

THE PIPELINE

NEWSLETTER



Vol.1, No. 2, Spring 2010

NEWS FROM CAMEROON

From her home in Cameroon, Cathy Molloy has been generously sending us stories of how the project is unfolding. This can be a challenge as frequently the power is out and she is without internet connection.

As word about the project spreads through the outlying areas, Cathy receives requests from many villages for help with water. She and Edwin Visi, the project manager, navigate ruts, deep holes and a whole lot of dust to visit projects requesting or implementing water projects. This is all accomplished in her amazing little Suzuki jeep. The shocks aren't much to write home about but it is surprisingly dependable.



Cathy Molloy at a village celebration

On Wednesday February 10 of this year, they struck out on one of their many missions to the village of Duy/Ngmantse where the daily trip for the villagers to get even **unclean** stream water has been up to one and a half hours. Their second stop was Mbabu where the men and women were taking turns on two community work days each week digging trenches with their short-handled hoes, working up to five feet deep in mud.

Cathy reported that it was very moving to see how willing these villagers are to endure such hardship for the sake of clean water for their children.

“If the millions of women who haul water long distances had a faucet by their door, whole societies could be transformed.”

(National Geographic, April 2010, p.96)

Visits to the villages are very formal and are attended by most of the residents and supported by the local tribal leader (the Fon). Everyone understands the importance of what they are working for. There is also a great deal of hospitality, always shared food and drink, frequently singing, and inevitably gifts of beans, carrots, sugar cane and fowl – all expressions of their generosity and gratitude.

To date, villagers in 25 centres are now the proud owners of their own water system. Students in 17 schools now enjoy clean water on their school premises. Four new health centres have clean water.

Cathy sums it all up as follows: “The advice of Visi Edwin is a source of encouragement for the villagers who all too often have been disappointed by politicians. They learn to appreciate the fact that in their partnership with OK Clean Water they are not only helping themselves but they are educating OK supporters about the great need for water and the many stages of hard work in building a village water system,”

Our New Look

The OK Clean Water Project is deeply indebted to two local companies – AN-Design and SohoPortal. Both of these companies have generously donated their services to design and program our exciting new website.

Recent Fundraisers

It has been a busy Fall and Winter for OK Clean Water. Literally, hundreds of people have helped to support the project by attending events, by volunteering time and talent and in many other ways.

Annual Brunch

We held our annual Brunch in November at the St. Elias Centre and were pleased to have Cathy Molloy, “our boots on the ground in Cameroon” as our guest speaker. Cathy walked us through a most informative power point describing the step-by-step process by which a village water project is realized – from the first village meeting to the grand opening of the installed taps. We are very grateful to all the friends of OK who came out to support this annual fundraiser.

Bake Sales

In the Fall, October 29, and in the Spring, March 26, Yuan Chung and his group of Ottawa U volunteers organized two bake sales on campus to raise funds for OK. These sales were strategically planned for high-stress times – counting on the students’ need for comforting treats! Friends of the project donated homemade goodies for the sales. Thanks to Yuan, his partners and the bakers!

House Concerts

Two house concerts were held in the pre-Christmas season – one hosted by Maureen and Jim Ramsay and the other by Louise and George Garby. Bob Carty generously donated his time and talent, with backup from some of his friends, to provide music for the concerts. Bob’s music has become a key component of OK events. Thanks, Bob.

School Partners

Once more this year some 27 Ottawa schools have volunteered to raise funds for the project. They have been our very faithful, generous donors and we are deeply grateful for their help. Thanks also to Mary Ward High School, Toronto, and The Academy for Gifted Children in Markham.

Coming Events

Cameroonian National Day is May 20. We join with our Cameroonian friends here in Canada and in Cameroon to mark this special holiday.

A Night at the Races.

The Rideau Carleton Racetrack is hosting an event for the OK Clean Water Project on June 10. Tickets include a scrumptious “All You Can Eat” buffet, a race named in honour of the project, an award presentation in the winners’ circle and a \$5 voucher for the races. Join us for a great meal, a lot of fun and a chance to raise – and maybe even win-some money. Tickets are \$40 through info@okcleanwaterproject.org or by telephone at 613-236-8855.

Summer Barbeques

Barbeque Master, George Garby, is planning summer barbeques. Watch the website for dates and locations.

