

# **The Hampton Union**

## **\$25,000 in donations raised for expenses, charity**

**BY TERRILL COVEY**, Hampton Union Staff Writer

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HAMPTON — Some eyebrows were raised when people heard that there would be a request for a one dollar donation at this year's Hampton Beach Seafood Festival.

But it didn't end up being a problem for most people according to Doc Noel, president of the Hampton Beach Area Chamber of Commerce.

"It went very well," said Noel. "People were very receptive."

According to James Barrington, president of the Hampton Rotary Club, the donations raised about \$25,000.

"The final numbers aren't in yet," said Barrington. "We're very pleased from a Rotary standpoint."

Noel said that he anticipates that it will be the most successful Seafood Festival yet.

He said that there were approximately 250,000 people who attended throughout the weekend. He also said that the dollar donation worked out well, because the money will help pay the expenses for the festival.

Because of the success of the donations, along with the raffle tickets, the Chamber of Commerce allocated \$5,000 towards the Rotary's charities and scholarships instead of the \$3,000 they were originally going to give that organization.

That money will go back into the community, which Noel said is very important.

"There was truly a community spirit with all of the people and organizations getting together," said Noel. "It's great to see some of the money returned to the community through the Rotary and the various charities that they deal with."

Barrington said that many people were happy to donate to the festival.

"It wasn't a requirement," he said. "Those who did contribute helped the Seafood Fest to continue."

People contributed in more ways than just donating money, however.

"There were a lot of volunteers in the Rotary, and their family, friends and associates," said Barrington. "It was a major community event. Anybody who didn't play a part, it isn't because they didn't have a chance to."

"There were probably a couple hundred volunteers," said Noel. "And without them you wouldn't have the event. The whole community got together, and it made us feel very good."

Noel pointed out that Bruce Transportation donated buses to run people back and forth to the beach, and the drivers were all volunteers.

"The National Bus Association lists Seafood Festival as one of the top 10 events in the country," said Noel. "It certainly isn't a one-man show though. Everyone pitches in and has fun at the same time."