

December 3, 2007

**This Week's Program**  
***Bemidji Community Arts Council – Lori Forshee-Donnay***  
**Next Week's Program**  
***BHS Choir \*\*\* MEETING AT THE EAGLES CLUB \*\*\****

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**Important Dates to Remember**

**Goodwill Conference 2008**

February 15-16, 2008, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

**District 5580 Conference**

May 1-4, 2008, Dickinson, ND

**Rotary International Convention**

June 15-18, 2008, Los Angeles, CA

**Upcoming December/January Programs**

Dec 17	Red Lake Tribal Council Archives
Dec 24	** <b>NO MEETING</b> -Christmas Eve
Dec 31	** <b>NO MEETING</b> -New Year's Eve
Jan 7	Rotary Youth Leadership Awards
Jan 14	Rotary Public Relations – <b>Amy Saeland</b>
Jan 21	Club Assembly – <b>Gary Johnson</b>
Jan 28	Classification Talk

**December Birthdays**

<b>Rob Bolinger</b>	Dec 3
<b>Dan Posner</b>	Dec 8
<b>Charlie Ward</b>	Dec 8
<b>Jim Walker</b>	Dec 10
<b>Warren Larson</b>	Dec 15
<b>Allison Barta</b>	Dec 16
<b>Sue Doeden</b>	Dec 16
<b>Kevin Williamson</b>	Dec 20
<b>Karson Otness</b>	Dec 22
<b>Martin Graefe</b>	Dec 23
<b>Sandy Nelson</b>	Dec 31

**Dragon Boat Festival - 2008**

Planning for the third annual Dragon Boat Festival is underway. Dates for the big event are August 1 and 2, 2008 and entry registrations are now being accepted. If you would like to join the planning committees, see **President Gary**.

**Green Up Bemidji**

**Kevin Williamson**, chairman of Green Up Bemidji reports that over a dozen larger trees have recently been planted in Nymore Park. Further planting is

planned for the spring. The goal of this project is to plant 10,000 trees yearly for ten years.

**Rotary Around the World**

In 1995, Rotary Club of Parole (Annapolis), Maryland, USA, provided a South African Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholar with books to help promote literacy in South Africa. Over the next 12 years, the club built that one shipment into Books for International Goodwill (B.I.G.), a massive literacy project that's put almost 2.5 million used books into the hands of people needing educational and recreational reading material.

About 2,000 volumes are donated to the project each week. Nearly all shipments – 20,000–25,000 books each – are sent to Rotary clubs around the world, primarily in Africa, Eastern Europe, and Southeast Asia. The clubs then allocate them to schools and libraries.

Steve Frantzich, a member of the Parole (Annapolis) club and director of B.I.G., has overseen distribution in the Czech Republic, Kenya, and Malawi. He believes the books have an “unlocking effect” that opens up new educational opportunities for students at all levels.

“It's such a wonderful experience to see this project come full circle and have it reach students that need these tools for prosperity,” he says.

B.I.G. is also working with Books for Soldiers to provide reading material to U.S. military personnel stationed in the Middle East.

With a volunteer base of more than 50 non-Rotarian organizations across Annapolis, B.I.G. keeps overhead low and productivity high. Every second and fourth Saturday of each month, at least three dozen volunteers work feverishly for four hours in a 7,000-square-foot warehouse to get thousands of books sorted, and put on delivery trucks.

“Volunteering has to have a hands-on element for it to grow and succeed,” says Frantzich. “This is why we have been so successful for 12 years and why we will continue to be for years to come.”