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EAST NEWS is a publication of
Rotary Club of St. John's East
edited by Gary Lane and produced
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Message Mediums

The Rotary Club of St. John's East
meets Friday mornings, 7:30 at
The Fairmont Hotel in St. John's
Newfoundland Labrador, Canada

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COMING NEXT

Club Assembly Thursday March 8

Location
- Bella Vista – Torbay
Road

5:30 – 7:30 pm

EAST NEWS

The Early Riser

The Pleasure Was All Mine!

Brian Martin

On February 16th, I along with Rotarians Dave Taylor and Shannie Duff, had the honour of representing our club at Howard House as it celebrated its 30th Anniversary of providing shelter and support services to offenders who are in the process of reintegrating themselves back into the community. As part of this celebration, the John Howard Society took it upon itself to recognize our club for a recent donation of \$3,000, which they used to refurbish their kitchen and laundry appliances. To say they were grateful for this donation would be a dramatic understatement. The genuinely kind words of appreciation extended to us by the staff and volunteers of Howard House, and on numerous occasions I might add, was indeed a very rewarding experience. It demonstrated to me that, no matter how big or small the donation, our efforts are clearly having a positive impact in our community. As President of St. John's East, it was a pleasure and honour to attend this event and accept a Plaque in recognition of your hard work. Thanks for the opportunity!!!!!!



International Service Update

Gordon Martin – International Chair

All is Well – Nigeria

I am happy to report that we will partner with Derek Key from District who along with four Newfoundlanders travelled to Nigeria as part of a Group Study Exchange two year ago. Derek has been busy generating funds to construct wells to provide desperately needed fresh water to local populations. 80% of the population of Nigeria does not have access to clean drinking water. Our current commitment of \$2600 USD will fund the construction of one well that will serve a population of 5000 people.

Our money along with funds for another 10 wells will be sent to District 9110 in Nigeria, West Africa. The chair of the Water Resources Committee for their district is Otunba Olumayuwa Olukoya (Olu) who was the District Governor during the Group Study Exchange.

A Residence for Howse

As Dr. Hutchinson said on Friday, all we need to be truly happy is to have something that we are enthusiastic about. Dr. Dawn Howse, showed her enthusiasm and passion for the people of Zimbabwe during her trip to our club last year. We are happy to be helping in the funding of the construction of a Nurses Residence at her hospital in Zimbabwe. At present, we have committed \$10,000 for the construction of this facility.

The Salvation Army will be sending a group to Zimbabwe during the summer to help with the construction and we do have a Rotary connection. Gary's brother Greg Peddle and his two sons Joshua and Johnathan will be travelling to the Region. The Salvation Army has

committed to raise \$100,000 for the project.

Speaker Recognition

Rather than giving out small tokens of our appreciation to our guest speakers, we are now directing those funds towards a worthwhile project sponsored through RI. We have replaced these tokens with a Certificate of Appreciation indicating that our club will be making a contribution to an international charitable project on behalf of the speaker. This year our club has provided \$500 towards the cost of shipping a container of used medical equipment to Cameroon.



Read-a-Long Program Update

Alex Twells

The Read-a-Long Program is flourishing this season and growing in a number of ways. Firstly, we are delighted to announce that the Bank of Montreal have joined us as core Program Partners. This means that they will donate \$5,000 for the purchase of books and have committed to collecting an equal value of books through book drives with staff and customers. This is obviously a significant vote of confidence in the program and with the discounts that we have negotiated with the publishers will allow us to buy books with a retail value in excess of \$7,500.

On February 27th we are reading at St Bernard's Elementary in Witless Bay. CBC Reporter Ein Sulley will be joining us and filming for the new afternoon show Living NL. We are not

sure when the show will air but we will keep you informed.

Ever since our presentation at last years Rotary District Conference in Charlottetown, PEI we have been talking about Read-A-Long starter kits that other clubs can use to start their own programs. Demand has been growing for these kits and so last month we took the decision to send a starter kit to every one of the thirty nine clubs in the 7820 District. An enormous thank you goes to David Taylor and his family who spent a couple of days organizing books and boxes and posting thirty-nine starter kits. We are delighted that the Rotary Club of Summerside PEI is holding their first Read-A-Long on February 28th at Greenfield Elementary.

On March 18th The St John's Fog Devils will host the second Rotary Read-A-Long night at the hockey. We will be asking fans to bring books to the game to donate to the Program. We are going to need a few volunteers to run the night and so if you like to help let Jeff or Alex know.

New to our organizing committee is Tara Power. Tara has added significant class to our team and is using her legendary powers of persuasion to manage this year's sponsorship program. This is an absolutely vital role as we are committed to giving away between \$2,000 and \$3,000 worth of books in each school and we are reading in over twenty schools this year. Many of you will have received notes and invoices from Tara and her team. We are very grateful for your support and speedy turnaround on your donation.



These are some of the pictures that were taken during the Rotary Reads event at our school. Thanks for giving us this opportunity to participate.

"We must be the change we wish to see in the world." M.K. Gandhi

*Catherine M. Best
Grade Five Teacher, St. Mary's
Elementary School, Waterford Bridge
Road, St. John's*

We are delighted to report that The Rotary Club of Summerside, PEI launched their own Read-A-Long program today.

From: Bill Kendrick
mailto:islandimages@auracom.com

The Read-A-Long went great.....we had 5 Rotarians reading to five different classes...Gr 1-3. I had the Grade 1 class...they were truly delightful.

The school was thrilled to have us there....and get the books and said we could come back any time. It's a half and half school....half English and half French immersion so they want some readers to come for the French students. We have several French speaking members who have said they'll do it once we get some French books.

It's a great program....and I'm quite sure it will continue here and grow. ...

Thanks for creating such a wonderful program.
