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Editorial

Have a good 2007

And make someone else's better

You. You're the person of the year, according to Time magazine. You, and everyone else. That's a heavy burden, to be person of the year. A whole year.

Well, maybe clicking on the Internet isn't really that big of a deal, as Time said, but the idea that each one of us can make a difference is.

Many of us move through life, keeping our heads down, safe from the threats of modern life. While our heads are down, we're missing a lot of opportunities.

While people acting alone have accomplished great things — Olympic high jumpers, for example — making positive change in our world is usually done by groups of people.

A small example of this is the group of people who got together this year to create the ConVal Community Scholarship Foundation.

They identified a need, thought about what to do about it and went into action, together.

They established an organization that will provide two scholarships each year to ConVal High School graduates who might otherwise not continue their educations.

What a legacy! It doesn't get any better than that. Seriously. What more can one want in life than to have a lasting

positive effect on other human beings.

Perhaps the names of the people in this group will be long remembered. Perhaps not. It doesn't really matter. The people in the group will know that their actions will have a positive effect on many others for many years to come — first on the students, then on their families, and also on the businesses where the students work. There will probably be other ripple effects we cannot imagine.

That's the way it is with positive actions.

Seeing a need is the first step in the process, be it a deteriorating sidewalk or homeless members of the community.

Next comes communication with others who also care about the problem. (We won't use the dreaded "meeting" because today communication can come in many different forms, as Time's Person of the Year award has reminded us.)

Finally is the action phase, which the group may be able to handle alone, but which will more likely be done with a larger group — voters or contributors, for example.

So, have a good year, and while you're at it, make someone else's better, too.