

Substantial gift to help waterfront project sail

North Star, Community, Wednesday, May 10, 2006

PARRY SOUND – The Rotary Club of Parry Sound has announced a \$25,000 gift in support of the Sail Parry Sound sailing centre and public park.

“The motion to support Sail Parry Sound went before the whole membership,” said Ellen Koennecke, Rotary Club President. “Our decision was unanimous.”

Sail Parry Sound’s fundraising director, Wade Perkins, thanked the Rotary Club for its generous contribution to the sailing centre and public park.

He noted, “You are leading again in your support of this community improvement project.”

The sailing centre and public park are under construction now. The property is located at the old Belvedere Wharf Point, near the old Town beach at the end of Waubuno Road. It is easily reached on foot or bicycle from the Rotary and the Algonquin Regiment Fitness Trail on the shoreline, and from the Rotary Steps, which descend from Belvedere Avenue to the trail.

Generations of families from Parry Sound have observed the Bay’s spectacular sunsets from there.

When completed, the Sailing Centre will have a wheelchair accessible wharf, with perimeter trail extensions called the Sunset Promenade for viewing the sunsets, a safe dolly ramp for children to launch small dinghies, better parking and improved security lighting, and places to store the sailing school’s little boats. It will be operational this summer.

Sail Parry Sound is a volunteer not-for-profit community improvement organization formed in 1997 to revive the sailing heritage of Parry Sound by promoting it as a sailing destination, and by offering sail training to youth, adults and the differently able.

The Rotary Club appreciates the ongoing hands-on support of Sail Parry Sound in the annual Dragon Boat Festival, Rotary’s major fundraiser, to be held this year on June 16 and 17 at Waubuno Beach.

The Rotary Club of Parry Sound is in its 70th year of service to the Parry Sound area.

It is part of Rotary International, a worldwide organization of business and professional leaders who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world.

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