

Will the "other" Bob Lockhart please stand up!

by PATRICIA DREW

"Just a dollar returned in 44,000 envelopes. That would be just great," said J.C. Robert Lockhart.

Mr. Lockhart, not to be confused with the former mayor of Saint John, is the president of the Rotary Club of Saint John. The club sponsors the Easter Seal campaign for the Canadian Rehabilitation Council for the Disabled. Lockhart said that if all the envelopes mailed were returned with a dollar, the \$44,000 received would double last year's contributions.

2,156 envelopes, five per cent of the total mailed, were sent back last year with the donations totaling \$22,500.

Easter means resurrection and, for physically handicapped youngsters, the money raised by Easter Seals is their hope for new life and activity, complete or partial, physically, mentally and spiritually.

Decided as youngster to be Rotarian

Since the age of seven or eight, J.C. Robert Lockhart

wanted to be a Rotarian. Now, at 36, he is the youngest president in the history of the Rotary Club of Saint John and is dedicated to community service.

As a boy in Kentville, N.S., Lockhart remembers helping his father, a Rotarian for 40 years, set up the radio auction to raise funds for community projects. Also, once a year, there would be a father and child night for children of Rotarians. The supper, singsong and cartoon show of his first party so impressed the young Lockhart, that he immediately decided that he too must be a Rotarian.

He almost demanded that his father take him to the weekly Monday lunchtime meetings of the club. To pacify the boy and keep his enthusiasm, his father arranged for him to "go to an aunt's house every Monday at noon to have his 'Rotary dinner'". It was a tradition that lasted until Lockhart left Kentville after graduating from university.

Lockhart's greatest challenge as president will be raising the \$350,000 promised this year by the

Rotary Club, to aid the Admiral Beatty housing project. If any money is required above the \$5.7 million mortgage provided by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, the club has guaranteed covering any extra costs up to \$350,000. It was because of this guarantee that the project was able to be started.

\$350,000 greatest challenge

Lockhart's community involvement is extensive. He was chairman of the Easter Seals campaign from 1974 to 1984, chairman of the Rotary camp at Grand Lake for two years, a director of the Rotary Club from 1976 to 1978 and was a director and is past vice-president of the Canadian Rehabilitation Council for the Disabled.

Lockhart married Carolyn, a childhood neighbor from Kentville, in 1970. They have two sons, Robbie, 11 and Bradley, eight. Does his wife mind the time he spends on Rotary and community work? "No," he said, "she is behind me 100 per cent.

We talked it over when I was first approached four years ago to start towards the 1984-'85 presidency of the Rotary. I wouldn't have accepted the honor if Carolyn had thought that it would take too much time from her and the boys."

Community involvement seems to be a family affair. Carolyn is a Girl Guide Leader and assisted the Beavers in previous years.

Lockhart was asked if having the same name as a former Saint John mayor created any confusion or embarrassment. He said that it wasn't too bad now but he recalled an incident that happened when he first came to the city.

"My wife Carolyn and I went to a dance. A co-worker from NBTEL played in the band. When the bandleader announced, 'We are pleased to have Bob Lockhart with us tonight. Stand up and say hello Bob; this Robert Lockhart, who dislikes being called 'Bob', thought that his friend was playing a joke.'"

Up stood Robert and waved in answer to the applause. Another man, standing and



waving to the crowd at the same time, was giving Robert an annoyed look." The man came over and said, I'm Bob Lockhart. Why did you stand up and wave when they called my name?" Much enlightened and slightly abashed I said, 'Well I am Bob Lockhart too'.

'Well, I am Bob Lockhart, too'

Lockhart said that the former mayor still gets some of his mail but is quite good-natured about the mix-ups. While he was on radio, the other Bob Lockhart would announce, 'Would the real Robert Lockhart please come over

and pick up his mail: The real Robert Lockhart is the Implementation Manager of Project Blue with The New Brunswick Telephone 'Company, Ltd. Project Blue is the code name of a new customer information billing system that NBTEL is hoping to have in service in about a year and a half.

Editor's note: During a recent stint as guest lecturer at the journalism course at the Community College in Saint John students were encouraged to send along to The Citizen freelance material for consideration. The following Profile by Patricia Drew is the first such offering to come our way.