



Founded on the rock  
Bonded by the sea.  
Guided by the light.

# *The Lighthouse*

## *Newsletter of Rotary District 7820, Zone 22*

*46 Clubs strong covering Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Iles de la Madeleine, Québec and Saint-Pierre et Miquelon, France.*

**District Governor 2006/07 - Dennis Knight**



Creating reality  
from dreams.

Issue No. 06-07                      Editor - Peter Stuempel                      June, 2007

### *Message from the Governor*

## *Closing the Circle*



It seems only a few weeks since I was writing the first letter to you and through the magic of time-lapse Rotary, here we are approaching the other shore. It has been a great journey, filled with generous hearts and souls, new and renewed friendships and affirmation about the vision and drive of Rotarians to help the under-privileged.

A few thoughts and thank yous, on this final approach:

**End with a Bang!** To club presidents, I urge you to not go softly into the night as your year comes to an end. In particular, look at your goals for contributions to our *Global Hope Generator*, The Rotary Foundation, and for membership retention/growth. Can you mount a drive to meet or surpass your objectives for 2006/07 or begin a new initiative that will be completed by your successor?

**Make Plans for Amherst:** We have just completed our 92nd District Convention, which was, from all the feedback received, filled with inspiration, idea sharing and fun for all. I had a number of conversations during the weekend about the strategic importance of the convention in strengthening clubs, retaining members and growing our capacity to serve. While we were very pleased with the registration numbers, it still represented less than 15% of our membership.

For those of you who attended, I recommend that you resolve right now to develop a plan to see that more of your members benefit from our annual celebration in Amherst next year.

**GSE Team in Brazil:** We thoroughly enjoyed the delightful GSE team from District 4700 at the Convention and I know that will apply to all of you who host them as they travel across the District. Our GSE team (Ann Jones, Amy Sangster, Nola Seabright and Heather-Anne Grant) is now in Brazil. We wish them a safe and meaningful tour and look forward to hearing their story upon their return.

**Many Compliments Due:** I congratulate every last one of you, for who you are and what you do to make your clubs work, today, and every day.

There are multiple praises due to all forty-six clubs, for the projects that others will never hear of, alongside those that achieve profile in the community. You know who you are, as do those who benefit from your good work. I will mention just four:

- St. John's East, for the Outstanding Club award (in a field of champions),
- Wolfville, for the RI Best Co-operative Projects award (RotarAXE Tuition project with Acadia University),
- Stratford, for its great work in member retention and growth (net growth of 37%), and
- New Minas Sunrise, for the new Interact Club of Horton High School.

On the "new club" theme, thank you to AGs Terry and Verbon for their solid work towards establishing new Rotary Clubs in Cape Breton and Western Newfoundland. Hopefully, it will bear fruit in 2007/08.

#### **I Have Learned Much This Year**

- that Rotarians in 7820 have a heart as big as outdoors,
- that we are great dreamers but even greater doers, carrying out around 240 projects with local and/or international reach per year,
- that we do many things very well in:
  - literacy,
  - working with youth,
  - supplying hope to sub-Saharan Africa in the form of multiple village wells, and containers of medical supplies
  - participating in RI's Peace and Conflict Resolution Studies program,
- that we are great jokers and have fun doing everything we do.

**The Power of the Circle:** I believe in circles from many perspectives; they represent sharing, giving back and the building of sustainable families and communities. I believe that the Rotarians of 7820 are a circle of caring and hope.

Thank you for the privilege of working with you in *Leading the Way* during 2006/07.

*See you next year, DG Dennis*

*"Common People... UNCommon Purpose"*

## Championing Children and Youth

*Rotarians from Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador and Saint Pierre et Miquelon (Rotary International District 7820) recently travelled to St. John's to celebrate ninety-four years of "Service above Self" in Atlantic Canada.*

Under the theme **Common People, UNcommon Purpose**, Rotary's 92nd annual District Convention in St. John's was filled with inspiring speakers, advocating for children and youth.

**Dr. Bruce Aylward**, a native of St. John's, in a live video feed from his office in Geneva, updated everyone on Rotary International's 25 year commitment to the children of the world; to eradicate the polio virus. Dr. Aylward is the World Health Organization's lead physician on the *Polio Plus* campaign [www.rotary.org/foundation/polioplus](http://www.rotary.org/foundation/polioplus) (he is hopeful it will be concluded in the next twenty-four months). Rotarians of District 7820 have given generously to this hallmark Rotary program over the years and, along with the 1.2 million Rotarians around the world, are determined to see its completion.

**Mark Cook**, of Wiltshire, England, spoke of the charity *Hope and Homes for Children*, [www.hopeandhomes.org](http://www.hopeandhomes.org) founded by he and his wife Caroline in 1994, devoted to housing, clothing and educating orphaned children throughout the world. The organization, assisted generously by Rotarians, is now helping 2000 children in thirteen countries in Eastern Europe and Sub-Saharan Africa.

**Andrée Cazabon**, former street child, now an award-winning Toronto filmmaker, inspired everyone with a showing of her film "Letters to a Street Child" and spoke of her advocacy for the rights of homeless and foster children across Canada, as Filmmaker in Residence with the National Youth in Care Network [www.youthincare.ca](http://www.youthincare.ca). She has had wide ranging support for her projects to date from Rotary clubs and this association will continue.

**Susan Knight**, Founder of *Shalloway, Newfoundland and Labrador Youth in Chorus* [www.shalloway.ca](http://www.shalloway.ca) and *Festival 500*, spoke about her comprehensive program of developing youth as agents of change. Shalloway is a cultural agency of 220 choristers age 7 to 19, with a growing alumni of leaders and contributors to society in several countries. Members of Shalloway's senior choir *Camerata*, following their performance at the Governor's Gala, made a generous contribution to *Polio-Plus*.

Championing the needs of youth has been a major priority of Rotarians in this District since the Rotary Club of Halifax was chartered in 1913. Prominent programs include:

**Literacy** – Rotary Read-a-Long (a reading and library development program started by the Rotary Club of St. John's East), the Adopt a Library program founded by Pictou RCMP Constable John Kennedy and the Adopt a School program.

**Rotary World Peace and Conflict Resolution Studies** – Three scholars from this District have been admitted to this global cutting edge program; Stefani Angelopoulos graduated as a Rotary World Peace Fellow in 2005, Amanda Sutherland is about to graduate (both from Bradford University, England) and John DePorres is enrolled at the University of California-Berkeley. In addition, Cheryl Hebert of Halifax has been accepted for the diploma program at Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok beginning July, 2007.

**Rotary Clubs for Youth** – There are 12 Interact Clubs (High School level) and 3 Rotaract Clubs (post secondary) in the District, all of whom carry out important local and international projects along the Rotary model.

**Youth Student Exchange** – Currently, 15 high school students from our communities are completing a year of study in seven countries. An equal number of foreign students have been living with Rotarian families and attending school in Atlantic Canada since September.

**Youth Camps** – There are four very busy camps for youth; in Amherst, Charlottetown, Windsor and St. John's, each of which has an extensive legacy of service to youth, particularly the access-challenged.

**Other** – Rotary Clubs sponsor a range of additional youth initiatives such as scholarships, music festivals, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards and public speaking events.

Each year, we undertake various other programs that benefit youth (along with entire communities) in needy countries, including:



*PDG Pete Smith, immunizing a child from Polio*



*RI Past President Carl Wilhelm-Stenhammar reads to children in St. John's*

**Water Management** – Rotary International gives high priority to supplying communities in poverty-ridden countries with safe drinking water. As a direct result of contributions by Rotarians across District 7820 over the past two years, twelve community wells are being drilled in Nigeria, which will supply fresh water and hope for the future – in schools, medical clinics and entire communities.

**Containers to Sub-Saharan Africa** – Over the past two years, Rotarians have collected, stored and, by September, will have shipped 12 containers of surplus medical equipment, supplies, bicycles, books, etc to needful communities in Sub-Saharan Africa. The cost of shipping and distributing the contents of each container is approximately \$5,000.00 (not counting local transportation and storage before shipment).

**The Annual Value of Rotary’s Work** - The above are examples of around 200 projects benefiting local communities and another 40 having international reach, carried out annually by Rotarians in District 7820. Drawing on a 2004 study by Statistics Canada on volunteerism and a recent global survey by Rotary International, a (preliminary) estimate of the value of these 240 projects is \$440,000 in volunteer labour and \$3,070,000 in direct investment, for a total of just over \$3.5 million.

This calculation of annual value is very preliminary and doesn’t include, for example, scholarships, the sponsoring of peace scholars or group study exchanges (e.g., currently, there is a team of young professionals from Yarmouth, Shubenacadie, Truro and Springdale, on a four week vocational and cultural exchange tour of Brazil, funded by The Rotary Foundation).

**And On it Goes** - On June 30th, the Rotary year ends. As current District Governor, I will hand over to Governor-Elect Bette Douglas of Amherst and Rotarians in Saint Pierre et Miquelon, Yarmouth, Summerside, Labrador City, St. John’s and all petite in between, will begin their 95th year of service.

The business of bringing hope to people never ends.



*One of our many water projects in Nigeria*

*Dennis Knight  
District Governor, 2006/07*

### *July 1, 2007/07 will be a big day for Canadian Rotarians*



Not only will it be Canada’s 140th birthday, it will also be the day that Canadian Wilfrid “Wilf” Wilkinson will become the world President of Rotary International, the service organization with 1.25 million members in 164 countries.

Wilf becomes only the fourth Canadian in the 102 year history of Rotary to achieve this high office. The last one was Arthur Laguex of Quebec City 55 years ago.

Wilf was born in Montreal and attended McGill University. He became a chartered accountant in 1958 and moved to Trenton, Ontario, where he founded Wilkinson & Company, a chartered accounting firm which he still heads. He joined Rotary in 1962, and now, after a sterling career doing volunteer work in many countries, he will become its international president. Wilf, a quiet, almost shy person, was appointed to chair Rotary’s 100th anniversary centennial convention scheduled for Chicago in June 2005. One felt the powers that be would have selected a loud, boisterous, flashy person from New York or Texas to stage what was to be Rotary’s largest-ever convention.

Held in Chicago, Rotary’s founding city, a city best known for jazz, Al Capone, the city that Billy Sunday could not shut down and other noisy things. Hardly the assignment for a seemingly quiet accountant from Trenton, Ontario, Canada.

Well, that quiet, almost shy Wilf Wilkinson did not disappoint anyone. It was a blast, proving that when you want something done right, in any country, call in a Canadian, eh.

“My philosophy is doing the very best that you can. The word Honesty is my philosophy, it seems to have paid off in my professional and Rotary career.”

There are certain people you admire from the moment you meet them. Wilfrid “Wilf” Wilkinson is one of those people... another Canadian Achiever.

## Annual District Assembly & Convention



### District 7820 Annual Conference Solving the Retention Puzzle Conference Session

May 11, 2007

#### Meeting Notes (and some Photos)

At the St John's District Convention this year we held a session on how to retain members. Each group of Rotarians had to work as a team to solve a picture puzzle that was symbolic of a retention issue. They then had to discuss what issues the puzzle presented and what would be some of the solutions to resolve the issues. Here is what Rotarians said:

#### ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

##### Focus

People traveling different paths  
Confusion  
Too many solutions.  
People not coming together and people are disjointed  
People mixed up and confused  
Don't know where we're going  
Willingness to help and to ask for help  
Where are we going? What are we doing? Why?  
Looking for our place – where do I fit in?  
Losing interest

##### Isolation and Teamwork

Isolation and people are working alone  
too few team players.  
Communication challenges  
People feeling left on the outside – alone – no one to ask for help  
Sharing roles and 'the glory'.  
Who is going to share the burden?  
Working alone doesn't pay off.

##### Leadership and Work Load

Weak leadership  
No delegation  
Over-work and too much of a load.  
Too much pressure and not enough fun  
No control

##### Other

Does the club welcome people?  
We're diverse and it's a challenge – we're not all in the same mold  
Can't see past ourselves

#### SOLUTIONS

##### Engage and involve

We need to engage new members from the start.  
Give people something to do – take ownership.  
Delegate. Keep everyone active and involved.  
Engage old and new members equally  
Need to keep members 'at the top' and RI at the bottom

##### Team work

Working together solves problems.  
This is key to moving forward – opens doors to move forward.  
Working together keeps us together  
Took all of us to solve the puzzle and it will take all of us in the club

Common purpose

Focus on communications

*Here are also some snapshots from  
the Convention*



*"Common People... UNCommon Purpose"*

### Training

Orientation and mentoring – are expectations being met?  
Better orientation

### Motivation

We all need encouragement  
Give people ‘rewards’ for their efforts

### Fun

New members – keep up interest  
Need to determine their interests

### Innovation

We need to realize there are endless possibilities and let people explore new ideas  
Thinking outside the box  
New ideas can be motivating

### Focus

Focus on ways that you can commit  
Create measurable goals and plans – assign tasks  
Always have a project on the go  
Need to focus – don’t need to be all things to all people  
Create core projects for people to focus on

### Other

Leaders need followers  
One person may hold the key  
No one unique solution for all the problems



## Other News

### “T” Shirt Auction

This year the District Convention saw the beginning of what may turn into a wonderful tradition.

Last fall Dale and I traveled to St. John’s to do some Foundation presentations. At the Rotary Club of St. John’s East, I auctioned a “T” shirt to raise money for the Foundation.

This “T” shirt had a photo of Mother Theresa giving a drop of the Polio vaccine to a child. It was inscribed with her words and her thanks to Rotary. The lucky recipient of the auction was Dave Taylor who made a donation to the Rotary Foundation of \$300. On Saturday morning of the conference Dave returned the “T” shirt to me and it was re-auctioned to Jim Finch of the Rotary Club of St John’s Northwest for an impressive \$500. I had thought that the “T” shirt was not to be seen again until next conference. Much to my surprise, the “T” shirt appeared later that evening at the District Governors Gala dinner, this time in a clean Ziploc bag and not in the old Sobey’s bag that had been its home for quite some time. Another auction took place under the exciting direction of Auctioneer Extraordinaire John Fitzpatrick. The “T” shirt changed hands again and for a whopping amount of \$1300 is now in the hands of Assistant Governor Derek Key of the Rotary Club of Summerside.

Many thanks to these wonderful Rotarians who have shown the true “Spirit of Rotary” and contributed so much to the continuing work of Rotary International through the Rotary Foundation.

*PDG Gord Hankin  
District Foundation Chair.*

### *New provisions for attendance...*

Revisions to the Standard Rotary Club Constitution and changes in dues policy are just a few of the items that will take effect 1 July. [View](#) more results from the Council on Legislation.

### *Membership dues to increase...*

In a move that will impact all Rotary clubs, the 2007 Council on Legislation passed an enactment to increase per capita dues beginning in 2008/09, with the increase going into effect July 2008. This effectively raises RI membership dues by US\$1 per year through 2010/11.

## Group Study Exchange

### Press Release

#### District 7820 to District 4700 - South Eastern Brazil

District 7820, as part of Rotary International Education Foundation, is sending a group of young professionals to learn about similar vocations in District 4700, South Eastern Brazil in the state of Rio Grande do Sul, May 16th to June 13th, 2007. South Eastern Brazil is a good match being cool with agriculture and mining dominating their economy but very different being inland with mountainous regions.

District 7820 selected this GSE Team for their enthusiasm and interest in furthering international understanding, goodwill and peace. They will return with a unique understanding and appreciation for Brazil's history, language, commerce and government.

The Team represents a wide range of interests and professions. Members of the GSE are non-Rotarians, 25 to 40, lead by a Rotary Club member.

**Heather-Anne Grant** lives in Shubenacadie, Nova Scotia with her husband on their family's dairy farm. She is an International Development & Research Officer, Nova Scotia Agricultural College, currently in the process of establishing a commercial sheep operation.

**Gabrielle Richard** is originally from Cape Breton but now lives in Wolfville, Nova Scotia and is a pharmacist for Cochrane's Pharmasave, and is a Long Term Care Clinical Pharmacist who assesses and recommends treatment for nursing home patients as well as dispenses all required medications and advises on drug interactions.

**Amy Sangster** lives in Truro, Nova Scotia and is a Ruminant/Agronomy Specialist for AgraPoint International. She delivers agricultural extension and industry development, working closely with producers and commodity groups. Project work includes on-farm research trials and demonstrations, development of educational information, development of workshops and seminars and delivering presentations.

**Nola Seabright** lives on the North East coast of beautiful Newfoundland & Labrador. She is a Food Processing Specialist Inspector with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. She inspects and certifies fish products for export to foreign countries, inspects seed potatoes for the Newfoundland market, as well as other duties related to our food safety program.

**Ann Jones**, Team Leader, Rotary Club of Yarmouth, is a retired educator with experience in elementary, secondary and post-secondary education as teacher and administrator. Currently she has a small business, *Tin Pot Textiles*, where she does custom knitting, rug hooking and desktop publishing. Ann has extensive experience in Rotary, has traveled extensively but this is her first visit to Brazil.

You can follow their studies on GSE Blog, <http://rotarygse2007.blogspot.com>.

For further information contact: Marilyn Brown, GSE Coordinator, District 7820, (902)895-1291  
or Ann Jones, [annjones@eastlink.ca](mailto:annjones@eastlink.ca) (902)742-1978.

*PS: Unfortunately Gabrielle Richard from Wolfville will be unable to make the trip due to a medical situation of one of her family members. Gabrielle did not feel she could leave right now and be away from home. It is really unfortunate because she put a lot of work effort and money into the trip preparations. The team will miss her and wish her and her family all the best.*

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#### District 7820 - Group Study Exchange 2007/2008

##### Team Leader Selection

**Closing date: June 22, 2007**

The Group Study Exchange for 2007-2008 has been confirmed. Our exchange partner is District 1640, Normandy, France. This district is made up of 58 Rotary clubs. The clubs to be visited will be determined at a later date.

The Group Study Exchange Team representing our district will be traveling to France from June 7th to July 5th, 2008 and will be attending their district conference.

The process to select the Outgoing Team begins with the Team Leader Selection. The Team Leader must be an experienced Rotarian, knowledgeable about our home, district, country and Rotary. The Team Leader is the representative of the District Governor.

##### The Team Leader:

- Assumes complete charge of the team
- Possesses outstanding interpersonal communication skills
- Acts as an advisor and counselor
- Acts as a liaison between host clubs, the district at large and the team

- Remains with the team for the duration of the tour
- Must be willing physically and otherwise to keep pace with the vigorous program
- Helps team members to prepare for their presentations
- Takes an active leadership role in the pre-departure preparation of the team,
- Assures each member is thoroughly acquainted with the ideals and aims of Rotary
- Instills a sense of pride and a sense of mission in the team members
- Has time to commit to the 6 month process.

A good Team Leader enables the Group Study Exchange to be fulfilling and rewarding for all participants. The Team Leader may not be accompanied by a spouse, companion or fiancée or any other relative during the tour. Arrangements for pre or post GSE travel can be made separately.

**Applications for GSE 2007-2008 Team Leader will be accepted until June 22, 2006.**

The Selection Committee includes the District Governor, the immediate Past District Governor, a previous Team Leader, the Foundation Chairperson and the Outgoing GSE Chairperson.

The Team Leader participates in the selection of Team members. Selection of the GSE Team members will be made during September.

Applications may be submitted to:

**Judy McCann-Beranger**  
**Outgoing GSE Chair**  
 7 Lambert Place  
 St. John's, NL, A1A 3X4  
 (709) 754-5839  
[judy@peopleconcepts.ca](mailto:judy@peopleconcepts.ca)

The Group Study Exchange is a unique opportunity for social, cultural and vocational experience. The program is designed to assist young people to develop vocational and leadership skills within their chosen career path. Your participation in this process allows each of us as Rotarians to better understand our world.

## ***HOME HOSTING - ZONE 22 INSTITUTE - Halifax Sept 9th – 16th 2007***

District 7820 is hosting the annual Zone 22 Institute this year in Halifax. Zone 22 extends from Cape Spear in Newfoundland across Canada and parts of the Northern US States, up through Alaska and across into Siberia as far as the Ural Mountains - a huge Zone. Past, present and future Districts Governors come together for training sessions and other Rotary business. With our neighbours in St Pierre et Miquelon, Zone 22 covers four countries, Canada, France, USA, and Russia.

Some of those who attend like to extend their stay by visiting the region of the host District - this year Atlantic Canada. We would like to establish an inventory of those Rotarians interested in hosting these visitors in their homes over several days, either before the Institute week in September or after. We are promoting the glory of the Fall colours later in September. This is a great opportunity to make new friends and play host to showcase our region and all its attractions. It often leads to a reciprocal visit to your guests in their home town.

If there are any Rotarians and their partners who are interested in being involved, we would appreciate hearing from you. Just e-mail Murray Nicoll PDG at [murray.nicoll@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:murray.nicoll@ns.sympatico.ca) with your name, address and telephone number and we'll add your name to the list.

*PDG Murray Nicoll  
 Chair Special Events.*

## **New Smaller Club Certificate Program**

Smaller clubs often face unique challenges in their membership development efforts. However, increasing membership by even a few members pays big dividends: more hands for service, more money for projects, more friends for fellowship, and more people willing and able to take on leadership positions.

To encourage smaller-club efforts, the RI Board of Directors recently established the ***Recognition of Smaller Club Membership Growth*** program, which honours the achievements of small clubs who make growth a priority and succeed.

The program will begin 1 July, recognizing clubs in the following categories that meet the Board-established membership goal by 15 May 2008:

<u>Club Category</u>	<u>Membership Goal</u>
• Fewer than 10 members	At least 10 members
• 10-14 members	At least 15 members
• 15-19 members	At least 20 members

District Governors-elect recently received the award guidelines and a list of the clubs in the district with fewer than 20 mem-

*"Common People... UNCommon Purpose"*

bers. If your club has fewer than 20 members, your DGE should be contacting you to begin establishing a membership action plan for 2007-08. If you haven't heard from your DGE by 1 June, consider contacting her to express your interest in participating in this program.

If your District Governor agrees that your club reached its membership goal by 15 May 2008, she may submit your club name to RI. All clubs nominated by their District Governors by 30 June 2008 are eligible to receive a recognition certificate signed by the RI president.

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## Polio is down... we must put it out for good

The Ottawa Citizen - Saturday, May 26, 2007

By *Dan Gardner*

In Nigeria last year, I was sitting in a car at a jammed intersection when the usual crowd of hawkers and beggars moved in, darting from window to window, desperately trying to get the sullen, sweating faces inside to turn and listen. One man lagged behind. His legs were twisted spindles and he scuttled from car to car on his hands, like a wounded crab, stopping only to raise a calloused palm to beg for a few cents.

Every intersection in the poorest countries is a parade of misery, but this horror was new to me. "What could have done that to his legs?" I asked my Nigerian colleague. Polio, he said.

Polio. Of course I didn't recognize it. In this country, the ancient scourge was wiped out decades ago by vaccination and determined public health campaigns. Most Canadians below a certain age have no idea what an "iron lung" is and know nothing of the virus that filled the devices with the helpless bodies of paralysed children.

The defeat of polio in the developed world is one of civilization's glories but in 1988 the World Health Organization decided it wasn't enough. It launched a worldwide campaign to find polio wherever it lurked and defeat it, finally and absolutely. Less than a decade earlier, smallpox became the first virus to be globally eradicated. Polio would be No. 2.

The campaign swept from victory to victory. In 1988, polio was paralysing 350,000 children a year in 125 countries. Last year, polio was endemic in only four countries - India, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nigeria - and there were fewer than 2,000 cases.

The day of triumph is near. No more paralysed children, no more beggars crawling on hands. But something almost unimaginable has happened: The money has run out. Unless something changes very soon, the eradication effort will go into "negative cash flow" this July. If that happens, work will be scaled back. The inevitable and immediate result, according to the WHO, will be delays in responding to outbreaks and a surge in cases as the highly contagious virus spreads. Polio will even return to regions where it has been wiped out. In 2003, a similar funding shortage contributed to a resurgence of the virus in 27 countries. It cost \$500 million U.S. to fight the disease back into a corner. And now it could break out again.

So what kind of money are we talking about to finally declare victory over our ancient enemy? The 2007-2008 budget for the eradication effort is \$1.27 billion U.S. The initiative has half that. And it needs another \$140 million for 2009. Those may look like big numbers, but they should be kept in perspective. The United States alone spends \$58.3 billion a year on terrorism preparation and prevention. And that doesn't include the cost of military ventures, including the war in Iraq, whose cost is likely to fall somewhere between one and two trillion dollars.

Or consider that last year, two New York hedge-fund managers made more than U.S. \$1 billion each. According to New York Times columnist Paul Krugman, the top 25 hedge fund managers took home a combined \$14 billion U.S. In the first four months of 2007, Wal-Mart made a profit of \$2.83 billion. Over the same period, Exxon-Mobil made a profit of \$9.3 billion. The movie Titanic raked in \$1.8 billion at the box office alone.

I could go on citing numbers like this, but I think the point is clear. There are oceans of money sloshing around, and it would take only a few bucketsful to wipe out polio forever. And the really crazy part is that it would actually be cheaper in the long run to pay for the final eradication of polio now than to pay for ongoing control measures. In a paper published recently in The Lancet medical journal, Harvard professors Kimberly Thompson and Radboud Duintjer Tebbens conclude that "worldwide eradication of polioviruses is likely to yield substantial health and financial benefits, provided we finish the job."

That's to say nothing of the human toll of failing to eradicate polio. One analysis found that moving to a strategy of "controlling" polio would allow the virus to spread and lead to four million children being attacked and paralysed over the next 20 years.

So what are our political leaders doing about this? At the G8 summit in 2005, Canada and the other rich countries committed to "continue or increase" their polio funding for 2006-2008. But as so often happens, they haven't lived up to their press releases. Canada is among the worst offenders. Far from maintaining or increasing Canada's funding, its donations have fallen by more than half.

**The really astonishing thing is that, troubled as the eradication effort is, it would have collapsed altogether were it not for the Herculean efforts of a private charity. Rotary International has long crusaded for eradication and has raised more than \$600 million for the cause.**

Its faith will be rewarded. I am sure of that. Polio will become the second virus to be globally eradicated, and the sight of human beings crawling on their hands begging for pennies will be consigned to history. I refuse to believe humanity could be so inexpressibly stupid as to let this victory slip away.

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*"Common People... UNCommon Purpose"*

## Editor's Note

This is the final issue of *The Lighthouse* and *Clubs in Action* for this Rotary year. I would like to thank all of you who have contributed to its success over the year. I sincerely hope that whoever takes over the responsibility of sending your club's highlights to me next year will enjoy doing it. Yes, I promised DGE Bette Douglas that I would hang in for one more year. I've received only one negative response to this year's edition and a modification to the layout was quickly made, hopefully to make it more readable on line. However, I did receive a number of positive comments, thank you. The fact that you are, indeed, reading the Newsletter is a positive sign. I never know whether it gets read or not once it's sent through hyperspace. Please keep those letters coming.

Peter Stuempel  
Editor, 2006-2007



Literacy Site

FUND BOOKS FOR KIDS  
→ Click here daily, it's free! ←

## Rotary - Service Above Self

*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.*

*Click here or go to*

<http://www.rotary7820.com>

*to learn more about these clubs.*

## Important Rotary Foundation News

Please note:

As of October 1, 2006, the Toronto Dominion P.O. Box Office was closed for donations to the Rotary Foundation.

To make a **credit card donation**, please go to TRF Canada ([TRFcanada.org](http://TRFcanada.org)) and make your donation on line!

**Donations By Mail:** Send contributions and donations (in Canadian or U.S. dollars) to:

*The Rotary Foundation (Canada) Box B9322*

*P.O. Box 9100,*

*Postal Station F*

*Toronto, Ontario M4Y 3A5*

Please make cheques and money orders payable to:

**The Rotary Foundation (Canada).**

**Membership Dues** - Send membership dues to:

*Rotary International Box B9330*

*P.O. Box 9100,*

*Postal Station F*

*Toronto, Ontario M4Y 3A5*

## District Attendance

Be sure to get your clubs attendance to the District Secretary by the 10th. of the month (Kathryn Atkin: [kathryn.atkin@easternhealth.ca](mailto:kathryn.atkin@easternhealth.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 23 clubs provided an attendance report for the month of March (50% of 46 clubs). The average attendance of those clubs reporting in April was 70%.

Congratulations to the **Rotary Club of New Minas Sunrise** for having **94%** attendance for the month of **April**. 12 clubs were above 70%.

How did your club fare? 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, 2007** - RI Semi-Annual Report and District dues due.

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

Dennis Knight, DG - [dknight@dwknightassociates.com](mailto:dknight@dwknightassociates.com)

Peter Stuempel, Editor - [stuempel@bwr.eastlink.ca](mailto:stuempel@bwr.eastlink.ca)

Check out our District Web Site at

<http://www.rotary7820.com>

*"Common People... UNCommon Purpose"*