

# Government House/Rotary Literacy Community Building Project

A PARTNERSHIP  
BETWEEN  
GOVERNMENT  
HOUSE AND  
ROTARY



## OUR COMMUNITIES

CARIBOO CHILCOTIN	DOG CREEK/CANOE CREEK, TOOSEY, STONE, ANAHAM, NAZKO, KLUSKUS
COASTAL	PENELAKUT, KINGCOME, OWEENENO
VANCOUVER ISLAND	TSAWOUT
PRINCE GEORGE	SHELLEY, MCLEOD LAKE
ON OUR RADAR	BELLA BELLA KLEMTU TSAY KEH DENE COASTAL NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA

## WHAT IS THE PROJECT?

The Government House Rotary Literacy Community Building Project came about from a conversation between Lt. Governor Steven Point and then District Governor Elect Bob Blacker, an aide de camp to the Lt. Governor. The conversation evolved into a groundbreaking project between Government House and Rotary to enable isolated communities throughout British Columbia to get their own books and libraries.

Providing the books and libraries was accomplished by Rotary Clubs adopting Communities and working with those communities to build, supply and provide the books.





# OUR PARTNERS

A project of this magnitude could not be accomplished without the help and assistance of other organizations

When the project was first initiated it was felt that Rotary would be able to do much of the work, however, it would be made easier if other organizations helped Rotary to work with the communities. Because some communities are so isolated challenges such as transportation of books and Rotary members were quickly identified. The cost associated with these challenges required Rotary to look outside its organization for assistance.

Through the ability of Rotary members to network we were able to find organizations as well as corporations who stepped forward to make our vision a reality.

## PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

- Government House Foundation
- Success by 6
- RCMP
- Canadian Coast Guard
- UBC School of Dentistry
- Dental Mission Society
- First Nations Education Steering Committee

- Richmond Firefighters Local 1286

## CORPORATE PARTNERS

- Britco
- Orca Bay Books



“The key for this project to be sustainable is for Rotary Clubs to adopt communities’ long term”





# How does it work for Rotary Clubs

Rotary Clubs have for many years conducted international projects in third world countries. The idea is that Rotary Clubs would partner with a Rotary Club in the area where the project is and would adopt the community until the job was done.

The process for a Rotary Club is very easy with the following steps needed to be taken: -

- The interested Rotary Club contacts Literacy Project coordinator PDG Bob Blacker (bobblacker@gmail.com)
- The Rotary Club is given all the background information of a community.
- If this fits with the profile and vision of the club the community would be assigned to them for adoption.
- Contact is made with the assigned community and arrangements are made in relation to the Rotary Club meeting the community.
- If at all possible Lt. Governor Steven Point will visit the community and introduce the

Rotarians to the community and also speak about his vision of books and libraries for isolated communities.

- The Rotarians during the visit will review and identify areas where they can work with the community. It can be expected that there will be many projects.
- The Rotarians would start working with the community.
- Once the library is completed the clubs will look at the next priority and begin working on that.
- From experience it has been found that if clubs partner with another Rotary Club the work to be done is a lot easier to accomplish.



Experience has found that the libraries have become a gathering place for communities

# How does it work for our Partners?



Partnering with other organizations has allowed the project to expand rapidly. It also meets the strategic plan of Rotary International; that being to form more partnerships with key organizations. The partnership between Rotary and the Gates Foundation is one excellent example.

**SUCCESS BY 6** - is one such organization that has been an excellent fit with Rotary. Their aboriginal program has been of great assistance to the project. The vision of Success By 6 is to build the capacity of parents and communities to support children ages 0 to 6 to become healthy, safe and secure, successful learners, and socially engaged and responsible.

**BRITCO** - A major builder of modular buildings was a sponsor for the 2010 Olympic games in Vancouver and Whistler. At the end of the games the company received back many of the buildings. Through contact with Rotarians Britco donated a 10x40 module building to the Toosey Aboriginal community near Williams Lake. This building was outfitted and moved with the assistance of the Williams Lake Daybreak, Langley and Langley Central Clubs. The library was opened on May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011 by Lt. Governor Steven Point. Britco has now committed 4 more module buildings to the Literacy Project for use as community libraries.

**RCMP** (Royal Canadian Mounted Police) – The involvement of the RCMP has enabled members from Rotary Clubs to travel into isolated communities. Whether it is by boat, aircraft or vehicle the RCMP have committed to the transportation of Rotary members as well as books into the most isolated communities. Kingcome Inlet and Kluskus are examples of the RCMP's valuable assistance.

“Partnerships make a lot of sense when it comes to a project of this magnitude”

**ORCA BAY PUBLISHING** - Have become a major supplier of books for our communities. The Toosey and Oweekeno communities have benefitted from the books that have been purchased for their libraries.

**CANADIAN COAST GUARD** – have been involved in the transportation of the Lt. Governor into coastal communities



## UBC SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY/DENTAL MISSION SOCIETY/ROTARY DENTAL CLINICS



“One of the best things to happen as a result of the literacy project is the dental clinics”



Clinics have been conducted on Penelakut Island in 2010 & 2011

The partnership between Rotary and the UBC School of Dentistry came about because of a Rotarian, Dr. Doug Nielsen of the Rotary Club of Steveston.

Doug along with his wife Susan (who is also a Rotarian) has conducted many dental missions around the world. The end result he formed the Dental Mission Society whose goals were to allow Dentists to travel to all corners of the earth to conduct dental clinics.

Throughout this time Doug felt there was a need in our own back yard for dental clinics. Doug knew that Rotary was working with the Penelakut Tribe on Penelakut Island near Chemainus

British Columbia. In July 2010 the first ever clinic was conducted on Penelakut Island. Some 80 residents (which included children) were examined and were provided dental care to repair their teeth. In addition children were given instructions (along with moms, dads & elders) on how to care for their teeth.

The response from the students has been phenomenal and through the leadership of Dean Dr. Chuck Schuler more clinics are being planned for other areas of British Columbia.



One of the successes of the clinics being held in isolated communities it allows members of those communities to receive treatment in there own backyard saving them from long travel distances for their dental work. Another reason is that many cannot afford the cost.

Some have to travel many miles and the majority of time they do not have any transportation.

An



unfortunate result of this is that their teeth deteriorate.



## PROJECTS THAT ARE IN PROGRESS



### TOOSEY

The first library to be opened as a result of the Government House/Rotary Literacy Project was in the Toosey community. A 10x40 module was remodeled into a gathering place for the community. The children use library on a daily basis and it has resulted in the elders coming into the library not only to learn to read but also teach their grandchildren the crafts of the tribe.

The Rotary Clubs of Williams Lake Daybreak and Langley Central have adopted Toosey.



### PENELAKUT

Two Dental Clinics have been held on the island. The Dental Students and Dentists saw over 120 community members. The library is still in the works with a plan and design for the completion of a building that was built by the Blade Runners. Weather is now the hold up however work is expected to start in the spring of 2012.

Rotary Clubs of Steveston, Chemainus, Ladysmith, Qualicum Beach and Parksville have adopted the community.



### KINGCOME INLET

Rotary and Success by 6 teams along with the Lt. Governor Steven Point have visited the community. A building was identified as a learning centre, where the library and computers would be situated. The community felt strongly that if computers were placed in this building their children who were in Secondary School could be taught online which was a better option than having to be uprooted from the community to attend school in Port Hardy. The biggest job for the Rotarians is to ensure that the building would withstand the floods that can occur in the community. Planning is still proceeding and it is expected that the construction will begin in the spring.

The Rotary Club of Port McNeil has adopted the community with assistance from the Rotary Club of Richmond Sunrise.

## PROJECTS THAT ARE IN PROGRESS



### RIVERS INLET (WUIKINUVX)

Rotarians and Success by 6 members along with Lt. Governor Steven Point have visited the community. Plans are now in the making for an Outdoor all-weather court, which will eventually have a basketball and volleyball, flex court. In addition a module donated by BRITCO will join it. This module will be the home for the community library and gathering place. Books have now been purchased for the community's school and they can expect them before December 2012.

The Richmond Fire Department Local 1286 has expressed interest in coming with Rotarians to construct the court as well as the foundation for the library/gathering place.

Rotary Club of North Vancouver Lionsgate and Success by 6 have adopted this community.



### STONE (YUNESITIN)

After a visit by Lt. Governor Steven Point and Rotarians planning is well in place for building a community gathering place. It is expected that this building will be completed by the spring of 2012.

BRITCO will be donating a module (10x40) that will be joined together with another module of the same size.

The Rotary Clubs of Williams Lake and Sechelt have adopted the community.



### KLUSKUS

Plans are now in progress to work with the community on a variety of projects concerning clean and safe water, a community Arbor for Pow Wows and a vehicle that can take elders to their Doctor's appointments in Quesnel which is a 3.5 hour drive away. The vehicle has to be 4-wheel drive because of the treacherous conditions during the winter. Lt. Governor Steven Point along with Rotary members visited the community in June 2011.

The Rotary Clubs of Surrey and Quesnel have adopted the Kluskus community.



## PROJECTS THAT ARE IN PROGRESS



### NAZKO

Lt. Governor Steven Point and Rotarians have visited the community and are in the process of deciding what projects will take place. During our visit we were able to meet up with the RCMP Aboriginal Liaison Police Officer Constable Anthony Fletcher. He has done an amazing job with the Nazko as well as the Kluskus Communities.

More work and planning has to take place between the community and the Rotarians plus there is a need for another partner club.

The Rotary Club of Quesnel Sunrise has adopted the Nazko Community.



### SHELLEY

After a visit by Lt. Governor Steven Point in May of 2010 the Rotarians have been working with the band in relation to literacy. Plans are in progress at this point and further announcements are forth coming on the work that both the Rotarians and community are working on.

The Rotary Club of Prince George has adopted the Shelley Band community.



### SKATIN

The Rotary Club of Whistler has been the champions in relation to working and adopting a community. The club has been working with the Skatin Community for the past 4 years and was the first club in British Columbia to do just that. They have been responsible for purchasing books, computers, gym equipment, and a playground for the Head of the Lakes School. In addition to this they were there to help their community when the local store was burnt down. Just recently the club purchased sewing machines so that the women in the community could make clothes for sale.

Rotary Club of Whistler has adopted Skatin and the Head of the Lakes School.



## PROJECTS THAT ARE IN PROGRESS

### **TSAWOUT**

Adopted by the Rotary Club of Saanich, the Tsawout Community is located in Saanichton on Vancouver Island.

The Saanich Rotary Club is working with the community to allow them to publish children's books in the language of the Tsawout. It is expected by spring 2012 a book will be published.

Lt. Governor Steven Point has visited the community on many occasions.

The Rotary Club of Saanich has adopted the Tsawout Community.

