

This last few months of my year have flown by. One of my many tasks was supposed to be circulation of a monthly newsletter. I have not done well with this (my last newsletter was in January) so have adopted more of a semi-annual approach to be followed up with a summary report at the end of the year.

February started with District Team Training in North Bay at which Mike Kinsey worked with his team to prepare for next year. At the end of the weekend after a quick jump into Chemong Lake to raise money for Foundation on behalf of the BEL Club, it was off to New Zealand for a Friendship Exchange. Twenty-one Rotarians from 7010 spent 11 days with Rotarians from District 9920, during which we were wined and dined, taken sailing and hiking, experienced batching (cottaging) and made lifelong friends with our hosts and each other. It was the perfect fulfillment of my goal to “Put It Together” through Rotary.

March was about youth. I spoke to the Youth Exchange session for parents and outbound students in North Bay. I was so impressed by the work and dedication of our Exchange Committee and gratified to meet the great group of District 7010 students who are about to experience this life changing experience. I attended the 5th anniversary celebration of the Rotaract Club of Barrie, an enthusiastic, dedicated, and fun-loving group who are making their community a better place to live. Rotary is in good hands with this group of future leaders.

April was Rotary Weekend and our District celebration of the Rotary Foundation’s 100th birthday. Rotary weekend was a great success with an ever-expanding program of training for all Rotarians. Thanks to Sue Davidson our outgoing trainer (and District Governor Nominee) for all her efforts in building such a strong program. It will be in good hands next year with our new trainer (and outgoing Membership Director) Lynn Chant. Thank you to the North Bay Clubs for hosting a great Foundation celebration. It was a sold-out success and resulted in a contribution of \$26,000 to Polio eradication. After returning home from Rotary Weekend, Ron and I attended a very special meeting of the Lindsay Club at which they hosted the Fenelon Falls Club to celebrate the anniversary of their charter. Lindsay sponsored the Fenelon Falls Club 75 years ago. Over time, the Fenelon Falls charter was lost in one of the numerous fires that seem to plague the Club. The Lindsay Club contacted RI and obtained a new charter and presented it to Fenelon Falls that day. It was a wonderful event with lots of laughter, fellowship and good memories.

May I started to move into my future role as support where it is needed. I helped with the North Bay visioning session to plan for their future and spoke to new Rotarians at my club’s fireside. Ron and I had a great time at the Englehart Foundation dinner and auction and at the Fenelon Falls showcase where the clubs of Areas 7 and 8 came together for fellowship and to share their projects.

May was Youth Service month and we have seen lots of evidence that youth is well served in our District. In addition to our active Youth Exchange Program, the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) held at YMCA Geneva Park this year were attended by over 70 students from across the District. Word is this year’s program was one of the best ever. On the Interact front I am pleased to report we are chartering two new clubs, one in Peterborough and one through an exciting new partnership with the YMCA, in Barrie. Rotaract is also thriving. In addition to chartering the active and growing Muskoka Club last fall, the Midland and Penetanguishene Clubs are chartering a new Rotaract club in June.