



October, 2008
Volume 7 Issue 3

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

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

Inside This Issue

1	President's Message Early Bird Wheels & Deals
2	November Speakers Read-A-Long With Us
2	International Service Brian Martin Moments
BP	Back Page for Rent

Wheels & Deals

February 14, 2009

Convention Centre

*Check Page 2 For
Cupid's Bonus!*



EAST NEWS

The Early Riser

Of DG's and Good Deeds...

Alex Twells

September was a busy month on our Rotary Calendar. The most notable event was the visit of District Governor Doug Logan who hosted a joint clubs dinner at The Holiday Inn. Doug is an inspiring leader and speaker who spoke on the theme of Rotary volunteering under the title "The Good Catches Up".

This was also the perfect event to recognize two of our recent past presidents as Paul Harris Fellows. It was an honour to be able to introduce our *ginger dynamo* John Mahoney and *animated ogre* Jeff Peddle to the crowd of 120 diners and to see them awarded their Fellowships by DG Doug. The board met with Doug prior to dinner to swap notes. Doug has since written to me to say that he was energized by the strength and enthusiasm in our club.

The following day over 140 golfers gathered at Bally Haley for the *Brian Martin Golf Classic*. This fund raising event was conceived

by Cheryl Martin to help Brian's favourite cause the Stella Bury Community Centre. A number of our members represented us both on the course and off. I presented Cheryl and Brian's brother Terry with framed photographs of our event in July at Government House at which we honoured Brian with his Paul Harris Fellow.

Later that same week, Marilyn Thompson and I attended a ceremony at Government House on behalf of our club this time to recognize the arrival in St John's of Ramesh Ferris and his *Cycle to Walk* team. Ramesh, a polio victim, "cycled" across Canada on a specially made hand cycle; his aim, to raise money and awareness for the eradication of Polio. I was delighted to be able to present Ramesh with a cheque for \$500 from our club.

www.cycletowalk.com

Early Bird Will Eat at Atlantica...

Joel Sweeney

The 15th Annual Wheels & Deals, our Valentine's Gala 2009, will be held Saturday Feb 14, 2009 at the St. John's Convention Centre and will offer a very unique way to celebrate Valentine's Day with your special someone. The event will build on the changes that were implemented last year but will reflect this very special time of year. Here is some of what you can look forward to.

A full course, sit down meal. Cost \$90/person (same as last year)
250 shares will be issued. Cost \$250/share (same as last year)

Sheila Williams will be your MC. She will keep the event on schedule and entertain at the same time!

Dance to live music from the group **709**. Dance will start immediately after close of event (approx

11:30)



Cupid's Bonus!



If you purchase your share between November 1st and December 15th, you will be entered in a draw for a \$500 gift certificate from *Atlantica*. Enjoy a meal at one of Canada's best rated restaurants and spend the night in one of the most beautiful ocean-side settings on the east coast!

The lucky winner will be drawn on Friday, December 19th at our annual Christmas Luncheon.

Thank you for your support - hope to see you in February!

Joel Sweeney Marilyn Thompson
Chair Vice Chair

Advance notice – mark your calendars - Annual Club Christmas Luncheon for members and their guests Friday, December 19, 2008 at the Fairmont. More details in November.

November Speakers...

Kevin Casey

Our November speakers will tell you about everything from dragon boats to music notes and a mountain top or two. Don't miss any of them...

November 7 – *Julie Bettney* – All about the Avalon Dragon Boaters.

November 14 – *Peter Gardner* - General and Artistic Director, Newfoundland Symphony Orchestra - Music as a business, the NSO experience.

November 21 – *T.A. Loeffler* – Climbing that mountain.

November 24 - *Business Day* – Our club executive will tell you about their mountain tops and their monthly update on club business.

Club members are encouraged to submit names to the committee of interesting speakers for future club meetings. Contact Gary Peddle, Angela Antle or Kevin Casey with your suggestions.

Read-A-Long With Us...

George Kirkland

What an exciting September and October we've had for the Rotary Read-A-Long Program. We have confirmed the Bank of Montreal as a repeat sponsor for \$5,000 (Dianne Critch – you are awesome). We also received four banker's boxes of gently used books from BMO which will be put to excellent use.

As hinted at in the last newsletter The United Way has also come on as a major sponsor confirming an \$8,000 contribution. There is going to be a lot of happy children with new books this year. All of the St. John's Rotary East members should feel like Santa Claus! To date we have had two Read-A-Longs and our newest sports group to join the cause, The Memorial Seahawks, were a big hit with the kids. We have many readings before December and we still have spaces available. Please sign up on the website at...

www.rotaryreadalong.com

International Service...

Gordon Martin

All is Well Program - We are learning that dealing in the third world is not straight forward. We are currently in discussions with our Nigerian Rotarian Counterparts and hope to announce soon the First *All Is Well* Project. We are also evaluating another project that would help provide Clean Water to a hospital in Kenya. Currently, the administration needs to buy the water, and often there is not enough to even have adequate supplies in their

operating rooms. The *All is Well* Team will also be brainstorming to start a fundraising campaign for the project as well as increase our community's awareness of the need for Sustainable Safe Water and Sanitation Solutions in the World. If you would like to join this conversation, you can speak to Linda Hensmen, David Allison, Gerry Donovan or myself.

Brian Martin Moments...

Contributors

The idea for this column was suggested by Bruce Templeton and supported by club president, Alex Twells.

"Brian Martin Moments" are personal reflections by individual club members that were inspired by the life and character of club past-president, Brian Martin. If you wish to contribute a reflection please email it to the editor at gelane@gmail.com

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Janis Byrne - I write this after returning from a wonderful 2 week vacation exploring the coast of California. This was our 2nd trip to San Francisco, and our 2nd visit to one of its wonderful neighbourhood restaurants, "Isa". I remember a couple of years ago, when Brian was about to visit San Francisco, Steve and I sat with him at breakfast and gave him some recommendations on what to see and do in San Fran; one of those tips was a visit to "Isa". So a couple of weeks later, Brian sends an email (while still in San Fran) thanking us for our recommendation, as he, Cheryl and friends had enjoyed a wonderful meal there.

When we returned to Isa, Brian was in our thoughts. So take the vacations, leave the Blackberries at home, and carpe diem. None of us are running the planet, and the office will function just fine without you for a few days!

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