



SCS Responds to Competition



Bob Foster, Principal and head cheerleader of Simcoe Composite School

Competition is a reality in public education today. Recent changes by the provincial government in Ontario have brought on a tidal wave of change. How communities respond to that wave will determine the fate of their children's future, to a degree.

Many things have changed since Bob Foster was a student at Simcoe Composite School. Bob is back now as Principal, and is leading his staff and students to prepare for the competition to attract students.

Students today are much more responsible, Bob told us on November 28th. They use designated drivers, their grooming is better, and they are very much involved in their community. Bob noted that when teachers set their

expectations of students high, students respond to achieve or exceed them.

Secondary School Reform is having an impact on schools and students. Students now in Grade 10 are the first group under the new curriculum. Although the fifth year of school will be eliminated, Bob speculated that many students will still take five years to complete the 30 credits needed to graduate. Beginning next year, students in Grade 10 must pass a provincial reading & writing test before they can graduate. Remedial opportunities will be available for those who don't make the grade while in Grade 10.

The new curriculum also requires students to perform at least 40 hours of community service. This weekend 26 students will be live manikins for the BIA in downtown Simcoe.

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Dates To Remember

- ◆ December 5 - Ron Thayer, A Conservation Initiative. Plus: RCNS Orientation for Dec. 19 Club "Identify" Vote
- ◆ December 12 - Christmas Party For Kids (Night) - Santa (In Delhi at the Lions Club Hall, 6 pm. Dinner 6:30 pm)
- ◆ December 16 - Christmas Gathering
- ◆ December 19 - Doug Waller, Canadian Blood Services. PLUS: RCNS Club "Identity" Vote
- ◆ December 26 - Boxing Day - Cancelled
- ◆ January 2, 2001- Brian Jacobs, Classification, & New Years Resolutions

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Recurring Themes - Club Workshop Feedback

In October, club members provided valuable feedback about what is important in this club and how we should proceed to live out our Rotary dreams. The Communications and Public Relations Committee has distilled that feedback into the following themes.

Club members said the Rotary Club of Norfolk Sunrise should:

- Maintain and enhance the personality of our club in all we do - fun, camaraderie, and fellowship.
- Continue with exchange & world community service projects.
- Support projects that assist youth and other individuals or groups that have significant social and other needs.
- Provide service as well as funds, and get directly involved with supported projects.
- Support a small number (1-3) of “major” or “signature” projects that are highly visible and that will help our club build an identity.
- Also support a broad range of smaller projects on a flexible and as-needed basis.
- Use a proactive, goal-oriented approach to identifying and selecting projects.
- Keep members involved in the decision-making processes and informed of progress.
- Seek fulfillment as Rotarians from helping people, and not necessarily creating bricks & mortar.

Directors' Corner

At their meeting on Nov. 29th, the RCNS Directors discussed the feedback given by members during the club workshop. They adopted several proposals intended to help the club develop a more distinct identity and to assist in decisions about how to direct our energy and funds.

The Directors have asked that club members and committees consider the following proposals very carefully, and [attend the December 19th meeting prepared to decide on a course of action.](#)

1. Include committee leadership to **select one or two local “signature” projects** that the club will sponsor at a time. These could be ongoing projects that are supported year after year, or they could be one-time projects that capture the interest of community. The projects would be selected on a proactive basis, having been sought out by our club according to our strategic interests. The search for a signature project should be completed before the budgets for the year are developed. The signature projects should make a significant and identifiable impact on people's lives in Norfolk, but not necessarily impact a broad range of people. We would allocate 50-70% of the local Community Concerns annual budget to these signature projects.
2. Select local signature projects that are **directed for youth**. These may be projects already supported by RCNS.
3. Set aside some funds in the budget for **emergency or as-needed allocation**. These may be allocated throughout the year as the need arises, or when a proposal is presented to the club and endorsed through Community Concerns & Environment committee.
4. Continue with **exchange and world community service projects**, for perhaps 50% of annual budget allocation.
5. **Consider our** local community to be the entire Norfolk.

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Bob is concerned about compressing the curriculum into four years, and also about the double cohort effect. In 2003 the OAC students will graduate in the same year as their Grade 12 cohorts. Coupled with a demographic bulge, colleges and universities will lack the capacity to accommodate all of the applicants over a 2- or 3-year period beginning in 2003.

SCS is developing innovative programs intended to attract students. The Health Sciences course delivered in partnership with Norfolk General Hospital has turned several students on to a career in health sciences, and scared away at least one other. The Ontario Youth Apprentice Program (OYAP) allows a high school student to begin an apprenticeship in one of several trades while in Grade 11. The student moves between school and the workplace during Grades 11 & 12, and is paid an apprentice wage while working.

The school building and grounds is also getting a facelift. Landscaping along the river, cafeteria windows, entrance doors, and washrooms head the list. The science labs, welding and wood shops, communications lab, and music room are all slated for major work.

Many of the exciting improvements at Simcoe Composite School appear to be a response to the competitive environment created in public education. Secondary schools are competing for students, and their grant revenue will be directly related to their ability to attract and retain students.

As "lead cheerleader" at SCS, Bob Foster appears to have his team ready for that challenge.

Editorial

Landmines Explosive Issue

How many ways are there to help people in need around the world? Allow me to make this question a bit more manageable – How many ways are there to help people outside of Norfolk who will benefit from the help of Rotarians? Even then, surely, the list is too long and complex for our club to manage with any semblance of rational thought.

It's clear that we really want to make a difference to people in need in other countries, as well as near home. However, the process we use to select which projects to support can be a minefield that will destroy individuals and groups who try to navigate through. As a club, it's unlikely that we can afford to commit the energy or the expertise to research and build consensus on how to navigate this minefield.

The Rotary Foundation was created partly, at least, to play that role. Rotary clubs are encouraged to follow the lead of Rotary International and the Foundation to support those international projects that have been selected for joint commitment. A rational approach, and one we should expect from a large and well organized group of professional and business people around the world who aspire to Rotary ideals.

Of course, this large organization will never be able to address the wishes of all Rotarians, and will never meet the needs of all people in the world. The Rotary Foundation may not be able to easily or quickly change its focus, in fact, after committing to such projects as Polio Plus. Such may be the case with landmine cleanups. Many Rotarians would like to be able to direct funds to the cleanup, but our Foundation has not endorsed this for matching grants.

The question now for our club is how to invest our energy and our funds, to achieve the best return on that investment. Should we invest in landmine cleanup directly, perhaps jointly with other clubs? Or, should we invest in a campaign to lobby RI and the Foundation to offer matching grants so that our dollar is magnified?

The landmine issue is timely as a challenge to our club. We have begun a search to develop decision-making processes that will help us determine how to allocate our energy and funds. Let's deal with this one carefully, before the landmine explodes in our faces.

Salvation Army Soldiers

By Carolyn Wiens

Thanks to all the volunteers. Please arrive for your shift, and someone from Salvation Army will bring the kettle in the morning and pick it up in the afternoon. They were very happy to have our help.

Tues Dec 12 @ Canadian Tire Mall

10-12 Lucine McKay

12 -2 Brian Jacobs/ Randy Bridge

2-4 Steve Jackson

Sat Dec 16 @ Downtown Roulstons

9 -11 am Jim Peters & John Race

11-1 Julianne West & George Cornfield

1-3 Brian Snow & Carolyn Wiens

3-5 Keith Flexman & Sue O'Dwyer

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You are invited to submit your ideas for what projects should be adopted in 2001 as signature projects.

Also, please consider what percentage of our budget should be allocated to international vs. local projects, and what percentage of local projects should be allocated to signature projects.

President Steve or other directors should receive your views on this before the Dec. 19th meeting.

Christmas Party For Kids

Tuesday December 12, 2000



In Delhi at the Lions Club Hall, 6 pm
Dinner @ 6:30 pm

Santa will be there. Will you?

Sunriser Bulletin

Publication of the Rotary Club of Norfolk Sunrise

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Deadline for submissions: Wednesday 1:00 p.m.