

July 23, 2007

This Week's Program
Bemidji Symphony Orchestra – Dr Beverly Everett, Music Director
Next Week's Program
Classification Talks

Important Dates to Remember

Lake Bemidji Dragon Boat Festival

August 3-4, 2007, Bemidji Waterfront

Rotary International Convention

June 15-18, 2008, Los Angeles, CA

Recent Rotarian Visitors

Mike Moen, Bemidji Sunrise Rotary

Brenda Fickenbinder, Seattle, WA

Proposed New Member

John Chatten, City Manager

Welcome, New Members

Carol Nelson, North Star Materials, HR Mgr

Brad Wahl, ODC, Division Coordinator

Dragon Boat Report

With registration now closed, **Gary Johnson** says 63 teams have signed up for the upcoming Dragon Boat races. The Rotary Team is still in need of three people. Age is no limit and preference will be made for female rowers. Many volunteer opportunities are still available for behind the scenes at this terrific event. Sign up today!!

Bemidji Green Up

A \$2,500 grant has been received from Wells Fargo to go toward the Bemidji Green Up Program. Further information on the use of this grant will follow.

RYLA Update – (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards)

Chris Keenan reported on his recent stay at the RYLA Camp in Crookston. Three students from Bemidji attended along with approximately 130 from around the district. Chris was one of 45-50 facilitators. He promises more information will come on this Rotary sponsored leadership camp.

Sergeant at Arms Anyone??

Here's your big chance to be Sergeant at Arms. See **Gary Johnson** to fill slots in August and November.

Group Student Exchange

Rotarian **Larry Young**, who heads the local GSE program, says next year's destination is Sweden. A Rotarian is needed to be a team leader for this trip. For more information, contact Larry.

Babe Dedication

An enthusiastic crowd of around 100 attended the rededication of Babe the Blue Ox at the waterfront on July 17th. It was an auspicious occasion! Thanks go to everyone who contributed in any way to the rejuvenation of the landmark statue. A special salute goes to Rotarians **Lori Paris** and **Warren Larsen**, who spearheaded the effort on behalf of the big blue ox. The organizations that led the project in addition to Bemidji Rotary were the Bemidji Area Chamber of Commerce and the City of Bemidji.

The Bemidji Pioneer (July 17th, 2007) detailed the history of Babe as follows:

“Babe was commissioned by the Rotary and built by James Payton in the fall of 1937. The ox made his debut in the 1938 Winter Carnival celebration. The government Headquarters Camp owned a pair of large oxen. The plans for Babe were developed by taking measurements and photos of the biggest ox and blowing the dimensions up three-to-one. The scale was exact, except for the distance between the front legs. That part was widened to permit a truck to operate underneath the statue.

“The ox was built with a skeleton of wooden ribs covered with laths. Canvas and wool batting was originally stretched over the framework to simulate Babe's blue hide. This original hide was uncovered during the repairs in May.

“Babe was originally driven on a truck in parades with the exhaust pipe vented out his nostrils to imitate hot breath. He also sported red flashing

taillights for eyes. The horns were made of tin and are 14 feet across.”