

The Roundtable

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Bangor Area Breakfast Rotary Club**

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The Potholes of Our Lives

*God bless the potholes
Down on memory lane
God bless the potholes
Down on memory lane
Hope some real big ones open up
Take some of the memories that do remain*

The Honorable Dennis Damon did not sing this Randy Newman song while he spoke at this morning's meeting. However, the slides he showed of potholes, crumbling roadsides and aging bridges took us down our memory lanes.

Mr. Damon presented the mission of the Fix It Now Maine campaign, urging the legislature – and all of us – to vote for sustainable funding for Maine's transportation infrastructure

"We are not keeping up... transportation funding has been pushed back as each budget passes. We need to also include an I-95 type of data highway," he said. Maine has \$198 million in unmet needs that include bridge and road repair.

Mr. Damon showed a colorful slide of a sign that said "FROST HEAVE." He explained how frost heaves form. When he asked a colleague in the state legislature about approving transportation money, his answer was negative. That same legislator hit a significant pothole later that caused \$2,400 damage to his car.

Surveys rated 900 miles of Maine's highways in poor or worse condition, and 789 Maine bridges are rated "deficient" or "obsolete." Mr. Damon cited an unsolicited letter from a woman who had traveled by car with her family from Florida to Maine and back home. She said that of the 5,200 miles they traveled, Maine had the worst roads.

Solutions? Mr. Damon says educate the public, influence legislators and work together for a solution.

"I suggest a public outcry!" You can make noise by visiting www.fixitnowmaine.org.



In his introduction, **John Wardwell** thanked Mr. Damon for being his coach and gave congratulations for his induction into the Maine Baseball Hall of Fame in July. John gave a happy dollar for the start of the New England Patriots training camp.

Smooth travel through the business meeting

We welcomed former – and soon to rejoin – member **Steve Harrison** this morning. **President Kristy Kimball** invited us all to the Board of Directors meeting next Wednesday the Links, 735 Main Street in Bangor.

This may be history by the time you read it, but the Good Shepherd Food Bank is inviting area Rotary Clubs to tour the Northeast Distribution Center from 5-7 pm tonight. The Center is located at 11 Penobscot Meadow Drive in Hamden.

Kendra Speed announced the Club’s annual spaghetti dinner feast at Camp Jordan on July 5. We prepare meals for the families of children being treated for cancer.

Another meal of note: the annual dinner will happen at the Richard Dyke Center on the Husson University campus on Thursday, June 29. There will be no morning meeting that day. Kristy will appreciate an RSVP by Monday, June 26. No money (\$25/person) need change hands until the evening of the dinner. The Joker’s Wild jackpot contains \$498, to be won that evening.

Ken Nagle’s son graduated from Bangor High School. **Caroline King** said the American Red Cross will install smoke alarms in Old Town in response to a tragic fire.

From the “Learning Something Everyday” Department, **Lisa Wahlstrom** reported on an extension of the program we had several weeks ago when our speaker described using 3-D printers to create shoes. Lisa learned that 3-D “prints” of turtle eggs are fooling poachers. The story hatches here: 3dprint.com/141985/3d-printed-turtle-eggs.

Les Myers, June 8, 2017



Clean-up on Table 2, please



The view from Rangeley Hall, 8:30 am, June 8