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GREETINGS FROM GOVERNOR BRAD

Welcome to the beginning of a new Rotary year and my sincere congratulations and best wishes for much success to all of the new Presidents and club leadership teams. I am deeply honored to be serving as your District Governor this year, and eagerly anticipate the opportunity for all of us in District 7780 to work together and support each other throughout this year in Rotary's effort to "***Make Dreams Real.***" Penny & I look

forward to visiting all forty-one clubs over the next several months, renewing old friendships and acquaintances, making new Rotary friends and having the opportunity and privilege of seeing up close the dynamics of each and every one of your clubs – learning about the history of your club, your local and international projects, your fundraisers and what makes your club so outstanding and unique.

Governor Brad (cont.)

RI President D.K. Lee has asked all of us Rotarians to work together to ***"Make Dreams Real"*** for the children of this world, by focusing on reducing preventable child mortality. He reminds us that our years of experience and expertise in the areas of water, literacy, health & hunger have been a wise rotary choice and as a result, we are making significant positive changes throughout the world. He also impresses upon us the importance of sanitation projects in preventing clean water from becoming contaminated.

President D. K. Lee stated, "Alone you or I might be able to help an individual here or there and thus make small changes in small ways, but together as Rotarians our efforts are not only stronger, there is no limit as to

what we as an organization can accomplish." This is so true in what lies ahead in Rotary's commitment in the Bill & Melinda Gates PolioPlus Challenge of 100 million dollars. President D.K. Lee is asking every club in the world to donate a minimum of \$1000.00 each year for the next three years to meet this challenge. Your club Presidents will be rolling out the PolioPlus change cans as a means in helping to reach that goal. Remember, in 1985 Rotary promised every child, a world free from the threat of the crippling disease of Polio and we are almost there. We will keep our promise!

Finally, President D.K. Lee has asked us to make **membership** a key focus in 2008-2009 and rightfully so because of declining numbers in North America over the last several years. We must put renewed energy in placing as much importance on retaining our

existing members as we do on recruiting new, qualified members. We fully understand the needs throughout our local communities and around the world are not only increasing each year, they have become even more challenging. We must take action! ***Involve your members and have your club membership chair develop a committee that makes retention and recruitment a priority this year.*** When Rotarians work together and set goals, they can accomplish anything

Wishing all Rotarians and their families in District 7780 the best throughout this coming year!
Together, we will

"Make Dreams Real."

Yours in Rotary,

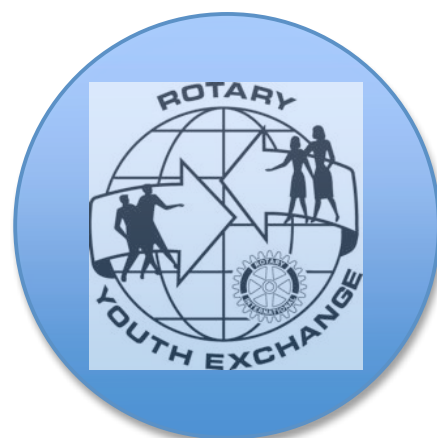
-Brad Jett

It's the new kids on the block. Nearly all of the members of the **South Berwick-Eliot** Rotary Club are shown at a recent meeting.

Meetings are every Thursday at 7:15 AM at the Community Center on Norton St.

Please drop by for a visit. Coffee's on at 7!





On Sunday, June 22, the **Oxford Hills** Rotary Club held a party for exchange student Adaica Rodriguez, who left for home in the Dominican Republic on Tuesday the 24th. She has been here since last August and spent the first half of her year with Joelle Corey and her family and the second half with Paul and Dawn Thornfeldt. She told us her party was "not a good bye party, but a "see you later party." Adaica is a wonderfully exceptional and courageous young woman and we wish her much happiness and success in the future.

These pictures were taken at the airport when Adaica departed. She had to pay an extra \$135 for her large heavy suitcases going home.



The **Bath Sunrise** Rotary Club said goodbye to its exchange student last week. Rotarian Marie Smith presented Petch with several gifts to carry back home to Thailand, commemorating his nine-month stay in Bath.



John Pappas
-Portsmouth



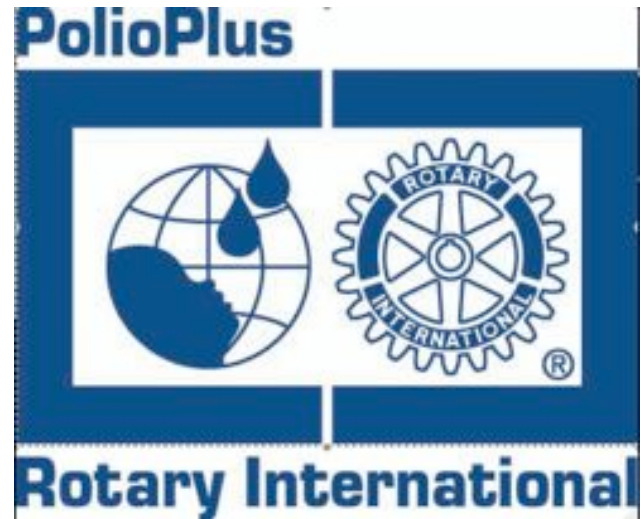
Laura Soussan & Joan
Correll - Hampton



Janice Wood & Bill
Hurley - Portsmouth



Rick Neville - Hampton



Bob Frese - Hampton

**PUT YOUR
LOOSE
CHANGE
IN THE
CANS!**

CHANGE for the better! Help us Eradicate Polio

The cans are in, and the labels have rolled off the presses. Thanks to the efforts of your fellow Rotarians (see accompanying photos), the PolioPlus cans are on their way.

District Governor Brad has implemented this PolioPlus campaign to help our District meet its goal in RI's quest to match the extraordinary \$100 million grant from the Bill and Melissa Gates Foundation. Brad will be distributing the cans throughout the District for Clubs to pass among their members and members' businesses and associates to meet this awesome challenge.

We know you will be fervent in your efforts to get the word out to your communities that we still need to continue with Rotary's most ambitious project to date – to eradicate polio from the face of this earth, once and forever! Let's all get behind the *Change for the better* drive and reach deep in our pockets for this most awesome endeavor. The cans also offer each of us an opportunity to tell someone else about Rotary.

Publicity for your Club and money to eradicate polio – talk about bang for your buck (or change)!

**JOAN CORRELL - POLIO PLUS
CHAIR**

Club Activities

Supporting the Community

BETHEL IS BUSY

The **Bethel** Rotary Club participated in the June 13 cleanup day at Camp Susan Curtis in Stoneham. Dozens of volunteers from all over southern Maine turned out to help the summer camp get ready for the season. Rotarians Scott Hynek, Mike Steven and Al Barth are shown removing an old porch floor from the camp's nurse's station, which they replaced with new planking.



Late June is one of the busiest fundraising times of the year for the **Bethel** Rotary Club. The Rotary Golf Challenge takes place June 23, drawing golfers to the Bethel Inn & Country Club for teams competition. Five days later, on June 28, the annual Rotary Yard Sale and Auction takes place at Telstar High School, with thousands of dollars worth of items sold and auctioned. Proceeds from both the golf challenge and yard sale/auction support the club's scholarship programs and contributions to many local charities and other community-oriented organizations.



S. PORTLAND/CAPE GETS DOUGH FOR DOUGH

The **S. Portland/Cape Elizabeth** Rotary Club raises about \$1500 during a one day Town event at Ft. Williams. The custom food trailer is set up to make fried dough, burgers and dogs. The members have a lot of fun supporting this Cape community event, while making a few bucks.



DUCKS BY THE LAKE FOR BRIDGTON

The **Bridgton Lake-Region** Rotary Club held its annual Great Bridgton Duck Race on July 4th. This fun event draws many visitors on vacation and locals alike. Pictured here are Past President Faye Daley and President Sheila Rollins.

Service Above Self in Africa



LEFT: Well drilling project at the Displaced People's Camp in Northern Uganda.



RIGHT: AIDS orphans in Jabulani

In June 2008 The Times Record of Brunswick, ME ran an article about the efforts of the **Brunswick Coastal Rotary Club** in South Africa and Uganda, noting that seven of the club's seventeen members have made at least one trip to Africa and several have ventured there more than once.

It all started in 1988, when Brunswick Coastal Rotary members raised \$6,000 to provide an incubator for the babies at St. Mary's Hospital in Marionhill, South Africa. Since then, with the help of Rotary International, Coastal Rotary members have provided such varied items as medical bags for 400 outreach volunteers, sewing machines for a women's empowerment group and a portable X-ray machine, to name a few.

Over the years Brunswick Coastal has made enormous contributions to better the lives of thousands in African communities in both South Africa and Uganda. And in true Rotary fashion it has partnered with many other District 7780 clubs to make its efforts even more effective. Some of the projects and co-sponsors are:

Matching Grant #8433, the infant resuscitator.

Co-sponsors: Westville-New Germany Rotary Club, Pinetown, South Africa

3H Grant #1276, Rotary Compassionate Care Centre, St. Mary's Hospital, Marionhill, South Africa.

Co-sponsors: Westville-New Germany Rotary Club, Pinetown, South Africa; Mackay Pioneer Rotary Club, Queensland, Australia.

Matching Grant 22887, for woodworking tools, sewing machines, and furniture for vocational training.

Co-sponsors: Westville-New Germany Rotary Club, Pinetown, South Africa; Boothbay Harbor Rotary Club.

Individual Grant 51362, for four Rotarian volunteers to travel to St. Mary's and provide training to Hospice caregivers at both the Compassionate Care Centre, and the Community Outreach Program.

Matching Grant 51389, Portable X-Ray Machine, St. Mary's Hospital, Marionhill, South Africa.

Co-sponsors: Westville-New Germany Rotary Club, Pinetown, South Africa; Kennebunk Portside Rotary Club, Ogunquit Rotary Club, Wells Rotary Club, Kittery Rotary Club, York Rotary Club.

A **Matching Grant** paid for two new wells and the repair of three others in a Displaced People's Camp in northern Uganda. The Italian Humanitarian group that performed the drilling not only did the job at cost, but also repaired a 4th well and planned to drill a 3rd, as one of the wells did not provide the expected amount of water. When the club's Past President, Mary Tennent went to Uganda on **VSG # 61901**, she visited all of the well sites.

MG # 63505 will provide a water well for the Mbabaali School for AIDS Orphans, located in Kampala, Uganda. There are over 100,000 AIDS orphans in the greater Kampala area. The Mbabaali School provides a free education, uniform and two meals per day for the students. Each day the school has to turn away students who request to attend the school.

Co-sponsors and contributors: Brunswick, Bridgton Lakes, Boothbay Harbor and Bath Sunrise Rotary Clubs. The international host club was the Kajjansi Rotary Club.

PROJECTS TO BENEFIT THE KIDS IN THE COMMUNITY

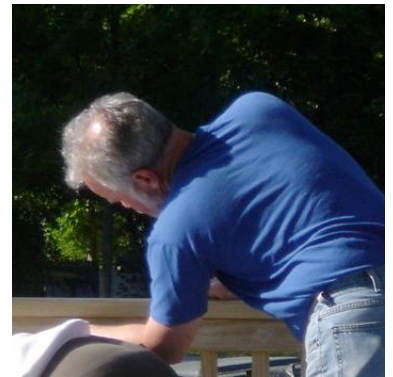
KENNEBUNK CONNECTION

Kennebunk Rotarians have been involved in a special “Community Connections” program at the local YMCA since 1996. Rotarians and other community members serve as mentors to middle school children who have the potential to thrive, but seem to have challenges that keep them from meeting that potential. They develop friendships with these boys and girls and act as guides during the school year. The group is shown visiting the new Emergency Dept. at Southern Maine Medical Center in Biddeford last January.



BATH BUILDER

Bath Sunrise Rotarian Susie Reed and husband David, a member of the **Bath Noontime** Rotary, fill nail holes on the Gazebo in Library Park, to ready it for painting after its recent rebuild. The **Sunrise** Rotary Club has been instrumental in maintaining the structure and raffled off a gas grill at its annual Chicken Barbecue on Thursday, 3 July, to support the restoration efforts.



FRYEBURG FIELD OF DREAMS

The **Fryeburg Area** Rotary Club is building a pavilion for the Recreation Department, to be located at the Field of Dreams. Dick Cote, former Rec Director and former Rotary President, is heading up this ambitious project. The much needed pavilion will provide shelter for the children in both sun and rain, and will be a permanent structure at the fields. To help with this project, contact Dick Cote at (207) 935-2793.



ROCHESTER READERS

The Rochester Rotary Club distributed books to the First Graders at St Elizabeth Seton School on June 20th as part of a Summer Reading Program. The club distributes books to all the first graders in town each June. This year there were 391 recipients.





Rotary District 7780 held its 18th **RYLA** program at Camp Hinds in Raymond, ME from June 20-26. The program was attended by more than one hundred students who had just completed their sophomore year at high schools throughout the District. About half of the clubs in the District sponsored students to attend the program.





HAMPTON HAPPENINGS

left: The Rotary Club of **Hampton**, NH recently completed its Semi-annual Rotary Park clean-up. Nine members volunteered to clip branches, rake leaves, move mulch, repaint playground equipment and make the park look good for summer.

below: The **Hampton** rotary softball team has begun another fun-filled season, eager to uphold its reputation as the most spirited and entertaining club in the league. Now for some wins!

Did you know? The Hampton Rotary Club had 52 members and guests in attendance at the District Changeover Dinner in Portland to show their enthusiastic support for Brad Jett as he was sworn in as the new Governor of District 7780.

DURHAM HAPPY BUCKS

At a recent breakfast meeting of The Rotary Club of **Durham-Great Bay**, David Whitehouse, Manager of Red's Shoe Barn, was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation in grateful acknowledgement of the continuing cooperation and contribution his company provides for the needs of our communities' youth.

For a number of years, the Rotary Club of **Durham-Great Bay** has used its Happy Bucks revenue to fund a local Rotary initiative to purchase boots, shoes and bicycle helmets for needy children of the Oyster River and Newmarket school systems. Partnering in this effort is the Dover branch of Red's Shoe Barn. School nurses help identify the need and the Club provides the vouchers.

This winter, personnel at Red's Shoe Barn assisted 21 youngsters in picking out quality boots and shoes, totaling over \$700 in merchandise. Red's generously discounts the cost to **Durham-Great Bay** Rotary Club.

A happy use for our Happy Bucks!



OXFORD HILLS AUCTION

The **Oxford Hills** Rotary Club held its annual Kiwanis / Rotary auction and flea market on July 11th and 12th on the grounds of Oxford Hills Comprehensive High School. The event was supported by local businesses. This is the club's largest event and it is always a lot of fun working with the Kiwanis Club to put it together.

The club is also in the planning stages for its Annual Lobster Feed which will be on August 16th, also on the high school grounds by the tennis courts. This is their second largest fund raiser, and although it's a lot of work, it's also a lot of fun, and well worth the effort!



7780 CLUBS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

through

DISTRICT SIMPLIFIED GRANTS



Members of the Sanford-Springvale club install playground equipment at an adult day care facility. This was just one of 14 club projects that District 7780 clubs underwrote last year thanks to Rotary Foundation funds dispersed through the District Simplified Grant program.

The final reports are in! Last year 14 clubs in District 7780 used District Simplified Grant (DSG) monies to make a difference in their own communities. We supported HIV/AIDS testing and awareness in **Brunswick** and a blood drive in **Kittery**, provided a pediatric trauma kit in **Sebago Lake**, got involved with Meals on Wheels in **Hampton**, built sports facilities and upgraded playgrounds in **Portsmouth** and **Saco Bay** and grew a children's garden in **Yarmouth**. We supported adult day-care in **Sanford-Springvale** and **South Berwick**, and in **Boothbay Harbor** and **Bridgton Lakes**, we bought dictionaries, reading books and literacy materials for our school kids. Whew!

This year, about \$20,000 is again available to the entire District in DSG grant money. Don't lose out! Your club can apply for support for your favorite community project, and take advantage of some of this money. After all, we raised it: Our DSG grant money is just part of the funds we as D-7780 Rotarians give to the Rotary Foundation each year, returned to help us effect humanitarian work in our own communities.

You can read about the District Simplified Grant program, what makes for a winning application and ideas of how your community might benefit right here on this website: Go to "Foundation Grants," click on "District Simplified Grants," and read on.

You'll also find the application form on the website. But don't wait: The final (final) final deadline for applying is July 30.

Your club's application must be sent to Todd Doolan (todd.h.doolan@smithbarney.com) by the end of July. The District Foundation committee meets in August to make the tough decisions; clubs will be informed of the status of their applications by the end of August, and checks received one month later.

Good luck!

A CHANGEOVER “TWOFR”



Governor Elect Jeff Pelkey swears in new Presidents
Phil Congdon – **Damariscotta-Newcastle** (L) and Andy Hamblett – **Boothbay Harbor** (R)



Outgoing **Damariscotta-Newcastle** President Carol Ransom of Bremen turned the Club Gavel over to incoming President Phil Congdon of Round Pond.



Incoming **Boothbay Harbor** President Andy Hamblett (L) congratulates outgoing president Skip Krehling on a terrific year, while club member (and president's wife) Sue Krehling looks on.

Incoming President Phil Congdon introduced his “Make Dreams Real” team:

Pres-Elect - Karen Filler
Vice Pres – Judy Speers
Secretary – Dirk Poole
Treasurers – Lee Simard & Pete Blanton
Sgt-at-Arms – Steve Burton

Board of Directors – Dave Bragg, Clete Bates, Craig Wilson, John Atwood, Joe Kindred and Gary Speers.

The club meets every Tuesday at 7:15 AM in the second Congregational Church on River Road in Newcastle.

Outgoing President Skip summarized the clubs activities over the past year:

The club raised a record amount of money, then turned around and spent it. Donations included \$12K to meet Boothbay’s regional needs, \$11K for local educational purposes, \$9K to national and international projects and \$4K for upkeep of Scout Hall and to host community events. We won a Matching Grant to support a school in LA, and a District Simplified Grant for dictionaries and books here at home. A new task force is working to expand local transportation services for the elderly in a way that will benefit the entire community in the future. A program to provide bicycles to seasonal international workers continues to be a big success, since it recognizes an otherwise almost invisible segment of our society.



Oxford Hills Rotary Club outgoing President Donna Martin passes the club charter to incoming president John Griffith.



Congratulations to the new officers of the **Breakwater Daybreak** Rotary Club of South Portland/Cape Elizabeth. (l to r) Gary Berenson, Past President, Shirley Mooers, Secretary, Bartley Cardon, Treasurer and Jim Price, President. Absent when picture was taken were Sharon Bernier, President Elect, Mark Duval, Vice President and Sharon Bernier, President-Elect.

The outgoing President of the **Saco Bay**, Rotary Club, Deb Cote, reflected on the past year's accomplishments at the club's recent changeover dinner. She noted the success of the Eyes for the Needy program, the annual Toys for Tots campaign, the York County Jail Literacy Program, the Youth Exchange Program and many local community projects.

Commenting on the Pierson's Lane Playground Development Project, which she headed, she said "What really touched my heart and the memory I hold from this project was seeing a picture on the front page of the local newspaper of a young girl on a swing at the playground with a big smile on her face. That smile was priceless. This is what being a Rotarian is all about." Rotarians from the **Saco Bay** club, along with other community partners, donated time and money towards the local playground project to ensure that children will have a safe area in which to play and to further good community relations.

Awards presented at the dinner included the club's "Service Above Self" award, which was presented to non-Rotarians Winnie and Melvin Sedlar, who were recognized for their years of service through their careers in the Salvation Army. Blake Baldwin and Lee Cote, from Video Creations, were the evening's second recipients of the award. They were honored for their professional commitment in providing video production services to assist many community and non-profit organizations. The Jack Gasemeyer/Rotarian of the Year award was presented to Dru Laduke, who was recognized for his dedication to the club's success, his upbeat attitude, and exemplifying what a Rotarian is.

Finally, Deb was presented with a beautiful Rotary hardwood chair from the club as a token of appreciation for her own service.

SOME FINAL THOUGHTS ON MEMBERSHIP

The new year has begun and all clubs face the challenge put forth by RI President D.K. Lee to increase membership this year. August will be Membership Month, a good time to get a jump on the challenge. Now is the time to start planning. All members need to be encouraged to invite their friends, relatives, or business acquaintances to see what Rotary is all about. Make it easy for them, have programs planned well in advance so members can invite people to come hear about a topic of special interest.

Schedule an open social event where members are encouraged to invite friends. Provide information at the event in a casual and informal manner on what the club has done, has planned for the year, and what Rotary International is doing this year. Invite them to bring their family and you bring yours – so it is clear that participation in Rotary is not an activity that needs to take away from family time. Make it fun. Follow it up with invitations to a meeting.

Put thought and effort into your club meetings. Remember, a well planned and friendly meeting and program are the best ways of ensuring that guests will want to come back. First impressions are very important. Do they feel like outsiders, or are they greeted warmly and put at ease? Are they invited to sit with others, or are they ignored so that they hang back to make sure they do not sit in the “wrong” seat? Membership is not just about getting someone to a meeting, a membership candidate has to experience something at that meeting that they want to be a part of.

Check out the Membership Tools on the District Web site, share your best ideas, borrow shamelessly from others and modify to suit your own club. Need program ideas? How about checking out projects being done by your neighboring clubs and inviting them to talk to your club about what they are doing?

Share the energy!

Dave Gooch - District Membership Chairman

