

Year 2008 in Review

A busy year again for Project supporters in Ottawa and beyond. In April we presented an information table at the EcoFair at the RA Centre.

The second annual Cabaret, Making Waves, was held on May 7 at the Fourth Stage of the National Arts Centre. Special guest was Cathy Molloy who was visiting from Cameroon. She and other CND jubilarians contributed \$25,000 to the Project.

Three barbeques were held over the summer, organized and sponsored by George Garby.

A group of journalism students from Carleton University, guided by their professor, Peter Johansen, accepted the OK Clean Water Project as their challenge and prepared a comprehensive Communication Plan, complete with a time line for development. A follow-up workshop was scheduled for mid-January, 2009.

Fifteen schools in the Ottawa Catholic School Board supported us this year and raised close to \$15,000.

The sixth annual Brunch with the Bunch was held on November 16 at the St. Elias Centre. Total revenue exceeded \$4700.

Funds sent to Cameroon in 2008 were \$25,907 (CDN) and \$50,000 (US). We are now able to accept donations of securities through Investors Security Fund and US funds through the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF America) as well as online through Canada Helps.

In Cameroon, it has been a busy and productive year, as well. By the end of 2008, water was flowing in some 20 villages, thanks to the hard work of the people there and to the leadership of Cathy Molloy and Mr. Visi Edwin, the engineer-consultant who has been overseeing the projects with her.

Along with the work of construction, by hand, of the villagers, a second phase of the project has been developed to train teams from each village to be able to repair and maintain the infrastructure, thus ensuring the sustainability of the pipe systems. To date, they have attended three training sessions, facilitated by Visi Edwin and Cathy Molloy.

The villagers themselves tell us of the difference the project has made for them. Here's what they have said in their own words. (Quotes from feedback) These benefits come at considerable cost to them. (See the work of the villagers.)

The partnership aspect of this project has been most important. The work we do here to raise funds is matched by the tremendous contribution the people there make by their labour, their financial contribution and by their community commitment to create and maintain this important resource. "Water is Life!" they keep telling us.

They have a refrain that they sing whenever a new tap turns on: "We are together! We are one!" It has been a privilege for us to be able to partner with them.

Prepared by Jeannine, Bill and Norma
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