

Litchfield County



LITCHFIELD — The Litchfield-Morris Rotary Club was in the giving mood when it met at the Forman School on Feb. 1.

A \$200 donation was presented to Connie Trolle of Morris, president of the Bantam Lake Protective Association, which has spent a decade working aggressively to gain the upper hand in a fight against invasive weeds in the lake. The donation will help fund work the BLPA has planned for the summer.

"Connie has been tireless in her effort on behalf of the lake and we commend her for it," Rotarian Bob Kluge said in presenting the donation to Trolle.

Eurasian milfoil, once widespread in the lake, has been almost eliminated, and the growth of fanwort and curly leaf pondweed is under control, Trolle said. The BLPA also is working on a long-term management program for blue-green algae, and is developing a watershed management plan designed to reduce the volume of nutrients and runoff flowing into the lake.

Rotarian Ted Murphy praised the BLPA for being at the forefront of the fight against blue-green algae.

"They've done an incredible job bringing the issue to light for the public," Murphy said. "It's a big issue because water quality and property values are linked. If we don't put money into it and keep it under control, grand lists will suffer and our towns will take a hit in the pocketbook."

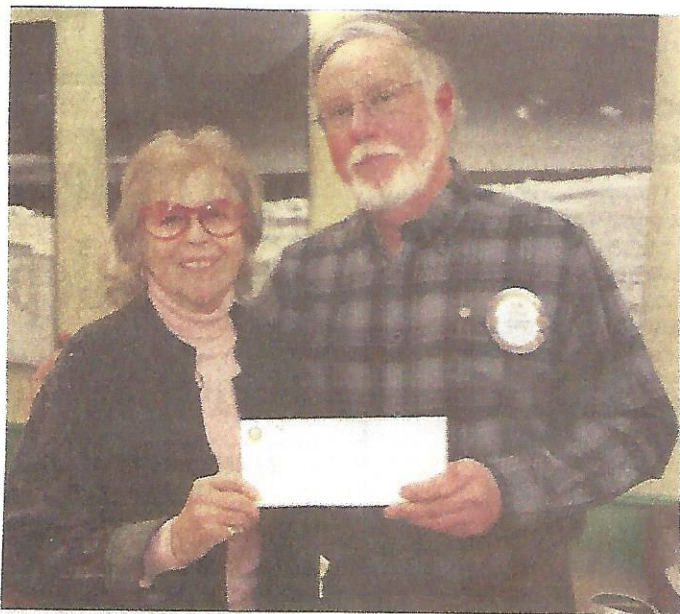
Rotarians also heard from Gina Devaux, director of development for the Susan B. Anthony Project in Torrington. Devaux spoke of the services the agency provides for battered women and promoted the inaugural Walk a Mile in Her Shoes fundraiser that will be held May 20 on the Litchfield Green.

Participants in the walk, males included, will stride through the center of town in bright-red high heels. Registration for the walk is \$35 through March 31 and \$50 afterward.

For information, contact Devaux at gdevaux@sbaproject.org or 860-489-3798.

Ron Swanson, the Rotary Club's new president, announced plans for a Mardi Gras bash at the Village Restaurant on Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. Swanson and other Rotarians will be on hand to talk about the club's mission. Prizes for the best Mardi Gras costumes will be awarded.

Happenings in the Hills is a weekly look at life in Litchfield, Warren, Morris and Goshen. Information for publication can be sent to John McKenna at jmckenna33@optonline.net.



Bantam Lake Protective Association President Connie Trolle receives a donation from Bob Kluge of the Litchfield-Morris Rotary Club.