



# Good News from the Clubs

ROTARY DISTRICT 7780 CLUBS

SERVICE, FUNDRAISING, CELEBRATIONS &  
COLLABORATIONS

JULY 1, 2023



Our largest fundraiser of the year – the giant, multi-day yard sale, is scheduled for Tuesday, August 1 through Monday August 7. It will be held on the lawn next to The Gem Theater on Cross St., Bethel. Proceeds are earmarked for the club's scholarship fund and other important community initiatives.

We continue to hold our meetings Tuesday from 7:30-8:30 a.m. at the beautiful GraceNote Inn & Spa, with a delicious breakfast prepared by our member and owner Brenda Blond. All visiting Rotarians are welcomed!

In June we recognized four Telstar HS students for their Student of The Month honors. They are: Isabel Casey, grade 12; Morgan Zetts, grade 11; Hayley Smith, grade 10; and Jonathan Marshall, grade 9.

Due to our successful fundraising, we continue to support many amazing area organizations and youth initiatives. This month, Lindsay Stephenson, the incoming president of the Telstar HS Interact Club, spoke with us. And we presented a check to Ashley Oliver, for a scholarship to her summer Paint, Doodle, Create program. More about our activities at [www.bethelrotary.org](http://www.bethelrotary.org).







## Bridgton-Lake Region

As usual, the Bridgton-Lake Region Club had a lot of fun with the Great Bridgton Annual Duck Race fundraiser, sorting ducks, posting our advertising sign and duck in Stevens Brook, and selling raffle tickets.

We continued to make some faces happy by awarding scholarships. President Elect Lisa Ryan surprised our scholar Haleigh Breton, a high school diploma recipient from the Lake Region & Fryeburg Area Adult Education program. Haleigh will be studying banking and finance at Southern Maine Community College.

A new Literacy initiative resulted in the club's collaboration with the First Congregational Church of Bridgton and Bridgton Books has resulted in each child in the local Head Start Program receiving two books to bring home for summer reading. Outgoing Club President Aaron Hagan; Amanda Brown, Family Advocate at Opportunity Alliance Head Start program; and Rev. Zev Green, Sabbatical Minister at the church are pictured.





## Dover

So much happening in Dover Club, including Literacy Project's dictionary distribution to 3<sup>rd</sup> graders, Interact Awards ceremony (photo shows only some of the leaders and a few of those receiving awards) for leadership and community volunteer hours. Students had over 800 total hours given by all through in-school and volunteer projects. Grateful to all who made it happen, Principal Peter Driscoll, Rotary Advisors Phil Rinaldi and Melissa Lesniak, Rotary Club of Dover President Megan Keil, and Interact President Jenavee Johnson . And finally, Together on the 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday fellowship and friendship event. And, beyond all this, we welcomed 4 new members! DO good. VERY good.





## Hampton

Hampton Rotary recently sponsored a mural, painted by local artist Alyssa Pine. It was unveiled to the public Monday, June 5th in the evening with dozens of locals and Rotarians gathered to celebrate. The large mural, which covers the wall of the St. Vincent de Paul community kitchen from top to bottom, says “Creating Community”. SVdP hosted a cookout as part of the unveiling. The community kitchen was moved by SVdP to this location downtown a few years ago. Rotarians and other groups serve food regularly to community members in need.

Rotarians pictured: Bud DeRocher, John Nyhan, Lois DeRocher, John's Catizone, Geoff Merrill, Charlie Davidson, Anne Russell, Bill DeBasio, Larry Marsolais, Jim Waddell, Martha Clyde, and Danielle Nonamaker



## Ogunquit

Ogunquit Rotary Club members baked cookies and brownies, and came out in force to celebrate Ogunquit at BonAire in June. BonAire is a celebration of everything Ogunquit from the Main Beach to Perkins Cove and other places as well. Music, food and much more. Bread was donated by When Pigs Fly and water was donated by Poland Spring. Generous donors helped us raise over \$500 to support Ogunquit Rotary Club initiatives. If you are visiting Ogunquit this summer, please join us at a Thursday meeting. The schedule can be found on our website

here: <https://www.ogunquitmerotary.org/>. Pictured: Rotarians Elizabeth Ford, Melanie Tromblee, Peter Woodbury, Erin Hays, and Tracy Smith. Photo credit: Peter Woodbury.







## Oxford Hills

The Oxford Hills Club had a busy June, hosting the State Champ cheerleaders at a breakfast meeting (photo), the top 5% of the graduating class from Oxford Hills Comprehensive HS along with the Principal, Tech School Director and School Superintendent, and presented 7 -\$1,000 scholarships at Class Night. Finally, we cooked for the Senior Picnic and for Project Graduation for the class of 260 students.

The Club also held its Changeover Dinner with Outgoing President George Rice passing the gavel to Incoming President Beth Abbott. George was presented a Rotary Gear Clock and the Club will add another scholarship next year as the George Rice Community Service Award Scholarship in honor of his dedication and commitment to providing community service for 40 years.

Our 2022-23 Rotarian of the Year was announced at the dinner. Congratulations, Tina Fox! Like the energizer bunny, Tina is always on the go, helping with Club events and activities, Chairing the club's Youth Services Committee and she is the Interact Advisor. At the same time she is District Youth Services and Interact Chair. Congratulations, Tina!





## Portland

In June, the Portland Club awarded Paul Harris Fellows every week, demonstrating many of the ways we can recognize and honor others. *Giving Circles PHF* – Each of the 8 Giving Circle Lottery winners were awarded PHF. A *Community PHF* was awarded to Jim Wellehan, owner and CEO OF Lamey-Wellehan, as an outstanding community leader, a long-standing advocate for the environment, and a partner in our Winter Boot Drive. Accepting the award were company executives. A *Family PHF* from Rotarian Bowen Depke honoring the love of his life, Claire Depke, his wife. A *District PHF* to Paul Gore for proving the bridge red End Polio Now attire and banners for our Casco Bay Bridge Walk. A *Leadership PHF* to President Bruce Jones from Portland's Past Presidents in recognition for his 18 months leadership and Service Above Self. (Pictured top left and clockwise with exception of Giving Circles.)







## Portsmouth

Portsmouth Rotary had a great representation at the Portsmouth 400 Grand Parade! Sending a big thank you to those who watched, cheered, walked with them or helped organize everything. Special thanks go to Rotarians Joanie Dickinson for organizing and getting the T-Shirts, Lindsay Reid for designing and getting the shirts to us, Jess Hamilton for being the organizer, Aileen Dugan for bringing the balloons and Brody - the most chill dog on the planet, Chris Oberg and Alpha Graphics for designing the banner with Yvonne Legge (we were in the paper on page 2 Sunday), Nancy Notis for doing the write up about our Club (which was read out loud as we entered Market Square), Karen Conard for screaming the loudest, Chief Newport for listening to us scream when we saw him, Nicole Clark and Jess Hamilton for taking and posting pictures and so on. And Mother Nature for no rain. It was an amazing day which will stay in our memory for a long time!





## Saco Bay Sunset

**Outgoing President of the Saco Bay Sunset Club, Dr. Carol Marie Marcotte was awarded a Paul Harris Fellow 'In appreciation of tangible and significant assistance given for the furtherance of better understanding and friendly relations among peoples of the world.'**

**Presented by Dennis Robillard and the RC of Saco Bay Sunset, Carol remarked, "I am humbled, but so proud and grateful. It's all about TEAM spirit. Thank you so much."**







## Sanford-Springvale

On May 25, 2023, Sanford-Springvale Rotary awarded \$15,000 in scholarships to high school seniors from Sanford, Massabesic and Noble High Schools. The presentations were made at the club's breakfast meeting to which parents, recipients and school officials were invited. Sanford-Springvale Rotary's scholarship fund, established in 1998, has supported deserving high school seniors in pursuit of their college education for over 25 years and has disbursed over \$250,000.

Congratulations to the 2023 recipients pictured, from left to right: Molly Grace – Noble High School; Fallyn Couture – Massabesic High School; Evelyn DalPra – Massabesic High School; Samantha Phillips – Sanford High School; John-Paul Alexandre – Sanford High School; Gionet Baker – Noble High School; Isabella Tremblay – Sanford High School and Rotary Club President, Elias Thomas. (Absent from this photo is Sophia Tanguay – Massabesic High School.)





## Scarborough

Scarborough was awarded a \$4000 district grant for an interpretive nature walk and improvements to an important Scarborough Marsh nature trail across from the Scarborough Marsh Nature Center at 92 Pine Point Road. Scarborough Marsh is Maine's largest salt marsh with 3,100 acres. It is a classroom for school children, a laboratory for biologists, prime territory for fishermen and hunters, and a fascinating, everchanging world for naturalists, especially birders.

This interpretive nature walk introduces visitors and students to marsh ecology and its importance through a series of 11 interpretive signs posted along the trail, and a location sign and a sign containing detailed marsh information. The 11 waterproof interpretive signs guide visitors while telling a “story” of the marsh using Kimberley Ridley’s book “The Secret Bay”. Scarborough Rotarians worked with the Scarborough Marsh Nature Center (Maine Audubon), Friends of the Scarborough Marsh, the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (Marsh land holders), and the Town of Scarborough on this project. Many regional schools use the Nature Center for field trips in the spring and fall to learn about the marsh ecosystem by exploring it. The trail and signage will help educators teach the environmental significance and conservation of the Scarborough Marsh for years to come. The work was completed on May 10.







## Sebago Lake –Windham Area

**Sebago Lake – Windham Area Club continues to support the District's Crutches for Africa project, having done so for 13 years. Member Don Drew, Project Chair, delivered another truck load of mobility devices to the District collection point where met by District Team Leader Dennis Robillard. Members assist Don in pulling together mobility devices and periodically he collects from local lending closets, nursing homes and a local collection site, Busy Bee Laundry. Keep up the good work. We know these devices are life changing for those who receive them.**





## South Portland- Cape Elizabeth

The second-annual SpringFest Community Celebration, happened on Friday & Saturday May 19-20. This year's SpringFest theme showcased the loveable indication that spring has arrived, gnomes. From a gnome home village, an architectural masterpiece, a 50-team gnome cornhole tournament, a "Gnomes@Knight" street festival, "little gnomes" play area, a "gnome discovery search" around South Portland, a "reading gnomes" partnership with South Portland Library, and lots more. The event is a partnership between South Portland/Cape Elizabeth Rotary and the City of South Portland, and generously supported by Bath Savings Bank, Hannaford, DiMillos On the Water, Port Harbor Marine, Gorham Savings Bank, M&T Bank, Bangor Savings Bank, Saco & Biddeford Savings Institution, and more than thirty area businesses. Photos depict "make your own gnome" workshop results.







## Westbrook-Gorham

The Westbrook-Gorham Club was pleased that our Ukrainian exchange student Daryna (Dasha) Bezdizha had a successful year in the US. She left for home on Memorial Day in order to prepare for national exams which determine what colleges she may apply to and what studies she may pursue.

Early on Dasha visited our club, but was very shy and reticent to talk about her experiences in Ukraine. So although very thankful to all who contributed to her stay covering travel costs, health insurance, and winter clothing, she was not be able to visit all of the clubs interested in meeting her.

At her last meeting with Westbrook-Gorham (see photo), she was more open and talkative and thanked W-G and other clubs in the district for providing her this life-changing experience.



# **DISTRICT NEWSLETTER**

**If you didn't see your Club's News in this issue of the District Newsletter, it is likely we did not hear from your President or PR person. We would love to hear from every club. Forward about 75 words in a Word document and a couple of separate photos with the identities of people in them, especially Rotarians. Keep photos flattering, please. Send your material to: [RotaryNews7780@gmail.com](mailto:RotaryNews7780@gmail.com).**

**Thank you for all you do for your Club, the District and the World.**

**Carol Madsen, District Newsletter Editor, RC of Bridgton-Lake Region**

**Dennis Moulton, District Newsletter Publisher, RC of Portsmouth**