

Neepawa Rotary Club getting ready for annual auction fundraiser

By Kira Paterson

NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

The annual Rotary Auction, the club's biggest fundraiser of the year, is coming up soon. This will be the second year that it's taking place online, rather than live on television, and it will be open for bidding from Dec. 3 to 9.

"With the TV [auction], it was all done on one night and the online, people have a chance to bid over six days," explained Rotarian Ron Nordstrom. "They take a look at the items at their own leisure and they can bid on the items anytime during the timeframe."

The items available will be listed on the Neepawa Rotary Club's website, neepawarotary.weebly.com, where a few listings are already up. Nordstrom noted that they plan to have everything online by Nov. 26, which is also when they will have the full list published in the Banner & Press.

Nordstrom said that they normally have around 180 items available, so they expect it will be about the same this year. They've been canvassing the businesses within the community for a couple weeks now, to get donations of things to sell at the auction. "Really, what this is, is Rotary organizing businesses to make donations to our local community, because the money obviously couldn't be raised unless we had businesses contribute to this," Nordstrom expressed. "So we really do appreciate the businesses."

As Rotary's biggest fundraiser, the auction annually raises around \$20,000 on average. "All of the money that we raise at the Rotary Auction ends up back to other local groups," Nordstrom said. "Just as an example, last year, money was donated to Yellowhead [Centre], ArtsForward, NACTV, [Beautiful Plains] School Division, Touchwood, Nursery School, [Beautiful Plains Community Medical] Clinic, Victoria's Quilts, there's an NACI scholarship, Roxy Theatre, there's a long list of local contributions."

In addition to helping support their many projects and donations to the community, a large portion of the Rotary Auction proceeds often goes to one recipient chosen annually by the club. This year, their main recipient will be Kinsmen Kourts 2, to help pay for some of the furnishings the new seniors housing complex needs to complete the space.

To take part in the auction, bids must be made online on the club's website. All buyers must be registered to be able to place bids. Nordstrom noted that if there are some people who don't have access to the internet, but would like to place bids, they can call himself or Rotarian Murray Newton to sort out a way to bid on the item they want.

If anyone is interested in donating items for the auction, they can also contact Nordstrom at 204-476-0174 or Newton at 204-841-1647.