

THE PIPELINE

NEWSLETTER



UPDATE FROM CAMEROON

From mid-May to mid-June I returned to the Kumbo region after an absence of seven years, following visits made by Kathy Monkman, a long-time committee member and Carmel Horan, the present chair of OK Clean Water. Much has been accomplished since my first time there during the dry season of 2005. In a recent newsletter of *The Pipeline* Sebastian Palmer wrote of the experience he had working at the project in Sakir as part of the partnership between OK and Engineers Without Borders. Carmel visited there when work was being done and I was fortunate to see the end result. My eyes watered when I stood to take a photo of Edwin Visi, our water consultant engineer, before a large sign at one end of the village. This striking visual announces that our funds have meant the construction of two catchments, one storage tank capable of holding 20,000 litres of water, 7.3 km. of pipelines and 14 stand pipes. Fulani women and elders from one neighbourhood and Nso teachers from another gathered to express their thanks and have their photos taken.

It is heartening to know that a massive undertaking can work when OK funds, the enthusiasm of young engineers, Edwin's expertise, and the villagers' hard manual participation work in unison. I kept this in mind when Edwin suggested we visit a community called Ta'bah which had undertaken various stages of the work in bringing water to different neighbourhoods. It was a rainy "country Sunday" so many people were indoors but some young boys and men were chiseling piles of stones for the storage tank. For a short time I sat inside a smoky country kitchen with some women and children who were feeling the cold and damp. They were pleased to know I was connected with OK.

Ta'bah is even further away from Kumbo into the highlands than some of the other villages. A former pastor, in his concern for his people, approached another organization about receiving help to access water for the community. Unfortunately, the person hired to oversee the work did not have the necessary training and made some serious miscalculations. Because the villagers are hard-working and were previously taken advantage of, Edwin was open to the idea of OK giving them the assistance they needed to start again. In the few hours of our visit there, Edwin taught me a lot of what needs to be considered when undertaking a water project. The height of the storage tank and of the aeration pipe, the width of the surrounding area, the depth of the ditches for the pipe line, the diameter of the PVC pipes, the type of sand used in making cement are some of the necessary

considerations. None of this can be left to an amateur. When he gives seminars, both men and women listen attentively. Both he and Sister Cathy Molloy are concerned about sustainability and how to encourage people to undertake greater responsibility.

Catchment protection, planning a budget, setting up a Water Management Team, and preparing an action plan are part of this ongoing growth in responsibility. Sister Cathy provided me with information and I attempted to make a summary of what had been done in the past year in 13 villages. Our partnership with villages in the Kumbo area is looking very different from what it was at the beginning. New communities continue to line up to receive assistance. As long as villagers are willing to be engaged through work and education, and as long as OK funds continue to flow and we stay connected through our visits and support, this partnership will thrive. (Alana Forrester) *see photo below*



SCHOOL UPDATE

Several of our executive members accompanied Carmel Horan, our president, on her visits to the many schools from the Ottawa Catholic School Board to give presentations and to collect monies raised during their Lenten season. We are so extremely thankful for all the efforts made by school administrators and their school communities. Teacher reps who voluntarily assume the task of fundraising for OK are to be commended for their creativity in the activities they use to raise funds while also have fun.

Total monies raised in local schools this year: \$30,827.73

NEWS FROM OTTAWA

RTO LUNCHEON

Once again this year, OK Clean Water Project was represented at an information booth at the Retired Teachers of Ontario spring luncheon held at the R.A. Centre on Riverside Road in Ottawa. We are always well received by the RTO members who express interest in our progress through discussion and donations.

NIGHT AT THE RACES

For a third year in a row, we held a successful fundraising evening filled with good company, an all-you-can-eat buffet dinner, drinks and horse-racing, as well as some time at the slots, thanks to a \$5 voucher. We raised \$2400. for OK.

BBQ'S

George Garby, our BBQ aficionado, received good support from local corporate sponsors this summer. Monies raised through sponsors helped offset food costs to hold fundraising BBQ's at 174 Colonnade Road in Nepean and additional funds to send to Kumbo.

CAMEROONIAN FEAST

A new fundraising initiative was held this year and what a great event! We are thankful to Hilder and Martin Langwa, native Cameroonians, living in Kanata, who graciously welcomed guests to their home to enjoy a delectable Cameroonian feast and folk music. It was a wonderful way to for the OK members and their friends to meet Cameroonians living among us. It is our intent to continue to nurture this partnership in order to engage more Cameroonians to support the projects in Kumbo. We raised \$610.

GARAGE SALE

Our annual garage sale held in Orleans produced \$567. It was a beautiful sunny day with many treasures to be found.

UPCOMING EVENTS

THE VERDICT AT MAXWELL'S BISTRO

At time of printing, our fundraising dance event at Maxwell's Bistro on September 27th was taking place. What a great way to have fun while raising money! We will report more on this in our next issue. Thank you to those who came out to support us.

FUNDRAISING BRUNCH

Mark your calendar for our annual fundraising brunch scheduled for Sunday, October 21st beginning at 11:00 am, located at The Centurion Conference Centre on Colonnade Road in Nepean. Once again there will be a silent auction, a raffle table and crafts for sale. Tickets are \$35 for adults, \$20 for children and students. Please contact Carmel to reserve your tickets: 613-737-3681 or horanc@sympatico.ca

10TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR

In our last issue we expressed our excitement in the anticipated celebration of OK Clean Water Project's 10th Anniversary in 2013. We hope you will be among us to celebrate this great accomplishment, a registered charity founded by Norma McCoy (deceased 2010) in Ottawa and Cathy Molloy in Kumbo, ten years ago. There will be many opportunities we hope for people to embrace the many memories of OK's humble beginnings and growing interest and support over this period. There continue to be many requests for clean water in the Kumbo region. We can only hope that the next ten years will be as productive as the first ten have been thanks to the generosity of so many. Please stay tuned to our website updates on our 10th anniversary planned events.

Edwin Visi our consultant engineer working with a villager on a storage tank.



Edwin Visi, our consultant engineer and a villager near a finished storage tank.