

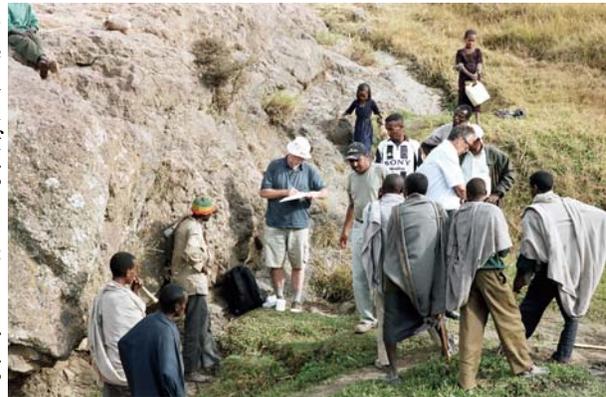
Ethiopia Calling

The newsletter of *Partners in the Horn of Africa*

2005 was the busiest year yet for **Partners**. By the end of the year **Partners** had commenced or completed 20 projects, mainly in rural Ethiopia. Those projects included small loans enabling unemployed women to start their own businesses; school and health facilities construction; AIDS education; care of AIDS orphans; providing clean water and building footbridges.

All of the projects were true to **Partners'** two basic principles:

- 100% of donations go directly into projects. Our directors work voluntarily and cover all operating costs.
- All **Partners'** projects have an Ethiopian "partner" who contributes 15-20% of the project cost, usually in the form of labour.



Brian Adeney of EBA and Tesfaye Tefera testing the water at a spring near Tekulesh.

New corporate partner turns on the tap in rural Ethiopia

Special points of Interest:

- **New Corporate Partner**
- **Dancing for Partners**
- **Projects for 2006**

When Terry Hillaby, a vice-president of EBA Engineering Consulting in Edmonton, was planning the celebration for the company's 40th anniversary, he knew he wanted to reflect a company core value – "improving its communities." After hearing about the successful work that **Partners in the Horn of Africa** and its "partner," the Ethiopian charity, AWWA, were doing in the drought stricken region of Wollo, the engineering firm knew it could help. EBA decided to assist and fund the construction of "cribs" and reservoirs to protect and retain water from year round springs. **Partners** and AWWA have been working with the local

villagers in this Northern Ethiopian region for the past couple of years to improve the residents' supply of drinking water. Water borne parasites are one of the leading causes of death and disease in Ethiopia. Less than 25% of the population has access to clean water. The spring protection project undertaken by **Partners**, AWWA and EBA will develop and protect five separate water supply systems.

The company chose Brian Adeney, one of its senior engineers, as the project leader. "I was selected because I had a background in water resources and could judge how EBA's resources could best be allo-

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Both animals and humans use the same water supply with a high potential for contamination.

cated to benefit the project. I was also excited about sharing the information with the rest of the employees and willing to travel in harsh conditions, having previously helped out with hurricane relief in the Caribbean.”

Brian worked with Tesfaye Tefera, an Ethiopian engineer who prepared all the costing, scheduling and supervising of the work. Their goal was to provide separate collection areas - one for drinking water and one for livestock and washing. Their team looked at 10 potential sites for spring protection. They tested the water and selected 5 with suitable water flow and easy access for the villagers. More than 1,000 people will benefit from each of these sites.

The Ethiopian rainy season begins in June, so construction started in March with some urgency. All supplies, including hand shovels, cement, rocks and piping, had to be carried to the work site by donkey or man. And, as it true in all **Partners'** projects, the local villagers provide the labour as their contribution to this much needed and appreciated project.

The benefits to the Ethiopian villagers are obvious. However, the excitement about the project within EBA has been enormous. Brian has given 6 presentations of his Ethiopian experiences within the company and in February he spoke to senior managers and clients about EBA's involvement to an enthusiastic response. A second engineer, Katherine Johnston from EBA's Whitehorse office has been chosen to go to Ethiopia in May to oversee some of the construction. She also will be taking CARE packages with her for the villagers from other employees of EBA.

For Brian, his excitement extends beyond EBA. Once construction work is completed in Ethiopia, he plans to speak to other engineering groups and associations. He says, "It has been an incredible experience not only to share my engineering knowledge but also to learn so much about the Ethiopian people by living and working with them for a common goal,"

For **Partners in the Horn of Africa**, the spring protection project marks a new form of "partnership", one involving the "hands on" participation of Canadian firms helping Ethiopians to help themselves.



Tesfaye sampling water from completed spring protection project.

Dancing for *Partners*...Mom & Me Dance

There is something so special about Mothers' Day...flowers, candies, token of love for all the hard work our Moms achieve over the past 12 months. There is a group in North Vancouver, Mom and Me, which has decided to extend the appreciation of mothers on a global level. Mom and Me was conceived and created two decades ago by Jo-Anne Kates. She provides pre and post-natal classes for new moms in the district, along with a myriad of necessary and informative support to mothers.

Last year, the mothers were moved to action by the South Asian tsunami, but quickly realized there were more women in the world that could benefit from their fund raising efforts. They wanted a charitable organization where they were assured that 100% of their money could go directly to help women. ***Partners in the Horn of Africa*** fit the bill with its mandate of empowering women and they decided to mark Mother's Day with a family dance for the women of Ethiopia.

The event was a great success. Over 150 people attended. ***Partners'*** board member Yehalem Metiku presented an evocative slide show of the plight of Ethiopian women and described the ***Partners'*** micro financing project where the monies from the evening were being directed. With the support of Mom and Me's contribution over 100 unemployed women in rural Ethiopia were given loans to open their own businesses. As initial loans are repaid, the women are entitled to larger loans and are encouraged to band together to form larger businesses. These projects

have been a great success and many women are now operating their own small businesses. For these women, the cycle of poverty has been broken.

Buoyed by their recent success, the Mom and Me group are planning another celebratory community dance to acknowledge Mother's Day 2006, and are hoping to attract more local citizens to dance to a charitable beat.

The women of the Mom and Me Network are a sterling examples of the principles of ***Partners in the Horn of Africa*** – women in the developed world empowering Ethiopian women through grass roots action.



Small loans in microfinancing lead to larger loans and larger businesses.

Partners' Projects for 2006

Some of ***Partners'*** projects in 2006 include:

1. A sericulture project where rural women generate income by raising silkworms in their homes and selling the raw silk to local weavers.
2. A hospice (one of the first in Africa) for homeless AIDS' victims.
3. Six construction projects building classrooms and libraries for rural schools.

Christmas Picnic

We hear much about the plight of AIDS orphan and certainly Ethiopia has an incredible number of young children left without any family support. This past Christmas **Partners** held a picnic for more than 100 orphans who were bused from their villages to the lakeside city of Bahir Dar, in the Gojam Region of Ethiopia. For most of them, it was their first trip away from their village. It was a memorable Christmas for these kids. They sailed on the lake and watched circus performers who put on a special show for them. It was probably the best Christmas these kids had since their families were torn apart by AIDS. It was so successful, **Partners** plans to make this an annual event.



AIDS orphans at Christmas picnic in Bahir Dar

Partners is having an impact in the Horn of Africa. The problems are immense but your donations do make a difference in the lives of many Ethiopians. **On their behalf we thank you.**

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Partners is a recognized Canadian charity and issues tax receipts for all donations.

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has. ~ Margaret Mead ~