



The Ambassador

The Monthly publication of the Rotary Club of Hamilton, Sept. 20, 2012

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

President's Message



Our Club is led by an experienced, well-qualified and committed Board of Directors and Committee Chairs. These include many individuals with recognized leadership skills in their work and the community as well as two individuals who have completed all levels of the Rotary leadership training program. Our leadership group functions exceptionally well together in a co-operative and constructive manner.

Our club's priorities for 2012/2013 are summarized as follows:
Complete planning for our 2013 "100 Years of Rotary in Hamilton" Celebration and begin the celebration
Complete and fulfill our Club Visioning process
Increase and engage membership
Meet our Club fundraising goals
Continue to develop our local and international projects focusing on literacy and health.

In particular, these priorities will be achieved as follows:

Celebration of 100 Years of Rotary in Hamilton

Past President Alex Moroz chairs our 100th Anniversary Committee which is well underway. The 100th Gala will take place on November 2nd, 2013 at Liuna Station in Hamilton. Our Board is committed to a fundraising goal of \$100,000.00 over and above our regular fundraising goals to be used for Literacy projects in Hamilton and internationally and to help build our "Rotary Forever Fund" which we maintain at the Hamilton Community Foundation.

Complete and fulfill our Club Visioning Process

With the assistance of Nan Bruce and others from District 7090, our club initiated a formal "Club Visioning" exercise in June, 2012 under the leadership of President-elect Chris Cutler who has completed the Rotary Leadership training and participates as a Rotary educator at the District level. We are engaging all of our membership in this process which will result in a plan being presented for Board approval by the end of 2012.

Increase and Engage Membership

Our Club has succeeded in increasing membership in the last twelve months. The momentum in this area has continued into this fiscal year. The leadership of the Club is committed to engaging new members through fellowship and opportunities to serve in Club activities. For example, on August 16th, 2012 new members who have joined the Club in the past year were invited to a summer barbeque, attended by 35 people, to meet and establish communication with Club leaders. The club recognizes the importance of diversity of its membership and is succeeding in that respect.

Meet our Club's Fund Raising Goals

The club will focus on our three major fund raising events during this Rotary year. The first event will be our annual campaign for our "Sunshine Fund" a goal of receiving a charitable gift from every Rotarian in our Club. Last year we surpassed our goal of \$15,000 for this campaign. This year, the Campaign target is to raise \$19,000.00 by September 25th, 2012.

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Board:

Officers:

President Bob Munroe
President Elect Christopher Cutler
Vice President Peter Quaglia
Treasurer Mike Yamamoto
Secretary Rosemary Knechtel
Sgt-at-arms Kevin Anstee
Past President Jim Commerford

Directors:

Director of International Service Trevor Pringle
Director of Program/Fellowship Helen Pelton
Director of Club Service Glen Norton
Director of Community Service Irene Hubar
Director of Communications Pearl Wolfe
Director of Fundraising Robert Beres

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Rotary Summer Literacy Program

Books, Books and more Books!

The Rotary Summer Literacy Program operates three two-week sessions. This free program is offered to young people across Hamilton with a focus on youth at risk.

Children attend the program to have fun during the summer months—no more teacher, no more books...not the case here. The fun activities promote and encourage reading and the love for learning. Over 350 children attend the program daily and many will maintain their literacy level over the summer holidays when many children's level regress. There is a lot of fun and laughter that happens, but there is also a lot of learning.

"At the end of the two weeks at Summer Literacy we have a BBQ and my mom and grandmother attended. We had hotdogs and then my group did our performance. I was a super star....and then at the end of camp I got a new book to take home. This time I can't wait to

get home so I can read the book I just got!" Jeff - Rotary Summer Literacy 2011

Rotarians go to camp..... Summer camp is not just for kids!

The Rotary Summer Literacy Program has been visited each day by one of our club members. The **Rotarian of the Day** program engages our Rotarians to visit the Rotary Summer Literacy program and to see first hand how the program operates and the value of the program.

The Rotarian of the Day greets the children and their parents, then joins the campfire song session and storey read out loud. The response has been great! The parents meet the Rotarians, the young people get to meet positive role models and Rotarians can see first-hand what their Sunshine Fund Donations help support.

Thank you to all of the

Rotarians who helped out by being Rotarians of the Day at the Rotary Summer Literacy Program! The past 6 weeks have been very busy ones at the program. Each morning over 200 children were greeted by a Rotarian or two, they proceeded to the gym for the morning welcome and read along with the Rotarian of the Day!

The Rotary Summer Literacy Coordinator Rob Blunsdon did an amazing job again with the staff and over 2000 young people attending the program. In addition to the program staff, the Rotary Summer Literacy program partnered with the Hamilton Wentworth District School Board in working with over 50 Focus on Youth employees. We also had a leadership development program called 'Leaders in Training'.



"The day starts with being greeted by a Rotarian. Then we proceed to our teams and meet all of our new friends. We sing songs, read stories and get to dream about being a super hero. We play outside, make cool pictures and then it is time to go home.... Just another day at the Rotary Summer Literacy Program. It is so much FUN!!!!"

You Are My Sunshine



Labour Day means the launch of our Sunshine Fund

Members' Appeal. This is a chance for each and every Rotarian in our club to personally give to the many great causes that our Rotary Club supports. As we celebrate the unofficial end of summer and children go

back to school, we at Rotary prepare to support nutritional snack programs and free after school homework help for students in some of the most neediest schools. These projects are only possible because we all support the Sunshine Fund.

The goal for the Sunshine Fund Appeal is to have 100% of our membership

participate and to raise \$19,000. The personal support of the Sunshine Fund helps our club support the many projects and initiatives, such as the scholarships at Mohawk and McMaster, it helped introduce the International Tattoo to over 500 children and helps over 2000 children participate at a free after school program in the Wever Hub.

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President's Message Continued

Our two remaining events, Spring Uncorked and Golf and Glamour are being scheduled for the Spring of 2013. Our plans are to raise the community's awareness of each event, each Rotarian's role in the event and build upon corporate sponsorship. Active and experienced Committees are working on these two projects now.

The funds raised from these projects and campaign will be used, in part, to continue our club's commitment to Literacy in Hamilton and for our International Projects and to help build our Rotary Forever Fund.

Our Club has developed a fundraising plan for the 100th Anniversary Fund.

Our Club recognizes that we must improve our contribution from members to the annual fund of The Rotary Foundation and the Board will continue to focus the attention of the membership on this important fund.

Continue to develop our local and international projects focusing on literacy and health

The focus in this area continues as described by our Club to the District Governor last year. The Club's primary area of work in the City of Hamilton relates to the provision of needed programs and services in Hamilton's north end. This area, identified as the fourth most impoverished neighborhood in Canada, has seen Rotary

take a leadership role in building "local" community supports in a variety of school communities.

Again, this year, Rotary will continue its major investment in literacy. Partnering with Cathy Wever School, the City of Hamilton and Board of Education, Rotary delivers summer literacy programs to thousands of local school children. Support for community based initiatives continue throughout the school year and involve such activities as Park Clean Up, Christmas Party, Community Based Youth Workers, Community Based Youth Programmers and Rotary Reading Partners. Internationally, the Hamilton Rotary club has a strong history of balancing

local work with International Development needs. This work will continue increasing the Club's awareness of our work around the world especially in Mali which is a priority.

As a final note, under previous presidents the Club's administrative and financial reporting systems have been reviewed, consolidated and updated. Financial management systems developed by our Treasurer Mike Yamamoto have been implemented by the Board. These systems are being continued to ensure continuity and sound management into the future years.

Bob Munroe, President



Are You Passionate About Reading?



It's back to school time and time to plan the Rotary Reading Volunteer program for another school year. Welcome back all to all our dedicated volunteers from past years and also a warm welcome to those of you who have indicated an interest in joining the program this year.

The teachers and students really appreciate the assistance they receive from our volunteers. Principal Rita Knapp, Vice-Principal Maryann Gage and the Reading Program Coordinator Charlene Jaggard are looking forward to our club's participation again this year. There will be a volunteer orientation at the school for all volunteers within the next few weeks and it is especially helpful for the new participants this year. You just need to set aside one to two hours per week to

volunteer. You are assigned to work with one teacher and together you schedule the dates and times for your visits so there is lots of flexibility to fit the time around your schedules. It's so rewarding and truly amazing the difference you can make! If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call me @ 905-648-1710 or e-mail if you would like to participate this school year. Rosemary Knechtel, Co-ordinator Rotary Reading

Mark Your Calendar!

Thursday, December 13 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. is the Cathy Wever Christmas Party. More than 700 children enjoy a wonderful holiday party at Cathy Wever Elementary School. Rotarians get in on the fun by helping serve a turkey dinner with all the trimmings to the children. It's a festive way to enjoy the holidays! New members in particular should try to attend - it's a wonderful way to find out about what your Rotary Club does.



THE MONTHLY PUBLICATION
OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF
HAMILTON, SEPT. 20, 2012

*Rotary Club of Hamilton
at the Art Gallery of Hamilton*

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**Rotary Board Meetings
2012/2013
5:00 pm to 7:00 pm**

- Tuesday, Oct. 9, 2012
- Monday, Nov. 12, 2012
- Monday, Dec. 10, 2012
- Monday, Jan. 14, 2013
- Monday, Feb. 11, 2013
- Monday, Mar. 11, 2013
- Monday, Apr. 8, 2013
- Monday, May 13, 2013
- Monday, June 10, 2013

Location of meetings:

**Dodsworth & Brown
Robinson Chapel
15 West Ave. N.,
Hamilton, ON L8L 5B9**

Sunshine cont'd

On an international level the Sunshine Fund supports the irradiation of Polio, clean and safe drinking water and community development.

As we launch the Sunshine Fund appeal, we encourage each and every Rotarian to participate. It would be a clear and strong message to deliver to our community that 100% of our Rotary members supported the Sunshine Fund and helped raise \$19,000....the difference it makes in our local and international communities makes a huge impact. Thank you in advance for your support!

Alex Morosz

About the Newsletter

The Ambassador is the monthly newsletter of the Rotary Club of Hamilton. It will be printed the first Thursday of each month.

Deadline for articles is the last Friday of the month prior to publication.

The newsletter is distributed by email and printed for distribution the following week.

Editor: Heather J. Scott (1redsoxfan@live.com)

Advertising in the Ambassador

The cost of distributing the Ambassador is subsidized through business card size ads. The cost of an ad is \$200/year .

Please send your business card as a jpeg file to the email above. The number of times each ad runs will depend on the number of ads received. Each ad will be run a minimum of twice.

Rotary Garden Party

The Rotary Club of Hamilton celebrated its annual Garden Party June 20 at the Beverly Golf and Country Club. The club thanked our President, Jim Commerford for his commitment to Rotary and leadership as club President. Jim passed the President's pin to incoming President Bob Munroe.

The New Members' Award was presented to Jocelyn McKeown who has been a major supporter of Club fundraising activities.

A Paul Harris Fellowship award was presented to Laura Laverty who is a public health nurse at various schools, including Cathy Wever Elementary. Michael Orlander was also the recipient of a



Jocelyn McKeown was named New Member of the Year and presented with her award by President Jim at the garden party.

Paul Harris award for spearheading the club's reading and mentoring program at north end schools.

Jim Commerford presented the Presidential Award of Merit to Michael Yamamoto,

Zafar Adeel, John Clinton and Pearl Wolfe for their contributions to the club in the preceding year. Cynthia Janzen welcomed Christine and Keith Green as 2012 inductees to the Rick Broadfoot Circle.