

# Literacy Newsletter



## District 7810



Like us on Facebook at "District 7810 Literacy Initiative"

Rotaryliteracy7810@gmail.com

Fall 2018

## Welcome to the first District 7810 Newsletter!

**We are very excited to share with you the literacy work being done in District 7810. What is your club doing? What would you like to do? What need do you see in your community?**

**In this issue you will learn what the district 7810 Literacy Committee has been up to and get contact information for YOUR Regional Literacy Representative! Please reach out and let them know what your club is doing and how they can help support your club's efforts.**

**You will learn about 2 Literacy Programs close to the hearts of many Rotarians; one local and one international. These are 2 tried and true ways that your club can get involved with supporting literacy.**

**You will learn about the "District 7810 Literacy Resource Document"- an ever-changing resource that outlines programs that your club is encouraged to access and add to.**

*Is your club active in literacy work or wanting to get involved?*

*Reach out to your Regional Representative, or the above email address and together we'll improve literacy at home and abroad!*

## 7810 Literacy Committee

### Area of Focus: Supporting Education

*More than 775 million people over the age of 15 are illiterate. Our goal is to strengthen the capacity of communities to support basic education and literacy, reduce gender disparity in education, and increase adult literacy.-rotary.org*

In 2015 the District 7810 Literacy Committee was reinstated under the leadership of John Slipp and Genie Coates. Two major projects undertaken in those early years were a survey of club projects and the development of a literacy resource document. Workshops were offered during training days as well. Since that time Peter McIntyre and Angie Cummings joined the committee and the structure has expanded to include 3 other initiatives.

- 1) Recruiting Literacy Regional Representatives
- 2) Collecting, Preparing and updating the 7810 Literacy Resource Document
- 3) Preparing the first District 7810 Literacy Newsletter for release at the 2018 District Conference

In the past year, the committee has been recruiting Rotarians who are passionate about literacy to act as Regional Representatives with the district.

### What is the mandate of the Regional Representative?

To advocate for Literacy activities, to collect and share club literacy activities and information with the District Literacy Committee, to collect and share District Literacy activities and information with the clubs and to support clubs through resources offered internally by the District Literacy Committee and externally from other organizations promoting Literacy.

## What are the tasks of the Regional Representatives?

1. Identify the club literacy activities.
2. Identify club literacy needs.
3. Learn about and become familiar with literacy information and resources available from the District Literacy Committee, Rotary International and other external organizations so as to be able to share this knowledge and information with their area clubs.
4. Advocate for more literacy activities to be sponsored and facilitated by their area clubs.

## Regional Representatives

-Valerie Carmichael - North Western NB - Woodstock and North to and including Edmundston on NB side of Border. [vkc@xplornet.com](mailto:vkc@xplornet.com)-

-Sharon Campbell - North Eastern Maine - Houlton - Fort Kent [sharoncampbell31@hotmail.com](mailto:sharoncampbell31@hotmail.com)

-Audrey Ronalds - North Eastern NB - Campbellton to Miramichi, [audrey.ronalds@nbed.nb.ca](mailto:audrey.ronalds@nbed.nb.ca)

-Lisa Gallagher - South Eastern NB - Bouctouche to Shediac, [lisa.gallagher@live.ca](mailto:lisa.gallagher@live.ca)

-Ian Franklin - Greater Moncton Area - Dieppe – Moncton [ifranklin@cwatlantic.com](mailto:ifranklin@cwatlantic.com)

-Clair Ripley - Greater Fredericton Area - Gagetown - Oromocto and Fredericton area. [clairripley@gmail.com](mailto:clairripley@gmail.com)

NEEDED! - Sussex and Rothesay Area

NEEDED! - South Western NB - Grand Manan - St. Stephen and Saint John



“When you teach somebody how to read, they have that for a lifetime. It ripples through the community, one by one.” **Mark Wilson** Rotary member



## The Imagination Library in District 7810 and Beyond

In 1995 Dolly Parton established the Imagination Library. This program, with the help of communities, provides good quality, age appropriate books to preschool children at no cost to their families. It was developed because Dolly believed every child should have their own books to read and enjoy, cultivating a love of learning. The program quickly spread to other parts of the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom and Australia. It has been over 20 years since Imagination Library started and millions of books have been received in the mail by enthusiastic children.

The Rotary Club of Port Elgin began the process of acquiring this program for their area children in 2008. Very quickly the local school district jumped aboard and by 2009 the Imagination Library was launched in several school catchment areas in South Eastern New Brunswick. This was the beginning of Imagination Library in New Brunswick. Now many other areas (Gagetown, Oromocto, and Sussex, to name a few) have established the program with the help of other community partners. Several Rotary Clubs throughout Rotary District 7810 have become key to working with school districts and additional partners to ensure preschool children continue to receive these free books.

The importance of reading to very young children has long been recognized as having a positive lifelong effect.



## International Literacy Project Making a Significant Difference

Research shows that the human brain achieves much of its growth by aged three. As very young children develop positive relationships with books and explore them with loving adults they are taking a giant step towards attaining language development goals which will be the basic building blocks of literacy success.

As a result of the guaranteed provision of books through the Dolly Parton Imagination Library and the assistance of many supporting individuals and agencies it is hoped that ALL young children will receive more literary stimulation in a home environment. With this background the more formal training that begins in the classroom will be viewed as a natural progression along the continuum of learning to read and write. Once again that link between a child's success at reading and their early exposure to books is established.

The old African Proverb, "It takes a community to raise a child", has new meaning when viewed in the context of the Imagination Library. Dolly Parton, who was raised with few books, had the vision to provide books for ALL children. Rotary Clubs in our district have offered their support to the program. For more information contact Clair Ripley (Gagetown Rotary Club) [clairripley@gmail.com](mailto:clairripley@gmail.com) or Genie Coates (Rotary Club of Port Elgin) [gcoates@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:gcoates@nbnet.nb.ca) and visit <https://imaginationlibrary.com>.

Got a story for us?

Send us your Club's Literacy Project information for an upcoming issue of the Literacy Newsletter!

The Guatemala Literacy Project (GLP) is a project with a proven track record. It is improving the lives of children in Guatemala, a country with widespread illiteracy and poverty. In Canada the Rotary Club of North Bay, Ontario spearheads this project which is supported by Rotary Clubs throughout North America, Guatemala and the rest of the world. To date over 600 clubs and 80 districts are contributing partners to GLP.

Some components of the project include textbook purchases and the establishment of computer centers and libraries. In addition, scholarships are awarded to Guatemalan children to enable them to attend school. This is huge in a country where many families cannot afford to send their children to school.

In Rotary District 7810 Project GIIVE (Guatemalan Infrastructure Improvement Venture) exists. The GLP project is complementary to the efforts being made by clubs in District 7810 to improve the well-being of the people of Guatemala

For more information contact:  
Project GIIVE contact Gary Stewart, Woodstock Rotary Club 506 612 1113  
[gary.stewart@themobileshop.ca](mailto:gary.stewart@themobileshop.ca)

Guatemala Literacy Project (GLP)  
<https://www.guatemalaliteracy.org/the-project/>