

Rotary district governor praises local group

By MELANIE HENNESSEY

The Champion

The Milton Rotary Club is doing an "absolutely amazing" job in its fundraising efforts that help those less privileged, according to its district governor.

This is one of the things Doug Vincent told the local group's members when he stopped by its meeting last week, where he praised the work they've already done and discussed what their goals and objectives will be for the coming year.

He highlighted the funds local Rotarians have raised in the past, and also spoke about the challenge they've recently taken on — sending a container full of about 280 wheelchairs to those who need them in Mexico.

"The Rotary Club of Milton jumped on board almost from the start," he said. "You may be (a) small (club), but you certainly must be mighty."

Mr. Vincent said a wheelchair will give more than the disabled person some freedom, pointing out it also benefits the individual who had been taking care of them before.

"I've seen entire families rejoicing when they get the wheelchair," he said. "When you see a father come up on an old piece of board with roller blade wheels attached to it and get into a wheelchair... it's so exciting."

During his visit, he also outlined the Milton club's goals for 2006, such as fundraising and boosting membership.

"One of the major thrusts (this year) is membership," he said. "It really does come down to the fact you've got to go out there and ask people."

He noted the Milton Rotary Club has been doing a "great job" with fundraising. It brought in more than \$40,000 in donations during 2004 and 2005.

Mr. Vincent told *The Champion* that he's also trying to create opportunities this year for Rotarians to go and help out in different countries.

He noted he hopes some local Rotarians will consider going to Mexico at the end of March to help distribute the wheelchairs.

Mr. Vincent is a charter member of the Rotary Club and past president of the Woodstock-Oxford organization.

The Rotary Club was founded in 1905 and has members all over the world, with the local group being established in 1947.

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Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Milton Rotary Club president-elect Bonnie Ross and current president Tom Dusmet (right) join Rotary district governor Doug Vincent in showing placards naming some of the group's goals.

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