



# SHARE CARE RAYJON

## PEACE, UNITY AND JUSTICE FORUM

Transforming Our World From The Inside Out



**Saturday, November 13, 2004**

**8:30- 9:00 am - Check-in and refreshments  
9 am - 4 pm - Workshop Program**

**Village Inn, 751 Christina St. Sarnia, ON  
Lunch and Refreshments provided**

A group of inspiring speakers will stimulate our thoughts on the meaning of peace, unity and justice. Participants will also experience a unique empowerment process to more fully live these values today.

*"Be the change you want to see in the world. " Ghandi*



### **Wade Davis - Keynote Speaker**

[www.wade-davis.com](http://www.wade-davis.com)

As an Explorer-in-Residence with the National Geographic, Canadian Wade Davis is an internationally renowned anthropologist and best-selling author. Wade is a passionate storyteller, with captivating tales that illustrate the need for cultural diversity. He has lived in and written about amazing places few have even visited. With a Harvard PhD, Wade's strength lies in his ability to meld his insights with science and the humanities to deliver a message that is fundamentally about social justice.

### **Pre-registration is required- Limited Seats**

**Call Maggy Barnfield at 519- 337- 0338 for ticket information**

**Registration forms: [jbarnfield@sympatico.ca](mailto:jbarnfield@sympatico.ca) or**

**[www.sarnia.com/rayjon](http://www.sarnia.com/rayjon)**

**Adults: \$50 Students: \$40**

*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."*

*Margaret Mead*



**Sponsored by  
the YMCA International Development Committee  
and  
RAYJON ShareCare of Sarnia**



## RAYJON SHARE CARE

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An ecumenical Canadian Charity  
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### Our Vision

*Caring communities building  
partnerships through education,  
development and aid.*

### Board of Directors

#### Executive Committee

**Chairperson** John Barnfield  
**Vice-chairperson** Peter Westfall  
**Financial Dir. - Treasurer** Den Shannon  
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**Work Groups** Jim Leliveld  
**Eyeglass Program** Joanne Atkinson  
**Community Dev't Project** Armando Notte  
**Urban Dev't Project** Peter Westfall  
**Education** Elizabeth Soltis  
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Colleen Rapaich & Mike Voisey  
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#### Newsletter Editorial Board

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Dianne McKillican  
Jim Newton

#### CIDA Support

RAYJON is pleased to acknowledge the role that the *Canadian International Development Agency* (CIDA) has played in support of the St. Marc Community Development Project, HAITI. CIDA has matched funds for the project since 1989.



Canadian International  
Development Agency

Agence canadienne de  
développement international

## Coming Events

### Membership & Annual General meeting

Friday, October 1st, 7:30pm  
at Sacred Heart Church meeting rooms, Lecaron Ave., Sarnia

- Come re-group & hear the plans for the next year
- Report on recent visit to Haiti by John Barnfield & Armando Notte
- Guest speaker: Brian Pipe of Project H.O.P.E. (See page 8)
- Be a responsible RAYJON member - help elect the 2004/05 Board

*If you have a nomination for the Board,  
contact Peter Westfall at 466-0069 before Sept. 16th.*

**Everyone welcome!**

### RAYJON Fall Fair - the first & best in town!

Saturday, September 25th, 9am - 2pm  
at Sacred Heart School gym, Lecaron Ave., Sarnia

If you've been there before, you won't miss it.

If you haven't, you're missing a treat!

*See enclosed flyer, and please display it in a prominent place.*

### Awareness Trips 2005 Information meeting

Sunday, October 3rd, 2pm - 4pm

at Sacred Heart Church meeting rooms.

For those interested in trips to Haiti & the D. R. in 2005.

No commitment has to be made at this meeting.

*The event of the year!*

### Peace, Unity & Justice Forum

Saturday, November 13th 8:30am - 4pm

at The Village Inn, 751 Christina St, Sarnia

*See page 1.*

*Check out Wade Davis' website: [www.wade-davis.com](http://www.wade-davis.com)*

### RAYJON Annual Starvathon

Details will be sent out nearer the time in a separate mail-out.

### RAYJON Christmas Social

Friday, December 3rd, 7:30pm

At Sacred Heart Church meeting rooms.

Come join us to celebrate the Christmas season.

Friends, food, fun!

**Everyone welcome!**

## **Project News**

*by Armando Notte*

John Barnfield and Armando Notte have recently returned from a 6-day visit to the RAYJON Community Development Project in St. Marc, Haiti. The visit in August was the first made to the Project since the Haitian uprising in February of this year. John & Armando were amazed by the great optimism and community spirit they witnessed. Here are reports on some new initiatives in the Project area.

### **The Opening of the Mill and Wholesale Store at La Garenne, on August 12th, 2004**

What a memorable day. The event was principally to celebrate the opening of the first mill in the 4th section (a population of 20,000 persons spread over many villages and a terrain of about 100 mountainous square kilometers) able to grind corn and millet into meal. People previously had to walk 5 km back and forth to get their grain milled. Also associated with this was the opening of a community store and the awarding of diplomas to the first graduates of the computer course.

The most striking part was the palpable pride and community spirit which vibrated through the assistance of about 150 persons. These were villagers, old and young, official representatives, students and persons who had participated in the various programs of RSCH (RAYJON's organization in Haiti). The 3 hours were filled with enthusiastic speeches from members of the community. We were struck by the passion and clarity in the speeches as well as the excellent, confident deliveries. Of the many speeches, one key message can be summarized as the recognition of the importance of developing the individual to the point where he/she can be an asset to his/her community, and the community then taking actions to improve itself. If ever one was looking for a witnessing of the impact of RAYJON's 14 years of effort in the area, this was it! You could almost physically touch the feeling that in spite of all the difficulties, community development was well on its way. Of course the day was rendered even more enjoyable by the accomplished singing and dancing of the community members accompanied by the gentle beat of the tom-tom.

The mill is a joint realization of the community and RSCH. The community supplied the land and the building and RAYJON the \$20,000 to purchase and install the equipment and refurbish the buildings. The community will run the mill, and profits will be recycled into community projects. The milling cost is 10 cents for 6 pounds of corn (the amount in a half gallon can is a standard measure there). The wholesale store will provide the people with low cost products that they can resell in the market as well as use on their tables. It will allow greater seed purchase and encourage greater planting and harvesting of crops. These will improve the economic situation in the community. The profits of these operations will be ploughed back into further improvements. The impact of one \$20,000 mill will seem negligible in Canada, but it will be significant in this community.

### **Village Banking**

*by Martine Arthur & Armando Notte*

After several attempts to find some workable model for providing credit for persons of very low income, RSCH has implemented a system of Village Banking. The following is an explanation of how it works by Martine Arthur, the person primarily responsible for implementing and managing the start-up of the project.

"The micro credit project (Village Banking) started at RSCH 14 months ago. To date, we judge that it is doing well. We started with the Women's Federation. That was the first "bank" and over time came others - at Grand Fond, Gilbert and now Barbe. The participants must bring their deposits to the individual bank's monthly meeting. Also there are credit agents, who collect deposits in the zones. These agents bring the deposits to the central agency at the regular meeting of the Women's Federation each second Sunday of the month. Loans are granted to qualifying applicants and ongoing business is transacted.

*Continued on page 4*

*Continued from page 3*

There is also a program for 'urgent loans' or more accurately described as the program permitting the generation of resources. In this case, the women 'borrow' merchandise at low cost which they later repay in money after resale. The period for repayment extends for 3 months. After that period they cover their debt and a large part of the revenue remains with them.

Now with the opening of the new store, in connection with the new mill at La Garenne, it is much better. The merchandise is more readily available at wholesale prices, and it is much easier for the women. The deposits of each 'bank' are held in a deposit account at the SOGEBANK. Currently, we have assets of 50,000 gds. (\$1,800 Can.)"

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### **Community Development Project - 2004 Graduates.**

Our congratulations go out to the students from Pinson School, in the area of the RAYJON Community Development Project, Haut de St. Marc, Haiti, who passed the national grade 6 exam and are now eligible to continue their education in a secondary school. *Marie-Emene Charidieu, Oniciane Elius, Guerline Eximond, Yolène Eximond, Rosemène Exumond, Elionord Fleurinord, Isemode Fleurinord, Lilianne Francois, Lianie Francois, Gustave Norrilus and Mirlène Sufrense.* Hopefully, some of them will be able to attend RAYJON's St. Patrick's Secondary School.

Congratulations also go to the students of the very first Grade 9 graduating class from RAYJON's St. Patrick's Secondary School, Barbe, Haiti. Of those who wrote the national exam in the early summer, the following were successful: *Nerlande Acelhomme, Wideline Acelhomme, Edith Francois, Exumène Jeune, Wideline Philippe, Ilocia Theajeune and Marc André Theusnord.* We hope to be able to follow up with these students, talk to them about their time at St. Patrick's and ask about their hopes and dreams for the future. We'll keep you posted.

"Education is the work of your entire life."  
*Haitian proverb.*

### **Read the RAYJON Newsletter On-line! - Be a Global Citizen! - Preserve our Global Ecosystem!**

*by Colleen Rapaich*

As global citizens we should be more than concerned that "99% of Haiti's tree cover has been felled and 2/3 of its farmland destroyed, while its population has quadrupled." The film entitled "The Day After Tomorrow" depicts a catastrophe that tests the laws of physics, but the actual disaster is happening in Haiti today. The recent floods in the Caribbean country can be easily explained by the deforestation caused by the people of Haiti - they need fuel to cook what little they have to eat. \*

In an effort to do our part and preserve the global ecosystem, perhaps we should all consider reading our newsletters on-line, electronically. Not only would we be preserving our Earth's trees, we would also be helping to redirect much needed funds to the RAYJON Projects. Newsletters cost money to print and to mail! Our website <http://www.sarnia.com/rayjon> on the other hand has a fixed cost and can be accessed by anyone at no further cost to RAYJON. Other bonuses include:

- you can't lose your newsletter!
- your newsletter will have coloured pictures!
- your newsletter can be easily forwarded to interested friends!

If you are interested in having your name removed from our traditional mailing list, please e-mail [rayjon@ebtech.net](mailto:rayjon@ebtech.net). Be sure to include your electronic address so that we can send you an e-mail reminder regarding our newsletter's publication dates and a quick-link to the website. N.B. If your electronic address changes, it will be your responsibility to contact RAYJON so that we can update our files.

\* Source: <http://news.independent.co.uk/world/americas/story.jsp?story=526291>

## **The Sisters of Charity in Bani, Dominican Republic An Inspiration to Us All!**

*by Marilyn Couture*

It was a memorable day, six years ago, when I first met the Sisters of Charity in Bani, and they agreed to allow me, annually, to take a group of student nurses and health care professionals to experience "hands-on nursing" in a developing country.

The Sisters of Charity have had a presence in the Dominican Republic for over 30 years. Sisters Roberta Mullin, Peggy McDonald and Catherine McGowan minister in the health care sector. They live in a poor section of Bani, one hour from Santo Domingo. Sr. Roberta moved to the Dominican in 1996. She ministers in the outpatient clinic for newborns in a public hospital, where she assists in the labour and delivery area. She says that mothers in labour are "usually appreciative of what I am doing, because I take time to spend with them". One initiative they are undertaking, with the help of a lawyer with the diocese, is to have the child's birth registered. If a child is not registered, they cannot attend school.

Sr. Peggy moved to the Dominican in 1974 and began working with Sr. Catherine teaching health education and helping the sick. After Hurricane David in 1979 the Red Cross dropped off cartons of medicines and Sr. Peggy had to sort and dispense the medications. This was the beginning of what is now called the Santa Cruz Dispensario. Sr. Peggy is the coordinator of this busy place, and the pharmacy helps people who cannot afford medication. She says that her work is "one way of touching the body of Christ".

Sr. Catherine is the Director of Centro Elizabeth Seton - a centre for malnourished children. The centre is located in the poorest section of Bani, and it lacks services ...no school, no general water supply, sporadic electricity and no health services except what is provided by the centre. "Every child that comes to us, sickly and malnourished, and graduates happy and healthy, is a memorable experience", says Sr. Catherine. In the mornings, the centre cares for about 60 malnourished children. In the afternoons, school is offered for a minimal charge, for approximately 80 children from ages 5 to 7. Sr. Catherine says that by educating the mothers and treating the children, family life has improved.

Besides their regular ministry work, the Sisters also visit people in the community, are in charge of catechetics and the church choir, take care of household chores and coordinate volunteer visits from dentists, nurses, student nurses and doctors from the U.S. and Canada. The Sisters organize translators, accommodations and transportation for the volunteers. They also deal with customs and transportation issues.

On a daily basis these extraordinary women bring hope to the lives of the poor. Sometimes it is difficult to think that there is any hope of the Dominicans overcoming this existence, but as Sr. Catherine says, "It is a process of living, developing and progressing until there is enough. Until then, we will continue doing what we were sent to do".



*Sister Roberta, Sister Peggy and Sister Catherine  
with their Lambton College T-shirts*

## A Surreal Experience

by Maggy Barnfield

Those of us who have visited Haiti and have stayed at the Oloffson Hotel in Port-au-Prince, are familiar with RAM, the 'in hotel' voodoo rock band led by Richard Morse, manager of the hotel. On Thursday nights leading up to Carnival, the old gingerbread Hotel vibrates until the early hours with the music of RAM with its voodoo drum rhythms, ra-ra horns and Lunise, Richard's wife and lead singer. The experience is exhilarating and stays with us long after our return to Canada.

Can you imagine our amazement when John and I flew to England for our annual visit in July, were met at the airport by two of my sisters and were told that RAM was on tour and were due to play in two days in my home city of Stoke-on-Trent? After a sleepless overnight flight, it was difficult to comprehend that such a Haitian phenomenon could take place so far from its home and so close to my birth place. Needless to say, plans changed, and together with all three of my sisters, who are very supportive of what RAYJON is doing in Haiti, I shared the surreal experience of "Vodou Nation" - Haiti's history, mythology and religion in music, song and dance. I was delighted to be able to share a little taste of the real Haiti with my sisters, who may never have the opportunity to visit the incredible country. John wasn't able to make it to that concert, but a few days later we drove to Oxford to see RAM in concert there - a second treat for me. Each concert finished with an exhilarating, flag waving, dancing parade around the theatre to a standing ovation, whistles and cheers.

After each performance, I expected to leave the theatre and go out into the tropical Caribbean night! Instead, in balmy, English summer evenings, we headed straight for the stage doors!!



*Lunise performing in Haiti*

## Open Your Eyes

"You are happy, they say; therefore you are called upon to give much. Whatever more than others you have received in health, natural gifts, working capacity, success, a beautiful childhood, harmonious family circumstances, you must not accept as being a matter of course. You must pay a price for them. You must show more than average devotion of life to life.

Open your eyes and look for a human being, or some work devoted to human welfare, which needs from someone a little time or friendliness, a little sympathy, or sociability, or labor. There may be a solitary or embittered man (woman), an invalid or an inefficient person to whom you can be something. Perhaps it is an old person or a child. Who can enumerate the many ways in which that costly piece of working capital, a human being, can be employed. Search, then, for some investment for your humanity, and do not be frightened away if you have to wait. And be prepared for disappointments. But in any case, do not be without some secondary work in which you give yourself as a man to man (woman to woman). It is marked out for you, if you only truly will have it."

*Albert Schweitzer 'Civilization and Ethics'*

## Summer Happenings

### Well Done, Marilyn

In June, Marilyn Couture made a presentation at the Registered Practical Nurses Association of Ontario's Educators Conference in Toronto. This year's conference was titled, "Celebrating the Diploma RPN; Growth and Opportunity". Marilyn shared details of Lambton College/RAYJON's student nurses trip to the Dominican Republic. She spoke of how the students value this experience as enhancing their assessment, communication and critical thinking skills. Marilyn Couture teaches at Lambton College & organizes annual RAYJON nursing trips to the D.R. for her students.

**Condolences** to Deb & Andy Kramer & family on the death of Deb's father, Morgan Parker, in April. The Kramers volunteered for several years with Habitat for Humanity International. In 1988 they hosted the RAYJON work trip with Habitat to Arequipa in Peru, and in 1997 they hosted a RAYJON Eyeglass Clinic in Anahuac in Mexico.

**Congratulations** to Gay & Boris Thomson, of Toronto, on the birth of their new grandson.

**Condolences** to Ted & Theresa Davies on the death of Ted's brother, Bob, in May.

**Congratulations** to Theresa Van Koeverden on her retirement after 28 years of teaching.

**Congratulations** to Fergal McDonough (DR Awareness Trip 1988) and Catherine Habermehl on their marriage which took place on June 26th.



*Dianne McKillican & Ryan Devries  
at the RAYJON tent  
at the Corunna Craft Fair in May.*

*RAYJON members  
at the annual barbecue in June.*



## Guest Speaker at the October 1st Membership Meeting.

Brian Pipe, founder and Executive Director of Project H.O.P.E., is an inspirational social development leader dedicated to making a difference in Africa. Based in Cambridge, Brian is focused on supporting widows and orphans in distress. His passion for this work stems from his experiences while living in Africa and seeing the overwhelming need first hand. All of his grassroots projects revolve around sustainable development and aid. Over the years, Brian has seen incredible results emerge from the initiative and ownership of his African partners. His aim is to amplify what's already happening, to build on the momentum demonstrated with greater resource capability. Come hear Brian share his riveting stories at our October 1st. membership meeting.

### Lost!

Marjorie Paisley has lost one of her favourite books - "A Song of Haiti" - the lives of Dr. Larry & Gwen Mellon, by Barry Paris. Please check your bookshelves. If you have it, call Marj at 344-9190.

### Inspirational letter.

"I had my eyes checked in December and was so grateful for my eyesight. I saw the (RAYJON Eyeglass Program) pamphlet in the Doctor's office and decided maybe that I could help some person get their vision improved. This was supposed to be my Christmas gift for me; sorry to be late. Wishing you all a happy new year, and may you see many wonderful things in God's world."

Sincerely, Aly (and Peter) Broersma, Chatham, Ontario.



### Cookies Wanted!



RAYJON is looking for people to bake cookies for the Cookie Walk at their Fall Fair which will be held on Saturday, September 25th from 9am until 2pm. Cookies may be brought to Sacred Heart School gym on Friday 24th between 3pm and 5pm or early Saturday morning. Your help is very much appreciated. If you have any questions, please call Tara Jessop at 834-2205.

## Urban Development Project report - April 04 - June 04

*by Sister Rosemary, director of the Project in Cap Haitien, Haiti.*

During the period, 170 children were assessed for the nutrition centre, an increase of 83 over the previous 3 months. A total of 87 were accepted into the program; 59 had second degree malnutrition, 28 had third degree malnutrition of which 13 were severely swollen with kwashiorkor.

Twenty two children finished the first phase of the program by reaching their optimum weight and development. One of these was Angela Pierre, who the workgroups from RAYJON would know well. She came to us at 10 months weighing 5.2 kg. At first she did not profit from the program at all. She was assessed for TB and started on treatment. Even after a few months of treatment her newborn brother was bigger than she was. Now she has finished treatment, walking, talking and ready to run the world like any two and a half year old.

In the second phase of the program there are now 106 children, who come each month to be weighed and receive "RAYJON chewable vitamins". On the whole they are doing well. We have readmitted 17 of them into the first phase of the program; 12 because their weight was dropping again and 5 because they are on holiday from school.

During this period, we took 24 new women into the commerce program. Thirteen of them did not continue but the rest are doing very well. Three of them are ready for funding from "Trickle Up". Seven women received their second cheque from "Trickle Up" and 15 received their first cheque. We still have money from "Trickle Up" to begin 15 more women in business.

This month (June), the 117 children and young people that we are helping to go to school are coming with their report cards, returning their books and being measured for their uniform for the next school year. It's a busy, exciting time. This year we have 4 young people writing national exams at the end of "grade school" and 3 more writing exams at the end of high school. These children struggle to learn and are very proud when they succeed.