



January 31, 2005

This Week's Program
Bemidji Area Arts Endowment Activities - Sandy Kaul
Next Week's Program
Headwaters Finance Corporation - Susan Hoosier

Important Dates to Remember

Chicago, USA - Rotary International Conference (Centennial Celebration) - June 18-25, 2005

Annual Goodwill Conference, February 4-6, 2005 Winnipeg, Manitoba - See President Warren for Details

Rotary Encourages Support to the Tsunami Victims

Bemidji Rotarians have donated over \$2,000 in funds to the Tsunami disaster. If you are interested in donating please contact Marilyn Heltzer.

We need your voice!

The Boys & Girls Club of Bemidji is working to install outdoor ice and the project is currently on hold due to a city issue. Please encourage our city officials to do what they can to see this project through.

Thank you Kevin Williamson for all your work with Gerrell's Sporting Goods of Grand Forks. Through Kevin's efforts, Gerrell's was happy to donate 20 pairs of skates for the Boys & Girls Club.

Project GreenUP

Project GreenUp is soon expecting a landscaping blueprint from MN DOT, outlining what, where, and how to plant all along the Hwy 197 corridor from the Northern Inn to the west, through town to past Keith's pizza on the east. It will be a wonderful guide for us to go by and is exactly what we have been waiting for in order to precede effectively and in a more organized manner. We can now map out, over the next few years, where and what we can plant. We have also received a grant from the Neilson Foundation for \$10,000 to be used on trees and such. This spring we will be pursuing businesses along that stretch that would allow us to plant on their grounds. The object, of course is strictly beautification and bringing the trees back to the Northwoods.

Also, thanks to Gary Johnson and Paul Bunyan Telephone (along with Dave Hengel and the HRDC) for again stepping up and putting together a web site for this project. It will be linked to our Rotary site under Bemidji Greenup. Ask Gary for details.

-Community service/green up committee

Rotary Awareness Month

Trivia question: What is the average years of service for the Bemidji noon Rotary group?

James J. Walker has been a Rotary member for 44 years! He was proposed for membership by Tom Hooker, who was Roadmaster for the Great Northern Railroad. "Rotary met at the Markham Hotel in those days," James continues, "it was there that former Vaudevillian Bill Bender infused the club with his enthusiasm for singing." At the district meetings Bemidji Rotary had the reputation as the "Singing Club."

"My work as Consulting Engineer to the cities involved in local improvements gave them a great opportunity to make up Rotary meetings in those cities." James describes, "I soon discovered that the 'pulse' unique to that city was always to be found in its' Rotarians and Rotary Club."

James proclaims "People I met in Rotary were always vital, interesting, 'doers', with an interest in the welfare of others and a desire to help. I am honored to be included in that group and proud to be able to say that I AM A ROTARIAN!"

Thank you all Rotarians for your commitment to not only the Rotary Club, but also your fellow Rotarians, and the community we live.

We have featured our four longest standing Rotarians, George Murray, Martin Sathre, James Walker, and George Welte. I would also like to list those that should receive an honorable mention for their many years of service.

Table with 3 columns: 20 Years, 30 Years, 40 Years. Lists names and years of service for various Rotarians.

Trivia answer: 14