Dear fellow Strathconians,

**This is an update to the very short announcement regarding Shoeboxes as a Christmas Project.**

We will be doing this **instead of Pajamas for Zebra *AND* the Gift Exchange.** The Club will be working with [**Shoebox Canada**](http://www.shoeboxproject.com/edmonton.html) **** this year.The Shoebox Project came about after a group of Women in the Guelph area watched as they delivered Children’s Gifts to a Shelter at Christmas and observed that while the Children were well taken care of, their Mothers received nothing. They felt Mothers and abused Wives needed to be recognized and taken care of as they had removed their children and themselves from an abusive home at great personal cost. The Next Year they started the Shoebox Project which has spread across Canada and into some parts of the USA. **Shoebox will distribute the boxes on our behalf.**

The thought at this time is that Rose Marie Basaraba and Linda Granholm will purchase the Shoe Boxes at the Dollar Store and bring them to a regular meeting, because they are pre-wrapped and all the same size. The boxes will be placed by the door where you can pick up how ever many you intend to fill as a family. We will put the “kitty” by the boxes for payment. The price should be around 1.50 per box. We intend to purchase 50 boxes unless the consensus is that is too many. \*Last Year the Edmonton Southeast Club did this as a work bee project and delivered 28 Shoeboxes with a membership of 25. We should be able to do as much or better!

**The Details:**

**The box should contain approx $50 in value of items which can include a gift card of no more than $5.00. There will be a list inside the box of suggested items and and of items NOT to be included. There will be a name tag size sticker with our Club Logo to affix to the tissue paper that seals everything inside the box. Think of this as a box of treats for someone who has left their home and everything they own behind. So small things that are missing, something to brighten a day.**

**Remember everything must fit inside the box and the lid must fit snugly. You may tie a satin ribbon around it but no big bows on top. The organization that will distribute the boxes stacks them for storage.**

**The boxes will be going to Women's Shelters in the Edmonton Region and some to Northern Alberta. If there are extra boxes, Shoebox distributes these to Mustard Seed and Bissell Centre for homeless women. No box is ever wasted.**

To see what value they bring to women’s lives please watch the Shoebox Video attached here

<https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/8124228/The%20Shoebox%20Project%20for%20Shelters%20-%20Copy.mp4>

Please take the time to consider the value of this project and think of the things you would wish to give to a friend, a daughter, a sister or your mother should they ever find themselves in this situation. There is no time in a life when you are by necessity as invisible as this fragile time spent in a shelter.

Thanks
Rose Marie