



Newsletter

December 2020 - January 2021

From Your Newsletter Editor

Look Forward!



Let's face it. As we head toward 2021, it's not exactly what we expected when the year began.

Remember lunch? Happy dollars? Presentations at the Community Centre? Flipping burgers on Canada Day? Let's be confident and rest assured that it will all happen again.

Let's not focus on what is missed — others have had to give up a lot more. Let's focus on what's possible and what's to come. It's said that every crisis brings opportunity, so 2021 should be our club's opportunity to shine.

We actually accomplished a lot in challenging circumstances. As vaccines roll out and we all learn from our experiences, we'll get to do more. And we will.

Let's work together to make 2021 better for everyone.

David Israelson

Welcome to our new members

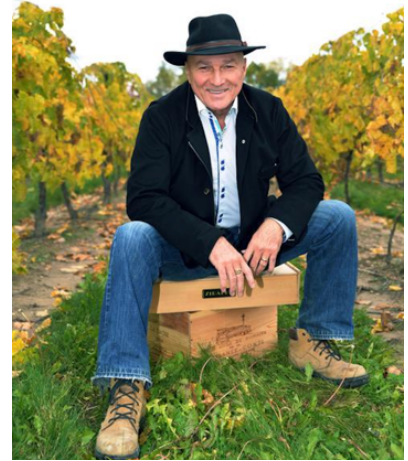
Margot and Shaun Devlin

Tuesday, January 12, 2021, 7 pm, - Guest Speaker

Donald Ziraldo

We're lucky to welcome one of Niagara-on-the-Lake's most important residents to our Tuesdays' Zoom meeting on January 12, at 7 pm. No one has done more for our wine industry, including turning icewine into Canada's signature wine, than Donald Ziraldo.

As a founding partner with Karl Kaiser of Inniskillin, Donald Ziraldo has been a tireless global ambassador for quality and our world-class wine industry. A member of the Order of Canada, he was Founding Chairman of the Vintners Quality Alliance (VQA) and is a tireless champion of the Greenbelt that protects southern Ontario.



Fundraising and Community Events

Here are our October events



VIRTUAL TASTING TOUR



ROTARY ESTATE SALE: A HUGE SUCCESS



PLANTING TULIPS FOR POLIO



BIKE FOR POLIO



Holiday Bottle & Can Drive

By Penny Milligan



The Rotary Club of Niagara on the Lake is thinking outside the box to help others during these most difficult days.

Working with a keen group of about 30 member volunteers, as well as our local Cadet group, we're holding a bottle and can drive over two Saturdays in December 2020.

The cause is our Club's Presidents' Challenge — a way to help feed hungry children both internationally and locally. In addition to helping others, we want to bring more community awareness to the vital issue of food insecurity, which is exacerbated by the world pandemic.

The drive kicked off with a successful day on December 12 despite the cool and wet weather, and continued on December 19.

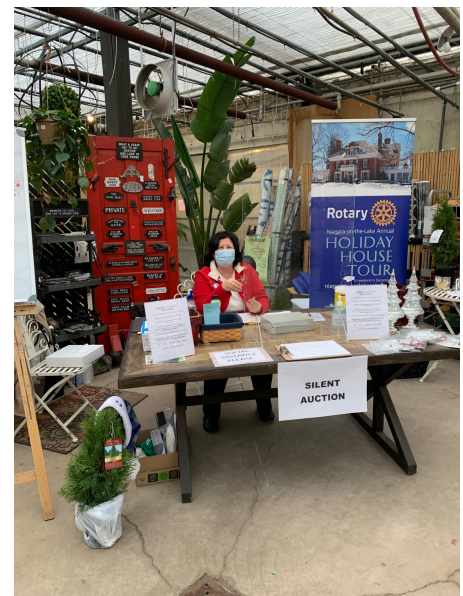
Ho! Ho! Ho! Holiday House Tote and Regal Silent Auction

Even though we couldn't have our Holiday House Tour this year, our Holiday House Tour Committee managed to pull off two events in the late fall to offset the loss of revenue caused by the pandemic — thanks to *your* support.

We sold **HoHoTotes** — a gift tote filled with fabulous seasonal items including the HoHo Passport for local discounts.

We also ran the **Regal Holiday House Tour Silent Auction**, a fabulous auction at Regal Florist and Garden Centre at 1616 Niagara Stone Road in Virgil.

And even though we were unable to hold the planned Enchanted Wonderland Stroll at the McArthur Estate, we still want to thank the McArthurs for offering to share their beautiful property with us and our community.



New Generations Committee

Youth Exchange in Challenging Times

By Patricia Murenbeeld, Chair



Here's what we're doing as COVID-19 plays havoc with the Rotary International Youth Exchange program and all the Youth Leadership camps and opportunities that we usually support.

The New Generations committee has taken this time to focus on supporting local Youth and our Regional schools. With the assistance of the Local Community Service Committee, we have formed a relationship to provide funding for Niagara Nutrition Partners and the Education Foundation of Niagara.

We have also reached out to the local schools to lend financial support to families in need. And, we have established a relationship by partnering with the Lord Mayoral Youth Advisory Council to try and establish a

Niagara-on-the-Lake Interact Chapter.

Local Service Committee

Changing Support in COVID Times

By Paul Lalonde, Chair



As the world has changed around us, so too has the type of support we are helping with this year.

We have made it a priority to help those falling through the cracks due to the pandemic. Our focus is on programs that help underprivileged children with food, with \$2,500 going to the Education Foundation of Niagara to help kids in Niagara schools get nutrition. Another \$2,500 went to Niagara Nutritional Partners for their Grab N Go program, along with \$1,900 for family meal kits.

Mental health support is in great demand too, so we donated \$2,500 to Reach Out Niagara to help address this need.

We are proud of the donations made so far with the club's hard-earned dollars, and we continue to look for ways to meet the direst needs in our community.

Thank you for all the hard work and please let us know if you know of ways we can help and contribute even more!

International Service Committee

It's All in the WASH NOTL Rotary project in Chisimuka, Malawi

By Gordon Young and Patrick MacNeill

It's called WASH — it stands for water, sanitation and hygiene projects.

With Transform International, NOTL Rotary club is undertaking a WASH project in the village of Chisimuka in the Rumphi District in north-western Malawi.

Potable water supply, sanitation and hygiene are vital for basic human health, especially for children and maternal well-being. This is well recognized globally and is particularly relevant in poor countries such as Malawi.

The Rumphi District has some 230,000 people and is growing quickly. It has 18 health care facilities, including two hospitals and 13 clinics that are in urgent need of upgrading to basic healthcare standards.

Transform International is working with the Rumphi District Council to build a program addressing infrastructure shortcomings in these 18 health care facilities, and this project will be the first step in this program — addressing WASH shortcomings at the Chisimuka Clinic.

Chisimuka Clinic has access to water near the facility. There is a borehole nearby with a small capacity solar pump. This system has been tested and found to have adequate capacity as long as a larger storage tank is provided. It also has pipes, toilets, showers and sinks inside. However, the two had never been connected.

Piping will be required from the new tank to the clinic and to four nearby staff houses. Some of the interior plumbing fittings will need upgrading and the washrooms will be renovated. It will be important to maintain these facilities — such sustainability is an essential ingredient in the Transform International mandate.

This upgraded system will provide much easier access to water for cleaning, drinking, cooking, bathing, and most important: hand-washing with soap. This upgraded infrastructure will be transformative for basic human health.

The Project team consists of a group within NOTL Rotary, led by Patrick MacNeill and Gordon Young, and Transform International (Canada) led by Nancy Gilbert working with Daniel Nyirenda, a local contact in Malawi and DAMRA (Development Action for Marginalized Rural Areas) a local non-governmental organization (NGO) that will assist with project management.

The estimated cost of the project is US\$8,000, with NOTL Rotary providing basic funding and with the generous support of other Rotary clubs in the 7090 District.

The basic assessment, water volume and quality testing are complete and the project should be up and running quickly.

This is a small, but likely highly effective project at low cost and with low risk. It could be a component in a much more extensive WASH program within the Rumphi District.

El Carrizal Water Supply Project Jalapa Region, Guatemala

Rotary Global Grant GG 1983568

This project was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Niagara-on-the-Lake and the Rotary Club of Guatemala del Este. The Grant was approved by The Rotary Foundation on March 24, 2020, just as worldwide lockdowns were taking hold.

Despite the pandemic, work at the well site was started by Wells of Hope on April 7 and on April 18 they hit water at a depth of 900 ft. Two days later, after drilling a further 60 ft, a large volume of water was encountered. Despite heavy rainfall, the Wells of Hope team completed casing of the well and managed to get their drilling rig safely back to their base at Campo Esperanza.

It wasn't easy getting equipment back to camp along storm damaged muddy roads. Ted Vanderzalm and his colleagues at the Wells of Hope deserve great credit for their perseverance in getting the well completed in these difficult circumstances.



Building a new well in El Carrizal

A pump test confirmed that the supply of water from the well is adequate for the needs of the community.

Once this was confirmed, a separate contract was awarded by the local government for the construction of a water storage tank and distribution pipelines throughout the community. This work is being carried out now.

Over the next year, under the Rotary sponsored project, there will be training of the local water committee and education of teachers and children in the El Carrizal school on the importance of hygiene and sanitation. In addition, three new toilets will be constructed at the school. However, the effect of the COVIDS-19 Pandemic on the timing of these activities is not yet known.

We at the Rotary Club of Niagara-on-the-Lake are proud to be part of this difficult but very worthwhile project to bring clean drinking water to this community of about 4000 people in this impoverished part of Guatemala. We thank all those who contributed to this US \$112,870 project, including The Rotary Foundation, Rotary District 7090, fourteen other Rotary Clubs, and the Elm Foundation.

Club President's Message

Paul Harris Pins ... Our Community Wins

By Ken Schander



I was impressed when I visited the Post Office and discovered not one, but two packages addressed to me from Evanston, Illinois on the same day. It wasn't the first time I'd received packages from Rotary International in my capacity as club president. I suspected that they contained Paul Harris pins and certificates. What I didn't know was how many. That's what really impressed me. I received six in one day. Then one more, to make seven.

By itself the number six may not be that impressive. But when you multiply it by \$1,000 (US), it catches your attention. And, when you add another 30 per cent with the exchange it becomes a big number—something close to \$8,000

Canadian. That's a lot of money going to help our community and the causes we champion as Rotarians.

Not all Paul Harris pins are the same. The first represents a cumulative total of \$1,000 (US) given to The Rotary Foundation by a Rotarian. Each additional \$1,000 is acknowledged by another pin.

So the seven pins recognized a total of \$20,000 given by members of our Rotary Club.

Thirty-one of our seventy-six club members are PH Fellows. An additional five of our honorary members are too.

I do want to say thanks to: Dave Bergen, Gary Hatton, James Knight, Joe Will, Peter Manning, Steve Dainard, and Ward Simpson.

And thanks again to all the other Paul Harris Fellows for their generosity and their commitment to Rotary.