

# Colborne Rotarians donate time and talent as well as funds

CECILIA NASMITH  
Northumberland Today

COLBORNE — The Rotary Club of Colborne has been meeting for more than 60 years, achieving its success through dedicated members and a supportive community.

The 2012-2013 executive presiding over this year's successes are president Garry Clement, president-elect Don Spencer, director of community service Donna Spencer, director of international service and vocational service Glenn Spence, director of club service Jim Williams, past president Al Brisco, secretary Don Spencer and treasurer Lee Clement.

Rotarians support the community through donations that, in the past year, have included construction of the Suzanne Kernaghan Bridge over Colborne Creek, purchasing a refrigerator for the local food bank, helping children in need with school

supplies through the Northumberland United Way back packs program, and contributions toward the Highway of Heroes flagpole, the Cramahe Fire Department, the music program at the Colborne Public School, Colborne Art Gallery and a \$1,500 boost to the Colborne Legion's Christmas Food Hamper program.

Major financial commitments to community projects have included \$40,000 to the Rotary Room at the Keeler Centre, \$53,000 to Northumberland Hills Hospital and \$25,000 to the children's playground in Rotary Centennial Park.

The fundraising activities that allowed the club to do so much, and which the community generously supported, included the annual golf tournament, the annual Apple Harvest Auction and the Merchants' Christmas Dinner this year.

Colborne Rotarians also give their time and energy to a list of

community projects that includes the Mayor's Clean-Up Day, the Apple Blossom Tyme Festival, the Grafton Canada Day Parade and the stream remediation at the Suzanne Kernaghan Bridge. They created another award-winning float in the Colborne Santa Claus Parade and helped to prepare those Christmas Food Hampers they had donated towards.

Inter-club and District events included a Rotary get-together at the Trenton Air Museum, auction and barbecue in Brighton, an auction in Trenton, Port Hope Lobster Night, the Foundation Walk, Rotary Leadership Institute, Rotary District Seminar and Rotary District Conference.

Colborne Rotary sponsored the Probus Club of Colborne in 2003, which is celebrating 10 years now. Rotarians also sponsored the Early Act Club, launched in Colborne Public School in 2011. Last year, they joined with the Rotary Club of

Brighton to launch the Interact Club at East Northumberland Secondary School on Oct. 18.

Their support of local youth includes sponsoring Courtney Merriam on her Adventure in Technology trip to Ottawa and exchange student Katrina Li, who is busy learning the languages, lifestyles and culture of Belgium.

Other 2012 student awards presented include:

- Sponsoring Keri Quinn, Gerard Mutton and Torben Koetter to Camp Enterprise
- Sponsoring Michelle Cummins to Adventure in Technology
- Sponsoring Kristen Sinclair to Adventure in Citizenship
- Awarding the Rotary Club of Colborne Bursary to Brandon Kober

The Colborne Rotary Club is part of District 7070, led this year by District Governor Ted Koziel of the Richmond Hill Rotary Club. He and his wife Maureen

have visited the Colborne club several times, including a visit to the Apple Harvest Auction. Koziel is also a major supporter of Clement's personal challenge: to run 1,000 miles during his year as president to raise \$1-million for the eradication of polio, a Rotary International project. Williams estimates that Clement has passed the 700-mile mark.

Rotary International is a worldwide network of inspired individuals who translate their passions into relevant social causes to change lives through service to others, promoting integrity and advancing world understanding, good will and peace through a fellowship of business, professional and community leaders.

Polio eradication is one of the Rotary International projects the Colborne club supports, as well as disaster relief, clean water, centres for world peace and removing land mines.

This year's Rotary

International president is Sakuji Tanaka, a 37-year member of the Rotary Club of Yashio, Japan. He will attend the 100th anniversary of the Rotary Club of Toronto in March and, later in the spring, will visit the Rotary Club of Cobourg to celebrate the leadership of Dr. Robert Scott, the Cobourg Rotarian who has been a key player in Rotary International's efforts to eradicate polio.

The Colborne Rotary Club meets Mondays at 6 p.m. to enjoy business and dinner at the Rotary Hall at the Keeler Centre, 80 Division St.

The club welcomes anyone who would like to learn more about Rotary and their work. You are invited to contact Clement (905-355-3071 or [clement@clementadvisorygroup.ca](mailto:clement@clementadvisorygroup.ca)) to arrange to attend a dinner meeting.

[cecilia.nasmith@sunmedia.ca](mailto:cecilia.nasmith@sunmedia.ca)

[twitter.com/NT\\_cnasmith](https://twitter.com/NT_cnasmith)



Submitted Photo  
A good time was had by all at the Rotary Club of Colborne's annual Harvest Auction, including (from left) Rotary Exchange Student Josephine Costa of Chile, president Garry Clement, former Rotary Exchange Student Brittany Hesmer (an East Northumberland Secondary School student who has just returned from a year in Brazil) and director of youth programs Glenn Spence.