

Rotary District 5550 Literacy Report, 2017 – 2018

Ontario

There are three Rotary Clubs in Rotary District 5550 which are situated in northwest Ontario.

Rotary Club of Dryden, ON: President Ed Iskra reports that this club continues to have very active Literacy and youth programs.

- Internationally, this club continues to support the **Ripple Effect** program, building schools in Guatemala. The club has increased its budget for this by over \$600.00 from last year, to \$2,200.00 in the Rotary year 2017 – 2018, to support the Xenacoj project.
- **MUNA** – The club was able to add an additional team to participate in MUNA in Winnipeg, sponsoring 3 teams for 2018.
- **Adventures Programs-** The club sent two students to Adventures in Human Rights in Winnipeg and one student to Adventures in Technology in Saskatoon.
- **RYLA-** The club sponsored six students to attend RYLA in August 2017.
- **Youth Talent Show/Fundraiser:** Rotarians organized a Youth Talent Show and spaghetti fundraiser in February 2018. This raised funds for more youth programs while enabling youth to showcase their skills and gain confidence.
- **Speech Awards:** In November 2017 winners of the Rotary-organized speech competition, involving Grade 7 and 8 students in four elementary schools, delivered their winning speeches at a luncheon before receiving their awards.
- **Music Awards:** In October 2017, at a Paul Harris Gala, the club hosted a music awards night with six young performers receiving awards for top marks from the Royal Conservatory of Music. Each student played their favorite piece for the audience.
- **Amarok Society, (International):** In March 2018 a high school teacher (and Rotarian!) organized a workshop for sixty high school students to listen to Gem Munro of the Amarok Society speak about his experiences organizing teaching circles in the slums of Bangladesh. The Rotary Club of Dryden also presented the speaker with a cheque for \$2,600.00 for the Amarok Society.
- **Scholarships and Bursaries:** The club donated a total amount of \$10,000.00 in scholarships to students attending regional high schools, including \$2,000.00 for Ignace, \$3,000.00 for Red Lake and \$5,000.00 for Dryden, for further education of youth.
- **School Breakfast Program - Churchill, MB.** After receiving a request from PDG. Rick Hubbs, the club raised \$675.00 through individual donations from members. A cheque for more than \$7,000.00 was given to the school principal by the Rotary Youth Exchange students during their Churchill visit. The money was to be used to purchase fresh, nutritious food, which now has to be flown in.

- **Youth Exchange** – The club sponsored a long-term Outbound Rotary Youth Exchange Program student, who is currently in France, and is currently hosting a long-term Inbound Rotary Youth Exchange Program student from Sweden.
- **Northern Home Reading Program**- This is part of the partnership project with the Rotary Clubs of Sioux Lookout and Kenora. In September 2017 two Dryden Rotarians delivered home reading program materials to Big Trout Lake and spoke with teachers and parents about how the program works. Monitoring will continue this fall.
- **School Programs** – Literacy and Health – Through its Charitable Foundation the club supports literacy and nutrition programs. The Foundation’s most recent report outlines the following literacy-related donations from the club:
 - Wabigon Services Board – Kids Connect Program \$2,500.00
 - Sioux Mountain School – Books and Breakfast Program \$2,000.00
 - Sacred Heart School – Books and Breakfast Program \$2,000.00
 - Queen Elizabeth High School – Books and B’fast Program \$2,000. 00
 - Children Delight Series \$2,500.00

The Rotary Club of Dryden has again earned a Zone 24 Literacy Award. Congratulations!

Rotary Club of Kenora, ON: President Deb LeMaistre reports that this club continues to be very active in the field of Literacy and youth projects.

- **Imagination Library** – A donation of \$1,000.00 supported the Imagination Library this year. \$500.00 of this amount was raised through a District Grant. The Rotary Club of Kenora supports the Imagination Library, and donated funds to get it started in their community.
- **Food Programs** – in Kenora were the recipient of over \$11,000.00 in donations. The school programs were visited by Rotarians who saw first-hand how the food is prepared and distributed to the students.
- **Scholarships** – are awarded to two high school students and to a Confederation College student.
- **Tri-Club-Project** – the three Northwestern Ontario Rotary Clubs in District 5550 participate in a project that provides leveled books and monitors a reading program for Grades 1 and 2 at a primary school in Big Trout Lake First Nations.
- **Ripple Effect Program** – has received donations totaling \$2,500.00 for the construction of a kitchen at Chiquihuitas School in Huehuetenango, Guatemala.
- **Global Grant Project** – The Rotary Club of Kenora is the lead club on a Global Grant application to build two kindergarten classrooms and washrooms at San Antonio Nueva Esperanza in Quiche.

- **“Design Your Own Splash Park” Contest** – The club ran a contest in honour of the Centennial Project, which is to build a splash park in Kenora. Nearly 100 students participated from four primary and secondary schools.
- **Christmas Gifts** – Gifts were donated and organized for donation to the Birchwood Terrace Nursing Home in Kenora for Christmas. Included in the gifts were large print books, word search and crossword puzzle books.
- **Overseas scholarships** – the club supports scholarships in Guadalajara, Mexico, for three female students in middle and high school.
- **Pots, pans, and dishes** – were distributed to four primary and high schools to support their meal program preparation.
- **MUNA** – the club sponsored four teams, from two local high schools, to go to MUNA in Winnipeg this year.
- **Annual Festival of the Arts** – received a donation of \$500.00 from the club. This event showcases music, poetry, drama, dancing and public speaking, with participants of all ages.
- **Concerts** – the club supports the Harbourfront Concert Series and the Lake of the Woods Concert Series with an annual donation. These showcase local talent as well as bringing in talent from across North America.
- **Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra** – Annually the club purchases and then sells tables for the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra Concert held in early July on Kenora’s Harbourfront.
- **Chess** – A donation of over \$300.00 was made to purchase chess games, timers, etc. to start a chess club at a local primary school this year.
- **RYLA** – Three students were sponsored to attend RYLA in August 2017.
- **Guest Speakers** Related to Literacy:
 - KACL – Their new collaboration with schools called “Job Path”.
 - Interact Club
 - RYLA students
 - Imagination Library.
- The club sponsors an **Interact Club** at a local high school. Rotarians meet with students monthly.
- The club partnered with **Special Olympics** for the Lucky Duck Race and held a joint event on Canada Day.
- The Rotary Club of Kenora was the lead club in providing added security to a classroom at Los Tarayes, La Democracia, Guatemala, to make ready for the installation of computers. This was accomplished with funds from a District Grant in addition to funds from the club.

- Funds and school supplies were donated to be delivered to schools in Guatemala by members of the Ripple Effect Committee.
- There are three members of the Ripple Effect Committee in the Rotary Club of Kenora.

This Rotary Club has again earned a Zone24 Literacy Award. Congratulations!

Rotary Club of Sioux Lookout, ON: President Susan Barclay and Literacy Chair Gwen (Wendy) MacDonald report that while the Rotary Club of Sioux Lookout continues to understand the importance of encouraging literacy and youth projects some years allow for more involvement than others. As a small club they are limited in how they can provide support to these important projects, however they are pleased to have been able, both financially and with members' involvement, contributed to the following:

- The club provides bursaries to two graduating secondary school students each year.
- A financial donation is made to the Sioux Lookout Public Library to help with their literacy and youth programs and expand their collections, both physical and electronic.
- The club increased its support of the Cafetorium at the new high school currently under construction in Sioux Lookout, a sizeable donation for a small club; application was made for a District Grant, (\$2,500.00), for this project.
- The club sponsored 4 students to attend RYLA in August 2017.
- The club continues its involvement with the long-term Rotary Youth Exchange Program, and is currently hosting an inbound student from Belgium.
- The club has sponsored students to attend Adventures programs.
- This club has donated to the tri-club Literacy initiative to provide books to a First Nation primary school.

Thank you for all that you are doing for literacy and youth projects in your community. Unfortunately, your club doesn't currently have an International project, so doesn't qualify for a Literacy Award this year.

Summary of Literacy and Youth Projects – Ontario.

There are 3 Rotary clubs in Rotary District 5550 in Northwestern Ontario.

All three, (100%), reported and all three, (100%), had numerous Literacy programs and youth projects.

The Rotary Club of Dryden and the Rotary Club of Kenora both earned Zone 24 Literacy Awards this year. CONGRATULATIONS!

