

Giant Garage Sale will help fund Cambodian schools

The Sixth Annual Giant Garage Sale will take place on July 9 and 10 at the Gravenhurst Curling Club, running from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. It's all in aid of retired Gravenhurst librarian Lisa McCoy's tireless efforts to bring education and poverty relief to the people of Cambodia.

"This year we are trying to raise \$4,822 towards two two-stall latrines and two wells for two rural school-building sites in Takeo province, Cambodia," she says. "We raised close to \$5,000 last year, so it's not out of reach."

Between the Rotary Club, the international organization Round Square and McCoy's own charity, A MFW Assistance Programs four schools so far have either been built, or will be built, to serve the children of this poverty-stricken region.

"The Muskoka School was the first one," she says. "This winter there will be three more that will be built. I worked all last winter on getting all those projects prepared."

Good water and toilets, she notes, will be needed not only by the school staff and students, but by the builders while the schools are being constructed.

A total of 18 members of the Rotary Clubs of Bracebridge and Gravenhurst will be visiting

Cambodia in January to donate bicycles – crucial for transporting the children to the school. Their goal is to raise enough money to buy 1,000 bicycles – up from 400 last year.

McCoy began helping the people of Southeast Asia when her Christmas holiday in 2004 turned into an aid and comfort mission after the Indian Ocean tsunami. She continues to expand her focus, connecting with the Port Carling Lions Club to fund eyeglasses to be distributed along with the bicycles.

The garage sale will feature a variety of new and used items. Donations are needed, as are volunteers. "We need your help, young or old," says McCoy.

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Lisa McCoy has made it her life's work to help families in Cambodia. Her Giant Garage Sale fundraiser is on July 9-10. Photograph: courtesy of Lisa McCoy