

**June 22, 2009**

**This Week's Program**  
***Dragon Boat Festival – Gary Johnson / Shelly Geerdes***  
**Next Week's Program**  
***Club Assembly – Changing of the Gavel***

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**IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER**

**Rotary International Convention –  
Birmingham, England - June 21-24, 2009**  
**Dragon Boat Festival - July 30-Aug 1**  
**Bemidji Waterfront**

**UPCOMING JULY/AUGUST PROGRAMS**

July 6	Project Graduation – John Eggers
July 13	Jim Proebstle
July 20	Dairy Farming – Ben Osmonson
July 27	Waterfront
Aug 3	District Governor – Ajoy Chatterjee
Aug 10	Tessa Haagenson

**SYMPATHY**

Our sympathy goes to **Karson** and **Wendy Otness** and their family on the death of **Karson's** month, Angela Otness.

**ROTARY YOUTH EXCHANGE**

Would you be willing to share American life with a foreign student? It's a guarantee that they will share a lot with you and your family. **Kirsten Addison** is in the process of making home stay arrangements for two foreign students this year. If you want the benefits of the Youth Exchange Program and have any questions about it, see Kirsten. You won't be sorry!

Youth Exchange is one of the most popular programs to promote international understanding and develop lifelong friendships. It began in 1927 with the Rotary Club of Nice, France. In 1939 an extensive Youth Exchange was created between California and Latin America. Since then the program has expanded around the world. In recent years more than 7,000 young people have participated annually in Rotary club- and district-sponsored exchange programs.

The values of Youth Exchange are experienced not only by the high school-age students involved but also by the host families, sponsoring clubs, receiving high schools and the entire community. Youth Exchange participants usually provide their fellow students in their host schools with excellent opportunities to learn about customs, languages, traditions and family life in another country.

Youth Exchange offers young people interesting opportunities and rich experiences to see another part of the world. Students usually spend a full academic year abroad, although some clubs and districts sponsor short-term exchanges of several weeks or months.

Youth Exchange is a highly recommended program for all Rotary clubs as a practical activity for the enhancement of international understanding and goodwill.

**LET THE GOOD TIMES ROW!**

July 1<sup>st</sup> is the last day to sign up your team for the Dragon Boat Races. Over sixty teams including three from Canada are now signed up for the Festival, July 30-Aug 1. See **Gary Johnson** or **Shelly Geerdes** for information.

Paddlers are still needed for Rotary's entry. So here's your chance! You can help our club win the Civic Cup at this year's event by signing up to be a paddler. Last year we broke the ranks of the top 10, and we can expect even better results this year with your help. See **Jordan Hickman** to sign up for the big event.

**RIBBON CUTTING AT CAMERON PARK**

It's playtime! A ribbon cutting ceremony will be held on June 23<sup>rd</sup> at 11:30am at Cameron Park to celebrate the newly installed playground unit.

The playground equipment was installed through over 200 hours of volunteer labor supplied by the Bemidji Rotary Club. The Parks Department prepped the site and completed the finish work including installing swings and wood chips.

Join the Mayor, Parks and Trails Commission, members of the Bemidji Rotary Club, and the Parks and Recreation Department to officially open the playground at Cameron Park. Cookies and juice will be provided.

For more information please contact Marcia Larson, Parks and Recreation Director, at 333-1860 or [marcia.larson@ci.bemidji.mn.us](mailto:marcia.larson@ci.bemidji.mn.us)

**CLEAN WATER**

Over the past five years, The Rotary Foundation has awarded US\$27.5 million in grants for water projects, many of them in India, Mexico, the Philippines, and Thailand.