

WELLAND Niagara News

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July 6, 2005

Service above self



Photo by John Edwards

Welland Public Library CEO Janet Booth and Welland Rotary Club past-president Roman Groch get some instruction on how to use the equipment in the new community room at the Welland Public Library, from Stephen Hanns, manager of public services.

Rotary Club completes a pair of projects as part of centennial

JOHN EDWARDS
Senior Staff Reporter

In their 85th year, the Welland Rotary Club is hoping to make a difference for the city's youth.

As part of Rotary International's Centennial, clubs around the world are required to complete a special project which helps their community in to complete a special project which helps their community in some way.

The Welland service club has completed two.

Their most recent initiative is a community room located in the new 28,000 square library at the new Welland Civic Centre, which opened last week. The room is designed to serve as an ideal spot for meetings and presentations. It features a surround sound system, DVD player, VCR, large screen and projector. This came at a price tag of about \$25,000.

The first project was the construction of a new play area at the Niagara YMCA on Woodlawn Road. The apparatus includes a slide, swing and other items for kids to play on.

The money was raised through various community fundraisers. Of the money rotary raises in the area, 70 per cent stays in the community, while 30 per cent is sent abroad for rotary's international initiative of eradicating polio.

Past-president Roman Groch said the YMCA and the Library are seen as "centres of focus," in the community and as such, were the right places

for their centennial projects.

After completing the project at the YMCA, several board members asked "what about the library?"

Welland Public Library CEO Janet Booth says this room – which seats about 20 people – is a necessity. The rotary room is on the lower floor, while a larger meeting room is on the upper level.

"It's good to have a spot for people to come and congregate," she said.

The rotary motto is "service above self," and Groch feels they've lived up to that billing with these two projects. "We are very youth focused," he said. "Are we done? Absolutely not."

Groch, who was succeeded by new president Verne Shaull last week said the club is continuing to help youngsters, and adults in the area, through exchange programs, scholarships and study programs – which saw a group of local medical professionals study in Guatemala in March.