

# Governor's Newsletter

Peter C. Johnson, District Governor 2001-2002



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July 2002

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Three years ago I knew I'd be writing this, my last column as District Governor. Yet with all that time to prepare, I find this column most difficult to compose for fear of what I might omit. I have within me a major dissertation approaching Ph.D. thoroughness (*sans* footnotes), but I know my ever watchful editor won't permit me the luxury.

We have opted to close this Rotary year with another non-traditional format for the newsletter, choosing to highlight snapshots of your District Conference. This year's conference was all about our individual clubs, and to each and every one of the presenters, kudos, double kudos, and more. Our time spent learning about each other was very special, and it only happened because you, our individual club leaders, made it happen. Thanks for a most enjoyable experience, and for bringing out the essence of Rotary.

Speaking of the essence of Rotary, your conference included Rick King's Representative, Sam Okudzeto, speaking powerful words about World Understanding and Peace; local Catholic Charities Maine Refugee Resettlement Director Matt Ward, speaking about today's issues with refugee and immigration policies; and Lisa Wong, Rotary World Understanding and Peace Scholar alternate. Each added a unique dimension to our gathering. If you missed any one of them, you missed a world-class presentation!

I am extremely proud to announce the clubs that achieved 2001-02 Distinguished Club Recognition, including the Rotary Global Quest goal of net five new members. The criteria this year were especially stringent, so I hope every reader of this newsletter will

make a point of congratulating the Presidents and members of the following clubs: **Bath**, John Evans; **Bethel**, Bob Laux; **Biddeford-Saco**, Keith Jacques; **Bridgton-Lake Region**, Dick Enright; **Brunswick Coastal**, Bruce Goodman; **Damariscotta-Newcastle**, Howard Levitan; **Exeter**, Allison Field; **Falmouth**, Aaron Rugh; **Freeport**, Maig Migliaccio; **Kennebunk Portside**, Rand Gesing; **Portsmouth**, Aileen Dugan; **Wells**, Lee Hansen; and **Windham**, Ken Spooner.

One of the requirements to attain Distinguished Club Recognition was attendance at the District Conference. The conference this year had the highest reported attendance in nine years, but not all clubs were able to achieve the stipulated level of participation. (As but two examples, both Rochester and Ogunquit had major fund-raisers going on that weekend.) Save for this one attendance requirement, we would have also been able to recognize **Rumford**, **Fryeburg**, **Saco Bay**, **Scarborough**, **Kennebunk**, **Durham-Great Bay**, **Rochester**, **South Berwick**, **Hampton**, **Newburyport**, and likely a few others I've missed (my apologies) as Citation Clubs.

In truth, *every* club deserves a citation of one sort or another. Perhaps the most rewarding aspect of serving as District Governor was the opportunity to realize just how much *you* accomplish. The list is staggering, and I can't enumerate it here, knowing full well how much I would have to omit.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will see an unofficial Global Quest recap. Please remember it is not about the numbers. It is about the product. Two of our clubs

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doubled in size: **Falmouth** stressed its newness — it is now challenged to direct its energies; and **Scarborough** stressed its emphasis on youth — it is now challenged to keep the ball rolling. Others which grew by ten or more include Rochester, which simply decided it was time to ask people to join; **Damariscotta-Newcastle, Hampton, and Bath** decided they needed to bring in some new, younger members; **Exeter** decided it was time to “do Rotary” a little differently and have a greater impact; and **Newburyport** might be forced to find (yet again) new space in which to meet as they continue to fill each available chair.

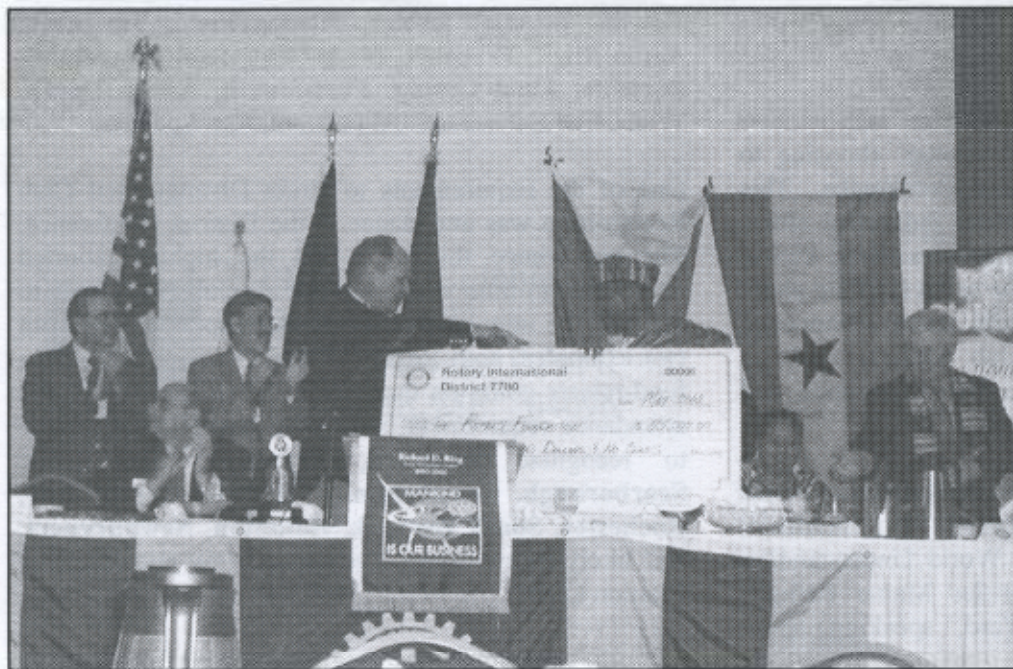
I am extremely pleased and proud to have had the opportunity to serve as your District Governor. It has been a most rewarding experience, and an experience I will forever treasure. Many, many people helped along

the way: the members of the Rotary Club of **Yarmouth**, (with special “thank yous” and kudos to District Conference Chair Maura Halkiotis and District Newsletter Editor Holly Holbrook), each and every member of each District Committee, and the entire complement of Past 7780 District Governors. They all have my deepest thanks and gratitude. I would also like to put into print a special thanks to one of our newer Rotarians, Carolyn, who has been an extra-special blessing.

The past twelve months have been nothing less than a renewal of my belief about who we are as people. Perhaps you have heard me say before that Rotary is all about good people who do great stuff. Thanks for proving the statement.

Peter

## District Conference 2002, May 17 and 18 Eastland Park Hotel, Portland



District Governor Peter Johnson presents President King's representative, Sam Okudzeto of Ghana, with a \$25,000 check for the Rotary Foundation's PolioPlus Campaign. From left to right: PDG Mort Schmidt, Howard Levitan, PDG Jim Labrie, DG Peter, Sam Okudzeto, Priscilla Okudzeto, PDG Dan Mooers

### PolioPlus

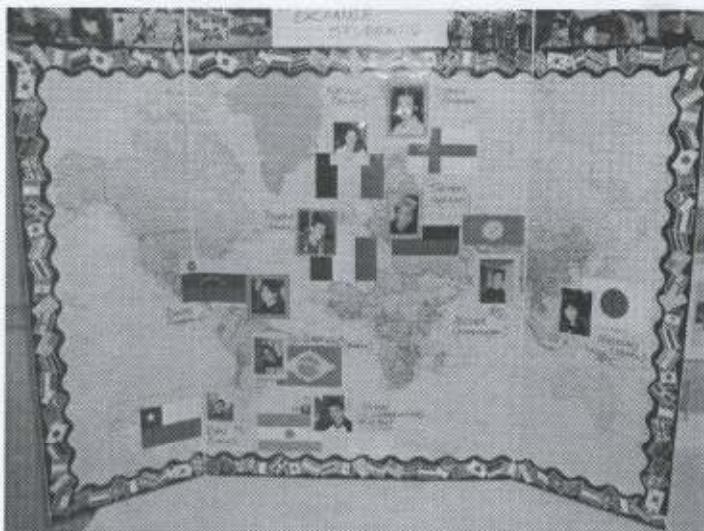
In 1986, Rotary International's Council on Legislation endorsed leadership's decision to immunize all the children of the world against polio by the centennial celebration in 2005.

From the inception of the PolioPlus program through the end of 2001, the number of polio-endemic countries has decreased from 125 to 10.

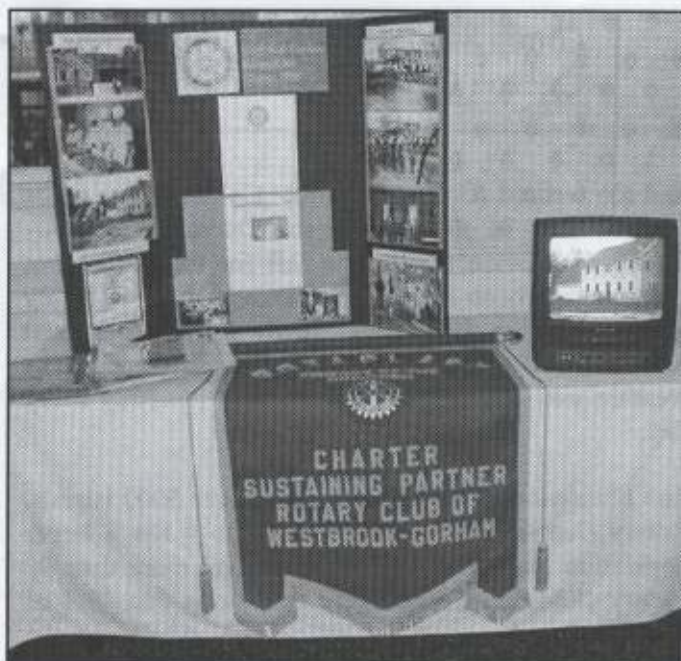
At this very moment, some four million children who might have been stricken with polio are playing and enjoying life because they have been immunized.

We have reached almost 99% of the world's children. Our goal is in sight.





Exchange students from Japan, Belgium, Finland, Germany, France, Argentina, Venezuela, Chile, Brazil, and Kyrgyzstan spent a year in District 7780. They arrived shortly before September 11, and demonstrated great courage by staying in this country during such troubled times. Their presence was an inspiration and source of joy to their host families and host clubs.



"Involvement with the youth of our community has been a primary focus of (our) club."



Yarmouth Club's Interact Co-Chair Meg Hickey and Carly Michel, of her high school members, hosted a session on Youth Service on Saturday morning.



Falmouth Club members Clare Moss and President Aaron Rugh managed the Rotary Store.



Oxford Hills cooperates with two other service organizations in their eight neighboring towns.



## Group Study Exchange Trip to Quezon City Was a Hot Ticket

Led by retired U.S. Air Force Colonel Dr. Amos Townsend — a member of the Durham-Great Bay Rotary Club — a small team left for the Philippines bright and early on June 1. They arrived in Quezon City at 10:30 p.m. on June 2, and finally got to bed at 2:00 a.m. on June 3. (There is a 12 hour time difference.) The weather was consistent: 90° and 90% humidity every day.

The Philippines is an archipelago of over 3000 islands. Rotary District 3780 — Quezon City — has a larger population than the state of Maine, and more than 90 Rotary clubs. A discouraging statistic is that 40% of families live below the poverty line, which, in the Philippines, is \$80 a month for a family of four.

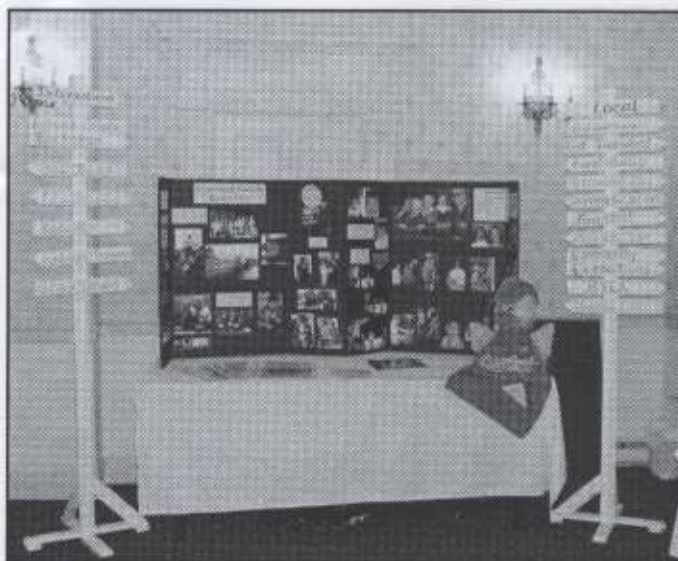
The team spent a week of their one-month stay in the area of San Fabian, northwest of Manila. They went to Corregidor Island and Santiago (an old Spanish fortress) and toured Clark Air Force Base and a cemetery south of Manila. They stayed with several different families, including the Chairman of the G.S.E.

Visiting the Philippines was an ongoing history lesson, and each fact they learned brought up dozens of new questions. Their experiences were exhilarating and rewarding. Dr. Townsend hopes to be able to return — during December and January!

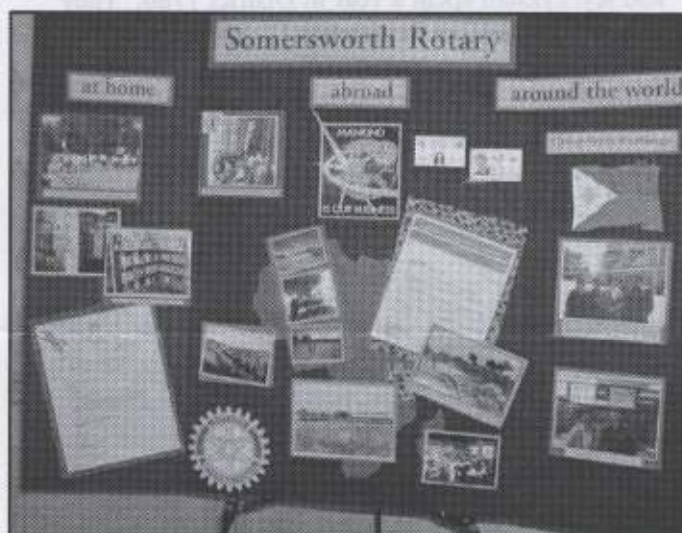
### Coming Up — New Delhi

Group Study Exchange is one of the most exciting programs Rotary International offers. If you have ever spoken to a visiting team member or heard the reports from one of our District's groups, you know how enthusiastic they are. *(If I had been able to transcribe all of Dr. Townsend's descriptions and reactions, there would be no room in this newsletter for anything else! — Ed.)*

The trip planned for Rotary year 2002-2003 is to New Delhi. The group may leave as early as January in order to take advantage of New Delhi's District Conference. So NOW is the time to begin discussion in your clubs. Direct your questions to GSE Chair Craig Kelleher, Hampton Rotary Club, 603-964-5003 (H), 603-964-7222 (W), or [craigdvm@aol.com](mailto:craigdvm@aol.com).



Kennebunk Portside's display points the way to Rotary.



Somersworth's programs span the continents.



Quilts from the Wells "Wrap A Smile" project.

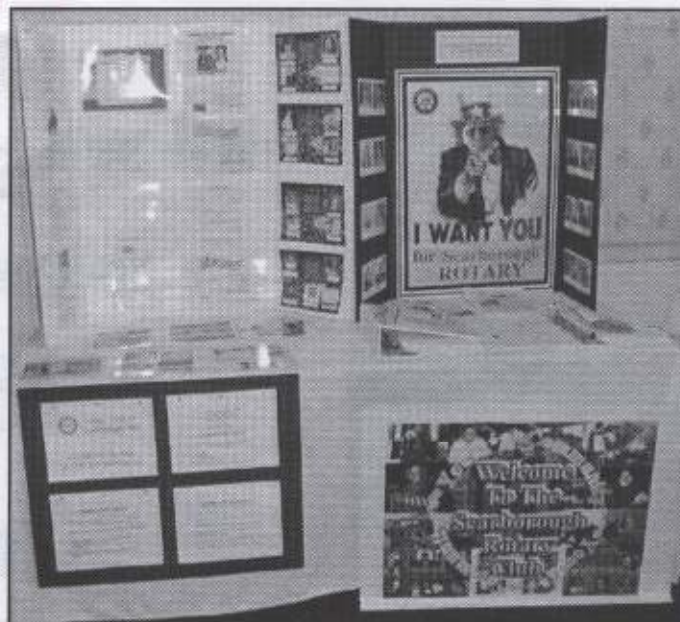


## Rotary's Global Quest District 7780

DG Peter is pleased to announce the clubs which have risen to the challenge of the Global Quest and ended the 2001-2002 Rotary year with a net increase of five members or more:

**Bath**  
**Bath Sunrise**  
**Bethel**  
**Biddeford-Saco**  
**Bridgton-Lake Region**  
**Brunswick Coastal**  
**Damariscotta-Newcastle**  
**Durham-Great Bay**  
**Exeter**  
**Falmouth**  
**Freeport**  
**Fryeburg**  
**Hampton**  
**Kennebunk**  
**Kennebunk Portside**  
**Newburyport**  
**Ogunquit**  
**Portsmouth**  
**Rochester**  
**Rumford**  
**Saco Bay**  
**Scarborough**  
**South Berwick**  
**Wells**  
**Windham**

*(This list is based on preliminary, unofficial data. Our apologies to any club inadvertently omitted — Ed.)*



The Scarborough Club's breakout session focused on increasing community awareness of Rotary and the club's dedication to Youth Service.



The 13-member Brunswick Coastal Club raised over \$167,000 for a palliative care AIDS hospital in Natal. The money was raised through a 3-H Grant from the Rotary Foundation in concert with clubs in Natal and Australia and the Boothbay Harbor Club.



DG Peter, Conference Chair Maura Halkiotis, and District Secretary Liz Valliere keep the (Rotary) wheels moving.

**"Take a Swing at Homelessness"**

**Sea Dog Stadium**

**Sunday, August 18**



**Tickets are only \$5.00**

**All profits are donated to food banks and shelters for the homeless**



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