

Radiothon was inaugurated and hosted by Scott Clarke. Rotary partners with NADY and raises funds through their annual radio program. Program now known as Longest Radio Show and airs in March. Rotary is grateful for the generous support of Wingate Lottery (sponsor) and Dr Larry Hoffman, Smiles for Life, for participating in the annual project. Community support for this event provides funding that is dedicated to assist disabled youth.

Rotary Club of North Bay initiated Disc Golf on Laurentian Ski Hill free for families and youth

2006

Rotary Club of North Bay raised \$125,000 for the new Learning Library for students at Nipissing University and Canadore College.

Rotary Club of North Bay committed \$125,000 to establish a Waterfront Water Park for children of all ages to be constructed on former CPR lands near North Bay Museum.

2007

Rotary Club of North Bay sponsored Dragon Boat races at Trout Lake to provide a local sporting event and to raise funds for Rotary charities.

2011

Rotary Club of North Bay supports world community service projects. The club purchased emergency Shelter Box units that provide family living quarters for earthquake victims in Haiti. Two members of our club are travelling to Haiti and Guatemala to assist in relief and humanitarian efforts.

Rotary donation helps babies breathe

With the help from the Rotary Club of North Bay, and the Rotary Club of North Bay-Nipissing, new born babies can breathe easy. The two Rotary Clubs came together in 2002 to make a generous pledge of \$500,000 to the North Bay and District Hospital Foundation's Caring for Generations campaign. After fulfilling this pledge the Rotary Club of North Bay-Nipissing contributed an additional \$25,000 towards the purchase of a new transport incubator for the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

North Bay's NICU provides an Intensive Care Nursery setting for newborns as early as 30 weeks.

Five pediatricians and skilled nurses provide nursing for critically ill babies and supportive care for pre-term infants as they develop.

The NICU is also a high-risk referral centre for areas surrounding North Bay. In recognition of Rotary's generosity, the NICU of the new North Bay Regional Health Centre has been named — Rotary NICU.

Since 2002, the clubs have actively raised funds for the construction of the new North Bay Regional Health Centre through joint ventures, including the annual Bell Charity Golf Gala, and individual projects.

Signature fundraising events of Rotary Club of North Bay have included the Bell North Bay Dragon Boat Festival, Rose Day, Classical Christmas Concerts, and Luxury Living Raffles. Rotary Club of North Bay-Nipissing is better known for their Big Cover Up quilt auction, King of the Hill Drag Races, and a boat raffle.

Rotarians worldwide have developed a system to measure the importance and impact of each project they undertake, regardless of the size or scope.

Before Rotarians speak or act they ask themselves four questions; Is it the truth?

Is it fair to all? Does it build goodwill and better friendships? Will it be beneficial to all? They call it the "Four-way Test," and the North Bay and District Hospital Foundation has been on the receiving end of this measuring stick since it was formed nearly a decade ago.

So, does the "Four-way Test" work? — This community says yes.

Happy 100th anniversary Rotary!



YMCA and Rotary ...providing quality of life

For over 50 years the North Bay YMCA and Rotary have been so closely aligned through service above self efforts both locally and through world community humanitarian efforts.

Much of the success of the North Bay community depends on the quality of life available to all its members.

Providing these opportunities are part of the continuing mission shared by its partners; The City of North Bay, Rotary Club of North Bay, Nipissing Association for Disabled Youth and the YMCA, who together built a therapeutic pool for local people with disabilities which ultimately included a recreational pool to replace the Centennial Pool in 2002.

The \$7.5 million dream for four pools; a six lane, 25 metre-long main pool, a splash pad for infants, a teach pool, and the Rotary therapeutic pool.

Thanks to the generous fundraising efforts of the Rotary Club of North Bay, Rotary Club of North Bay-Nipissing contributing over \$700,000 towards the project.

Today the YMCA continues to be open to everybody.

The YMCA Strong Kids Campaign raises

much needed funds to support children and families in our community ensuring no one is left out of a YMCA experience, regardless of ability or financial circumstance.

Last year the YMCA assisted more than 1,400 individuals in our community.

The Strong Kids Campaign also provides opportunities internationally by supporting the Khartoum Sudan YMCA.

The Khartoum YMCA has been providing basic education in Khartoum to thousands of displaced persons thanks to the financial support of the YMCAs in Northern Ontario matched by Canadian International Development Agency to further impact the Khartoum YMCA efforts.

Leadership training and HIV/AIDS education is an integral part of the YMCA program. Courses in Arabic, English, accounting and computer usage have been provided in Khartoum, allowing students to support themselves and their families.

Regardless of the program, activity, membership or skill learned, the YMCA is strengthening the community through values-based programs and services, all thanks to the generosity, dedication, and hard working volunteer Rotarians that together, are making a world of difference.

PolioPlus Program — \$200 Million Challenge

To eradicate polio, Rotarians have mobilized by the hundreds of thousands. They're working to ensure children are immunized against this crippling disease and that surveillance is strong despite the poor infrastructure, extreme poverty, and civil strife of many countries.

Since the PolioPlus program's inception in 1985, more than two billion children have received the oral polio vaccine in 122 countries, preventing five million cases of paralysis and 250,000 pediatric deaths; and the incidence of polio infection has plunged from about 350,000 cases in 1988 to fewer than 1,000 reported cases in 2010.

Rotary's US\$200 Million Challenge is the Rotary Foundation's response to the two grants totaling \$355 million from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to help eradicate polio.

Every dollar given to PolioPlus will be counted toward the \$200 million match, which must be completed by 30 June 2012.

Jan. 31, 2011, Rotary launched a new public service campaign, with a wide array of public figures and celebrities signing on to help spread the word.

Headlined by Microsoft Corp. Chairman Bill Gates, this diverse lineup of influential leaders and personalities includes Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu, action movie star Jackie Chan, conservationist Jane Goodall, premier vio-



An accredited social health activist administers drops of the oral polio vaccine to a child in a Muslim household during a door-to-door immunization effort in India.

linist Itzhak Perlman, Grammy Award winners A.R. Rahman, Angeliqe Kidjo and Ziggy Marley, golfing great Jack Nicklaus, and peace advocate Queen Noor of Jordan.

In a series of print, broadcast and outdoor public service advertisements each uses a simple hand gesture to show Rotary is "This Close" to wiping out polio worldwide.

Nicklaus, Perlman and Tutu are themselves survivors of this crippling disease.

"Polio eradication has benefited immensely from having Rotary's support," Bill Gates said in his annual letter. "Rotary had the vision to get involved in 1985 and has kept polio eradication as its top priority."

Polio eradication has been Rotary's top priority for more than two decades.

The international humanitarian service organization is a

spearheading partner in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, along with the World Health Organization, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and UNICEF.

Rotary club members worldwide have contributed more than \$1 billion and countless volunteer hours to the polio eradication effort, and have recently pledged to raise an additional US\$200 million to match \$355 million in challenge grants from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

All of the resulting \$555 million will be spent in support of eradication activities.

The Rotary Club of North Bay has donated over US\$13,600 so far to this effort.

To learn more about polio eradication, including how to participate in this historic effort, visit www.rotary.org/endpolio today.

Rotary Club gives girl a voice

DAWN CLARKE
The Nugget

Robyn Webster is nine years old. She is autistic and finds it difficult to express herself.

Until recently her vocabulary was limited to five words.

But now with the help of a voice output system she can tell people what she wants and how she feels.

It's a system the North Bay Rotary Club bought for the family almost a year ago.

"I wanted to drill home to her language is the way to get what you need," said her mother Michelle. "This device is pretty user friendly and everybody can understand it."

The voice output system is about the size of a portable DVD system and Robyn takes it to school with her every day.

Robyn has a twin sister, Emma, who isn't autistic, but encourages her to use the system on a regular basis. However her younger brother Max is also autistic.

"Trying to meet the financial needs of two disabled children can be difficult," she said. "Finding the funds to try something new that might or might not work is hard."

She explained, the principal who was filling in for a maternity leave at J.W. Trusler Public School also happened to be a Rotarian and she suggested the Websters approach the Rotary Club with a request for



DAWN CLARKE, THE NUGGET

Robyn Webster and her mother Michelle work with a voice output system the Rotary Club of North Bay leases for her.

the voice output system.

"They had everything wrapped up in a few weeks," she said. "I didn't realize it was something the Rotary Club does. It was so easy. They just did it all."

Although Robyn is still in a learning stage with the system her family is pleased with her progress.

"She learns slowly and it will probably a couple of years before she makes full use of it," said her mother. "I always felt that there was more that Robyn just couldn't get out. I feel her behaviour comes from not being able to say what she wants."

While the system makes it easier for Robyn to tell people what it is she wants it is

also easier for those who she is trying to communicate with like special education teachers and grandparents.

Robyn's favourite category is food and her mother has programmed it with everything from snacks to restaurant meals. The other button she uses is programmed to tell her brother to get out of her room.

"She still needs a lot of prompting on things," said her mother. "She is highly distracted and sometimes she doesn't remember it is there. We are still in a phase of reminding her she can use it."

There are pages that cover almost every possibility in Robyn's life such as a movie page which houses all her favourite movies, a school page, a page that explains what is happening in her day and a weekend page that can be changed as the seasons change.

While the voice output system has helped Robyn express herself Michelle is confident it will continue to help her daughter even more in the coming years.

She said funding for disabled children has remained constant even though more children have been identified which makes getting help difficult and time-consuming. So when the Rotary Club said it would help she was surprised.

"When people come up to the plate to help it is almost as good as the funding," she said. "It means it is one less thing I have to bug and yell for. It was great."

Happy 100th ... Rotary



Happy 100th Rotary!
On behalf of the entire Nipissing University community, I am delighted to extend my warmest congratulations to your organization as it celebrates 100 years of experience, excellence and putting service above self.

Having recently celebrated 100 years of teacher education in North Bay, Nipissing University appreciates the significance of such a milestone; we know that it is the result of hard work, dedication and passion on the part of individuals who share a vision and have the initiative to turn dreams into realities.

As a university, Nipissing is committed to the betterment of society. We celebrate that Rotary shares this value, believes in our mission, and consistently displays this through their ongoing support.

Rotary's support for Nipissing has helped enrich the lives of many and has shaped the development of future leaders. For many years, Nipissing students have benefited from scholarships, bursaries and awards funded generously through Rotary and are grateful for this support. Through Rotaract clubs and other initiatives, Rotary also provides excellent opportunities for our students to learn about themselves and foster their critical thinking skills while making a significant and positive difference around the world.

Many Rotary Clubs have also made considerable contributions to our capital campaigns, which are greatly appreciated. Through this support, we have been able to build state-of-the-art facilities focused on quality teaching, learning and discovery. As a learning institution, supported by partners such as Rotary, we seek to foster in our students, faculty and staff, both academic excellence and meaningful engagement as global citizens.

Nipissing University wishes to express its heartfelt appreciation to Rotary, an organization of high principles energized through a continued tradition of excellence.

We look forward to the next 100 years!

Lesley Lovett-Doust

President and Vice-Chancellor - Nipissing University

