



Pictured here are Stirling Rotarians Tracey Reid (left) and Cherlyn Church, who were hard at work last spring picking-up donated items for the local service club's 19th annual Giant Yard Sale fundraiser. This year's sale – rescheduled due to COVID-19 restrictions – takes place over two days at the historic railway station in the village. Friday Aug. 28 from noon to 4 p.m. and Saturday Aug. 29 from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. All proceeds stay in the community to help fund Stirling Rotary's many community projects.

Safety first at Rotary's twentieth annual Giant Yard Sale

TERRY VOLLUM

STIRLING It has been a most unusual first half of the year.

Over the past few months the world has been turned upside

down as residents adjusted to the new ways society must function in an effort to retain the upper hand in the battle to defeat COVID-19. Residents now don masks, practice social and phys-

ical distancing, endure temporary lockdowns of businesses, schools, along with the inevitable cancellation of many indoor and outdoor events.

Local service clubs have been hit especially hard as many of their annual fundraisers have been postponed or cancelled. Such was the case earlier this year when the Stirling Rotary club made the unavoidable decision to call off its popular Giant Yard Sale, scheduled for the May 24 weekend.

"We were disappointed, of course, but we realized at the time it was the only thing to do," stated Stirling Rotarian and yard sale organizer Donna Graff, "and we figured we would have to wait at least until next year to hold such a well-attended fundraiser."

But in the intervening weeks, as COVID-19 restrictions have been relaxed, the feasibility of staging an event such as the yard sale became much more realistic.

"After much careful consideration and discussions with both Public Health and the municipality, our Rotary club will be holding its twentieth Giant Yard Sale the last weekend in August. And as always, we are looking to our caring community for donations," said Graff.

And so as residents tidy up the garage, the shed, or the basement, here's a timely tip to make the job a whole lot easier – along with an opportunity to help a very worthy cause.

"We're offering folks a chance to give something back to the community by donating some of