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Cupid's Bonus
winner

SHARON SPARKES



EAST NEWS

The Early Riser

Merry Christmas to All...

Alex Twells

It's somewhat alarming to realize that the Rotary year is just about half way over already. However I am pleased at the progress we are making this year. Meetings are noticeably more consistent, attendance is rising; we have a handful of great new members, a healthy bank account and some exciting new things going on like the formation of a Rotaract club and a new membership committee.

I'm sure that one of the reasons that we all enjoy the meetings so much these days are the weekly stand up routines from Miriam and Bernardo. It occurred to me that we could sell the television rights to the comedy channel and make a fortune for the foundation!

One bit of Board news to update you with. Kelly is moving house to Holyrood over Christmas and is going to struggle getting to the meetings during the winter. She has asked to step down as secretary. Steve Wedgewood has valiantly agreed to fill the secretarial role until July when the new secretary will take office. I am sad to lose Kelly and I thank her dearly for all her help and humour. And I am delighted to accept Steve into the role, as he has a very impressive knowledge of all things Rotary.

I am pleased that the Wheels and Deals Valentines event has ignited some creativity and even passion for our signature fundraiser. Be sure to work

on sourcing some amazing prizes to make this a bumper year.

We have some fun meetings for your partners and families over the Christmas season so I look forward to seeing you all in a festive mood.

However much I enjoy receiving old fashioned Christmas cards I seem to have become increasing lazy with sending them myself. And so I will take this opportunity to wish you and your families all a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Annual Family Breakfast

Friday, January 2, 2009
9:00 – 10:00 am
Cabot Club
Hotel Newfoundland

Featuring A magic show
and Sing-a-Long

RSVP Marilyn Thompson

January Speakers...

Kevin Casey

Start the New Year right. Don't miss any of our January events...

January 2 – "Annual Family Breakfast" *9:00 a.m.– 10:00 a.m*.- bring the kids and grandkids or the neighbours' kids – Special Magic Show and Sing-a-Long

January 9 – TBA– check our website at www.rotarystjohnseast.com

January 16 – *Noreen Golfman* – state of the Newfoundland Film Industry.

January 23 – *Judy McCain Beranger* – Elder Care Mediation – author of “A Caregiver’s Guide to Alzheimers”.

January 30 – *Susan Chalmers Gauvin* – The Atlantic Ballet Theatre Company.

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.

Breakfast of Champions!

Miriam MacLeod

The November 28th breakfast meeting was one that put Club members in the Rotary spirit and put smiles on everyone’s faces. That morning was our first time to recognize our Breakfast of Champions. We welcomed Ashley Howse, Brooke Noftall, and Justin Whelan to receive certificates and \$20 Fog City gift certificates to acknowledge their outstanding contributions at Bishop Abraham. It was a proud moment when each child listened to President Alex read the introduction and then went to the podium to receive their certificate. Here is why each child was recognized:

Ashley Howse (Grade 4): Ashley has been involved in a number of activities involving helping her community. Each year since Kindergarten, she collects pennies to donate to the Salvation Army. She, along with her family, collects and saves recyclables for an elderly gentleman in their neighbourhood. She recently participated in the Jingle Bell Walk for Arthritis with her family. In school Ashley demonstrates exemplary behaviour and is always eager to help her peers in any way she can. She is involved in such extra-curricular activities as the Drama Club and is proving to be quite the budding actress.

Brooke Noftall (Grade 4): Brooke is a very pleasant and hard working student. She has demonstrated an interest in

doing her very best this year to do well in school, has improved her attendance, and is participating in extra-curricular activities like the Drama Club after school. A new sense of independence is evident each day as Brooke takes more responsibility for her academics. She is always willing to help her classmates in any way she can; she has a keen ability to see when her classmates are having trouble and is the first to lend a hand. Recently a student in her class arrived from another country and has limited English. Without hesitation Brooke found ways to communicate with him and make him feel welcome.

Justin Whalen (Grade 5): Justin is a very kind and caring young boy and loves to help other students in any way he can. He shows concern for his peers if he feels they are having difficulties. A young girl who had never attended school before moving to Canada recently started school at Bishop Abraham. When Justin saw that she did not have the school supplies necessary for school, he helped one of the student assistants gather up some of the basic supplies and handed them to her before she went to her classroom. Justin is working so hard to overcome many difficulties. When you meet Justin in the corridors of Bishop Abraham and he flashes his radiant smile, you are immediately uplifted. Finally, Justin shows such love for his parents and family when they come to our school. This is something that too many young children of his age feel reluctant to do. We could all do with an ounce of his kindness.

I heard a lot of positive feedback about the breakfast and how people said it made them remember why they became Rotarians in the first place. One thing is certain; we don’t know where the ripples will end from throwing our Rotary pebble in those children’s ponds.

Big congratulations to the Speakers Committee of Kevin Casey, Angela Antle and Gary Peddle for coming up with the idea and to Kevin and the staff at the Idea Factory who created a wonderful certificate for those children to keep. (see photos on back page)

Our next Breakfast of Champions will take place in late March.

Rotary Involving Young People... Rotaract!

Lorraine Ennis



As many of you are aware, our club, in conjunction with the other Rotary clubs in the St. John’s area, has taken the initiative to

develop a Rotaract Club at Memorial University.

For those of you who don’t know, Rotaract Clubs are sponsored by an existing Rotary Club and this sponsorship is a result of Rotary’s belief that young people should take an active interest in community life and have the opportunity for professional development. Rotaract Clubs organize a variety of projects and activities. However, within the program, all clubs undertake three types of activities in varying degrees: professional development, leadership development and service projects. Together, these three areas ensure a balanced club program and provide important experience and opportunities for the personal development of each Rotaractor.

We will be hosting an information meeting in January for prospective members. At this session, we will explain what Rotary is, explain the purpose, goals, activities, and attendance and participation requirements and gather further information on the prospective members.

We are very excited about this opportunity and have already identified a small group of young people who are interested in starting a club. There will be many opportunities for you to become involved and I will keep you posted with the details.

Email from the Canary Islands...

Rosanna Pierson – December 1, 2008

Life here continues to go well; as my Spanish improves, so does everything else.

School is getting easier, I'm starting to actually enjoy history class and I even got 100% on my math test! I'm also in a Spanish-as-a-second-language class outside of school, which helps. I'm still looking for some more extracurricular activities though, it's been hard to find something close by and at the right time (I live kind of far from the city).

I met two Rotary exchange students on the island who went to the States last year, and they are my new favorite people ever. They understand me! Not just linguistically (but they do speak almost perfect English), but they get what I'm going through and what it's like being alone in a new country. They've already invited me out with them a couple of times and I'm planning on going sailing with them this weekend.

That's basically it for now; I should go work on my presentation about Canada that's coming up in January. AH!

I hope everything's going great at home! Talk to you soon,
-Rosanna

Editor's Note –Rosanna Pierson is our Club's Sponsored Rotary Youth Exchange Outbounder.

A "Slam Dunk" Project!

Terry Reardon & Miriam Macleod

The 1st annual Bishop Abraham Basketball Tournament was a huge success thanks to all of our members (check the schedule for the list) who gave of their time to handle the door, canteen, and generally supervise. The staff and parents of Bishop Abraham also pitched in including a herculean effort by Pat Kennedy who singlehandedly refed all games in the round robin (a lot) except his own

Bishop Abraham games. The Bishop Abraham Beagles also won the gold medal in their division so that was a major bonus.



The Banner

The tournament was a success from a financial point of view too, raising about \$4,300 thanks in large part to our members' generous contributions to the naming rights banner, the canteen and subsidizing the medals. We need to attempt to leverage these

funds somehow to access any matching funds to bring that gym up to date with age appropriate nets.

The good thing is that the school now has an annual event that will enable them to raise significant funds (even without repeat donations from us). They have learned how to put it together, have fun and make some money to support the school's programs. It was a great team building exercise.

Way to go Team!

And speaking of teams, there were ten in the tournament – Bishop Abraham, Bishop Field, Goulds Elementary, Hazelwood, Holy Cross, Newtown, Rennie's River, St. John Bosco, St. Matthew's, and Vanier, all from the Eastern School District. Here's the home team – Bishop Abraham Beagles.



(More photos on "The Back Page")

"All Is Well" Announces Its First Project!

Gordon Martin - Chair

"Each drop in the bucket, brings us closer to our goal." - Doug Logan, District Governor District 7820

All is Well is an initiative to provide sustainable clean water and sanitation solutions for communities in the developing world. We are aligned with Rotary International's adoption of the UN Millennium Development Goal #7, to reduce by half the number of people in the world who lack access to safe water and sanitation by 2015. Currently, 1.5 billion people lack access to safe water and another 1 billion lack access to sanitation.

We are really pleased to tell you that we have secured our first project for the initiative. In partnership with District 9110 Nigeria and Chief Yomi Adewunmi, PDG 2006-07, we will provide water & sanitation facilities for 3 primary schools in three different communities in Ogun State District. The schools have a population of about 3000 and lack potable water. There are no toilet facilities in the schools, thus sanitation and hygiene is very poor.

Each of the schools will receive a borehole well, ventilation improved latrines (UNICEF Approved) and hygiene education.

The total cost of the project will be approximately \$30,000 USD. With matching grants, the funds needed to be raised may be cut in half.

All is Well has received financial commitments from The Rotary Clubs of Clarenville, St. John's and St. John's East. The Rotary Club of Clarenville gave the initial \$1000 in May 2007, recognizing that together we can accomplish a lot more than working on our own.

All is Well will continue to seek new partners both within the Rotary Clubs of District 7820 and within our communities as we work toward our short and long term goals.

Gordon Martin will speak more about *All is Well* at the Rotary Club of St. John's Northwest meeting on Tuesday December 23.

Stay tuned for more positive developments early in the New Year.

Thanks for the Hampers!

Lorraine Ennis



On December 16th and 17th, many of us came together to help assemble and deliver Christmas Hampers for the families of Bishop Abraham. Once again, it was an amazing experience and thank you for your contributions of items for the hampers, monetary donations and your time. We raised about \$5300 which means a shortfall of only a couple hundred dollars. Once again, we will be giving a Make-Up to



those of you who attended the hamper assembly and/or delivery.

Jo-Ann Skinner, Principal of Bishop Abraham, sent me an e-mail and said:

Everything went so well. I'm sure the delivery experiences were varied but the important thing at the end of it all is that there's a significant number of children in our community who will have a far better Christmas because of the efforts of St. John's East Rotary. While we have no control over their life circumstances at least we can do our best to ensure that life, for a short while at least, is better than usual. At the school we could not do this without your

support. Thanks, hoping to do this again.

Welcome To Our Newest Rotarian

Sherylynn (Sherry) Butt was born in Red Bay, Labrador; the eldest of three children. She attended both Memorial and Dalhousie Universities and has earned degrees in sociology and business.

Upon graduating, Sherry worked with the Parks Canada Agency for several years as an interpreter and trainer. Eventually, she pursued an exciting opportunity in the airlines industry and joined Provincial Airlines Ltd. in 2002, and has climbed the "corporate ladder" to her current position as FBO Marketing and Sales Manager, a position she has held for the last 3 years.

Sherry is a person who seeks and thoroughly enjoys a challenge. She



likes to get involved and make a difference. She represented the province as Miss Newfoundland and Labrador and has also been blessed with the title of Miss Canada both

of which she says have opened her eyes to what we can do if we put our minds to something.

For the past seven years, Sherry have been a very active volunteer, giving her time to the Janeway Foundation, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, Easter Seals, Kirby House, Sunshine Dreams for Kids and the Children's Wish Foundation, just to name a few. As Sherry puts it, "Volunteering, rolling up your sleeves and pitching in, to aid in a good cause has been so very rewarding; I have certainly learned from these experiences and I have grown."

Sherry is also an active member of Toastmasters International, the St. John's chapter of the Positive Thinkers Club and the St. John's Board of Trade.

As an active member of our Rotary Club, Sherry intends to help us make a positive difference within our community and in the lives of others. She believes that being a Rotarian will give her opportunity to network with other professionals in the St. John's business community and to try something new and to challenge herself. Welcome to the Club Sherry!

Greetings from Read-A-Long!

Pauline Brophy

We have just completed our last Read-A-Long for 2008.....wow that was fast!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has joined us to read this year. It is only through your participation that we are able to continue with this amazing program, and continue to make an impact with the children.

I know everyone is anxious to sign up for 2009, we are working on our new schedule and hope to have it ready to post next week.

On behalf of the board of directors for the Read-A-Long program; George Kirkland Jr, Jeff Peddle, Alex Twells, Steve Wedgwood, George Tucker, Dave Pine, Bill White and myself, I want to wish you a very Merry Christmas and an amazing 2009!!



And to all a good night!

(Check out the Back Page for more photos)

The Back Page



Bishop Abraham students with their Breakfast of Champions Certificates and their proud parents and school vice-principal

The Bishop Abraham "Slam Dunk" Basketball Tournament

