

Canada-Jamaica Literacy Exchange Program and the Rotary Club of Truro

Opportunity knocked when Elizabeth Walker, Project supervisor for the Canada World Youth Jamaica/Truro Literacy Exchange Program, spoke to the Rotary Club of Truro. Nine Jamaicans and nine Canadians would be spending 12 weeks Sept-Dec 2007 with host families in Truro leaving Dec. 5th to spend 12 weeks in Jamaica.

We had begun as individual Rotarians to donate books for an International Project. The Jamaicans were very enthusiastic, feeling books would be a great help in their educational system. Then we discovered a gold mine. At Rotary House in Truro, the Colchester Community Workshop operates a 'New to You Shop'. Boxes and boxes of beautiful books are donated, many of them having to be recycled. A plan was developed. Two Jamaican and two Canadian CWY participants were able, through their volunteer work placements at the CCWS, to identify books that would be useful in schools in Jamaica. CCWS clients put labels "Donated by the Rotary Club of Truro" inside each book and packed the books. Rotarian Chester MacPhee moved the books to Premiere Van Lines where Rotarian Mike Hanes arranged for the books to go through a customs broker to be delivered directly to the Department of Education in Brown Town. The CCWS was paid the normal selling price (an average of 50 cents per book) and the Rotary club paid the workshop for client's time labelling and packing the books. Everybody wins! A pallet with 3000 beautiful books is on its way to be used in schools in Brown Town, St Ann's Parish, Jamaica. Total cost per book delivered by pallet to Jamaica? **One Canadian Dollar!**

If another Rotary club is interested in a project like this, here is the recipe:

- Identify a need somewhere in the world for books written in English.
- Approach your Executive to see if this is a project your club would be interested in.
- Specify the kind of books (eg, reference, children's books, books that would interest teens, novels, text books (be specific).
- Contact Rotarian Lydia Sorflaten (lsorflaten@hotmail.com) for help with the details.

The CCWS would love another project to identify, label and pack books. As a Rotary club, all you would need to do is identify the destination, approve the funds and we will facilitate the project!

The Canada World Youth Jamaicans and Canadians are looking forward to the books arriving early in 2008 in Brown Town, Jamaica.

Lydia Sorflaten, Rotary Club of Truro



More than 3,000 books are on their way to Brown Town, Jamaica thanks to the combined efforts of Canada World Youth, the Rotary Club of Truro and Rotary House Colchester Community Workshops. Books were selected, boxed, packed on a skid and shipped via container ship through Montreal to arrive in Jamaica early in the new year.

3000 books weighing 3000 pounds will be delivered to the Ministry of Education, Brown Town, Jamaica at a cost of less than \$1.00 per book.



PREMIERE
Delivery to:
Ministry of Education
Attention: Jean Fisher Literacy Officer
Region 3
Kingston, Jamaica
Phone: 876-917-8440/975-2703



*From left to right:
Sheldon Owen, a participant of Canada World Youth, Lydia Sorflaten, Rotary Club of Truro, and Heather Russell, Colchester Community Workshop Instructor.*

"Keep Rotary Fun"