

Clinton Rotary celebrates 100 years

By John Rohlf Herald Staff Writer | Posted: Thursday, July 2, 2015 7:00 am

CLINTON — The Clinton Rotary Club and members of the public gathered at the Eagle Point Park Lodge to celebrate Rotary's 100th anniversary and discuss a potential future project that will spruce up one of Eagle Point's most well-known features.

Clinton's Rotary Club, a volunteer service organization aiming to help the Clinton community, celebrated the anniversary Wednesday by hearing about past accomplishments and participating in a ribboncutting at the lodge. However, much of the attention for the event focused on what they have planned for the future, including a possible renovation project at the Eagle Point Lodge.

In order to complete that project, the Rotary Club needs to raise \$1 million. The Rotary Club has raised over \$650,000 since April 1, and Rotary Club Fundraising Chairman Dee Willoughby and Club members believe the \$1 million-goal can be within the next 60 days.

"A million bucks in Clinton, Iowa, that seems like a really big number," Willoughby said. "But we decided not to do feasibility studies because we didn't have to spend a lot of time thinking about whether it was a good idea. We knew it was a good idea. You had the Rotary brand. You had Eagle Point Park. With two great brands that are great brands together you end up with a good project."

According to Willoughby, one of the reasons they want to have renovations done to Eagle Point Lodge is to maintain what it was originally designed for - to be used as a lodge rather than just a banquet hall.

"Clinton has a great history of being a lumber town," Willoughby said. "We don't want this to become a banquet hall. We want it to stay a lodge."

According to Willoughby, they plan to renovate both the east and west sides of the lodge and work to improve the appearance of the facility. They will use \$500,000 to renovate both the east



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Mike Kearney (left) and Dee Willoughby share a laugh before the Clinton Rotary's 100th Anniversary celebration at the Eagle Point Lodge. John Rohlf/Clinton Herald

and west sides, with no work being done on the north or south sides. They also will replace the area behind the walls inside the lodge.

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