

cult problems cannot be solved, Rotarians are on the ground helping get the job done”.

Rotarians are well aware that RI's greatest effort to date has been its daring quest to rid the earth of Polio (a goal it has pursued relentlessly since 1985). Rotarians have raised an astounding amount of money towards the effort and thousands of Rotarian volunteers have toiled on the ground in the planning and delivery of numerous national immunization days.

Probably Rotary's greatest contribution has been its influence and credibility in the “corridors of power”, building partnerships, bringing major corporate and government donors to the table and even negotiating stoppages in armed conflict so that thousands of children could be immunized. St. John's native

Dr. Bruce Aylward, of the World Health Organization reported in Copenhagen that, while additional

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effort is still needed, the world is on the cusp of eradicating polio (hopefully with only one endemic region, northern Nigeria, remaining after 2006).

Since 1985, over two billion children have been immunized, five million have been spared disability and one million lives have been saved.

Dr. Sachs underlined the naivety in thinking that we can make the world more secure and peaceful by military force. His compelling message is that “there is no certainty in this world, only choice” and that if the world chose to employ its resources into Rotary International's “just do it” approach, the major problems of global instability could be solved in our time.

Naive? Overly optimistic? - Maybe. But achievable? - Absolutely. As an example of what is possible with the right leadership and resolve, the UN's Millennium Declaration adopted in September, 2000 by 147 heads of state in New York was an historic initiative, although it is yet to be properly pursued. It included goals concerning the eradication of poverty and hunger, universal primary education, gender equality, child mortality reduction, environmental sustainability and the combat of disease.

Jeffrey Sachs, in his book, *The End of Poverty*, lays out a clear roadmap on how these major problems faced by the globe's disadvantaged nations can be solved within a couple of decades. (By poverty, he means the “extreme poverty” being experienced by one-sixth of the globe's 6.3 billion people, in countries faced with the “poverty trap”, where more than 25% of the population lives on less than \$1/day.) Jeffrey Sachs contends that these major challenges can be accomplished “with modest financial help from the rich countries, more than is now being provided, but within the bounds of what they have long promised.”

In the meantime, in addition to polio eradication, 1.2 million Rotarians in 170 countries continue their quest for world

health, peace and understanding, along with partners such as the World Health Organization, Save the Children, UNICEF and the Red Cross. Their work takes many forms, such as: water, health, hunger and literacy programs (one village at a time), and annual cultural exchange, youth leadership programs and studies in peace and conflict resolution (one child and young person at a time).

Copenhagen was an inspiring celebration of what has been done in the 101 years since Rotary International was formed. The enthusiasm shown there is proof positive that it will continue as a major instrument of change on our planet so in need of positive action and hope.

DG Dennis Knight

Editor's Notes

Another Rotary year has begun! Welcome and thank you to the members of the new Boards of Directors for accepting these challenging and rewarding positions as an opportunity to **Lead the Way** for your clubs, your community and our world. We all look forward to a great year under the leadership of DG Dennis Knight and his team.

Thank you to those who provided input to *The Lighthouse* throughout last year. Your report on your club's activities has given other clubs ideas and inspiration for new projects and fund raisers.

Newsletter Distribution

The Lighthouse will continue to be e-mailed to Rotary Club secretaries, presidents and district committee chairs in PDF format. To open and read it, you will need Adobe Acrobat Reader on your computer. If you don't have it, go to <http://www.adobe.com> to download a free copy.

I am relying on the club secretaries to forward the newsletter to your members. Please e-mail it, or for those without e-mail, fax or post it at a weekly meeting. You may need to ask your members to download a copy of Adobe Acrobat Reader as well

Don Mackenzie will continue posting the newsletter on the District web site, <http://www.rotary7820.com>. Thank you, Don.

Newsletter Contributions

If the club secretary is not responsible for providing articles to *The Lighthouse*, please e-mail me the individual who is and I will place him/her on the mailing list.

I will again be putting your club's contributions in a separate pdf file called “**Clubs in Action**”. I'm hoping in this way to keep the actual Newsletter a reasonable length and yet still allow for members to read ALL contributions if they wish.

Send your contribution to *The Lighthouse* by the 15th of the month. My goal is to send the newsletter out during the first week of the month. My e-mail is stuempel@bwr.eastlink.ca. My phone number and fax is 902-527-1671 but you will need to call me first so that I can turn on the fax machine.

If you like the format of *The Lighthouse* please let DG Dennis know — if you don't, please let me know and offer suggestions for improvement. Thank you.

Peter Stuempel

Rotary Foundation Alumni

Every District throughout Rotary has been requested by RI to try to update their information on all Ambassadorial Scholars, GSE Team Members and Rotary Volunteers. While this project has been a work in progress for the past two years there are still a significant number of these *Rotary Foundation Alumni* from our own district whom we have been unable to locate and for this reason **I am asking for your help.**

In a separate download is a list of the various **District 7820 Missing Alumni** showing their names, identity of sponsoring Rotary Club, alumni category, year in which they participated, name of Team Leader where appropriate, location of these Group Study Exchanges or Scholarships and last known address. Please review this list with particular reference to the alumni sponsored by your own club and by doing so it is hoped that some of these individuals will be identified and located. I would ask that the information so obtained be returned to me at your early convenience. The two following are examples of alumni who will be highlighted as they are located.

Joe Donachie
Chair, Alumni Subcommittee
joseph.donachie@ns.sympatico.ca
Tel: 902-667-1163 Fax: 902-482-5150

Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar Canada's "Diplomat of the Year"



At a gala dinner June 15th at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa Sanjeev Chowdhury, Canada's Consul General in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam received Canada's "2006 Foreign Service Officer Award".

This award was instituted in 1990 by the Canadian Professional Association of Foreign Service Officers (PAFSO) to recognize career Foreign Service Officers for exceptional initiative and creativity, dedication to serving Canada and Canadians, effectiveness in interacting with cultures in which the officer has worked, and the ability to inspire colleagues and professional contacts.

Mr. Chowdhury was nominated for the award by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Vietnam, the Canadian Education Centre (Vietnam), three Canadian companies based in Vietnam, the Vietnam-Canada Friendship Association, the entire staff of the Canadian Consulate General in Ho Chi Minh City and staff from the Canadian High Commission in Sri Lanka

After graduating from Saint Mary's University, Halifax (B.Comm, Magna Cum Laude) Sanjeev was nominated by The Rotary Club Of Halifax Northwest and selected as District 7820 Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholar 1990-91, earning the degree MBA with Distinction at The American Graduate School of International Management.

In 1995, he joined the Canadian Foreign Service, served in Mumbai, India and in Ottawa held a number of positions

including Press Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Director of Operations to the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance. While in India, Mr. Chowdhury was named a Paul Harris Fellow.

In 2003, Mr. Chowdhury was named Consul General of Canada to Ho Chi Minh City.

In October, 2005, he became the first-ever person in Vietnam to be awarded the "UNESCO Vietnam Medal" for his work to advance cultural relations between Vietnam and Canada.

In April, 2006, Mr. Chowdhury was awarded the "Ho Chi Minh City Insignia Medal" by the city government. This medal is awarded to a foreigner who has contributed significantly to the development of the city.

In June, 2006 he was again honoured, by the award of the Vietnam "Peace and Friendship Medal" by the government in Hanoi for his work in promoting peace and understanding between nations.

Mr. Chowdhury is the only foreign diplomat in Vietnam ever to be awarded three prestigious medals in one year

Mr. Chowdhury will complete his term as Consul General in August, 2006 and return to take a yet to be announced position in Canada's Foreign Ministry in Ottawa.

GSE Alumnus T.A. Loeffler to carry the Newfoundland Flag to the top of the world



T.A Loeffler at the summit of Denali (Mount McKinley), Alaska, June 2005

In 2000-2001, the Rotary Club of St. John's sponsored T.A Loeffler as a member of the Group Study Exchange Team to Argentina, led by PDG Tom Wilkinson. The GSE experience had a major influence on her thirst for international adventure and her list of adventures and accomplishments have grown steadily since that time.

In her own words:

"My GSE experience was a turning point in my career - it was like I was a rose ready to blossom and the GSE experience provided just the right kind of fertilizer. The GSE gave me extensive experience in public speaking, adapting to change and meeting folks of all walks ... all tools that serve an international adventurer well. The GSE experience "woke me up" and propelled me into

following my passions wherever they might lead me - to photography, to film school and now to Mount Everest. The GSE also showed me the power of belonging to a team, of doing service to the community, and to reaching out and touching lives through narrative. I'm very grateful for it".

T.A. Loeffler, 29 May, '06

T.A. is a unique combination of outdoor adventurer, hockey player, filmmaker, photographer, educator, workshop leader, motivational speaker... and more.

Her work and adventures to date have taken her to twenty different countries and five different continents.

In June of 2005, she carried the Newfoundland flag to the highest point in North America, the summit of Denali (6194 meters). She has recently laid plans to take it to the top of the world - to the summit of Mount Everest!

Find out more about this remarkable woman at www.taloeffler.com.

She would make a fascinating Rotary speaker.

Other News

The following is an excerpt from *The Telegram* in St. John's, Newfoundland. It is a compelling story of Chuck Conley, a member of the Rotary Cub of Happy Valley-Goose Bay and his battle with "the silent killer".

Still in the game

By Danette Dooley, Special to *The Telegram*

Husband, father, business owner, friend, golfer - Goose Bay resident Chuck Conley lived life to the fullest. However, his world stood still when he was told a cancerous tumour was the reason behind his persistent sore throat.

"I remember as soon as Dr. (Tom) Smith told me that he had some bad news for me and told me about the cancer, everything else stopped. He was still talking, but it wasn't registering with me," Conley says in a recent telephone interview.

Cancer is often referred to as a silent killer. The athletic non-smoker says it's a disease he never imagined he'd have to battle.

Conley's journey with cancer began in December 2003. His wife Menie encouraged him to go to the emergency room at the Goose Bay hospital. Antibiotics hadn't worked for his suspected strep throat and his

tonsil had swollen to the size of a golf ball.

That same night, Conley was medivaced to St. John's to be seen by Smith - an ear, nose and throat (ENT) specialist.

Once it was confirmed that Conley had tonsillar cancer, he was assessed by head and neck surgeon Dr. Ken Burrage. Both specialists felt removal of the tumour was Conley's only chance of survival. However, he was warned that the surgery could take away some of his mobility. That news was devastating to the competitive golfer who has represented his province numerous times at the national level. The surgery would also mean radical reconstruction surgery. However, there really weren't any other options, Conley says.

Drs. Burrage, Smith and Simon Kirby performed the eight-hour procedure called a radical neck dissection.

While he admits being "petrified" before going into surgery, Conley says knowing he had capable, top-notch physicians and an extended team of health professionals to look after him helped ease his mind.

The surgeons removed the orange-sized tumour as well as the majority of the right side of Conley's neck and chest muscle to ensure they'd gotten all the cancer. They then worked to reconstruct his face and neck.

"The surgery was in December 2003. I was released from the hospital just in time to get home for my son's birthday on Jan. 4. So, I was back here to see my son turn four. I didn't think I was going to see that."

Rigorous recuperation, rehabilitation and radiation followed Conley's surgery.

While it took over a year for him to get back in the swing of the game, last year he ranked the No. 2 golfer in the province. He's playing better than he did before the surgery, he says.

Thanks to the development of a new technique and the expertise of the ENT surgical staff at St. Clare's hospital, he has the full use of his arm, which means much more to him than being able to swing a golf club.

"I was out in St. John's last weekend and the first thing I did when I got through security was pick up Ryan. He's six years old now. I picked him up in my arms and lifted him up over my head. And that was the best feeling in the world."

Conley's trip to the St. John's area was to compete in the Premier's Cup on June 10. He won the tournament that pitted him against 40 of the province's top players.

"I told them in my victory speech that I have to thank the good Lord that I'm here. And I have to thank my doctors who put me back together. We're very lucky to have these experts here. I couldn't have asked for any better treatment. I owe these people my life."

Conley looks forward to taking part in the Health Care Foundation's annual charity golf tournament that takes place at the Golf and Curling Club.

The event is organized by a volunteer committee with assistance from the Aliant Pioneers. All money raised will support the Ear Nose & Throat (ENT) program. Anyone wishing to support the Health Care Foundation ENT fundraising efforts can call 777-5901 or toll free 1-877-737-0228.



Chuck Conley poses with his son Ryan.

Rotarian honoured for 40 years of service

By Joel Jacobson BRIGHT SPOT,
The Chronicle Herald, June 30, 2006



John

Williamson has received many awards for his work with the **Rotary Club of Halifax Northwest** and Rotary International.

He has not sought them. John isn't that type of guy.

These awards have found him because of the dedication he has for the century-old service club and because of the love he has for people who need his, and Rotary's, help.

Recently, John received the Distinguished Service Award at a district conference in Charlottetown, P.E.I. The award is presented by the Rotary Foundation to only 50 Rotarians in the world each year. It's given to men and women for lifelong contributions exemplifying Rotary's motto, Service Above Self.

John, born in Stellarton, saw the commitment his father made as a Rotarian in St. John's N.L., where John grew up.

After graduating from Nova Scotia Technical College (now DalTech) in 1948, John worked in Hamilton but was asked to return to Atlantic Canada as his company's senior representative.

John laughs. "My first thought was 'I could have a boat on the (Northwest) Arm,' and secondly, I thought how well I could do there."

At the time, Pat, to whom John's been married for 54 years, wasn't as anxious to move east.

"I was afraid it would take us away from our friends, but our oldest son Bob, then 12, said to me, 'Mum, we're still in Canada.'"

She says they got into school and church activities, and John became a Rotarian. From the day he joined Halifax Northwest Rotary in 1966, John, now 81, has been selfless.

"The club was only eight years old then," recalls John. "We had about 50 members and now have 73."

It was his devotion to duty that made John stand out. In 1967, the club held its first major "car dinner," at which they gave a new car to the last person in a reverse draw. The event, still running, attracts thousands of dollars annually for Rotary's many projects.

"Pat did a lot of typing and delivering posters while I was travelling for my company, so she became a big part of my work in Rotary," John confesses. He served as president, co-ordinated the ambassadorial scholarship committee and chaired the district committee and several others for many years.

During his year as district governor, John had to visit each of the 43 clubs in Nova Scotia, P.E.I., Newfoundland and

Labrador, and St-Pierre-Miquelon. Pat went with him most of the time, at her own expense. They also travelled to world conferences in Anaheim and Taipei.

But it was polio eradication that grabbed John's attention when Rotary International decided in 1985 to rid the world of the dread disease. It's held his interest until today.

In 2003 to 2005, John chaired a campaign that raised \$500,000 US for the cause, exceeding a goal that John felt was too low.

"I'm grateful because a lot of people did a lot of work," he says, "but maybe we could have done more. Being a Rotarian is not an individual thing. As a group, the efforts add up."

Sixteen years ago, when he turned 65, John decided to do a free-fall parachute jump as an adventure on the milestone day. Ten years later, at 75, he decided to do it again, this time to raise money for the polio program.

He did a tandem jump with the operator of a sky diving school in the Annapolis Valley, falling 2,560 metres before the cord was pulled but thinking every second of the pledges he raised based on each 30 metres of free fall.

"Some people were annoyed at me for doing so much," John says, glancing sheepishly at Pat. "But I made \$16,000. Now I've started a trend to do it every decade," he says with a smile, looking ahead four years.

"NO", shouts Pat.

John chuckles. "We'll cross that bridge when I come to it. It's easy to say now."

Meanwhile, his, and Rotary International's, efforts in polio eradication have been almost 100 per cent successful. In 1985, a goal of \$120 US million was set for a three-year campaign. The total reached \$241 US million very quickly and is now at \$600 US million.

"There were 125 polio countries then," John says. "Today, largely because of Rotary's efforts of giving every child the vaccine, we're down to four — India (17 cases in 2006), Pakistan (2), Afghanistan (4) and Nigeria (245)."

John admits he's one of the more active members of his club "of my generation," he says. "They call me the Rotary Information Committee. I indoctrinate new members and educate old ones. If someone wants to know something in our club, I'll get the call."

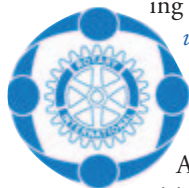
He says the honour was a total surprise. Typically, he wonders "why me, when I see what others do. I guess it's the length of time I've been involved."

Modestly, John says, "I wouldn't have done all this if I didn't want to. Now, at my age, I'm encouraging others to do things."

Pat nods, vigorously and happily.

Rotary Fellowships

Whether you're into accounting, golf, or humanitarian service, connect with Rotarians who share your interests by joining a Global Networking Group www.rotary.org/programs/fellowships/index.html.



These groups include Rotary Fellowships, which bring Rotarians together for recreational and vocational activities, and Rotarian Action Groups, which unite members in the spirit of service.

Contact the Global Networking Groups coordinator for more information - rotaryfellowships@rotary.org.

District Simplified and Matching Grants

As the new year begins think about international or local projects you can do with matching grants.

All the information is available at www.rotary.org on the Foundation tab.

If you need projects to do talk to Robert Earle
Don't hesitate to email me with questions,

Stella Roy
roystella@hotmail.com
902 471-2036

*Have you checked out the
District website lately?*

*You can link to some of our clubs which
have their own sites to learn more about
their projects and activities.*

*Go to <http://www.rotary7820.com> to learn
more about these clubs.*

THE FOUR WAY TEST

of the things we think, say or do.

- 1. Is it the **TRUTH**?*
- 2. Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?*
- 3. Will it build **GOODWILL** and
BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?*
- 4. Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all
concerned?*

District Attendance

Be sure to get your clubs attendance to the District Secretary by the 10th. of the month (Kathryn Atkin: katkin@sjnhb.nf.ca). It is a requirement of Rotary International that *all* clubs report their attendance to the District secretary monthly. The District Secretary is then required to forward this information to RI.

Only 17 clubs provided an attendance report for the month of May. This is 37% of the 46 clubs in the district. The average attendance of those clubs reporting was 67 percent. 6 clubs were above 75%.

Congratulations to the **Rotary Club of Bridgewater & District** for having **88%** attendance for the month of May.

How did your club do? Check out the attached *District Attendance Report*.

Rotary Dates to Remember

- 10th. of the month** - Attendance reports to Kathryn Atkin.
- 15th. of the month** - Club News to *The Lighthouse* editor.
- July 1, 2006** - RI Semi-Annual Report and District dues due.
- July 31, 2006** - Deadline for Group Study Exchange team members for Africa to apply to Marilyn Brown.
- Dec 31, 2006** - Election of 2007-2008 Officers by this date.
- Jan 31, 2007** - *Club Officers Report Form* to RI by this date.
- Jan 1, 2007** - RI Semi-Annual Report due.
- March 1, 2007** - Deadline for "Donald MacRae Peace Award".
- April 1, 2007** - Deadline for "Outstanding Club Recognition".
- April 15, 2007** - Deadline for "Presidential Citation Award".
- May, 2007** - District Convention - St. John's, NF

Please contact us with your questions, suggestions and articles...

Dennis Knight, DG - dknight@dknightassociates.com
Peter Stuempel, Editor - stuempel@bwr.eastlink.ca

Check out our District Web Site at
<http://www.rotary7820.com>