

Newsletter

September 2020

From Your Newsletter Editor

Club in the Time of COVID



This time, when we say it's virtual, we mean it. It has been a most extraordinary year so far — meeting virtually, communicating mainly online and electronically, postponing, changing and adapting events. Adjusting this newsletter for the COVID-19 pandemic has been the easy part — it's meant to be online.

What's hard is what *you* have been doing — and what's amazing is how our club members have stepped up. Organizing safe, virtual events, planning ahead, being creative. It shows — you can wear a mask and keep a safe social distance and still put Service above Self.

David Israelson



The Great Rotary Estate Sale

We're doing something different and we think everyone will like it. Come to the **Great Niagara-on-the-Lake Rotary Club Estate Sale**. *Saturday, October 3 and Sunday, October 4, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.*

It's at **9494 East West Line Road, Niagara-on-the-Lake.**

Rain or Shine — proceeds to benefit children's programs and charities!

Come find your own treasure! Lots of great items at great prices!

Artwork, Crystal, Silver, Porcelain, Collectibles, Antique furniture, Light Fixtures, Small Oriental Rugs, Designer Clothing and Purses, High Quality Bedding, Curtains, Books, Children's Toys, Christmas Decorations, Sporting Equipment, Gardening Tools ... and much more !

Club President's Message

Thanks Club Members! Let's Keep Giving!

By Ken Schander

Money.

Let's begin with Happy Dollars—a Rotary tradition. After a hiatus of five months we held our first in-person meeting on Aug 18 and collected, not one dollar per member, but a



KEN SCHANDER

whopping \$434. Week two it was \$287. And week three \$93. In just three weeks club members gave 60 per cent of what we gave all of last year.

Who can explain these things? I know that I asked you to give \$20 (a dollar for each week we had not met). I know we all have money that we have not spent because of the COVID-19 lockdown. I know that our club members are generous. And, I also know that we can do more.

So now I'm asking for more.

Last year (2019-2020) our club raised about \$175,000, most of which came from our community. In addition, we contributed \$65,000 to The Rotary Foundation. Our dues, 50/50 Draw, and Happy Dollars amounted to another \$25,000.

I know that 2020-2021 will be different. When it comes to raising funds, let's do more. I know I'm planning to do more and I'm asking you to do more too.

It's going to be challenging. We are not doing our big fundraisers. This is not the year to ask our community to fund our projects. It is, however, the year when there will be more needs. Many more. Both locally and internationally.

What more could we do? Let's put our ideas together. I have asked both the Community and

International Service Committees to suggest projects that would challenge our generosity. You may have an idea too. If so, please share it.

In the meantime, join me in marking some of your COVID-19 savings for a special NOTL Rotary project.

Virtual Tasting Tours

You can have your wine and taste it too!



Each Tuesday in October, you can still enjoy a Rotary wine tasting — virtually.

Here's how. First, purchase a ticket online for each week of tastings.

Each week features a different winery. Our Rotary virtual tastings include Caroline Cellars, Strewn, Hare Wine Co. and Between the Lines. Each winery will deliver two bottles to you, white and red. Or you can pick up your wine.

The wine will come with tasting notes, recipe suggestions to pair with the tasting and some history on how the wine was produced and aged.

For tickets and more information visit Events/Tickets at www.niagaraonthelakerotary.ca.

Estate Sale Extra!

More about our big event Oct. 3 and 4

By Jeannie Manning

The Rotary Club of Niagara-on-the-Lake has been a well-oiled machine when it comes to fundraising. Then COVID-19 happened.



We know people are still in need, regardless of the pandemic. And we crave community. So Lynne Legallais brought the idea of an Estate Sale to the Fundraising Committee.

She envisioned this sale not only as a way to raise funds, but also a way to engage club members and the community.

We need your help. Volunteers are already busy picking up, dropping off, sorting and pricing. And we need help on sale days too. COVID-19 protocol will be in place, of course — masks, hand sanitizer, managing traffic flow and numbers. Proceeds will help children's programs and charities — so please contribute, help ... and enjoy the sale!



Rotary's BIG Backyard Event

By Jolanta Kudlats

The BIG Backyard Event held August 8 and 9 was an awesome way to support local restaurants and reconnect with Rotarians and friends.

Spearheaded by the St. Catharines Rotary Club and involving all Niagara Region Rotary Clubs, the event aimed to show support and appreciation for local restaurants that have sponsored Rotary events over many years. It's the least we can do — COVID-19 restrictions have caused many significant losses for great restaurants in the area, some experiencing a as much as an 85 per cent drop in sales.



Our own club came up with some 20 restaurants that are regular supporters of our annual Icewine Martini Party. We encouraged our members and friends to throw parties in their backyards — with food ordered from these restaurants.

The response was great. We had more than a dozen parties going — some were small with six to eight people, but we did get a socially safe gathering of 18 together too. We all ordered food from our restaurants.



Such great choices! Everything from family style to Italian dinners, salads, pizzas and wings to a sophisticated dinner for two from Treadwell featuring a bottle of wine recommended by the restaurant's sommelier. To make this event extra special, six local bands donated their time and talents and pre-recorded a special concert that was streamed through the event's website. These bands performed in two-hour blocks from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Niagara rocked! And we all appreciated the opportunity to see each other in the safety of our gardens, having dinners al fresco while social distancing and listening to great music. And most of all, we feel great knowing that we contributed a bit to the recovery of our favourite restaurants.



Community Service Committee

Finding the Needs

By Paul Lalonde

Community Service Committee Chair



As our club's local service committee looks to the year ahead on a smaller budget due to COVID

19, we are striving to make the most impact where it is most needed. Our goal is to focus on helping the most vulnerable in our community as a result of this pandemic.

This is why we have decided recently on how to share our upcoming wine tasting fundraiser profits. These will be divided among the Niagara Falls Community Outreach Program, the Kristin French Child Advocacy Program, No One Goes Hungry Niagara and Multiple Sclerosis Niagara.

We are looking for new ways and opportunities to support our community need. We want all club members to share potential ideas or projects with us.

We are also looking for new people to join our committee — so please let me know if you are interested.

We are in a position to make a big difference right here at home. We want to do the most good with the hard-earned money this club raises, and we know we can!

Supporting Students in Need

By Patricia Murenbeeld

Club President Elect



September is Basic Education and Literary month in Rotary. Throughout the Niagara Region, many students and families are in need. The Education Foundation of Niagara's Relief Fund provides assistance to students requiring food, personal hygiene, medical items and other necessities.

Under the leadership of Angela Bachert, the New Generations Committee is planning on providing support for the Breakfast program at one of our local schools. This initiative will be set up by the Education Foundation of

Niagara. We will be seeking individuals willing to go into the school to help set up and serve breakfast. All volunteers will require a Vulnerable Persons Police Record check valid within one year. This initiative is still, understandably in the planning stages as schools try to figure out their opening policies.

For those interested in helping out with this initiative, please contact Angela Bachert at: angela@mcgarrealty.com

Youth Exchange

Building connections around the world

By Jeannie Manning

The Rotary International Youth Exchange Program has been an integral part of Rotary since 1927. The purpose of the students exchanging countries for approximately 10 months is to create a more interconnected and understanding world — one exchange at a time. Our club has been involved in more than 80 exchanges.

Often these exchanges are life changing for both the students and their host families.

Louis arrived from France for his exchange with our club 10 years ago. He stayed with three host families. Linda and Donnie Cumpson, Steffanie and Moe Bjorgan, Cathy Andres and Rob MacLachlan. All of the host families were "original" locals. All three of his host families had their own kids participate in the Exchange program. Carly went to France and was hosted by Louis' family. Owen went to Australia and Andrew went to Japan.

One of Louis' adventures while here, was to go on a helicopter ride over Niagara Falls. Fast forward. Louis, now a student in Montreal is finishing his helicopter pilot's license and was down visiting his host families last week while distributing his resume to the same helicopter company that took him on a life-changing ride.



Julie arrived from France eight years ago. My husband and I were fortunate to have her in our home as one of three host families. A special bond was formed. Another special bond was



formed between Julie and one of the outbound students in our District. Lexie was on her way to Austria.

Their relationship endured Julie's return to France and Lexie's exchange to Austria. Lexie joined Julie in France to attend an international

university. Julie then followed Lexie back to Canada and is now a landed immigrant. They live in Grimsby. We enjoyed their company this past weekend. You may have met them assisting our Rotary club on the Canada Day and Holiday House Tour events. You will probably meet them at our upcoming Estate Sale.

One student found his vocation. The other two found their life partner. Both now live in Canada.

How Rotary Helps

What You are Doing When You Give

By Jodey Porter



Those little boxes where we put our loonies and toonies (when there's no pandemic) make a difference!

Here are some examples — not just our Shelter Boxes but also our COVID-19 response.

Shelter Box

Beirut is a key area of shelter box activity right now. With 30 per cent of its citizens already refugees and for all intents and purposes homeless, the recent explosion in Beirut has exacerbated the a crisis in homelessness and lack of shelter that is now almost beyond

imagination.

Shelter Box is on the ground and there to help, to provide the city and residents of its refugee camps with all the assistance we can.

And Shelter Box will be there in the Caribbean, dealing with the devastation from the recent hurricane's Marco and Laura.

Our COVID-19 Response

We raised more than \$50,000 and leveraged more than \$100,000 to help Doctors Without Borders fight COVID in the hardest-hit and most vulnerable areas.

Our dollars are still at work and we have and still are saving lives!

For example, in the Cox's Bazar refugee camp in Bangladesh for the Rohingya people.

A Canada-led Doctors without Borders section is working and here's we have provided:

- PPE for our very brave health professionals
- Hired local sanitation workers to help put everything in place to prevent Covid spread within the camp
- Helped complete renovation of an isolation ward for the camp

And in Lima Peru, we have helped fund two clinics treating and diagnosing COVID-19 in the hardest-hit slums of the city.

So thank you Rotary members, we are making a difference!