



## Understanding Our World

February is World Understanding Month. As I reflect on our recent journey to Kenya and on our trips to Ghana over the past couple of years, it is becoming clearer to me how important it is to have an understanding of the world around us. For example, while we were in Kenya, it was hard for us to understand how the results of an election could cause such sudden violence and chaos. How could people who had lived peacefully as neighbours suddenly attack each other and burn down homes and businesses? We had to understand that the people of Kenya believed that for the first time in the country's history, they could vote for the president of their choice and that their votes would count. When the election results we announced and the people felt that they had been cheated once again, they were devastated and fought back. We also needed to understand that although the country had been quite stable and peaceful for many years, there was underlying tension and resentment between certain tribes that bubbled to the surface during the election and its aftermath.



International projects like RELAY are critically important to promoting world understanding.

Anytime we travel to a foreign country, whether it's for a R.E.L.A.Y. project or for vacation, it is necessary for us to try to understand and respect the culture and customs of the country, even though they may be frustrating at times. For our R.E.L.A.Y. projects, we spend hours and hours planning every detail from transportation to accommodation to food to the work schedule and much more, in order to make the project as successful as possible. We communicate with our contacts in the host countries to ensure that the supplies we need will be there upon our arrival. So when we arrive to find that these items are not ready, it is very frustrating. However, we must understand that the "way of doing business" there is not like it is here. We need to understand that in some countries, being somewhere at 1:00pm really means getting there at about 4:00pm. We need to understand that "just now" means a few hours, not a few minutes, and that "just there" may be a few miles away rather than a few blocks away. We also have to be careful not to impose our own values on people in other countries, and to respect their cultures and traditions.

I feel extremely fortunate to have the opportunity to travel to so many places around the world, for Rotary projects and for vacation. Through my travels I have gained an understanding of cultures, customs and traditions from many countries, and I have seen first hand the struggles faced by so many people around the world. This understanding has helped shape who I am today, and has made me realize how truly fortunate we are to live in Canada. The freedom, democracy, justice, peace, clean water, access to education, and peace we enjoy in Canada make it one of the best places in the world in which to live. Enjoy each day and appreciate the many benefits of living in this beautiful country, but seize each opportunity to travel to another country to increase your level of world understanding

Sincerely,  
*Shelly Duben,, President*

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb 15 - Due -	RI Significant Achievement Award
Feb 23	Rotary's 103rd Birthday!
Feb 26	Board Meeting
March 25	Board Meeting
March 31	Presidential Citation due to DG
April 04	Hedke, Archer, Devlyn Awards due
April 25 -27	Rotary World Peace Summit
April 29	Board Meeting
May 3	Pluck-A-Duck
June 12	Nijola Memorial Golf Tournament

# Pay It Forward - submitted by President Shelly Duben

## November 8<sup>th</sup> - Bob Morand

Bob read about the concept of Micro-Credit in a recent edition of the Rotarian magazine. This concept is being used by the Hearts for Haiti organization, although it was started by another organization. Bob is going to do some further research into Micro-Credit and use his \$25 to contribute to a Micro-Credit project.

## November 15<sup>th</sup> - Mike Browne

Mike got a call from a client asking if Rotary might be able to help a family who was struggling financially and could not afford to buy Thanksgiving dinner. Mike used his own funds to take the family shopping, where they bought a turkey and all of the trimmings. The family wanted to "pay it forward", so they invited another family over to share the Thanksgiving dinner with them.



Cheque presentation to Salvation Army.

## November 22<sup>nd</sup> - Roger Brothers

Roger contacted the Crohn's and Colitis Society to see if they were aware of someone suffering from Crohns or Colitis who needed some extra help. Roger was told of an individual with Crohn's disease who was currently unemployed. Roger used his Pay It Forward money to purchase several supplies for this individual at the Shoppers Home Health Care store.

## November 29<sup>th</sup> - Danielle Stuebing

Danielle contacted a teacher she knew at Davis public school, a local compensatory school, and asked if there was a student there who needed a winter coat or other warm clothes. The teacher told Danielle about a boy in Grade 5 whose family had recently lost everything in a fire. Danielle matched the Pay It Forward funds and purchased a coat and hat for the student.

## December 13<sup>th</sup> - Jim Grundy

First of all, Jim decided to Pay It Forward and spread the good work of our Rotary Club by purchasing several R.E.L.A.Y. calendars to send to clients. Jim also helped to organize and "Adopt a Family" project within his office to help a family who was struggling financially this Christmas. Jim and his colleagues raised \$750 for the family.

## December 20<sup>th</sup> - Bill Proulx

Bill read an article in the paper about the struggle of homeless people in the community to stay warm in the cold weather. He read how a group was trying to get blankets donated to distribute to homeless people. Bill called one of his supplier companies and asked them to

donate 100 roll-up blankets to this program. The blankets were donated and given to the organizers of the program to distribute. Because Bill did not have to spend his \$25 to get the blankets, he gave it to the RELAY Kenya team to buy treats for the children at the school in Kenya.

## January 10<sup>th</sup> - Paul Charbonneau

Paul took a different approach to the Pay It Forward program. He decided that he could make a contribution to the project by spreading the Pay It Forward message beyond the Rotary Club, by creating a blog site called Pay It Forward Wins. Paul included some of our Rotary members' stories on it already and he hopes to inspire others who read the blog to get involved in Paying It Forward and to share their stories on the website.

## January 17<sup>th</sup> - Debra Harshaw

As Debra thought about what she could do to Pay It Forward, she began to think about the importance of raising children. She decided to try to find a single or teen mom to help. She contacted a friend who is a nurse and asked if she knew of someone that Debra could help. The nurse said that she found the perfect person to help. Although this mom was not a teen, nor was she a single mom, she needed help. The woman was from Congo, and she and her husband spoke only French, and they had to flee the country because they spoke out against the government. The woman was in the hospital with premature twins, and the couple already had a 5 year old girl. Debra used her Pay It Forward money to purchase warm clothes for the young girl, as she had not coat or warm clothing.

## January 24<sup>th</sup> - Todd Grondin

Todd and his family have always enjoyed getting away together to go camping. Todd wanted other children to be able to enjoy camping as well, so he used his Pay It Forward money to contribute to the Tim Horton's "Send a Kid to Camp" program.

## January 31<sup>st</sup> - Ed Link

Ed had been thinking about "Pay It Forward" for a while, trying to think of a good project. While he and Lee were away in Florida, a very good friend of theirs became very ill. When they returned to Windsor, their friend was staying at Hospice. Ed was so impressed with the care that Hospice provided for his friend and the family that he decided to match the \$25 and donate it to Hospice.



# MEETING UPDATE

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Attendance** for the month of November was 83.9% and December was 85.2%. Please keep sending your make-ups to the Secretary - they make a big difference in our monthly attendance.

**Membership** at the end of January is 54 active members, a net increase of four since July 1. In December we welcomed new member, Meg Bang.

The board approved **leaves of absence** for 'Snowbirds' Ed Link from December 27 to January 30; Dick Marentette from December 29 to March 31; and Bill Proulx from February 1 to April 1.

## New Member Proposals:

Enzo DiGioia, Lawyer-Litigation proposed by Ilias Kiritsis

Dr. Kara Harvey, Optometrist proposed by Frank Batal.

Club by-laws allow that if there is no written objection within seven days following publication of a prospective person's name, that person is considered elected to membership, upon payment of dues.

Rotarians are reminded that e-mail and telephone contact information is at the Members Only section of our club web site: [www.rotarywindsorstclair.com](http://www.rotarywindsorstclair.com). If you need the user name and password to access the Member Only section please contact our Secretary, Hardy Wheeler

The Board approved a matching program for Rotary Foundation donations in the month of April. The amount is less than in prior years at a maximum of \$2,000 which shall be pro-rated to total donations. More details will follow from the International Services Committee. Committee budgets were reduced in the fall to reflect the poor revenue from bingos. Further reductions are not planned due to the anticipated new revenue from the Pluck-a-Duck raffle in May.

## VOCATIONAL SERVICE

**DIRECTOR: CARLO ABATI :**

• **4 - Way Test** : Essay contest ; Alan has been

contacting our four school department heads to follow up on this initiative.

• **VIP Tour** : Survey shows 3 top spots are Casino (Expansion), Ad Agency, W.F.C.U. Arena (New)

• **RYLA** : Alan to make contact with students to come and speak to our club.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

**DIRECTOR: ANN-MARIE ATHAVALLE**

Our next meeting is on Feb 12<sup>th</sup> – 7pm at the Lion's Head. Everyone welcome.

• Nominations for The Golden Oldies Award will be available in March.



District Governor Jen and John welcome new member Meg Bang to the club.

## INTERNATIONAL SERVICE

**DIRECTOR: MICHAEL DUBEN**

• Ann-Marie Athavale will be travelling to India on February as part of a Polio NID. Team members wanted to do more than just the immunizations, so they all tried to raise funds to do some work at a school and daycare in India. The International Committee supported this project in the amount of \$1000.

• **R.E.L.A.Y.** - Everyone is back safely from both trips. Feedback from Ghana team is that project was successful, but that there were a few problems. The medical clinic was

transformed (renovations, painting, new curtains, bedding, etc). Medication was also given to the clinic. Programming at the school was very successful teachers were extremely receptive and eager to learn. The new school was not far enough along to do much manual work. Tree family project land was purchased, but house was not started. Further information will come from the Ghana team members. The Kenya project was also very successful. Cement floors were put in 10 classrooms and walls were plastered. Insides of classrooms were painted. Outside painting is being completed by the contractor. Programming was very successful. The teachers and head master were excellent, and were involved in all aspects of the project. Although there were some political problems and safety issues, the team was safe. \$3000 was donated by the RC of Grosse Pointe for a water project. Jennifer and Nick

## Meeting Notes - continued

and added \$250. The Kenya Team found that the school did not need a well, so they planned to go to a nearby village that needed a well. Unfortunately, they were unable to travel to the village due to safety reasons, and felt that it would not be appropriate to just leave the money, so brought it back. The Grosse Pointe RC will be contacted to see what they would like to do.

### • **New R.E.L.A.Y. Project** -

Mike and Shelly were approached by Beyene Haile (from YMCA) regarding a project in Ethiopia. Beyene and a group of about 6-8 others had already started planning a project in Northern Ethiopia. R.E.L.A.Y. may join forces with the group to develop a R.E.L.A.Y. project to be implemented in summer 2009. This project was supported in principle by the International Committee, but deferred by the Board. We are also exploring the possibility of bringing a couple of teachers from Ghana and/or Kenya to work with teachers in our area to support the sustainability of the R.E.L.A.Y. project.



Tan and fellow exchange students enjoying favourite North American pastime!

• **Shared Vision III** . Glasses are still being collected. We would like to find a new recipient Club/area to revive this project. Phyllis and Kathy will investigate whether or not glasses could be sent to Cozumel. We may also

consider contacting the Northville RC, as they are leading a trip to El Salvador, and perhaps they may be interested in taking glasses.

• **Youth Exchange** Tan is really enjoying himself. He travelled to New York with Phyllis and Paul in January. He will also be travelling to Toronto with Terri-Ann, and he will vacation in Florida with the Abati family in March. Also, the International Committee **Foundation**- Contributions to the Foundation at the end of December were \$ 7684 (about \$1300 more than last year)

### CLUB SERVICE

#### DIRECTOR: TODD GRONDIN

• Begin getting your teams together for the Nijola Memorial Golf Tournament, June 12, 2008 at the Ambassador Golf Club.

## Survey says PR an important tool for membership, understanding and more!

Public relations efforts help increase membership recruitment, according to about 70 percent of Rotary clubs that responded to a recent RI survey. About half the respondents said that PR also helps with retention, and 87 percent credited their club's public relations work with raising community awareness of Rotary.

According to survey results, 80 percent of the responding clubs include PR in their annual planning, and 77 percent launch PR efforts to coincide with specific events or projects. Of the responding clubs, 57 percent have a Web site, most of which provide club information directed to the general public. Almost all respondents reported obtaining newspaper coverage, but less than 50 percent had secured coverage on television, radio, Internet, or billboards.

The most significant barriers to public relations efforts cited were lack of interest from the media and lack of funding. When asked about resources provided by RI, respondents ranked Rotary Basics, What's Rotary?, This Is

Rotary, and Humanity in Motion PSAs as the most useful. Many respondents also reported using The Rotarian, or their regional magazine, and the RI Web site in their PR efforts.

In recognition of January's Rotary Awareness months and February's World Understanding month, the district public relations team, under the leadership of District Governor Jennifer Jones, secured a grant in the amount of \$6,000 to promote peace and understanding through public relations efforts. Through the end of January and first few weeks of February, watch the A-Channel, CBC TV, CTV and WXYZ for Rotary's Humanity in Motion PSAs.

The results of the survey, conducted by RI's Membership Development and Public Relations divisions, are based on 756 responses from a random sampling of 3,269 Rotary clubs worldwide.

With appreciation to source: RI Website  
Courtesy: eFlash\_Rotary

# PAY IT FORWARD!

## Service Above Self



**The Rotary Club of  
Windsor-St. Clair  
Founded  
November 20, 1975  
Regular meetings every  
Thursday at 7:15am  
Windsor Yacht Club  
9000 Riverside Drive**

## Four Way Test

Is it the truth?

Is it fair to all concerned?

Will it build goodwill and  
better friendships?

Will it be beneficial to all  
concerned?

## Celebrations!

*Best wishes to all who celebrate  
birthdays and anniversaries in the  
month of February!*

# PROGRAM SCHEDULE

DATE	SPEAKER & TOPIC	INTRODUCER	THANKER	GREETERS
Feb. 7	Elaine Whitmore John McGivney Centre	Bill Proulx	Vicky Seaton	Ed Link Marg Prince
Feb. 14	Danny Thomas Selecting Jewellery & Diamonds	Lea-Ann Suzor	Hardy Wheeler	Panos Sechopoulos Danielle Stuebing
Feb. 21	Peter Hrastovec Chamber of Commerce	Dennis Arrand	Ann-Marie Athavale	Chris Woodrow Carlo Abati
Feb. 28	Club Celebration			Frank Batal Meg Bang

Rotarians assigned duties of introducer, thanker and hosts are responsible for finding their own replacements if they are unable to fulfil their duties.

Program Subcommittee: Michael Duben, Lea-Ann Suzor, John Stevenett, Bruce Taylor