

Hawes Is Rotary Club's First Woman President

By MATT DeRIENZO

For the first time in its 36-year history, the South Portland-Cape Elizabeth Rotary Club will be led by a woman.

"It makes me feel very proud," said Nancy Hawes, who will succeed current president James Russell Jr. July 1.

Hawes, a South Portland resident for the past nine years, is a certified public accountant with Baker, Newman & Noyes, Portland. She specializes in taxes.

A neighbor invited Hawes to join the Rotary Club seven years ago, and she has been involved ever since. Her company encourages its employees to be involved in the community, and Hawes said that her work has been enjoyable.

"We do so many worthwhile things," she said. "It's a fun and satisfying way to spend my free time."

Born in Sidney, Ohio, and raised in Massachusetts, Hawes moved to Maine 10 years ago, living in Portland for a year before settling down across the bridge.

She is a graduate of the University of New Hampshire and Ohio

State University.

During Russell's year as president, the club raised more than \$35,000 for local charities. It funded \$4,000 in scholarships at Cape Elizabeth High School and South Portland High School and a \$1,000 scholarship at Southern Maine Technical College.

The club also sponsored activities for senior citizens, and literary, substance abuse, and youth programs. Members volunteered monthly at the Preble Street Soup Kitchen, sponsored an exchange student from Japan, and an appreciation luncheon for South Portland and Cape Elizabeth public works employees.

Hawes said that the club will continue with such projects this year, and is looking to expand its student scholarship program.

Activities such as its annual Christmas dinner for senior citizens and its financial support of local police department's Drug Abuse Resistance Education programs will continue as always, she said.

The club will also be donating money this year to repair the pond

at Fort Williams Park and for new Cape Elizabeth ballfields.

The club will sponsor a Russian exchange student who'll be attending Cape Elizabeth High School in the fall, and also plans to donate money to international projects such as the construction of a well in Romania and a surgery fund for South American children with cleft lips.

The club has also elected a new board of directors.

Members include Don Day, president-elect, Adrienne Murphy, vice-president, Keith McAlary, treasurer, Paul Butler, secretary, B.J. Nicholson, service director, Bob Packer, community service director, Karen Dunfey, international service director, Rick Dobson, vocational service director, and James Russell Jr., director at large.

The South Portland-Cape Elizabeth Rotary Club meets at 6:15 p.m. each Wednesday in the Purpoodock Club, 300 Spurwink Ave., Cape Elizabeth.

Hawes invites residents interested in joining the club to call her at 799-9011.



NANCY HAWES