



# The Miner's Lamp

Bringing the Light of Service to the Community and the World Through Rotary



2 December 2008

Volume 15 Issue 8

## December is Family Month in Rotary

### In This Issue

Oikocredit	1
Announcements	2
Program 2 December	2
Rotary Moment	3
Attendance	3
Birthdays and Anniversaries	3
Parting Shot	4
Chuckle Corner	4

*December is the month we focus on the family and one of the ways we can positively affect the lives of people less fortunate than we is to support our club's food hamper project. Bill Armstrong is coordinating the collection of money and food for two Cumberland families so please see him.*

## Oikocredit and Club Assembly



Our speaker last week was Jo Jamieson of Victoria who serves as treasurer of Oikocredit British Columbia. The organization, which promotes microcredit, is based in the Netherlands and has branches in many countries around the world with chapters in Nova Scotia, Ontario and British Columbia. Through the years, individuals and organizations have invested some \$500,000,000, \$450,000,000 of which is in circulation as microcredit loans to help people gain the dignity and financial independence from running their own businesses. Some businesses are run as cooperatives and others as small, home-based industries. The majority of the people in the world live on \$1.00 per day and 35,000 children of these poor families die everyday from diseases and illnesses due to lack of medical intervention. Jo encouraged us to consider becoming members and donating a minimum of \$250.00 to help others. Investments in Oikocredit can be withdrawn by



investors at any time. The organization has a repayment record of around 98%, much better than banks in the "first world". Perhaps there is someone in your family you would like to honour during this season of giving by making a donation in his/her name to Oikocredit. [www.oikocredit.org](http://www.oikocredit.org)

## Announcements—What's Happening in our Club—Please Read

- Jill Cornwell is always interested in suggestions for speakers: [jcornwell@shaw.ca](mailto:jcornwell@shaw.ca) She is also accepting donations of good books for the Cumberland Lodge Library we have helped establish.
- An anonymous family has offered \$600 toward the purchase of a Rotary ShelterBox (total cost \$1,200). Individuals will receive a tax receipt from ShelterBox Canada for their personal donations. Treasurer John reported that he has received an additional \$400 so far to be added to the \$600 pledge.
- Rotarians who are planning donations to ShelterBox or the Hospice Society must give their money to John Jones prior to 1 December in order to be eligible for a 2008 tax receipt.



- **From President Linda:** Christmas hampers for 2 Cumberland families - three parents and five teens; 3 girls, 2 boys Please give your cash donation and non-perishable food items to Bill as soon as possible. At Rotary or at Bill's office. Linda will e-mail details of the pancake breakfasts and other fundraising activities involving the CRM lighted ready-mix truck that we will run during the days leading up to Christmas. Our goal is to raise \$5,000 for the Paramedics. [www.bikesquad.ca](http://www.bikesquad.ca)
- Bent Harder offered beautiful calendars created by his club. Great gift idea for \$30 - proceeds to Rotaplast!
- **Program 2 December:** Mark R. Isfeld Secondary School Principal Bill Village.
- **December Greeters:** Kurt Nielsen and Deb Nolan
- **Greeters' Duties:** Arrive by 6:30 AM, set up room, greet everyone as people arrive and hand out badges, help with visitors' name tags and make-up cards. Return room to original setup.



# Rotary Moment



## Diabetes Conference First of its Kind in Mexico - By Arnold R. Grahl



A nurse tests the blood glucose level of a San Miguel de Allende resident during the Diabetes Conference. - Photo courtesy of Rotary Club of Tallahassee, Florida

With diabetes a leading cause of death in Mexico, two Rotary clubs in San Miguel de Allende, Guanajuato, organized a conference to bring together medical professionals from both the United States and Mexico to address the issue. The Diabetes Conference in San Miguel was Mexico's first-ever bilingual conference on diabetes and the first organized entirely by Rotarians. The

village, a popular tourist destination, has a sizable English-speaking population.

More than 200 doctors and health care professionals took part in the event, educating health care providers on better detection and treatment of the disease. At least 300 members of the public attended sessions, conducted in both English and Spanish, raising awareness of diabetes, and ways to prevent its onset. Free diabetes testing and glucose monitoring devices were provided.

William B. Webb, international service director for the co-sponsoring Rotary Club of Tallahassee, Florida, USA, said the conference armed more than 500 villages in the area with knowledge and resources to combat the disease. The event was paid for with a grant from pharmaceutical company Eli Lilly. The Municipality of San Miguel de Allende also provided financial and logistical support.

"We realized that diabetes, especially here in Guanajuato, is a major health problem," said Salvador Quiroz, an internist at Hospital de la Fe and a member of the San Miguel Allende club, in a press release. "That is why we organized this conference."

The three clubs, along with the Rotary Club of St. Francisville, Louisiana, also secured a Matching Grant from The Rotary Foundation for a digital camera and laser, which will be donated to the town's general hospital, for the diagnosis of diabetic retinopathy, a common cause of blindness in adults. For more on diabetes, read how a former Miss America is giving the disease a new face:

<http://www.rotary.org/en/MediaAndNews/TheRotarian/Pages/Diabetes.aspx>

Source: Rotary International News / Courtesy: eFlash\_Rotary

## Attendance

21 Cumberland Rotarians attended our meeting on 25 November. Visiting Rotarians:: Bent Harder from RC of Courtenay and Chip Ross from the RC of Strathcona Sunrise. Guests: Jo Jamieson and Ross Griffith-Cochrane of Oikocredit.

## Birthdays and Anniversaries

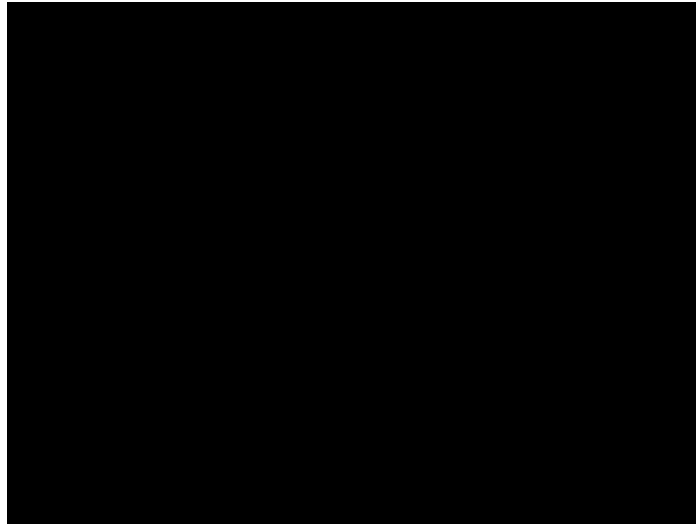
Birthdays: 8 December: Steve Galbraith. Anniversaries: 6 December, Liz and Elmer Phillipson, 7 December, Barbara and Wayne Giroday, 24 December. Cara and Steven Baird, 28 December, Rhonda and Bill Armstrong . Best wishes to everyone from all of us.

## Parting Shot



Dodie Brand, our Community Service Director, presented a cheque for \$4,008 to Paramedic Volunteer Bike Squad members Leslie Barns and Ryan Thorburn to pay for the skookum wet-weather gear they were both modelling.

## Chuckle Corner



### **A Christmas Story For People Having a Bad Day**

When four of Santa's elves got sick, the trainee elves did not produce toys as fast as the regular ones, and Santa began to feel the Pre-Christmas pressure. Then Mrs Claus told Santa her Mother was coming to visit, which stressed Santa even more. When he went to harness the reindeer, he found that three of them were about to give birth and two others had jumped the fence and were out, Heaven knows where. Then when he began to load the sleigh, one of the floorboards cracked, the toy bag fell to the ground and all the toys were scattered. Frustrated, Santa went in the house for a cup of apple cider and a shot of rum. When he went to the cupboard, he discovered the elves had drunk all the cider and hidden the rum. In his frustration, he accidentally dropped the cider jug, and it broke into hundreds of little glass pieces all over the kitchen floor. He went to get the broom and found the mice had eaten all the straw off the end of the broom. Just then the doorbell rang, and irritated Santa marched to the door, yanked it open, and there stood a little angel with a great big Christmas tree. The angel said very cheerfully, 'Merry Christmas, Santa. Isn't this a lovely day? I have a beautiful tree for you. Where would you like me to stick it?' And so began the tradition of the little angel on top of the Christmas tree.