THE M☸NTHLY MUDDLE

Gilford Rotary Newsletter March 2026 Edition

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Fellow Rotarians,

2026 is off to a roaring start for Gilford Rotary, and it's already clear that this is going to be a special year. Between our hands-on help with Hands Across The Table (HATT) and the incredible amount of work happening behind the scenes, our club is fully engaged and moving with purpose.

Right now, much of that energy is focused on preparing for Winterfest, which is shaping up to be one of our most exciting community events yet. From the Sled Dog Races to the Chili Festival and Silent Auction, there's a lot coming together - and a lot of opportunity for members to jump in, contribute, and help make it unforgettable.

As we do this work, it's fitting that Rotary's 2026–2027 theme, Create Lasting Impact, is front and center. Everything we're planning and building - every event, every fundraiser, every act of service - is about more than a single day or moment. It's about creating support, connection, and positive change that lasts well beyond the event itself.

We are still actively looking for Silent Auction items, sled dog race contestants, and chili contestants, and this is where creativity counts. Please reach out to local businesses, friends, colleagues, and community partners. Think outside the box - experiences, gift cards, services, unique items, or sponsorships all make a difference. Your personal outreach truly matters and often makes the biggest impact.

I couldn't be more excited for the year ahead, and I'm incredibly appreciative of everyone who gives their time, ideas, and energy to this club. It's the people of Gilford Rotary who make it so special - and who allow us to create lasting impact in our community. Here's to a strong start, a busy season ahead, and an amazing year together.

Yours in Rotary,

CHRIS



Below & left: GES Early Act Club in action as they make valentines for fundraising at the elementary school. Great job spreading kindness!







WATER AND SANITATION MONTH & THE WASH ROTARY ACTION GROUP

March is designated as Water and Sanitation Month by Rotary International, focusing on clean water and sanitation initiatives around the world. This month acknowledges and aims to raise awareness as well as mobilize efforts to improve access to clean water and sanitation for communities in need around the globe.

Learn more about the efforts of Rotary International in providing clean water at www.rotary.org/en/our-causes/providing-clean-water and please click on the image above to watch their one-minute video highlighting the significance of clean water around the world.

The Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Rotary Action Group is a group of Rotarians whose purpose is to support Rotary clubs to effectively plan, finance, implement, monitor and evaluate water, sanitation, and hygiene programs, where they are most needed in a collaborative, cost-effective, timely, and sustainable manner, true to the principles of Rotary International.

Learn more about the work of the WASH Rotary Action Group, which supports and ensures sustainable long-lasting clean water, sanitation, and hygiene programs to communities in need, by visiting their website at www.wash-rag.org.





FEATURED SPOTLIGHT:

ROTARY IN SERVICE TO OTHERS



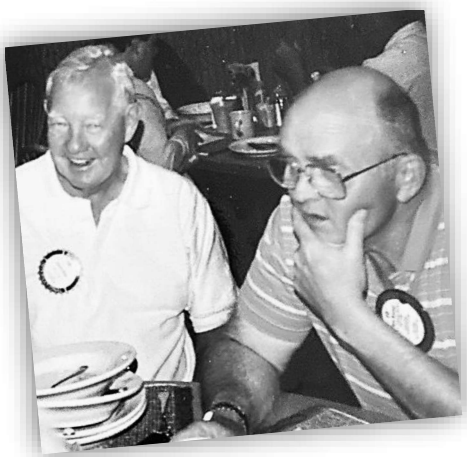
Sandy McGonagle was contacted by Michelle, a Jamaican lady she had met while vacationing there. Michelle lost her home and all her belongings when the torrential wind and rain from Hurricane Melissa passed through her country. She contacted Sandy to see if she could send any help with funds to get food and her diabetes medication.

Sandy reached out to a Rotary friend, Haresh Ramchandani, who is in Montego Bay. Sandy was able, through an app at Bank of New Hampshire called Pay a Friend, to send money directly to Haresh, who kindly got in his car and drove up into the mountains to help provide Michelle with a little cash.

Above is a picture of Haresh handing these needed funds to Michelle. Moreover, the good work of Rotary persists around the globe with Gilford Rotary Club recently allocated a donation to be made to the Shelter Box program. We are so proud of our club and its Rotarians as we continue to make a difference in our world in service to others.

Below: we have some Mystery Rotarians in this picture, can you name them?

A PRIZE awaits for the first correct guess, please send your guess to Sandy McGonagle to claim your prize!





Above: June Hibbs has been doing an outstanding job as the Club's Sargent-At-Arms for Rotary Year 2025-2026, and has been getting so much support on Friday mornings from Casey!



Friday, March 6
Speaker(s) will be Rick Moses, who will be talking about his journeys and travels

Sunday, March 8
Daylight Saving Time starts at 2:00am, with clocks being turned forward by one hour then

Friday, March 13
Speaker(s) will be Peggy Hennelly-Maniates, Executive Director of The Wright Museum of World War II in Wolfeboro, NH (https://wrightmuseum.org)

Tuesday, March 17



Friday, March 20
Speaker(s) will be Russ Lunt who will be talking about his trip on Viking Cruise Barcelona-Rome

Wed., March 25
Board of Director's Meeting

Friday, March 27
Business Meeting

*Did you know we are now on Instagram? Type **gilford_rotary_club** in the search bar, then click the follow button*

*Are you following us on Facebook? Click the icon or go to **www.facebook.com/GilfordRotaryClub***

Rotary