



The Rotary Club of Yellowknife  
"Service Above Self"

## MEDIA RELEASE



**For Immediate Release**

**Photo Opportunity**

### **Rotary Receives Ministerial Literacy Award *Kids Ahead* Program Recognized for Outstanding Achievement**

YELLOWKNIFE, NT-October 2, 2006: The Rotary Club of Yellowknife will be honoured for its outstanding literacy achievements at a GNWT Ministerial ceremony on Thursday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2006. The presentation will recognize Yellowknife Rotarians for their exceptional work organizing and participating in the *Kids Ahead* program for the past eight years. The presentation will be part of the NWT Literacy Week celebrations, running from October 1<sup>st</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup>.

"The Rotarians who have volunteered their time to be *Reading Buddies* have had a profound impact on many young children in Weledah Catholic School," writes Hon. Charles Dent, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, in a letter addressed to Yellowknife Rotary. He adds, "I am especially impressed some of the children mentored in the *Kids Ahead* program are now avid readers and *Reading Buddies* themselves. You have set a stellar example for an entire group of students."

Spearheading this enterprise is Rotarian Susan Huvenaars, who points out, "The foundation for literacy is built in the early years and this community support is critical as it communicates to young, impressionable students the value of books, and the written word, at the primary level." The program is geared toward providing each Grade One Weledah student with a *Reading Buddy*—a volunteer making a commitment of one half hour per week to attend the school and read aloud, one-on-one with a designated student.

"This award means the program will continue to grow, and hopefully will encourage others to consider getting involved in literacy programs. A small amount of time and effort can have a significant impact," adds Huvenaars.

-more-

Rotary International President William Boyd, in his inaugural address, encouraged Rotarians to *Lead the Way* in the 2006-07 Rotary year, calling his choice for the RI theme “an affirmation of my belief in the power of Rotarians to change the world, one positive act at a time.”

Sean Ivens, Yellowknife Rotary Club president, is proud of his club’s achievements, both on a local and global level. “The milestones we have achieved here in Yellowknife serve as an inspiration to Rotary Clubs around the world and as a testimonial to the impact our *Lead the Way* campaign is having at the grass roots level. I am very proud to represent Rotary as we gratefully accept this award, however; I wish to assure our community and fellow Rotarians, this is simply a confirmation of the work yet to be done in promoting and enhancing literacy.”

The Ministerial Literacy Award will be formally presented to the Rotary Club of Yellowknife on Thursday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2006 at 3:30 p.m. at the Northern United Place Auditorium. Media are welcome to attend.

**For further information, please contact:**

**Holly Angus**  
**Communications & Public Relations**  
**Rotary Club of Yellowknife**  
**Business Phone:** (867) 765-2954  
**Fax:** (867) 765-2948  
**Home Phone:** (867) 765-5650  
**Email:** hangus@awg2008.ca

**Susan Huvenaars**  
**Kid Ahead Program**  
**Rotary Club of Yellowknife**  
**Business Phone:** (867) 873-4888  
**Home Phone:** (867) 873-5780  
**Email:** shuvenaars@mail.ycs.nt.ca

Rotary International is a worldwide organization of business and professional leaders, providing humanitarian service, encouraging high ethical standards in all vocations, and helping to build goodwill and peace throughout the world. Approximately 1.2 million Rotarians belong to more than 32,000 clubs in more than 200 countries and geographical areas.

The main objective of Rotary is **service**—in the community, the workplace, and throughout the world. Rotarians develop community service projects which address many of today’s most critical issues—such as children at risk, poverty, hunger, the environment, illiteracy, and violence. Rotarians also support programs for youth, educational opportunities and international exchanges for students, teachers, and other professionals, as well as vocational and career development. The Rotary motto is ***Service Above Self***.