



CALL OF THE LOON

THE NEWSLETTER OF ROTARY DISTRICT 7780

Tim Placey, District Governor, 2002-2003

JUNE, 2003

Governor's Notes



Wow! What a wonderful year this has been. As I sat at the International Convention, listening to the amount of money that Rotary has raised for Polio my heart was filled

with emotion for all my clubs back home. Our total as an organization was over \$88,000,000 with over \$330,000 coming from the clubs in our district. Rotary International would be only words, if it wasn't for all of you.

Each club in our district has its own personality and each operates in their own way to help the people of the community and the world but the end result is the same. The projects to raise the pledge money for polio were fitted to your areas and were mind boggling. It was hard work, but so much fun was had doing them that made it worthwhile. Glad and I enjoyed joining in everyone that we were able to attend.

As our year comes to a close, I just want to thank each of you for your support through out the year of "Sow the Seeds of Love."

We have met so many wonderful people who will

always hold a special place in our hearts.

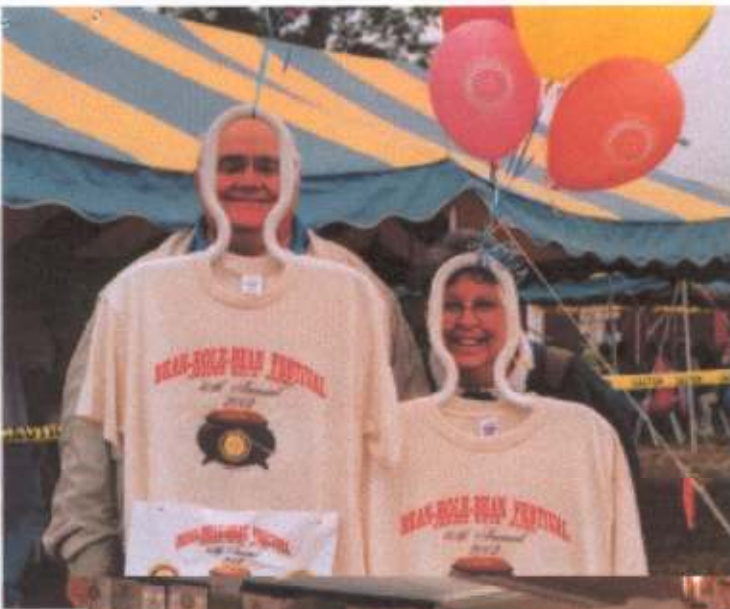
No good byes, I will just say God Bless each of you until we meet again because I know our paths will cross and after all - friends are forever. So as I pass the gavel over to Trish remember we have sown the seeds of love and now we need to **Lend a Hand** to keep moving forward to help the people of

the world less fortunate than we are. I know that everyone will give Trish the support and energy that you have given to me.

Please always remember we are family and I care about and love all of you.

God bless,
Tim







Barbara Pillsbury, longtime educator and retiring Superintendent of MSAD #71, was named a Paul Harris Fellow during a breakfast meeting of the Kennebunk Portside Rotary Club on May 13.

The award was presented by club member and fellow educator Joan Cowgill, along with Susan Gesing, Club President, Caroline Lambert, President-Elect, and Alan Shepard, Chairman of the SAD 71 Board of Directors. The surprise presentation was made in the midst of a talk in which Pillsbury recounted her experiences during 41 years in education and the sweeping changes in our schools over the years. "Barbara fits the ideals of Rotary - 'Service Above Self,' and we honor her for significant contributions to this community," said Sue Gesing.

First Lady's Corner



At our camp on Worthy Pond in western Maine, we have come to look forward in anticipation for "our Loons" that greet us each spring and fill our summers watching them "sail" on by each day, fishing and watching us humans and our curious ways. In the fall we feel the sadness as they practice for the flight south. But we know that they will come back to us again for a new season and a new life cycle.

In the early morning and late evenings we listen to their calls back and forth around the pond. Depending on moods they can be lonely or eerie sounds for humans. For Tim and me it is a call that signals that all is right in our little world.

As you may know loons are faithful for life, therefore Tim chose it as the symbol for his year as District Governor. It is his faith that Rotarians will continue their good work in community and the world. And his faith that friendships will go on forever and those friends will separate, but like seasons will return again and again.

This is the last column of our year and what a year it has been. Some days fun and others not so good. I have poked fun at Rotary and Rotarians, but in reality I wouldn't have you any other way. Well maybe sometimes.

You have gone above and beyond the call of duty for Tim in his year as governor and we appreciate everything you have done. Because of you he has looked good and has succeeded in our polio goals; membership is holding its own; and now you are working on the annual giving goal.

No small task this year.

Thank you all for accepting me into your clubs and into your lives. I hope to continue the friendships that we have made and perhaps take part in the fun times in your club activities in the coming years.

Love to all,
Glad



Ode to Kennebunk Portside Rotary 2002-2003

This Rotary year is nearly done, it cannot be denied
And as I've pondered what we've done, I feel a sense of pride.

We worked to "sow the seeds of love" at home and overseas.
Recounting our accomplishments, remember some of these?

We paid to train peer helper kids; and mentored at the Y,
We helped redo some shelter rooms (and hung a plaque nearby).

We nurtured our Priscilla as she built her English skill
We raised eight grand for Polio with coin-jar-rattling Bill.

We granted funds to teachers to enhance their students' knowledge.
We awarded two new scholarships to help to pay for college.

We had two great performances with kids at Mildred Day
To teach about careers and in a job hunt – what to say.

We hosted Friends Forever and helped Berri's flight get paid
For Rotaplast where, in Cebu, she found young friends to aid.

The Russians came in for two weeks, both to study and have fun.
We spoke in Russian, made new friends – enjoyed them, every one.

We sailed ducks on the river and displayed them in Dock Square.
We joined the Chamber of Commerce to let people know we're there.

We promoted visibility, made the papers quite a lot.
We took photos, made display boards – much publicity we got.

We sold a lot of duckies, 'til our goal we did exceed
Then help a winter raffle to help out some folks in need.

We're gearing up for golf now and we hope to raise a lot
To fill the Portside coffers for the projects that we've got.

We recorded our meetings, made reports and used Clubmate.
We kept working our our budget and paid bills – but never late.

We've all worked hard, we've all had fun. It is the Rotary way.
But there is something special 'bout *this* team I'd like to say:

You truly care about this club and all the work we do.
The spirit of Rotary's in your hearts, your efforts show it's true.

So take this token from the year, a symbol that we care,
As we "lend a hand" with Carolyn for the work that will be there.

Susan Gesing
President 2002-2003
Rotary Club of Kennebunk Portside

Helping Children Worlds Away

**FROM: The Exeter News-Letter
Friday, June 13, 2003**

By Nate Evans
nevans@seacoastonline.com

EXETER - About 20 students from the Exeter Regional High School changed a child's life Wednesday.

The Exeter High School Interact Club donated \$400 - the cost of one plastic surgery to correct the facial deformities cleft palate and cleft lip - to Rotaplast, a Rotary Club effort to treat children born with deformities.

People affected by severe cases of cleft palate or cleft lip often can't talk or eat properly.

A cleft palate is a split between the soft palate and the hard palate on the roof of the mouth, basically meaning there is a hole in the roof of the mouth.

A cleft lip is a split between two sides of a lip, sometimes so severe that the separation can go from the gums up into the nose.

From Exeter President Bob Mitchell:

"I had the truly great pleasure of being the 'Official Representative' to accept a \$400.00 check this morning from our Interact Club. This donation is intended for Rotaplast.

"The kids were really pumped and proud to be able to make this contribution. Our club member - Bruce McEldowney - donated an 'extra' copy of the 'Rotaplast Book.' As I left, a group of at least a half-dozen of the Interact kids were gathered around as they paged through the book and got a little better idea of what life is like for those less fortunate than they are themselves."

Both are birth defects that can be treated with relatively minor surgery, providing doctors are available.

That is where Rotaplast comes in.

Rotaplast, which was started in 1991 with a medical trip to Santiago, Chile, has treated thousands of children for the facial deformities.

According to Robert Mitchell, the president of the Exeter Rotary Club, a team of plastic surgeons travel to South America every year with funding raised by Rotaplast to treat children born with the birth defect.

Mitchell and Ann Burke, the Rotary Club's liaison to Interact who attends all of the meetings, praised Interact's generosity, saying that they changed a life for the better with their donation.

"As adults, we have a tendency to not think too highly of youths involvement in the community," Mitchell said. "This shows us that, given the opportunity, youths will get involved. It's our responsibility to extend to them the opportunity to get involved."

The Interact Club is a Rotary-sponsored club of high school students who seek to be productive, helpful people but also leaders of the community.

The Interact Club had a busy day Wednesday, as they were also charged with giving orientation tours to next year's incoming freshmen.

"I joined to give back to the community, so I had a feeling of connection to the community," said Meredith Tinkham, the president of the Exeter High School Interact Club.



Polio Eradication Roundup

The May 31st Polio Eradication figures were reported in June by World Headquarters and in Brisbane at the International Convention and, once again, District 7780 led Zone 31 (15 Rotary districts making up all of New England and parts of New York State). As of May 31, 2003, clubs and individual Rotarians in District 7780 had contributed in CASH to polio eradication, so far during the Rotary year, a total of \$302,773.77, plus an additional \$4,117.00 in recorded unfulfilled pledges.

After May 31, 2003, clubs had forwarded through me an additional \$28,000.00, making total cash contributions which I can document as of June 30, 2003, of \$339,733.55. Since the commitments of the 40 clubs totalled \$335,340.00, District 7780 has far exceeded its three year commitment in just the first year of the campaign. Every club in the district can be proud of that accomplishment.

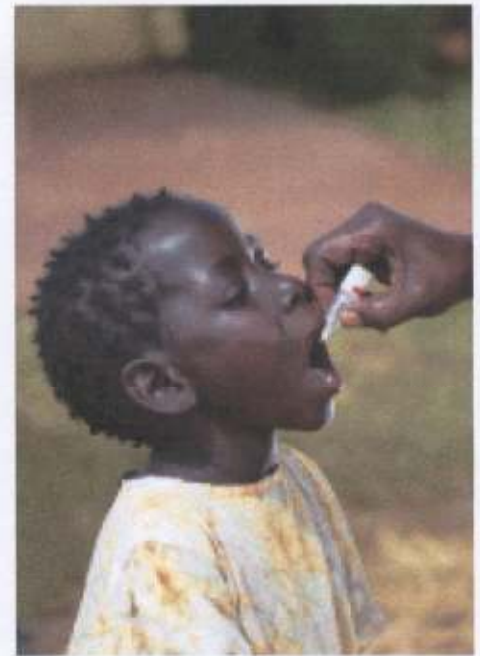


On May 31, 2003, this district was the only district in Zone 31 to reach total cash contributions of \$300,000.00 or more. In fact, the next highest district had reached only \$228,132.35, and that was one of the wealthy Connecticut districts. One district in the Zone had barely reached \$20,000.00.

In addition to leading Zone 31, the Rotarians of this district have raised more money this year for polio eradication than all the Rotary clubs in many countries. For example, District 7780 clubs contributed more money than the clubs in Argentina/Uruguay/Paraguay combined, than the clubs in Chile/Bolivia, than the

clubs in all of Central America, than the clubs in all of the Mediterranean region, than the clubs in all of Spain/Portugal, than the clubs in all of Peru/Ecuador, than the clubs in Sweden, and than the clubs in all of Venezuela/Columbia.

There is still some work to do, however, to complete our commitment. So far, twenty-seven clubs in the district have fulfilled their promise. Several other clubs are very close and with just a little effort, those clubs can fulfill their commitments early in the new Rotary year. I hope every club will be able to fulfill its commitment before the District Conference in Montreal so that all clubs - each and every one - can celebrate with District 7930 the fact that we kept our promise to the children of the world - that each and every club has fulfilled its commitment. Since Trish has appointed me as the District Polio Eradication Fund Raising Chair for the 2003-2004 year, I will be around to remind clubs just how little they have left to raise to fulfill every promise.

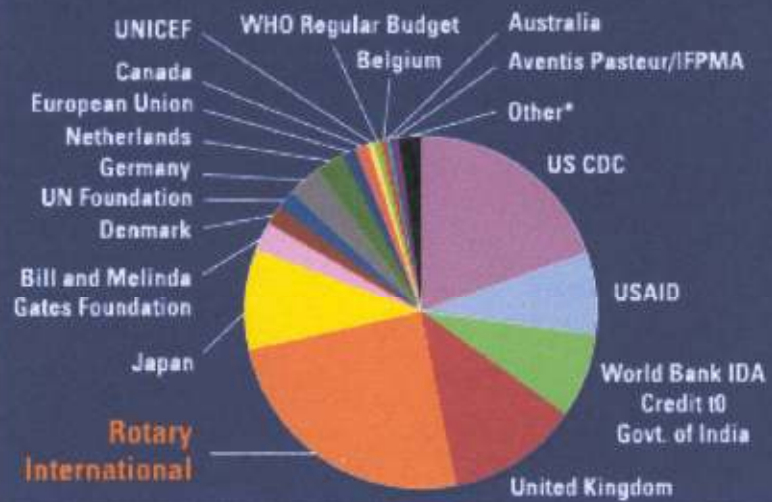


My personal thanks to everyone who has supported the polio eradication fund raising effort in District 7780. I am proud of each of you. I am proud to be a Rotarian.

Dan Mooers, PRID

Contributions 1985-2001

Total = US \$1.870 billion



Rotary is the largest nongovernmental financial contributor to the global polio eradication effort. By 2005, Rotary's financial commitment will exceed half a billion dollars.

From the Editor

This issue of the Loon is the last of the Rotary year 2002-2003. It is, as all such things are, bittersweet. I will miss the pictures and articles I've gotten from you, miss your comments and questions, miss the opportunities for exploring what we as Rotarians do and are. It has to be said though, that I'll not miss the late nights, the weekends in front of the computer, and the panic when promised pictures and articles didn't arrive on time.

It is my very great pleasure to be a Rotarian, and I hope I've managed to convey some of this glee, this passion, to you. Rotary and Rotarians are everywhere, and involved in so many projects that it's staggering to contemplate them all. Just the sums of money raised are overwhelming: \$88 million for polio - more than \$390,000 from this district ALONE! We didn't just beat Tim's goal - we skunked it!

Then throw in the time and effort involved - for each project, on each committee, in fitting in one more meeting or one more fund-raiser or one more talk with a child. Awesome! And none of it for ourselves. All of it in the pursuit of service for others. "Service Above Self." Certainly this is not a completely altruistic venture. Every one of you knows, or has experienced, the satisfaction of giving and doing for others. Indeed, I'm hard pressed to say that I could carry on without that satisfaction. I frequently think that I get more than I give.

There are many things to remember as a Rotarian: the four-way test, the object of Rotary, the four avenues of service, the declaration of vocations and integrity, service above self. All of these things make us what we are, and allow us to continue

on, serving others. Remember that service also includes your fellow Rotarians - in your club and your district, serving your families and your friends, your customers and clients, and serving yourself.

Last week we started a new year, with a new Rotary International president and motto, a new and dynamic district governor and, as always, new needs in our communities and our world. I wish you a wonderful year of challenge and exploration and of friends old and new.

My own thanks go out to PDG Tim and Gladys Placey for all they have given me, for their support and love, and for their dedicated and unremitting work in our Rotary world.

Yours in Rotary,
Liz

Bath 2002-2003



Australia and New Zealand



Vocational Service

District Vocational Service Chair Liz Cullen (Newburyport) writes to tell us about one of the many vocational service projects in the district in the last year. The Rotary Club of Exeter two years ago joined with the Exeter Kiwanis Club to select and reward a Citizen of the Year. Mae Bradshaw, Exeter's vocational chair, said in her project outline:

"The nomination forms were published in the Chamber newsletter and distributed through civic organizations. The panel selected the Citizen for each of the past two years. An awards program including the presentation of proclamations, and a Paul Harris Award for each recipient, was held at the Exeter Inn. Our second annual event...was attended by over 85 people. The press was very kind to write substantial articles about the event and the recipient."

Bradshaw goes onto say that the results of the project have been "great community outpouring of recognition for the

recipients and their embodiment of the principles of the four-way test."

Among other vocational projects were Fryeburg's mentoring and job shadowing effort with local high school students; Kennebunk's Halloween Haunted House, which gives a free alternative to families for Halloween celebrations and gives high school youths a positive opportunity. The kids get to transform a donated barn into "a scary maze!" It's reported that 300-400

people go through the barn each year. The Rotary Club of Bridgton-Lake Region has a number of projects going at once. They give book awards to high school graduates, they do career development and mentoring with high school students, and they support RYLA by sending students to the program each year. They also honor a High School Citizen of the Month, giving savings bonds as the reward.





*Southern America
South Portland's Cape Elizabeth
by
Connie Ruth Scott
Arcadia Publishing*



WATER LIGHT. Also known as Big Light, this South Portland landmark replaced a tower in 1875. The keeper's house was built in 1889. (Olden Photograph Collection)



South Portland-Cape Elizabeth 2002-2003





