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Club Assembly

November 27

Yellow Belly Brewery

288 Water Street

**Cupid's Bonus - Deadline
December 15th!**

EAST NEWS

The Early Riser

November Notes from the Pres...

Alex Twells

I am delighted to have been able to induct two new members this month; Joyce Randell and Michael Cotter; evidence that we have a vibrant and lively club appealing to a good cross section of the St John's community. It's been a while since we have talked as a club about membership and what the club needs from each of us. Clarifying the membership agenda was a key part of our strategic plan and so look out for some new developments on this issue at our club assembly on November 27th.

We are getting to the point in the year when we need to think about the succession plan on the board. To comply with the RI calendar we need to have our 2009/10 executive identified by December 31st this year. I have asked Past President John Mahoney to organize the election of directors, but I would like to take this opportunity to encourage anyone who has an interest in joining the board to think about putting their name forward. Please contact me or any of the board if you would like to find out more about what we do and the commitments needed.

The board wishes to tackle two issues of significant importance over the next few months. Firstly, we need to decide what to do when our existing commitment to Bishop Abraham through our Adopt A School Program expires next year. Secondly, we have decided to look at the fundraising goals and methods that might drive the activity of the club in the long term. These topics will be addressed by special committees or appointees of the board. It's very early days yet, but it's important that you know that this work is underway and I

ask for your help, when needed, in coming to a consensus on these weighty matters.

Annual Christmas Luncheon

for members and your guests

Friday, Dec. 19, 2008

12:00 for 12:30

in the Fairmont

Garrison/Signal Room

Turkey Dinner

and all the fixin's

\$25.00 each

Important that you RSVP
Marilyn Thompson ASAP.

December Speakers... **WOW**

Kevin Casey

Our December speakers list is short but highly engaging. Don't miss any of them or the Christmas Luncheon entertainment...

December 5 – "Annual year end address on the state of affairs of Newfoundland", delivered on behalf of His Majesty's government.

December 12 – *SIFE Memorial* - champions of the 2008 Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) World Cup.

December 19 – Annual Christmas Luncheon - featuring *Jennifer Johnson and the very talented Young Virtuosi Suzuki Players*.

December 26 – *Boxing Day* – You can sleep in, there's **no meeting**.

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.

Helping Young Minds Remember...

Jo-Ann Skinner (November 7)

Today we had an incredible Remembrance Day assembly. One of your members, Dr. David Allison, when he came to breakfast (*in October*), had offered to Play bagpipes sometime. He played at today's assembly...it was



tremendous. He then stayed for an hour to do a bagpipe clinic with Elementary.

The children were spellbound; I can't tell you how much it was appreciated.

Jo-Ann Skinner

Principal, Bishop Abraham Elementary

Flat Out With Miriam MacLeod!

Miriam MacLeod

Things have been all-Rotary, all the time the past couple of weeks, which has brought a lot of satisfaction to me. I was delighted with the club response to the call for vegetables in October, and we bought over 70 bags in our club. Someone who shall remain nameless (but I'll tell you for \$10) bought a bag each for the children in the kindergarten class. There were a number of mothers who remarked that an organization or individual had given them a turkey, but thanks to the generous donation, they would have vegetables to go with the bird. The fundraiser earned over \$700 for Bishop Abraham.

Hard on the heels of vegetable bundles come fish cakes. The Furlong Brothers of Plate Cove are purveyors of fine fish cakes. Each 2-pound bag is only \$7.00 and can be ordered with or without onions. The orders blasted in quickly

when I sent out the initial email with this information. One nameless member (again, for \$10 I'll spill it) ordered 10 bags to take to the George Street Soup Kitchen to cover a meal for their guests. This kind of spontaneous generosity is always inspiring. The deadline is November 17th to put your orders in, so don't be left out.

I was honoured to be invited to speak to the St. John's Northwest Club at the Holiday Inn on November 4th. The Club is very interested in our Adopt a School program. They were excited to hear about the opportunity to make a difference to a school as we have. Club President Wendy Scammell told me that they were moving ahead to adopt Virginia Park. Rumour has it that the St. John's Club will also adopt a school. More details to follow on this in the coming weeks.

Terry Reardon got the Club all fired up with the Basketball Tournament at Bishop Abraham due to take place December 5-6. The sign will be the size of the gym with the number of sponsors who came forth. Terry was delighted with the response of the teams entered to play and the number of Club volunteers who signed up to help out at the canteen or "other duties as needed." Bravo Terry, great idea that "had legs", as Shannie remarked at Friday Breakfast. I know we will all be delighted when the students have height-appropriate nets, which will be what the funds are used for. Check your emails that came in on October 28th for Leigh's take on students living with short legs.

With the Christmas season approaching at the speed of light, it is time to think about our Hamper Campaign. Every year we are humbled by the scarcity in some Bishop Abraham families' lives, and have the chance to experience true gratitude for the abundance we have in our own. This year we will reach out to help at least 10 families by providing food and presents in a generous hamper. As I have not been back to PEI since last Christmas, I decided to go back a little early this year, so I will be leaving St. John's on December 16th. That is a bit soon to give out the items to our families, so ***I am looking for volunteers***

***Wheels & Deals
Cupid's Bonus!***

Purchase your share before December 15th and you will be entered in a draw for a \$500 gift certificate from *Atlantica*, one of Canada's best rated restaurants with one of the most beautiful ocean-side settings on the east coast!

Winner will be drawn on Friday, December 19th at our annual Christmas Luncheon.

to coordinate the assembly and delivery of the hampers this year, probably on December 19th in the morning. I will send the grocery list to Sobey's and Heather Martin and Jo-Ann Skinner will shop for the family members' presents. If someone (or more than one) could coordinate picking up the food at Sobey's, getting it to the school, inviting club members to assemble the food hampers, and getting them delivered, that will be wonderful. It is a very rewarding experience and I look forward to hearing the chorus of volunteers who would love to take charge. Please dig deep in your pockets for donations to buy the items. All donations for the hampers go through the Club Foundation and are income tax deductible.

I will finish by telling you about our second Seniors Luncheon that took place at Café Wedgwood on Thursday, November 6th. The Club took out 14 seniors for lunch, again from the Bridging Cultures Group. There were some familiar faces from our July lunch and some new ones as well. I was so happy to sit with a new guest who had only been to the Bridging Cultures group 3 times. She is a three-time cancer survivor, her husband died last summer, and she has a number of continuing chronic health problems. However, I'd say that being lonely was the biggest burden in her life. She was bright and smiling, and very open to talking. Those around her were happy to listen to her. She didn't eat much lunch,

but her piece of cheesecake disappeared. She was the reason in my mind that we hosted the lunch that day. Leigh Puddester had this to say: "I thought the lunch was great and I'd encourage any Rotarian to go next time. Not only do you give seniors and opportunity to socialize (which for some is very important - some have no family and few friends), but you also get to hear about their lives from a time which none of us can relate to. Listening to "Hilde" talk about growing up in rural Newfoundland, and hearing about "Kathe's" experience in immigrating to Canada from Germany during the war, was a great way to put issues of our life into perspective and to learn more about our Newfoundland culture as well other cultures."

Thank you to Marilyn T, Tony, Shannie, Bob, Janis, and Leigh for attending.

Welcome To Our Newest Rotarians!

Michael Cotter. Born and raised in Carbonear, Michael completed high school at St. Francis High in 1991. Combining courses completed at Memorial University and the Nova Scotia Agricultural College in Truro, Nova Scotia, Michael attained an honours degree in Bachelor of Science – Plant Science Agricultural from Dalhousie University in 1996. After employment with John Risely of Clearwater Fine Foods in Chester, Nova Scotia, Michael continued his academic endeavours at the Information Technology Institute in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Upon completion of this program, with many US employment opportunities at his disposal, Michael decided to return to Newfoundland, employed as a programmer/analyst with Stratos Global in 1998.

Promoted to Systems Analyst in 2000, Michael continued his leadership role with Stratos, acting as a subject matter expert on many IT integration projects. After 5 years of employment with Stratos, Michael took another career path and found his real niche as a sales representative with Telus Mobility. It was with Telus that Michael discovered his love for interacting with people, leading by example, and closing the sale. A promotion to Senior Sales



representative along with repetitive national awards as top sales representative

, Michael helped establish Telus as a major telecommunications provider in Newfoundland.

At the beginning of 2008, Michael combined his sales experience and client relations as Account Manager with MicroAge Computer Centers. Nurturing existing accounts and building new relationships, acquiring new clients is now Michael's primary focus in this role.

Over the years, Michael assisted at a local veterinarian practice, acted as graduating class ombudsman at NSAC, volunteered as a youth soccer coach in Chester, Nova Scotia and spent time serving up pints at a local Irish pub. Other designations have been college varsity soccer team captain in 1995, spokesperson for ITI to potential Newfoundland students in 1998 and Vice President of NAPE Hockey League in 2007 - 2008.

Michael's love for hands on work is eminent in continuous renovation projects at his home in St. John's, which he inhabits with his feline companion Gasket of 11 years.

Joyce Randell - Joyce has been employed with Atlantic Lottery Corporation for 25 years during which she has worked in various field positions throughout the Island and risen to her current position as Regional Manager, Newfoundland and Labrador. As Regional Manager, Joyce is responsible for ALC's business development, sales operations, and performance and related activities in Newfoundland and Labrador as well as ALC'S social responsibility values internally and externally.



Joyce has achieved the highest leadership engagement scores throughout

ALC for two consecutive years (2006/07 and 2007/08), led the Top Sales Team at ALC in 2006/07 and led the Newfoundland and Labrador operational and sales changes to lottery processes that took place in 2007 as part of ALC's consumer confidence program.

Joyce is active in the community having volunteered with groups including Bay of Islands SPCA Board of Directors, Western Memorial Hospital, NL Chronic Pain Association, Peter Gzowski Golf Tournament Organizing Committee, and St. John's Board of Trade Ambassador Program. She is a member of the Mount Pearl Chamber of Commerce and the St. John's Board of Trade.

Joyce has been married to her husband Rodger for 33 years and they have a daughter, Jennifer, 27 and a son Nicholas 18. Her hobbies include reading, writing, public speaking, antiques, and numerous outdoor activities.

Photo Gallery



Jeff Peddle and John Mahoney receiving their Paul Harris Fellowships from District Governor Doug Logan in September

Watch out for these folks on December 12



WHEELS & DEALS
Valentine's Gala 2009



Get lucky this Valentine's Night!