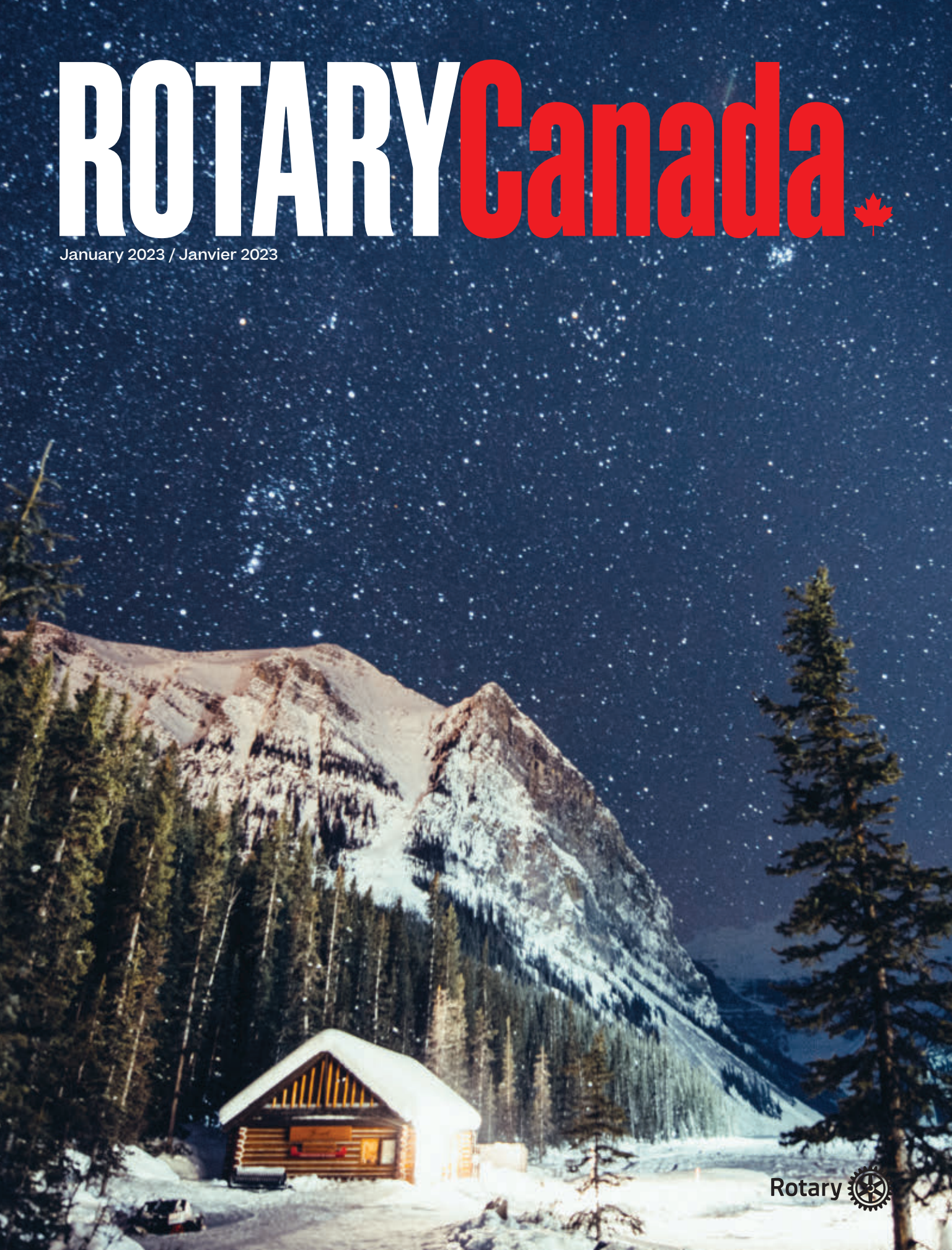


ROTARYCanada

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VIEW FROM THE NORTH

‘Beyond today into tomorrow’

In late October in Geneva, Rotary International and the World Health Organization sponsored a symposium entitled “World Polio Day 2022 and Beyond: A Healthier Future for Mothers and Children.” At the end of the two-day conference — which featured inspiring stories, useful breakout sessions, and lively panel discussions — RI President Jennifer Jones offered closing remarks that served both as summary and summons.

After thanking those who had organized the conference or made presentations, she asked members of the live audience (though there were thousands more watching online) to describe the action steps they intended to take once they returned home. “And I want three of them,” she said, “so we know that, as people of action, we are going to take action from this, that we’re not simply sharing ideas, which is important, but that we’re acting upon them. That we’re taking the knowledge that has come out of this room, through the discussions and through the presentations, and making sure that they are meaningful beyond today into tomorrow.”

Three audience members volunteered their promised action steps, though the entire conference had essentially been a guide to turning ideas into actions. See for yourself — you can find recorded highlights of the event at rotary.org/watch-world-polio-day-2022-and-beyond — and then, responding to Jones’ summons, decide what your next action step will be.

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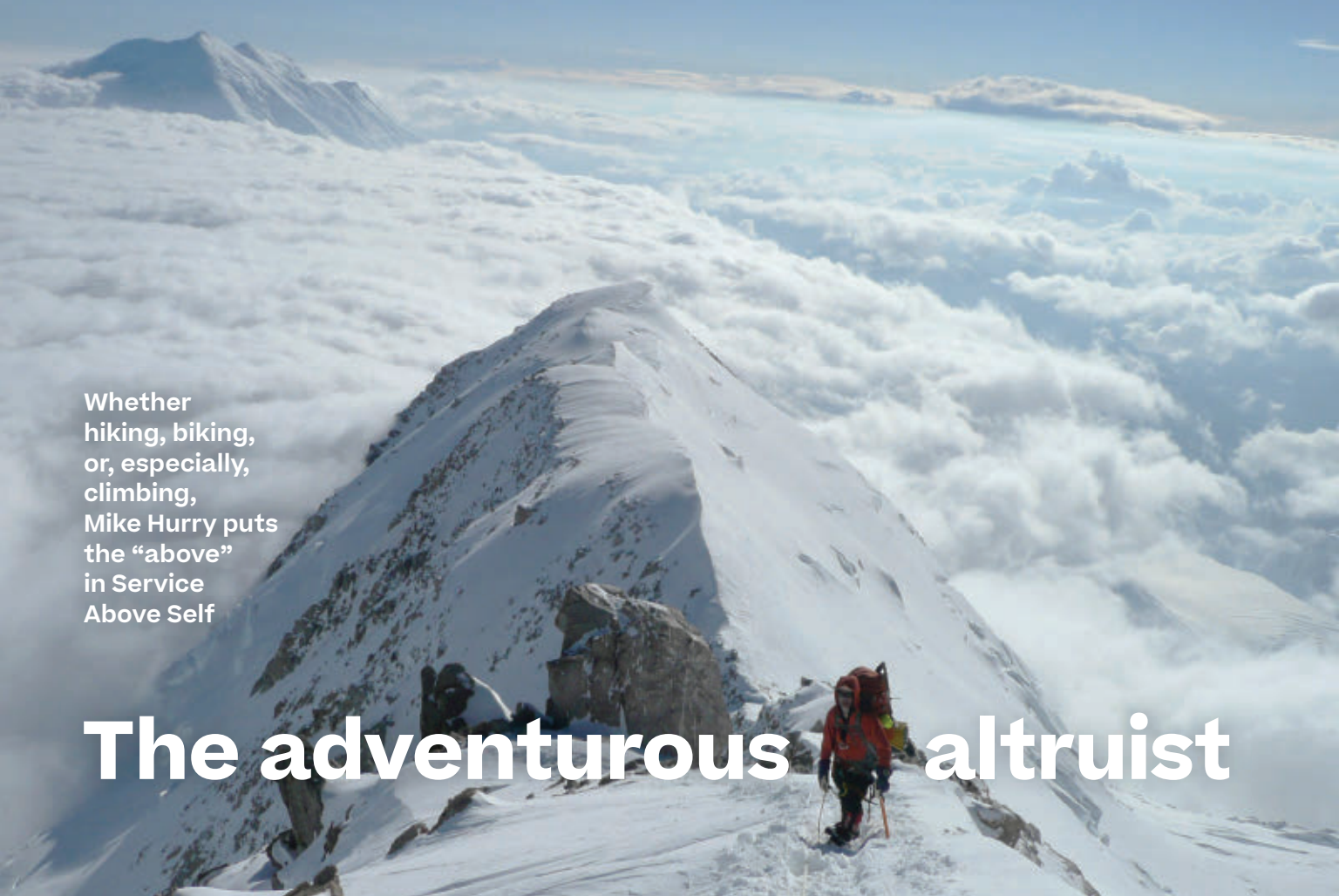
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PHOTO OF THE MONTH

When is a bear not a bear? Why, when it’s a beaver, of course. In Geneva, at “World Polio Day 2022 and Beyond,” RI President Jennifer Jones introduces a Canadian spin on the End Polio Now teddy bear: a furry, bucktoothed beaver clad in a red End Polio Now sweater, a gift from Rotary members in Brazil.



Whether hiking, biking, or, especially, climbing, Mike Hurry puts the “above” in Service Above Self

The adventurous altruist

In April 2021, Mike Hurry stepped down as executive director of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Sarnia-Lambton. He'd been with the organization for more than 40 years, and Hurry, a longtime member of the Rotary Club of Sarnia, Ontario, looked forward to a well-earned retirement. Something restful and relaxing such as ... riding his bike across Canada. And his motivation behind that journey would be to raise money for the organization he had just left — with a big helping hand from his own Rotary club and four others in District 6330, where Hurry is the 2022-23 assistant governor.

His decision to begin his retirement with a demanding physical and philanthropic challenge was very much in character, as was his choice to include Rotary as an integral part of the endeavour. “At some point in time I think I’ve spoken to every service club in Lambton County, including the Rotary clubs,” he says. “And probably every service club invited me to join at some point, but Rotary is the only service club I ever agreed to join. I always liked Rotary, because of the international work they do *and* the work in the community.”

Hurry joined Rotary in 2002; he began to take his penchant for altruistic adventures to new heights seven years later when, at a fundraising gala, a friend suggested they raise money for charity by climbing the 5,895-metre Mount Kilimanjaro in Africa. “If someone had told me 20 years ago that I was going to start climbing mountains, I would have said, ‘Why?’ I really had no interest in doing it,” recalls Hurry.

Yet when his friend made the suggestion, Hurry agreed. (Looking back, he says, “You should really be careful what you agree to when you’ve had a couple of glasses of wine.”) The first step was fundraising, and Hurry had an ingenious plan. He announced that he intended to climb Kilimanjaro and invited others to join him. “It really captured the imagination of the community,” Hurry says, and in the end, 24 other locals joined him for the climb, with the members paying their own expenses and committing to raise \$3,000 each for the charities. “We were fortunate in that one of the on-air personalities at a local radio station wanted to do the climb,” Hurry explains. “He was on the trip with

us, and he called the radio station almost daily to say, ‘Hey, this is where we are today, and this is what we’re experiencing.’ And so that just got the whole community involved.”

When the climbers returned home to Sarnia, they rented an auditorium and invited sponsors and donors to come hear stories about the trip. “We filled the auditorium twice,” says Hurry. “We thought, this caught on so well with the community, we really need to use these auditorium presentations as an advertisement of where we’re going to go next.” That 2009 climb became the model for future fundraising adventures to Aconcagua in Argentina, Denali in Alaska, Elbrus in Russia, and other challenging destinations — many of which were visited more than once. (Hurry has since been back to Kilimanjaro five times, and when the pandemic prevented a return to Denali in 2020, he and a friend ascended the steps of an 11-story build-

↑ **Ain’t no mountain high enough:** In Alaska, Mike Hurry treks through the snow on the west buttress route of Denali, the tallest peak in North America.



ing 200 times to simulate the climb.) In August 2019, prior to a fundraising trip to Iceland, Hurry estimated that his trips had raised about \$750,000 for Sarnia's Big Brothers Big Sisters.

But Hurry's fundraising efforts were not restricted to helping out only at home. "My most enjoyable vacations are the ones where I'm under my own power, whether that's cycling or climbing or hiking," he says. "So I've done some pretty neat things. And lots of times I've said, why do this if I'm not going to do some good for somebody else — not only for a local organization, but to do something for whatever country we're travelling to."

A perfect example occurred when Hurry took his first group to one of the base camps at Mount Everest, where, from about 5,200 metres, climbers begin their attempts at reaching the 8,850-metre summit. "We raised money and transferred it to a Rotary club in Kathmandu," Hurry says. "They used the money to build ramps at a school so disabled kids could get their wheelchairs up to the second floor."

Knowing all that, Hurry's decision to begin his retirement with a cross-Canada bike-riding fundraiser makes perfect sense. "In the back of my mind, I've always wanted to cycle across the country," he says. "But it's the kind of thing you can't really do until you're retired, because you need a significant amount of time to do it right. I didn't want to rush it. I wanted to be able to stop and visit communities. And so I thought, I may as well do it as a fundraiser."

The money raised will go to Big Brothers Big Sisters — not just in Sarnia, but to other affiliates across Canada — and District 6330 Rotary clubs play a central role in the Ride for Kids. According to Hurry, once the clubs signed on to help sponsor the ride at a certain dollar level, he agreed that they could have the naming rights (a suggestion, Hurry says, that came from one of the club's presidents). Pledges from the Rotary clubs of Sarnia, Sarnia Lambton After-Hours, Sarnia-Bluelwaterland, Grand Bend, and Watford reached that level.

Hurry hoped to begin the ride — which he intended to conduct in two phases across two years — in 2021, but the pandemic got in the way. (In retrospect, that may have been a blessing: The terrible heat and intense forest fires that plagued the Pacific Northwest that summer may

→
"A beautiful country:" Fulfilling his goal to enjoy the towns he encountered along his ride, Hurry rested for a day on Kootenay Lake while visiting Nelson, British Columbia.



↑
In the beginning: Hurry begins his Ride for Kids in Victoria, British Columbia. His plan is to finish it this summer by dipping the wheel of his bike in the Atlantic Ocean at Canada's easternmost point.

←
Ain't no river wide enough: With nary a bike, hike, or climb in sight, Hurry takes to the water and boards a boat on the Amazon River.

→
Have project? Will travel: Hurry, a frequent fundraiser, says he tries "to do something for whatever country we're travelling to." On this occasion, he and his fellow travellers are building houses in the Dominican Republic.





Head in the clouds: A once-reluctant mountain climber, Hurry (shown here on Denali) finds himself returning repeatedly to the world's tallest peaks. "It's hard to explain to people what the attraction is if they haven't done it," he says.



Europe's tallest: Hurry led one group to the Caucasus Mountains in Russia, where they climbed Mount Elbrus.



En route to Machu Picchu in Peru: "My most enjoyable vacations are the ones where I'm under my own power," says Hurry.



have put a halt to his ride.) Finally, in early August 2022, he and his wife, Debra, drove from Sarnia to Victoria, British Columbia, in the RV that they had recently purchased. "Every penny that's donated goes to Big Brothers Big Sisters," Hurry says. "We're not taking anything out of the donations that people make or the sponsorship that the Rotary clubs and companies have made to cover any of my expenses to do this."

With the RV, driven by Debra, serving as his base, Hurry set off from Victoria on 21 August and headed east, accompanied by friends on bikes as far as Fort Macleod in southwestern Alberta. His first day on the road, he had a flat tire, but it turned out to be the only one he experienced during the entire first phase of his ride. "We had great weather [throughout the ride], which was a bonus," Hurry says. "It's a great way to see the country — and it's a beautiful country. When you're driving, you see it, but it all goes by in a flash. And

you're not stopping at all these little communities that have some really interesting, redeeming, wonderful things to see and visit. It's a great way to go."

Hurry had intended to complete the first phase of the ride in Sarnia, but personal matters compelled him to stop in Marathon, an Ontario town on Lake Superior between Thunder Bay and Sault Ste. Marie. He intends to complete that stretch of the ride this year, though he's not sure exactly when. Though his plans are still in flux, he may begin the second phase of his ride as early as May, and his goal — "unless I get struck by lightning or whatever" — is to ultimately dip the wheel of his bike in the waters of the Atlantic Ocean off Cape Spear, Newfoundland and Labrador — the easternmost point in Canada. He also expects to reach, and perhaps even surpass, his goal of raising \$100,000 with his ride.

And Hurry, who so fully embodies the ideal of Service Above Self, intends

to continue, and perhaps even grow, his involvement with Rotary. He has given much thought about how to sustain and increase the diversity of membership. "That's something we really have to work on," he says. "And I think there's a lot of power in Rotary clubs working together to do things to support each other. That would be even more engaging to members, because then they're not just involved in their own club, they're involved in the activities of their sister clubs."

Whatever the future holds, Rotary will never lose its lure for Mike Hurry. "There are lots of great things about Rotary," he says. "You have 1.4 million members and over 48,000 Rotary and Rotaract clubs, and they are each different and unique. But they are all focused on the idea that they're here to serve the community and make their community, or some other community, a better place. That's what attracted me, and that's what will keep me involved in Rotary."

— GEOFFREY JOHNSON





NOTES DE TERRAIN

Un service alimentaire rotarien de produits frais pour le Grand Montréal

*par Michèle Herblin, Rotary E-Club
de District 7040-Premier*

On recense plus de 671 000 visites aux banques alimentaires du Québec en 2022, avec une augmentation significative de la demande depuis 2019. En plus de la précarisation des emplois, l'augmentation fulgurante de l'inflation du coût des aliments installe un sentiment profond d'insécurité alimentaire. Je me suis demandé : Pour aider à résoudre à ce problème, serait-il possible de conserver une partie des millions de tonnes de nourriture qui sont gaspillées chaque année au Canada?

Deux constats m'ont décidé à m'engager : le mot poignant de cette mère de famille lors d'une distribution de paniers alimentaires d'urgence organisée par notre club Rotary, qui devait choisir entre prendre le bus pour aller à l'épicerie ou marcher pour aller chercher ce qu'on voulait bien lui donner; et cette livraison d'une grande banque alimentaire à un organisme communautaire de quartier, dont le camion était plein de croustilles, de barres énergisantes et de boissons sucrées.

Une aide alimentaire 'nouveau genre' s'est imposée à moi, tout à la fois écologique, éducative et nutritive, permettant de rétablir le lien avec les saines habitudes alimentaires et avec la richesse de la terre québécoise.

Je me suis donc tournée vers les producteurs agricoles auprès desquels je me fournissais quand j'avais mon restaurant, et j'ai pris la mesure du gaspillage agricole énorme qui nous entoure. Tous ces produits qui ne correspondent pas aux normes du marché se

retrouvent en grande partie enfouis pour faire du compost ou pour nourrir les animaux.

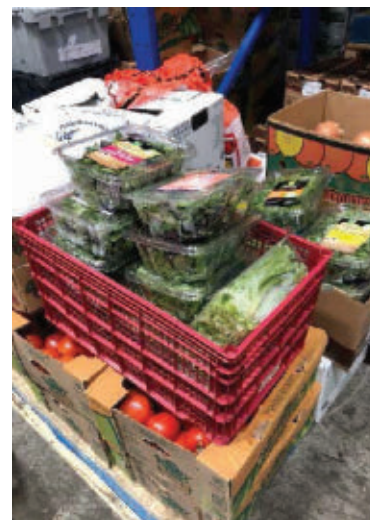
À Montréal, en collaboration avec un partenaire local, nous avons bâti un projet de banque alimentaire spécialisée dans les produits frais végétaux, complémentaire à l'offre des grandes banques alimentaires. L'objectif est triple : réduire l'insécurité alimentaire des familles démunies, réintroduire les fruits et légumes frais pour une alimentation équilibrée et diminuer le gaspillage alimentaire pour nourrir à un coût dérisoire. La récupération régulière et constante des denrées invendues auprès des maraîchers locaux, et des importateurs-grossistes nous permet de répondre aux besoins croissants de la communauté. Le défi était de taille : constituer les équipes de bénévoles, organiser la logistique de ramassage et de distribution, développer le réseau d'approvisionnement, et gérer les dons aux organismes bénéficiaires. Tous les clubs Rotary et Rotaract du Grand Montréal ont été sollicités pour contribuer aux diverses tâches de l'activité.

Tous les samedis, une douzaine de membres de différents clubs de la région viennent trier les légumes donnés, sous la coordination du E-Club Premier 7040. La répartition des denrées aux organismes se fait le lundi avec l'aide du partenaire professionnel, et les palettes prêtes à être livrées sont stockées dans la chambre froide de l'entrepôt. La logistique des livraisons et des ramassages se fait conjointement avec les organismes communautaires. Quelques Rotariens se chargent également de transformer les surplus en confitures, soupes, sauces et gâteaux en prévision des paniers de Noël.

Au total, de janvier à octobre 2022, plus de 2800 familles ont été servies par mois; et plus de 52 tonnes de légumes et fruits frais, pour une valeur marchande de plus de 312 000 \$, ont été distribués gratuitement.

Un grand merci à tous les bénévoles actuels et futurs, qui prennent plaisir à partager les tâches de cette banque alimentaire devenue source de vie, de santé et de bon sens agro-environnemental.

De janvier à octobre 2022, plus de 2800 familles ont été servies par mois grâce à la banque alimentaire soutenue par les clubs Rotary et Rotaract du Grand Montréal.



1

1

Thanksgiving

1928
ANNIVERSARY NIGHT
HIGH RIVER ROTARY CLUB

1935

BOB SKOV. 1928
First Chairman of the local Club—
A jolly well good fellow
A spokesman of most fellows—BOB he's OK!

VIN STANLEY. 1929
Party person—slightly bald
Is like a funny story
Frequent, just and sincere
An out and good feller.

BILL MARSHALL
Spoken—Baldster
Rotary International

1930
Perform "Tillie"
Heads were a-dod
Now like Tillie.

ELLISON CAPERS. 1931
2nd rather than 1st Grade
At 20 or 30 painted doll
Here, Ellison, tell a story
Is that dandy Kentucky dandy.

DOC BLAYNEY. 1932
Our shaking your shingles,
Our Jack's a regular thaild
The shiner he can find wrong with you
Are near by, and called.

FRANK VVATT. 1933
good Rotarian, he say that he got
good Rotarian for my name, VVATT

ORRIE ZIMMERMAN. 1934-5
If anyone knows like shivering,
It's surely our friend Jim
He also knows his history,
And we're mighty proud of him.

3

2 April 9th 1938 45

High River Rotary Club.
Meeting in charge of Community Service
Frank Watt Chairman.

3. Absentees
Autobiographies by Joyce and Be. Thorsen.
Letter Read from Amos A. Myers, Chicago office
complimenting Club on "Activities" Report.
All Kelly announced District Conference
and asked for Agreement for Transportation.
Frank had arranged for a Calgary Speaker but
impossible reasons precluded his coming.
Frank read a very interesting address on
"First Things First" given by the Editor of
"Ministry Report". Financial Report Read
by ~~Thomas~~ ~~and~~ ~~Robert~~.
Doctors met at 6.30.
Passed Club Activities Report, A/S of \$14.50
for cupboards and golf hammer.
Decided to appoint Calgary Club our Proxy
to International Conference at Atlantic City.
Discussed a price of \$7. each for the
Rotary Road Signs and decided to get prices
on metal ones.

Club Photos: B. J. Davis 4.25
2 8 x 10 "seagulls" print. 4.00
6 Books individual 4.00
10 Books accompanied 43.75
Collected 20.75
7.00
5 Books
1. "Shanghai" Holmes 75
1. "Mysterious" Holmes 75
1. "V. Brown" 75
1. "The Mystery" 75
1. "The Mystery" 75
1. "The Mystery" 75

3

So here's to the wheel, and the six little spokes;
And the cogs and the letters of blue;
For this is the symbol you wear on your coat
Is a trust that is given to you.

The softball opener of the Spring League was played between Rotarians and Independents on Thursday evening, with Rotarians leading 11 to 0. It was a whitening game, with Veterans, Haynes and Kelly in the box for Rotary, while Roslip, Peck and the Independents' batsmen formed the Independents' batting line. The old boys are running round the bases this year and are going to be hard to beat.

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The Rotary Foundation
La Fondation Rotary du
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c/o 911600
PO Box 4090 STN A
Toronto, ON M5W 0E9



rotary.org/donate

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