



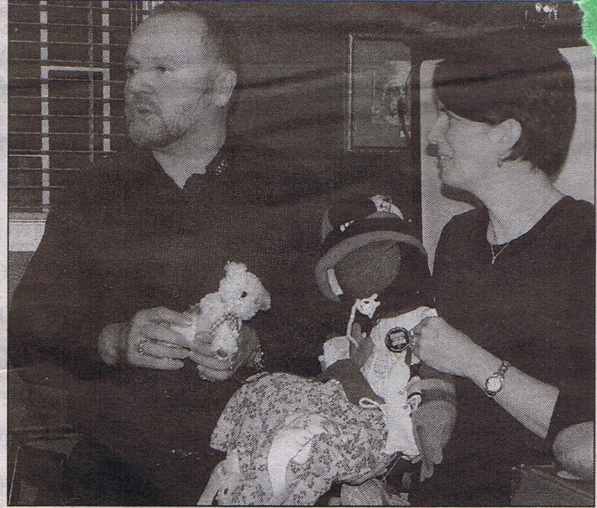
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Dave Palmer of the Arnprior Rotary Club discusses the Who is Nobody? program with Leslie Mott.

North Gower Marlborough Public School teachers Lesley Mott and Jim Ford show one of the Who is Nobody? dolls completed by their class. Photos by SHERRY HAAIMA

Everybody is somebody

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The Arnprior Rotary Club wants to make sure local children know they're somebody.

The club hosted a meeting last week inviting local teachers to learn about Who is Nobody?, a preventative program for Grades 1 to 12 designed to build on the students' individual strengths.

North Gower Marlborough Public School teachers Lesley Mott and Jim Ford have used the program for several years with much success and they spoke to meeting-goers about their experiences.

The students begin the project with a blank doll that arrives in a suitcase, complete with instructions and teaching tools, explained Mott.

They then come up with individual projects to help others or make an impact in the community. Family participation is encouraged, but the child takes the lead role. "The families get involved but the children choose the projects," said Mott.

"Because it's children-driven, they do things they like to do." Projects varied widely and included kids cutting hair for cancer, collecting garbage, bake sales, raffles, yard work and more.

The benefits of the program are numerous, said Mott. Students learn empathy, selflessness,

gain a sense of accomplishment and often learn more about the community or the world around them.

"I really enjoyed the projects where kids got to know their neighbours," she said.

The Rotary Club is working with several local schools interested in getting involved with the program.

For more information, visit www.whoisnobody.com