

1922

Service Above Self

2022

Celebrating



Years of...

Kitchener Rotary





Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International
(CC BY-NC 4.0)

Copyright 2023 by Kitchener Rotary

You are free to:

Share - copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format.

Adapt - remix, transform, and build upon the material.

Under the following terms:

Attribution - You must give appropriate credit, provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made. You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use.

NonCommercial - You may not use the material for commercial purposes.

No additional restrictions - You may not apply legal terms or technological measure that legally restrict others from doing anything the license permits.

Notices:

You do not have to comply with the license for elements of the material in public domain or where your use is permitted by an applicable exception or limitation.

No warranties are given. The license may not give you all of the permissions necessary for your intended use. For example, other rights such as publicity, privacy, or moral rights may limit how you use the material.

Library and Archives Canada Cataloguing in Publication

Issued in print and electronic formats.

ISBN 978-0-9950431-6-9 (Hardcover)

ISBN 978-0-9950431-7-6 (PDF)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from Bill Proctor, 100th Committee Chair

Message from Adrian DeCoo, 100th President

Message from Howard Pell, Editor

What is Rotary?

Kitchener Bandstand Sponsors

Past Presidents

Board of Directors

Highlights

Agencies We've Assisted Financially

Major Local Partners

Historic Events

Fundraising Activities

100th Anniversary Celebration

International Initiatives

Local Community Service

Rotary Fellowship

Rotary Service

A MESSAGE FROM THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE CHAIR

Being the chair of our 100th Anniversary Committee has given me a great opportunity to delve into our history and learn so much about the many contributions we have made to our city, our region and to the world during the past century. I do not believe it is an overstatement to say that the city of Kitchener would not be what it is today if it were not for the Rotary Club of Kitchener.

Most members are aware that we were responsible for the creation of the KW Rotary Children's Centre which is now known as KidsAbility and that our support for it and children with special needs has been a focus of ours throughout our existence. But we have done so much more; and the depth and breadth of our support is truly amazing. Many of these are illustrated in this celebratory publication.

I encourage all members to enjoy this book and to learn from it as well. From participation in the many special meetings and events planned to acknowledge and celebrate our remarkable history of Service Above Self.

I thank all members who have contributed to our centennial events. Our story needs to be told and your efforts in helping to do so are greatly appreciated.

I am extremely pleased and proud that our significant contributions to the city and beyond are being recognized by the City of Kitchener in the naming of the Duke Street elevation at City Hall as Rotary Plaza. This area, which features a quiet shaded garden area; a broad pedestrian plaza, and substantial public art installations; is undergoing refurbishment, scheduled for completion within our anniversary timeframe. Once completed, this area will create an active pedestrian friendly space that will encourage community gathering in a welcoming and publicly accessible space for thousands of downtown residents and visitors. It will be a very fitting tribute to the legacy of the Rotary Club of Kitchener and to our promise for the future.

**Yours in Rotary,
Bill Proctor PDG
Chair, 100th Anniversary Committee**



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT: OUR LEGACY, OUR PROMISE.

In this 100th year, we celebrate the legacy of our service to this community and to the world. We all know that as Rotarians, we stand on the shoulders of many Rotary Founders and Community Builders. Have you ever wondered if our Founders would have thought that Rotary in Kitchener-Waterloo would actually last 100 years? What would they think of Rotary today? How would they feel about what we have collectively accomplished? How have we lived up to their promise?

Rotary in Kitchener-Waterloo has achieved much.

In 1922, our Rotary Founders recognized the potential for a service organization like Rotary to contribute to the development of a rapidly growing city.



The work of Kitchener Rotary since then has led to the establishment of the Rotary Children's Centre – now KidsAbility Centre, the development of the Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery, the creation of the Rotary Peace Park at RIM Park, two Habitat for Humanity projects, the House of Friendship Women's Addiction Centre, the founding of the Kitchener Rotary Club Charitable Foundation and the Rotary African Women's Education Fund. In addition, Kitchener Rotary has supported multiple local charities and institutions, and has also supported several international humanitarian projects. This is Our Legacy.

Equally important in this 100th year is Our Promise: Our promise that Rotary will succeed and remain relevant, our promise that we will continue to support the needs of this community, our promise that we will ensure that Kitchener Rotary reflects the face of this community and our promise that we will continue to "Serve to Change Lives".

Adrian DeCoo
President 2021/2022
Kitchener Rotary

A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

In my twenty years as a Rotarian I have worked on many projects. These projects have taught me many lessons. I think the most important lesson was, and still is, that like-minded, caring people can achieve wonderful things. We can help others, build a better community, make new friends and strengthen friendships. And we can have a lot of fun doing it.

Another lesson I've learned is that while Rotarians never actively seek recognition for what they do, they always appreciate it when that recognition comes without asking. It is my distinct joy to recognize those people who helped create the book you now hold in your hands or are reading on your screen.

Contributors to this book (in alphabetic order)

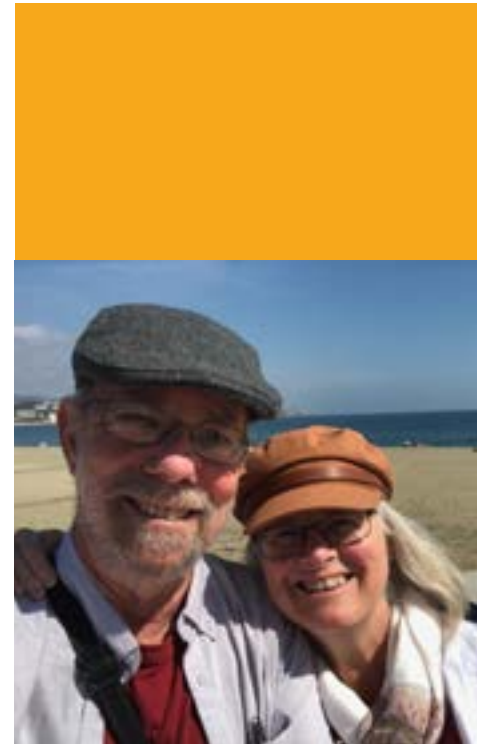
Joe Dwyer
Cheryl Ewing
Martin Jones
David Martindale
Howard Pell
Marissa Watkin

As the editor and chair of the 100th Anniversary Book committee, I alone am responsible for any errors or omissions in this book.

This book is meant as a photo album to share our 100 top highlights in the last 100 years. We have raised and donated millions of dollars to various charities locally and around the world. We have helped tens of thousands of children realize their potential. And we have had a lot of fun and fellowship along the way.

Greater details can be found in earlier anniversary books. These can be found at the Kitchener Public Library and the University of Waterloo Archives. PDF versions can be found on the Kitchener Rotary Website.

Howard Pell
Chair and Editor, 100th Anniversary Book



WHAT IS ROTARY?

Our motto is Service Above Self. This is what brings Rotarians together; the belief that we can make a difference in our community and around the world through service. The differences we make, both individually and collectively, makes our lives and those around us better.

Rotary is non-religious, non-political, non-race, colour or creed.

To be a Rotarian, you must be someone with a desire to make your world a better place.

OBJECT OF ROTARY

The Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

FIRST: The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;

SECOND: High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society;

THIRD: The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business, and community life;

FOURTH: The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

THE FOUR-WAY TEST

The Four-Way Test is a nonpartisan and nonsectarian ethical guide for Rotarians to use for their personal and professional relationships.

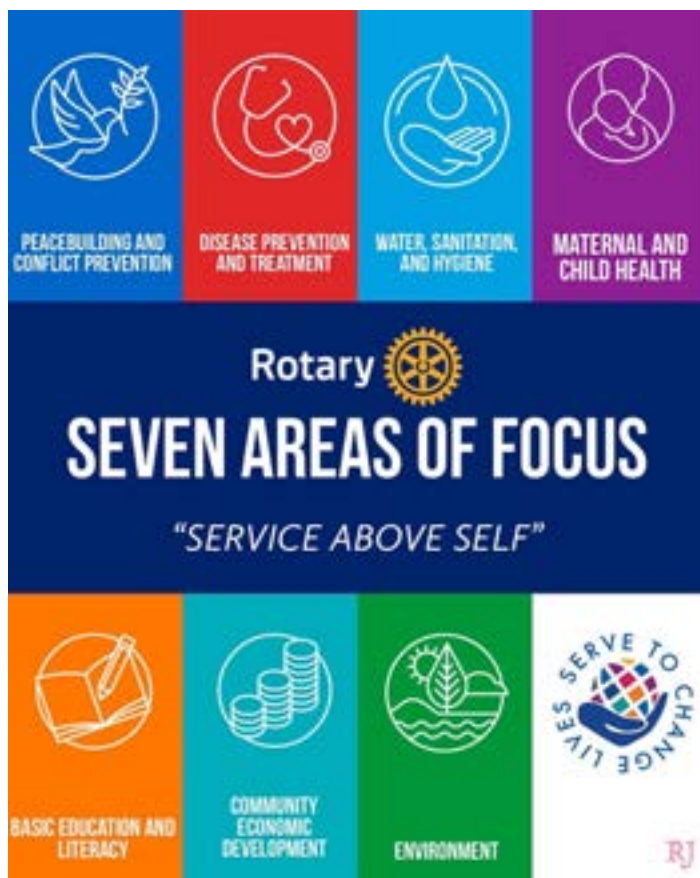
Of the things we think, say or do:

Is it the **TRUTH**?

Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?

Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?

Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned.



KITCHENER BANDSTAND SPONSORS



To celebrate our 100th anniversary of service to the people of Kitchener the following people have committed \$100,000.00 to the refurbishment of the Bandstand on Roos Island in Victoria Park. The following people have generously donated to this project.

Family of Mike Carty
David Chatson - Memory Gardens
Adrian and Cathie DeCoo
Shawky and Kathie Fahel
Lew and Inge Ford
Louise and Graham Gardiner
Martin and Diane Jones
Mike and Marie Knell
Knelco Mechanical
Tom and Jocelyn Mennill
Ross and Rosemary Newkirk
Gary and Susan Parker
Howard and Rosemary Pell

Mike and Carol Pollard
Bill and Judy Proctor
Karen and Warren Redman
Russ St. Louis
Hubert Singh
Stephen and Mary Swatridge
Ray Taylor
Erin and Al Way
The Witzel Family
Cameron and Sharon Yule
Carl Zehr and Sandy Chris
Don and Tracey Zehr

PAST PRESIDENTS

1922-1924	A.J. Cundick	1948-1949	A. Shirk	1973-1974	H.B. Patterson	1998-1999	Ross Newkirk
1924-1925	W.M.O. Lothead	1949-1950	A.M. Snider	1974-1975	J.R. Fitzpatrick	1998-1999	W.B. Aitkenhead
1925-1926	H.J. Sims	1950-1951	A.W. Hopton	1975-1976	E.W. Hayes	1999-2000	Al Way
1926-1927	H.M. Cook	1951-1952	S.J. Hawkins	1976-1977	J.G. Weber	2000-2001	Carol Wiebe
1927-1928	W.H. Hamblin	1952-1953	R.K. Ellis	1977-1978	J.G. Bowman	2001-2002	Brad Michael
1928-1929	W.H. Brown	1953-1954	L. Heinhoeffer	1978-1979	W.W. Ince	2002-2003	Louise Gardiner
1929-1930	L.A. Galloway	1954-1955	H.P. Hawkins	1979-1980	W.A. E. McBryde	2003-2004	J.B. Moore
1930-1931	R.E. Patterson	1955-1956	F.K. Staebler	1980-1981	G.D. Phillips	2004-2005	Ed Fowler
1931-1932	A. Lockhart	1956-1957	M.H. Hudspeth	1981-1982	C.J. Zehr	2005-2006	Tracey Hare Connell
1932-1933	N.C. Schneider	1957-1958	F.C.B. Hall	1982-1983	W.A. Moeser	2006-2007	Joe Dwyer
1933-1934	J.A. Martin	1958-1959	E.H. Hymmen	1983-1984	J.A. Beingessner	2007-2008	Cheryl Ewing
1934-1935	S.F. Mutter	1959-1960	R.E. Brown	1984-1985	J.A. Ball	2008-2009	Jean Deschenes
1935-1936	W.C. Duffus	1960-1961	T.A. Witzel	1985-1986	J.R. Reid	2009-2010	Bill Proctor
1936-1937	W. Henderson Sr.	1961-1962	R.J. Hodd	1986-1987	D.E. Graham	2010-2011	Ernie Ginsler
1937-1938	W.R. Bottom	1962-1963	A.M. Wilson	1987-1988	D.F. Reeve	2011-2012	Hubert Singh
1938-1939	R.O. Winn	1963-1964	D.M. Bean	1988-1989	J.M. Carty	2012-2013	Tom Mennill
1939-1940	J.H. Schmidt	1964-1965	J.R. Zuber	1989-1990	W.P. Pernfuss	2013-2014	Martin Jones
1940-1941	H.H. Gould	1965-1966	D.G. Knoz	1990-1991	R.W. Charie	2014-2015	Candace Harrington
1941-1942	W.M. Euler	1966-1967	L.E. Baldwin	1991-1992	B.G. Blain	2015-2016	Karen Redman
1942-1943	C.N. Weber	1967-1968	F.L. Dreger	1992-1993	M.A. Knell	2016-2017	John Webster
1943-1944	J.R. Beaton	1968-1969	J.R. Euler	1993-1994	B.H. MacLeod	2017-2018	David Chatson
1944-1945	J.M. Laing	1969-1970	G.W. Haslam	1994-1995	G.L. Kraemer	2018-2019	Richard Bruckeder
1945-1946	H.J. Heasley	1970-1971	A.G. Angus	1995-1996	Paul Van de Kamer	2019-2020	Paul Rostrup
1946-1947	A.J. Bruce	1971-1972	L.P. Breithaupt	1996-1997	D.E Luft	2020-2021	Louise Gardiner
1947-1948	L.P. Malone	1972-1973	T.R. Williams	1997-1998	B. Gough	2021-2022	Adrian DeCoo
						2022-2023	Adrian DeCoo

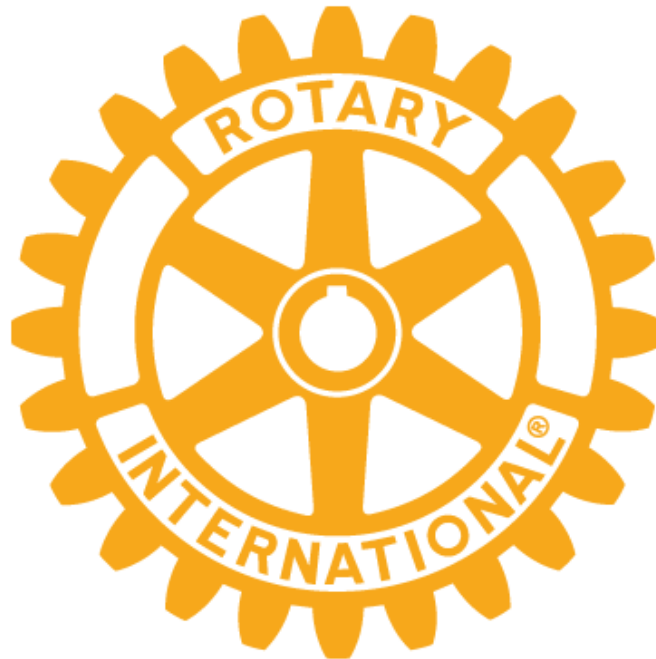
BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Top Row from left: Louise Gardiner, Bill Proctor, Karim Karim, David Chatson, Bryn Jones, Paul Rostrup, Cheryl Ewing
Bottom Row from Left: Howard Pell, Tom Mennill, Adrian DeCoo, Hubert Singh, Ernie Ginsler, Ray Taylor, James Brown







INTRODUCTION TO OUR 100 HIGHLIGHTS OF 100 YEARS

There are so many highlights from 100 years it was a difficult task to narrow it down to just 100. The Anniversary Book Committee spent many hours choosing which highlights to include and in the end, we had our winners. If we didn't include your favourite highlight, we apologize. We organized the highlights into nine categories to show the wide diversity of things that Kitchener Rotary has done locally and world-wide.

We hope you enjoy looking at these photos, and we hope you recognize some of the people involved.



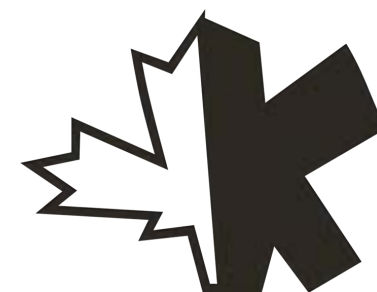
Agencies We've Assisted Financially

There are some truly incredible organizations here in our community. So incredible, that we feel we have to support them in any way we can. Sometimes the support is done with donations, other times we turn out our members to do what we can: build, paint, plant trees, clean up a trail.

Sometimes, agencies come to us to see if we can support them. In other cases, a Rotarian brings a project to the club. Other times a Rotarian asks us to support his or her favourite charity. Some are one-time funding for a specific project, others are on-going partnerships.

KITCHENER-WATERLOO
ART GALLERY

DIABETES
CANADA





Canadian Mental
Health Association
Ontario



House of
Friendship

GRAND  RIVER
HOSPITAL
Advancing Exceptional Care



CANADA
4-H Ontario

Rotary  Clubs of
Kitchener-Waterloo



engineers without borders
ingénieurs sans frontières
Canada
University of Saskatchewan Chapter



LOCAL & INTERNATIONAL CHARITIES

The Kitchener Rotary year is full of cheque presentations to many local and international charities. Once a year, we celebrate our charitable donations with a meeting hosted for local charities to attend, although international charities are more than welcome! Not only are cheque presentations made, but recipients also get the opportunity to tell us about how they are using the funds.

JM DRAMA

JM Drama's ACTONE Play Festival, an opportunity for emerging playwrights to develop a script that is then produced by emerging directors, was supported over two years. This support led to the presentation of the work of ten playwrights through productions or readings. To refine a script, it needs to be heard by an audience allowing the playwright to determine if the script is received as anticipated and leading to further edits to improve the work.

We also supported the special project The Breithaupt Brothers Songbook. The Breithaupts were one of the city's founding families. Local musician Andy MacPherson was aware of the song writing team, Don and Jeff Breithaupt, and intrigued by their history. He felt it was important to bring them to Kitchener in celebration of the impact their forefathers had on the community. This concert was their first performance in Kitchener.





Major Local Partners

Kitchener Rotary has a long-term and ongoing relationship with several organizations in our community. We have partnered with each of the following organizations with significant funding as well as hands-on activities and support.

“The very important decision was made that the care and treatment of crippled children in this district should be our first and major activity.”
-Meeting Minutes, December 18, 1922

Assisting children with disabilities has been the single strongest driver of Kitchener Rotary activities since the founding of the club. From the first establishment of clinics for disabled children in 1923, to assisting to transport children to hospital facilities in Toronto and London, to providing gifts and other fun activities, Kitchener Rotary has been an unwavering supporter of assistance for disabled children.

Kitchener Rotary was a significant driver in the establishment of the Children's Treatment Centre at K-W Hospital in 1954 and the opening of the Rotary Children's Centre in 1958. This evolved into what is now known as KidsAbility, and Kitchener Rotary continues to provide significant financial support as well as individual support for the children. Many Kitchener Rotarians have sat on the Board of Directors of this wonderful organization.





KIDSABILITY FUN DAY

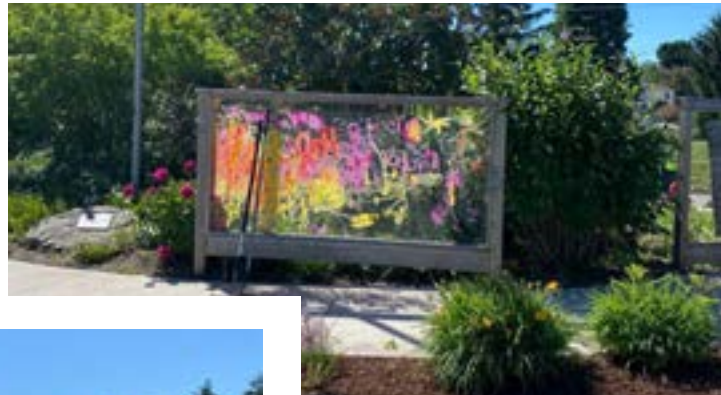
Over the years, there have been many fun activities in support of the children and families using the KidsAbility services such as the annual Children's Christmas Party, concerts, and Fun Days at the Waterloo Regional Police Children's Village. Currently, the annual Children's Fun Day is held at the KidsAbility Centre for Child Development in Waterloo each June.



SENSORY GARDEN CLEAN-UP

On a sunny Spring morning in 2022, Rotarians from the five local clubs came together armed with garden gloves, shovels, rakes, garbage bags, knee pads, wheelbarrows, a big mountain of mulch donated by Moser Landscaping and an extra dose of goodwill to clean up the Sensory Garden at KidsAbility,

This garden provides an environment designed with the purpose of stimulating the senses by the use of plants and materials that engage the senses of sight, smell, touch, taste and sound.





HOUSE OF FRIENDSHIP

For our club's 90th anniversary in 2012, we wanted to make a significant contribution to an organization in the community that was in need. The House of Friendship had just commenced their 'Under One Roof' campaign to support renovation of an existing building to house their Women's Addiction Centre. We chose to support this initiative with a \$90,000 grant. Although this was only a portion of the total funds required, our grant showed community leadership and helped to 'kick-start' their successful campaign.



WOMEN'S ADDICTION CENTRE: OUTDOOR RECREATION SPACE

Once renovations were complete at the House of Friendship Women's Addiction Centre, it became clear that there was a need for exterior amenity space. Kitchener Rotary volunteers came together to build a patio and gardens for the use of the residents.

Getting our hands dirty, having fun and enjoying the fellowship of Rotary makes volunteering fun.

KITCHENER-WATERLOO ART GALLERY (KWAG)

In recognition of Canada's centennial in 1967, the Club spent \$75,000 for the purchase of the Pentecostal Tabernacle on Benton Street in Kitchener, which was then rented to KWAG at a cost of \$1 per year. This act saved the gallery, previously housed in a bicycle shed behind Kitchener-Waterloo Collegiate from 1954 to 1968, from disappearing altogether. Not only did it enable KWAG to expand in all facets of its operation, but the installation of air conditioning also allowed it to become equipped to handle any type of exhibit!

Kitchener Rotary continued to support KWAG with a substantial donation in 1985 of \$50,000, resulting in the creation of the Rotary Gallery exhibition space. Many Kitchener Rotarians also volunteered to serve terms as Board members, and several held the office of gallery President.

*"Partnership
in
Art"*



It was a dark and stormy night in 1968. The Rotary Club of Kitchener had just purchased the Pentecostal Tabernacle building located near the corner of Charles and Benton Streets in downtown Kitchener. On this site previously stood a small white clapboard house, the birth-home of Prime Minister Mackenzie King.

The next day dawned bright and clear. Rotarians agreed to let the Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery use the 9,000 square foot building. The gallery association established in 1956 had initially operated a public art gallery in a bicycle shed beside Kitchener Collegiate Institute from 1956 to 1968.

Thus began the tradition of enlightened sponsorship by the Rotary Club of Kitchener in support of the Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery. In conjunction with the use of this building, a substantial improvement in size and accommodation from the bicycle shed, many Rotarians also volunteered to serve terms as Board members and several held the office of gallery President. This individual commitment to serve the community in leadership continues to this day.

When the gallery moved in 1980 to its current location at the Center In The Square, it continued the annual appreciation luncheons for the Kitchener Rotarians, a "thank you" initially established in 1970.

The Rotary Club of Kitchener continued to demonstrate its ongoing support to the Art Gallery in 1985. The gallery had just launched a \$400,000 capital building campaign to finish its lower level. A major first donation was needed to gain government matching grants and additional private sector support. The Rotary Club of Kitchener provided this substantial contribution and in recognition the newly-created gallery exhibition space was named the Rotary Gallery.

As the Rotary Club of Kitchener celebrates Seventy-Five years of Service Above Self, its members can take pride in their valuable contributions to the arts which have enriched the cultural fabric of our community.

Don Blum, Gallery Director and Past President 1991 - 92





Historic Events

KITCHENER ROTARY CHARTERED 5 CLUBS OVER THE YEARS

1926
1964, June 7
1971, June 25
1981, March 4
1986, April 10



CHARTERED THE ROTARY CLUB OF PRESTON



CHARTERED THE ROTARY CLUB OF WATERLOO



CHARTERED THE ROTARY CLUB OF KITCHENER-CONESTOGA



CHARTERED THE ROTARY CLUB OF KITCHENER-WESTMOUNT



CHARTERED THE ROTARY CLUB OF KITCHENER-GRAND RIVER



CENTRAL ONTARIO HORSE SHOW

In 1957 Kitchener Rotary began sponsoring and organizing the annual Central Ontario Horse Show.



Kitchener-Waterloo Record
KITCHENER, ONTARIO, SATURDAY, MAY 16, 1958
SECTION 2—PAGE 15

Excellent Riding Features Club Show

PONY DISPLAY—Members of the London Pony Club put on a display of graceful the musical ride. A crowd of about 1,000 watched last night's performance.

A pair of mounts take the jumps at the K.W. Rotary Club Ontario Horse Show during last night's performance.

PROUD WINNERS—Eleven-year-old Rosemary Campbell (left) of Melton won the junior M. Kofke trophy of Kitchener was the western pleasure horse class during the afternoon program at the Kitchener Auditorium.

MAY BECOME 3-DAY EVENT NEXT YEAR

Horse Show Rated Among Best

"This is one of the best shows in Ontario," L. J. McMillan, well known Toronto horseman, volunteered this opinion last night at the first annual Central Ontario Horse Show, which concludes tonight at Memorial Auditorium.

And one reason for this is that the back rooms are better than those at the Royal Winter Fair.

But because it is the first show of the season, the stand-out contest he judged, in Mr. McMillan's opinion, jumpers are clumsy and jerky movements have to be brushed out of memory. This condition was noticeable in the pairs event.

Mr. McMillan's views found support in many quarters, and K.W. Rotary Club officials are already planning for next year. A three-day show is proposed for next year. This year's prize money of \$5,000 is expected to be increased to more than \$10,000.

The show is presently considered to be the third largest indoor show in Canada, being surpassed only by the Toronto Bazaar and the Canadian National Exhibition.

Proceeds from the show will be devoted to the Rotary Club's crippled children work. While ticket sales have been good, attendance was on the small side at performance yesterday. But "it did no harm," it helped get out of some of our events," said F. Clay R. Hall, club president.

The show presents a valuable asset, both in the upbringing of the youngsters and the demonstrators. And the spectators—and there were 1,000 last night—helped boost additional color into the picture with many of the women in evening gowns and their escorts in "white tie and tails."

Before the show concludes more than 200 horses will have taken part in the 45 events which make up the program. The value of the 300 entries is placed at more than \$200,000.

GRAND OPERA

Enchanting Soprano Leads Opera Triumph

By W. J. FITCHER

A voice which had the liquid freedom of a bird's song and an intuitive dramatic flare made San Francisco soprano Marcella Reale a standout as Violetta in a great performance of "La Traviata" at the Kitchener Auditorium last night.

Throughout the production the shape of her phrases, place of accentuations, mezzo voices, accelerandos and diminuendos were in perfect agreement with the dramatic demands of the moment.

At all times she sang beautifully and whether at full voice or in gently whispered passages every word came through clearly and her intonation was secure.

SHOULD REACH MET

The advance word was that here was a singer who should reach the Met. Those who heard her last night will probably agree.

Particularly moving were the fine-spun pianissimos of the touching deathbed scene. We didn't count the curtain calls but there were three or four times as many as at the Monday night performance of "Die Fledermaus" and when the beautiful Miss Reale came on alone the din reached its peak.

Sharing honors in the solo roster were James Milligan, an outstandingly fine Germont, and Jon Vickers as Alfredo. Both young men have sung in Kitchener before but never were they more impressive than last night.

Mr. Milligan's big, virile voice has taken on a new lustre and his DiProvenza won him a well deserved storm of applause.

Here is a voice with no limitations in the top range and it is a type of projection which prevents his tones from ever sounding swallowed or hollow. He was a commanding figure and his acting had authority.

There may have been roughnesses at times in the singing of Mr. Vickers and some projections in which the tone spread came close to bellowing but he gave many fine moments of warm lyrical singing.

There was dramatic intensity

to his work at all times and a note of tenderness in the touching scenes.

The skilled and demanding hand of conductor Ernesto Macchini, formerly of the Metropolitan Opera Company, was evident throughout the memorable performance.

SHOWS SENSITIVITY

The short, stocky maestro conducted with great sensitivity and imagination and his interpretation of the score throughout was a sheer delight. His first violinist played with exquisite tonal beauty in solo.

The Spanish dance in the third act was executed with brilliance and style.

Secondary roles were filled satisfactorily by Andrew Theriault, Patricia Rideout, Bernard Turpeau, Alexander Gray, Andrew MacMillan, Karl Norman, Walter Dunoff and Seweryn Weingart.

A crowd of 1,826 attended. We hope the disappointing turnout at both performances this year will not deter the K-W Rotary Club from renewed sponsorship of the festival next year.

Whatever happens, however, music lovers who thrilled to last night's superb presentation owe the club a real debt of gratitude for bringing the Opera Festival Company of Toronto to Kitchener.

In the sincere words of scores attending "It is a wonderful thing for the community."

In 1953, consideration was given to the introduction of an entirely new venture for Kitchener Rotary, which was to have, in the words of Chairman Clay Hall, with objectives in mind. The presentation of Grand Opera in the Twin Cities for the first time would be a cultural community service, an encouragement of the development of Canadian talent, and finally should produce additional revenue to support our expanding activities.

The appearance here of La Boheme on March 10, 1954, should be regarded as one more historical event. The large attendance of 4,500 resulted in a very satisfactory financial net return of over \$2,400 after providing for quite a heavy budget of expenses.

In 1955 Die Fledermaus and La Traviata were presented. These performances were staged at the Auditorium and it became apparent that a hockey arena is not really suitable for this type of musical theatre.

In 1956 the Opera Committee presented Carmen but without a Grand Hall to match the Grand Opera the project was dropped.

On a very bright note, in 1965, when Mayor Hymmen formed a feasibility committee to study the need for an arts centre, much was made of Rotary's attempt to bring this type of entertainment to this area – a forward step leading to the building of The Centre in the Square.



OPERA PLANNERS—A group of Kitchener-Waterloo Rotarians yesterday interviewed officials of the Opera Festival Association at Toronto concert using the performance of "La Boheme" at Kitchener Auditorium March 10. Left to right: Clay Hall, Rotary opera committee chairman; Ernest Rawley, general manager of the opera association; Rotarian Keith Stuebner and R. S. Van Valkenburg, vice-president of the opera association.

Pick Kitchener For Opera's 'Guinea Pig'

Kitchener is to assume a guinea pig role again on March 10. When the opera "La Boheme" is presented at the Kitchener Auditorium on that date it will be the first time a travelling Canadian company has presented an opera in an arena.

It may be the Kitchener performance will be the first in a series of arena performances across Canada. That is, if it proves a success.

VENT TORONTO

Yesterday five members of the K-W Rotary Club went to Toronto to further negotiations for the opera presentation here. They returned with assured confidence.



Fundraising Activities

Our community is one of the most charitable we know. People here are always ready to help, whether it is buying tickets for our car draw, or a gala dinner. There are many wonderful charities in Kitchener-Waterloo, and we are proud to support many of them.

Through the years we have held many fundraising events and this section highlights the best of them. For some organizations fundraising is seen as just a task that must be completed. For Rotary it is an opportunity to tell a story. A story about the people we are raising money for, and a story about Rotary itself and how people can get involved. It is also an opportunity for fellowship. Getting to know our fellow Rotarians while raising funds is just another benefit of being a Rotarian.

KITCHENER ROTARY CARNIVAL

One of our earliest fundraisers was the Kitchener Rotary Carnival. Since 1930 we held our annual Halloween carnival in the old market building. In 1938 it was moved to the Queen Street auditorium. Then in 1951 it was moved to the new Memorial Auditorium. The carnival never lost its popularity through lean years. Even during the depression the Club Treasurer could report with pleasure that nearly \$3,000 had been raised. Carnivals were advertised in various places including cinemas, by using lantern slides.

What ended the long run of carnivals were two quite unrelated circumstances: arrival of Oktoberfest, an event within which the carnival might have been able to survive by adaptation; and imposition by the Province of Ontario of stricter regulations governing gambling and games of chance which formed the mainstay of the carnival.





CAR DRAW

The Kitchener Rotary Car Lottery is perhaps the longest running, continuous car draw in Canada. Since our first car draw in 1930 the proceeds have been used in support of what began as the Rotary Children's Centre and is today known as KidsAbility. Our financial support for KidsAbility continues to this day and our total contribution well exceeds \$1,500,000. In this 100th year of Rotary in Kitchener, we successfully made the exciting transition from paper tickets to an online format.



CHILI GOLF & SPRING RUSH

We designed Chili Golf as an opportunity to have fun outside in the winter, dressed appropriately or in costume. Keeping with the 'Chili' golf theme, various restaurants competed for the honour of best chili. Golf players competed for silent auction items.

Aside from maximum fun, we raised maximum funds and maximum awareness in support of Rotary and Track 3. Once Chili Golf ran its course, we evolved into our next fundraiser, Spring Rush. Warmer weather, more entertainment, but just as much fun and just as much fundraising.



IN VINO CARITAS

Our Spring Rush event was eventually replaced with the auction and wine tasting coming indoors. The new event, In Vino Caritas 'In wine there is charity', became a very successful event. The wine tasting and silent auction remained and was augmented by live auctions. In Vino Caritas became the networking event of Waterloo Region's business community.



PUB NIGHT

Kitchener Rotary held an informal Pub Night in the spring of 2019. This was a fun, community-oriented gathering held at Descendant's Craft Brewery in Kitchener, ON. It was a great evening for all, and we raised over \$5,000 for local charities.





LOCAL LAGER

As a fundraiser, Kitchener Rotary participated in the sale of Rotary Local Lager through the Beer Store in Kitchener & Waterloo. This was a multi-club initiative throughout Ontario between 2017 and 2020. This craft lager was brewed for Rotary in Guelph by Wellington Brewery.

Every can of beer sold resulted in a donation back to the participating clubs, and a portion was also donated to Rotary International's clean water projects. Rotary Local Lager became the beverage of choice at many Rotary events!



ONLINE AUCTION

Kitchener Rotary has been involved in the Rotary Online Auction with several other Rotary clubs in our district since 2015. The auction takes place every November. The auction as a whole has raised over \$300,000, with Kitchener Rotary raising approximately \$79,000 to date, for its community charities and organizations. The Online Auction requires the participation of all our members in obtaining auction items, promoting and publicizing the event, and for the distribution of items to successful bidders.



CATCH THE ACE

In 2020, the 5 Rotary Clubs in Kitchener-Waterloo collaborated on a new online Catch the Ace lottery. With a weekly draw and a progressive prize, the game has generated interest across Ontario and has raised funds for KidsAbility and two local hospitals. At the end of our first Catch the Ace lottery, we decided to donate all subsequent proceeds to KidsAbility. We are hopeful that this fundraiser will continue to grow as word spreads around the community.

















International Initiatives

How far does your community span? Your city? Your region? Your province or country? Rotarians take pride in calling our tiny planet our community. If we see a need on the other side of the world, Rotary is there to help.

Rotary clubs are encouraged to identify international needs, and partner with Rotary clubs local to that country to address issues. The resulting projects assist local people with sanitation, clean drinking water, health, and a variety of other areas vital to improving health and living conditions. Kitchener Rotary has a long history of helping out around the world with many different projects.

ROTARY AFRICAN WOMEN'S EDUCATION FUND (RAWEF)



ROTARIAN AUDREY WIPPER

Kitchener Rotarian, Audrey Wipper, a sociology professor at the University of Waterloo, spent the early part of her career in Uganda and Kenya. From her work there, she came to believe that the education of African women resulted in a profound impact on their communities. In 2010, Audrey donated a significant sum to the Kitchener Rotary Foundation, and with the help of Kitchener Rotarian Dave Martindale, this donation was used to substantially fund the Rotary African Women's Education Fund (RAWEF). Audrey passed away in 2018 and left further funds to RAWEF. With a value of \$1.5M, the fund can support 12 new students every year. With students graduating and working in their communities, Audrey's legacy continues to have a profound impact in East Africa. Dave Martindale continues to help guide RAWEF.

THE ABOKE GIRLS

One significant aspect of RAWEF relates to students in Uganda. In 1996, the entire world was shocked by reports that 139 high school age girls from St. Mary's School for Girls in Aboke, northern Uganda, had been abducted by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), led by Joseph Kony. One of the nuns from St. Mary's, Sister Rachele, dogged the students for several days and was able to secure the release of 109 of the students. Unfortunately, 30 of the students were kept by the LRA, and were given to various leaders of the LRA for use as sex slaves. These girls were known as the Aboke Girls.

Over the next 15 years, many of these 30 girls were killed, but some managed to escape. RAWEF connected with a Canadian charitable organization, Children of Hope Uganda, who were helping to get these girls back from the LRA. Several of the girls were rescued and RAWEF then funded their university education. Between 2010 and 2015, RAWEF funded education for nine of the Aboke Girls. One of these girls, Grace Acan, came to Canada and spoke of her experiences to several Clubs in our District in 2012.



CABORCA, MEXICO IMMUNIZATION

The power of Rotary connections!
Kitchener Rotarian Hubert Singh participated in the Club's Nogales, Mexico project for a few years, during which time he developed a close friendship with Dr. Ruben Castro, an optometrist and member of Nogales Rotary. Ruben opened a second office in Caborca, Mexico and began attending Caborca Rotary.

Hubert and Ruben met up in 2015 while golfing in Arizona and Ruben explained Caborca Rotary's involvement with the Mexico National Immunization Project. Hubert saw the opportunity to help and mobilized Kitchener Rotary and many other clubs in District 7080. In 2016, the first contingent of 20 Rotarians from eight different clubs in the District participated in the Caborca immunization. On these annual international trips, Canadian Rotarians not only help with immunization, but also enjoy fellowship with Rotarians from Mexico and the United States.





CABORCA, MEXICO - HOSPITAL EQUIPMENT

Following the initial success of the Mexico Polio Immunization Project, the natural Rotarian outcome was to look for other potential projects. A new hospital was built in Caborca in 2015 which replaced several small clinics and provided medical services to a large area around Caborca. Although the State funded the building and some of the staff, equipment was in short supply, and the need for kitchen facilities within the hospital was highlighted by the Caborca Rotary.

Rotarian Hubert Singh led an initiative in 2017 that saw seven Rotary Clubs within District 7080 contribute a total of \$10,000 US for cafeteria kitchen equipment. This cafeteria offers meals for a wide variety of people at the hospital and provides subsidized or free meals for impoverished local villagers attending the hospital. A number of other joint projects with Caborca Rotary are under consideration.



SHOEBOX AND BEYOND, NOGALES, MEXICO

The Shoebox and Beyond project originally consisted of providing shoeboxes containing small gifts, hats and mitts for children in poor Nogales communities, around the celebration of Three Kings Day in Mexico, January 6. This later grew to include provision of groceries, blankets, and supplies for the Nogales Rotary clubhouse which was run as a community centre for a time. Originally started by the Pantano Club of Arizona, a number of Rotarians from our District visited the project leading to several clubs from District 7080 and one from 7090 participating in a three-country project. Kitchener Rotary has been a very active leader of the project including direct participation by over a dozen members and their families. This project has been running since 2005, over 19 years and counting; an outstanding example of an international hands-on partnership.

NOGALES FIREFIGHTERS

Through this project, Kitchener Rotary also built a strong relationship with the firefighters in Nogales. Not only was a Waterloo Region ambulance sent down along with firefighting/hazmat boots, coats, and pants, but we have also supported a fire education program over the years.

PROJECT EVOLUTION

After a decade, the average distribution was 1,000 bags of groceries, over 1,000 gifts, and 500 blankets. The municipality contributed to the groceries and the State of Sonora provided the bulk of the blankets. There was heavy involvement from the Nogales police, local firemen, and the Rotaract Club associated with the Nogales Sonora Club.

The project has contributed drinking water fountains for two schools, the only source of drinking water for many of their students; provision of bedding and winter clothing; and a university scholarship.

In 2019, the project moved to a new Club, the Nogales Industriale Club. Interested in expanding the project to include sustainable aspects of the partnership led to the gift of an industrial oven to a community centre which allowed women to bake items to sell and contribute to their family income. A classroom received refurbished school desks, allowing the school to increase enrolment. Most recently, during Covid-19, personal protection equipment, oxygen tanks, and supplies for the local hospital were purchased in Nogales supporting the community's economy as well as its health care.





COMMUNITY CARE DEVELOPMENT CENTRES (SOUTH AFRICA)

As the HIV/AIDS crisis reached pandemic proportions, it was estimated that this could result in 2,000,000 orphans in South Africa with 400,000 of those in Rotary District 9270 alone. In response to this problem, South

African Rotarians founded Community Development Care Centres facilities that provide support for orphans and vulnerable children and their caregivers. The program provided childcare, food, education, and support through access to safe water, proper classrooms, sanitary facilities, and a feeding program hosted five days a week. This program was implemented by the Rotary Clubs in District 9270 (Durban, South Africa) and Kitchener Rotary, with support from Clubs across Canada.





JAKARTA, INDONESIA

Kitchener Rotary contributed \$3,000 toward the literacy program in Jakarta, Indonesia. By obtaining matching grants from District 7080 and Rotary International, as well as the Jakarta Rotary Club and CRDIC, our contributions were multiplied, and were used to equip 11 schools with furniture, blackboards, and books.



NEPAL

Rotarian Gordon Straus visited the Rotary Club in Kathmandu, Nepal in 2003, As a result of this trip, Kitchener Rotary provided a contribution and obtained a matching grant to provide a safe water supply, as well as a newly built and equipped sanitary block for a local girls' school.

GUATEMALA

For several years we supported a literacy program in the remote hills of Guatemala in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Rochester, Michigan. This primarily involved the purchase of books and other materials for the school and community libraries in the area.





MATANGWE HEALTH CENTRE KENYA

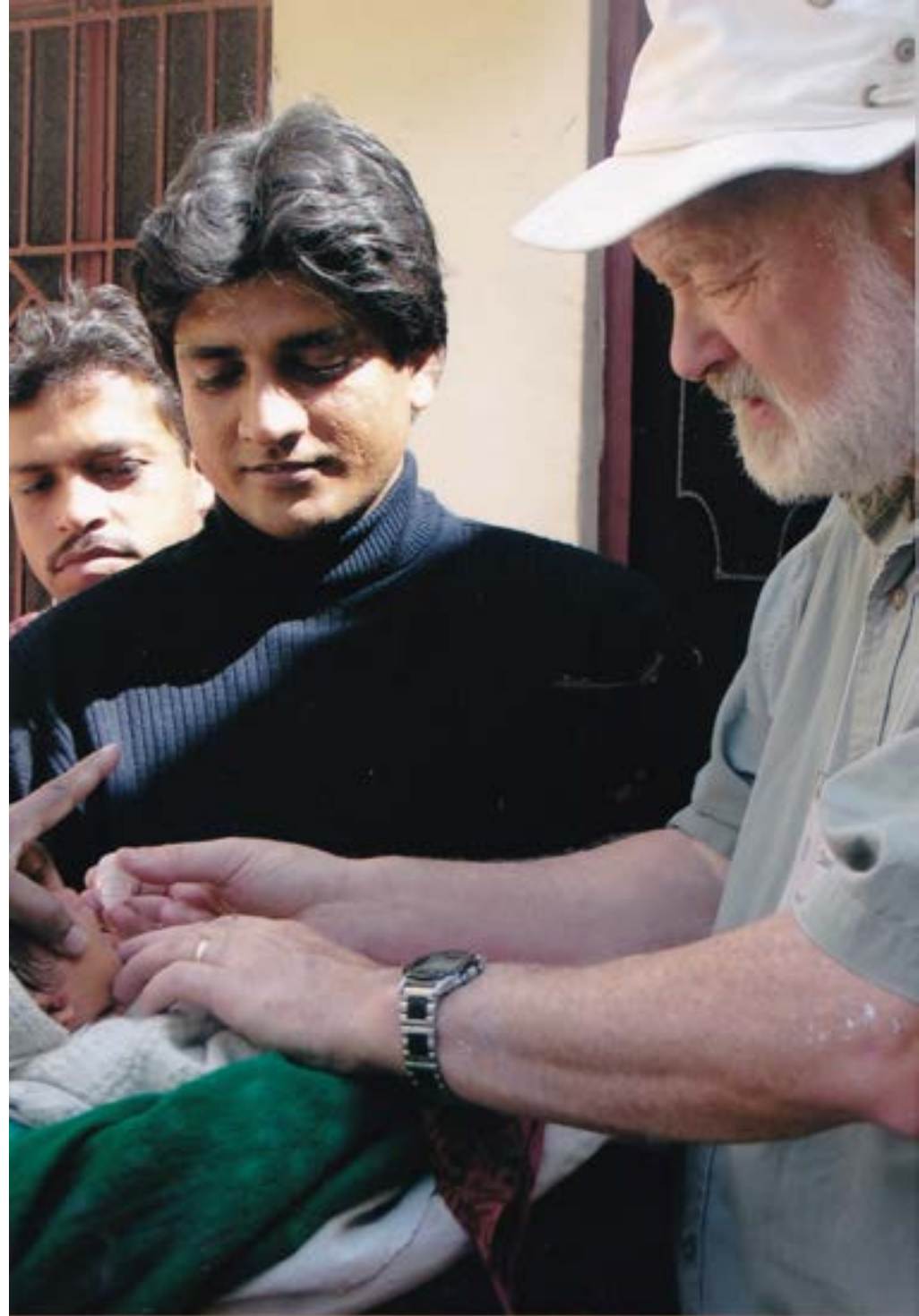
Kitchener-Waterloo based charity, Caring Partners Global, developed a community centre and medical facility in a rural area in Matangwe in the western part of Kenya.

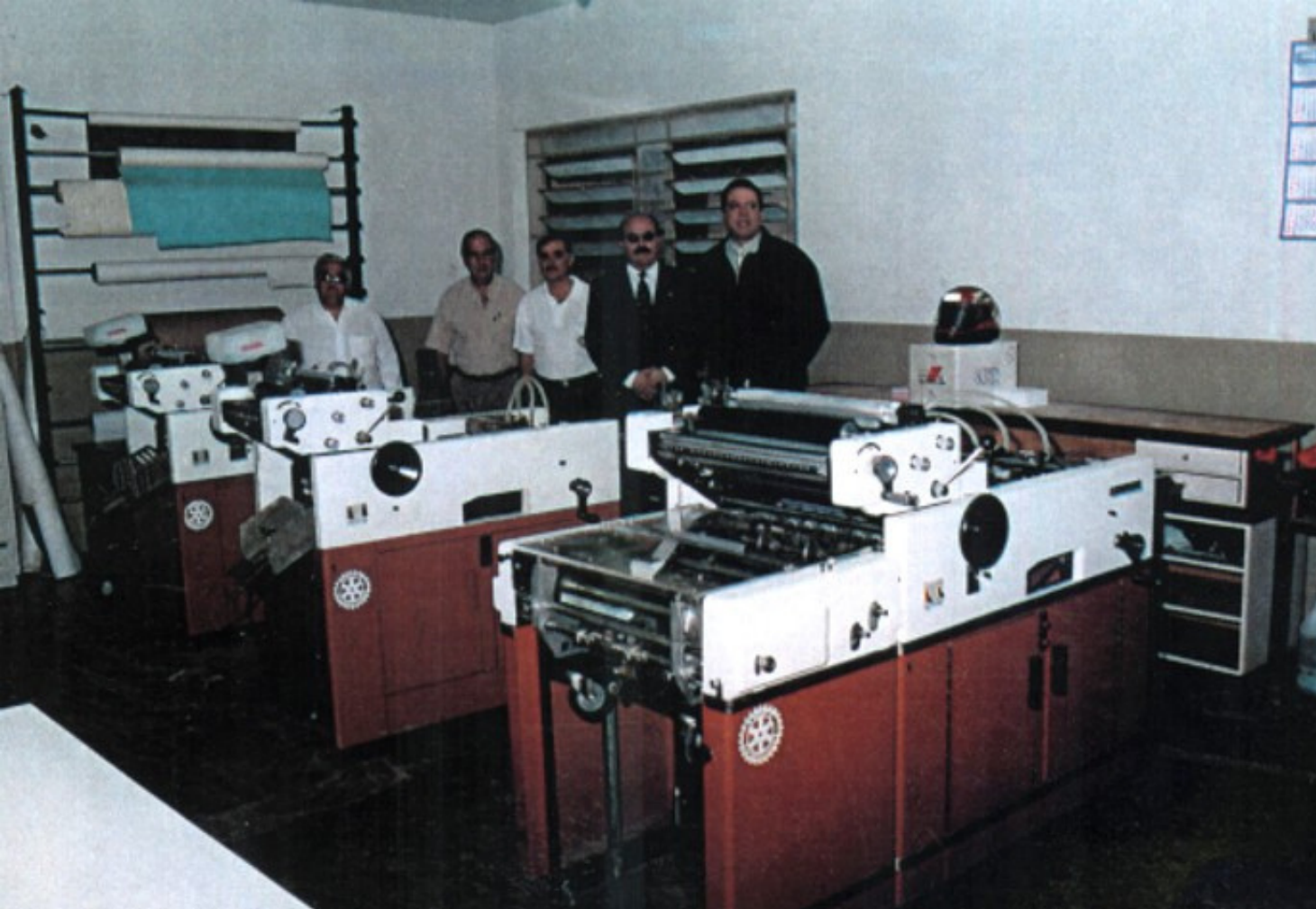
Kitchener Rotary contributed \$3,000 for medical supplies for the clinic. Subsequently, funds were also donated to purchase and install a generator and electrical system, as well as provide an autoclave and an incubator.



POLIO IMMUNIZATION, INDIA

In 2004, a trip was organized by District 7080, to participate in the India National Immunization Day on February 24, 2004. A contingent of 74 Rotarians and spouses went to Lucknow. David and Carolyn Martindale, and Dr. Audrey Wipper represented Kitchener Rotary, vaccinating children in the slums of Lucknow and the surrounding rural villages.





SAN JOSE DE RIO, BRAZIL

In 2001, Kitchener Rotary provided funding for a Technical Training Institute for street and vulnerable people. The coordinator of the program was the father of our Rotary exchange student Paula Queiroz (1980-81)

Many of these highlighted international projects were led by Dave Martindale, who, in addition to leading the projects, wrote and promoted many matching grant applications. This allowed us to multiply the impact of our funds.

PROMOTING LITERACY ACROSS JAMAICA

The Sandals Foundation, Carlson Wagonlit Travel (CWT), Air Transat and Kitchener Rotary Club teamed up to help promote literacy across Jamaica. These organizations worked together to collect 19,000 books across Canada and shipped them to Jamaica. The Sandals Foundation and local Rotarians in Jamaica distributed the books to seven schools and parish libraries.

In the fall of 2010, a CWT and Rotarian team gathered for a book reading with 70 children, hosted by Sandal's Sesame Street Characters, and Rotarian and CWT Executive, Louise Gardiner, who spearheaded the initiative.

By working together, we helped promote literacy across Jamaica and made a real difference in a child's life.



ROTARY YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAM

France, Germany, Australia, Chile, Ecuador... these are some of the many different countries where our Rotary Youth Exchange students have gone to, or came from. Rotary Youth Exchange is a long-standing program that is designed to promote international understanding, leading to a more interconnected and peaceful world. The Exchange students are of high school age, and travel to another country for a year, where they live as a typical high school student in their new country attend school, do household chores with their host family, and experience their new country in a very different way than as a tourist. Kitchener Rotary has been a significant supporter of this program, hosting many Inbound and Outbound students over the years. This support includes recruiting host families, providing a Rotary councillor to help with student transition and issues, providing spending money, and engaging Rotarians to participate in activities with the students. Many of our members have been involved on organizing committees, as hosts, Inbound and Outbound councillors, and assisting with the students in activities.





YOUTH EXCHANGE STUDENTS - INBOUND

What a variety of experiences the Exchange students have enjoyed with Kitchener Rotary! Some of the Inbounds cannot speak English very well, so helping them with this is an early priority. Many of the students are from places that do not have snow, so the first snowfall in Canada is a very exciting experience. A winter camp weekend is one of many activities the Exchange students participate in. One of our students from South America was extremely apprehensive about attending the winter camp...he was convinced that the cold was going to be too much for him. He managed the cold, of course, and his winter camp experience turned out to be one of the highlights of his trip! The students would often prepare a wish list of Canadian things they wanted to do, and Club Members rose to the challenge to help them achieve these. And, our members benefited so much from the interaction with these excited, engaged, exuberant young people who were in a strange, foreign land!

YOUTH EXCHANGE STUDENTS - OUTBOUND

Club members helped to prepare our Outbound students for their year overseas. A bold step for these young people...a year away from the safety net of family, friends, and often to a country where they don't know the language. How brave they are. We would hear intermittent stories of their adventures while they were away, either through their Rotary Councillor or directly from the students. When they returned at the end of the year, our Club was treated to a summary of their experience. What a delight to hear of the life-changing experience they experienced through the Rotary exchange. The Rotary Exchange students were generational influencers...those who had experienced the power of Rotary Youth Exchange firsthand.

PEACE SCHOLARSHIPS

Kitchener Rotarian Ernie Ginsler, a strong believer in peace as a fundamental instrument of change, started an initiative with Rotary International to have Waterloo designated as a Rotary Peace Centre in 2013. There are currently seven Rotary designated Peace Centres in the world, with a new one just opened in Kampala, Uganda. Given the strong university presence in Waterloo, including the University of Waterloo, Wilfrid Laurier University, and Conestoga College; University of Waterloo's Conrad Grebel University College's lengthy history in peace and conflict studies; the Balsillie School of International Governance; coupled with the strong Rotary presence in Waterloo Region, Waterloo seemed to be a perfect fit.

As part of this initiative, Ernie led a fundraising campaign involving all five clubs in our cluster.

Together, the five clubs and individual Rotarians contributed \$150,000 for Rotary Peace Scholarships at the University of Waterloo. As a result, over 20 graduate students, from Canada and around the globe, have been able to obtain their degrees.

Although the Rotary Peace Centre designation for Waterloo did not come to fruition, the preparatory work led to the development of a Peace Integration Specialization at the University of Waterloo, recently approved by the Government of Ontario. The result, according to the University, is a novel interdisciplinary approach to teaching peace that is unparalleled anywhere else in the world.



CANADIAN LANDMINE FOUNDATION

Every year thousands of people, particularly children, are killed or maimed by landmines. Kitchener Rotary supported the Canadian Landmine Foundation, who uncover and defuse landmines around the world.

ROTARY PLAZA DEDICATION



65TH ANNIVERSARY TIME CAPSULE REVEAL







Local Community Service

This is our community. We live here, we work here and we want to make our community a great place to live, work and raise our families.

In compiling this list, we were amazed at all the wonderful agencies we have supported over the last 100 years. Many of these are still going strong and we continue to support them.

CRUISIN' ON KING

Our long-term relationship with the City of Kitchener presents many opportunities for Kitchener Rotary to support the community. For several years, Kitchener Rotarians have assisted with Cruisin' On King, a festival featuring antique cars. Rotarians greeted the antique car owners, and helped with the staging area as well as the cruise on King Street.





KITCHENER NEW YEAR'S EVE

Over the years, Kitchener Rotary has assisted with the New Year's Eve celebration at Kitchener City Hall.

Our contribution to the celebration has included barbecuing hot dogs and serving hot chocolate. These community service events are a great way for Club members to get to know each other and to enjoy meeting the community while giving profile to the greater work of Rotary.





KITCHENER YOUTH FORUM

The hands-on program, Kitchener Youth Forum, designed for grade 10 civics students was developed in 2012 by Kitchener Rotary in collaboration with the City of Kitchener. The students received an in-class introduction to municipal government presented by city councillors and staff. They were then required to research and develop a project related to any aspect of municipal operation. The program culminated with a trip to City Hall where the students presented their projects and were critiqued by their peers, city councillors, and city staff. The trip also included a tour of City Hall and a question-and-answer period with the mayor and council, held in council chambers.

During the five-year run for this program, hundreds of local high school students developed an appreciation of how their city functions and how accessible their elected officials really are.



DOM CARDILLO TRAIL CLEAN-UP

Another of our City of Kitchener projects is the annual clean-up of the Dom Cardillo Trail. Rotary families, often including children and grandchildren, gather to make certain that the Kitchener Rotary section of the trail is cleaned up for the start of the walking season.

During COVID when we could not gather together, Kitchener Rotarians were challenged to seek out areas in their own neighbourhoods and do a clean up.





TREE PLANTING EVENTS

Over the years Kitchener Rotary has planted thousands of trees around our community. These projects always attract a large turnout of club members for a fun event of getting our hands dirty and a day of fellowship. Of course, we have the satisfaction of a day's work well done and a visible contribution to our environment.





HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

In 2002, the five Rotary Clubs in Kitchener-Waterloo made financial commitments and developed a plan for a Habitat for Humanity 5-Club Build. Rotarian Martin Jones from Kitchener Rotary was the Project Leader for the build, which saw the completion of a new home on Guelph Street in Kitchener for Pam and Roger Cruz and their newborn triplet girls in 2003. Over 100 Rotarians from all five Clubs contributed to this intensive effort to build a home in one week. Not only was it a great project, but we also saw Rotarians from all five Clubs work together to achieve a worthy goal.





SPECIAL HOCKEY INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENT

The Kitchener Ice Pirates is a special needs hockey program, providing children and adults with developmental disabilities in Waterloo Region the opportunity to participate in a hockey program that is tailored to their needs. Participant's abilities range from new non-skaters to those on their way to becoming great hockey players.

Players on the Ice Pirates gain a sense of fair play, friendship, and accomplishment as they improve their hockey skills. As part of this unique team, they improve their fine and gross motor skills and their understanding of acceptable social behaviour.

When Kitchener was the venue for the Special Hockey International Tournament, Kitchener Rotary provided volunteers to assist with the smooth running of this great event.





BLOOD DONATION

What could be more giving of yourself than donating your blood? A single blood donation could help two, three, or even four people. Many Kitchener Rotarians donate blood on a regular basis as just another way of living our motto "Service Above Self." To help promote blood donation, Kitchener Rotarian Howard Pell appealed to our competitive spirit and organized several 5-Club challenges that were fun and productive.

We will never meet the people we've helped, but it's enough for us to know we helped.



ANSELMA HOUSE

Anselma House in Kitchener is a shelter operated by Women's Crisis Services of Waterloo Region. When constructing their new facility in Kitchener, Kitchener Rotary came together with several Rotary Clubs to make a joint contribution to their facility, to provide help in our community.

SOUPFEST

The Waterloo-Wellington Children's Groundwater Festival offers water education to elementary and secondary students. Founded by Kitchener Rotarian Peter Gray, the group has been in operation for over 25 years. Soupfest is one of their annual fundraisers where several local restaurants serve up their best soup dishes and are judged by paying participants. Rotary Club members help each year serving the soup and helping with clean up.





ROTARY PEACE PARK





WATERLOO-WELLINGTON SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FAIR (WWSEF)



The WWSEF runs an annual Science Fair to promote Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics for students from grade 7 through grade 12. Kitchener Rotarian Bill Proctor has been a long-time volunteer with this organization. When WWSEF needed to improve their signage and promotional material, Kitchener Rotary stepped in and provided the necessary funds.

FOREST HILL SCHOOL: NUTRITION FOR LEARNING

Following a grant of \$1,000 from Kitchener Rotary that provided funds for nutritional snacks for the students at Forest Hill School in 2016, it was apparent that there was a further need for hands-on assistance for the children in our community. Kitchener Rotary stepped up and provided volunteers to pack the snacks for the school classrooms. Working in teams of two, before the start of the school day, Kitchener Rotarians enjoyed helping the school and working closely with fellow Rotarians. Over time, due to the large number of Kitchener Rotarians who volunteered for this program, we were able to increase our commitment to two days per week.





SUNNYDALE COMMUNITY FRIENDSHIP GARDEN

Sunnydale Friendship Community Garden put out a call to Kitchener Rotary for assistance with their Community Garden which serves a disadvantaged area in Waterloo, home to many new-immigrant families struggling to make their way. Kitchener Rotarians were delighted with the opportunity to help clean up existing gardens, and clear a new section of land, ready for planting. This is what we do, get our hands dirty, have fun and enjoy each other's company.



VICTORIA PARK OUTDOOR GYM



A TRIBUTE TO CARL ZEHR

Carl Zehr was the mayor of Kitchener from 1997 to 2014. Prior to that he was a city councillor from 1985 to 1994. To date he is the longest-serving mayor in Kitchener. He was a member of the Large Urban Mayors' Caucus of Ontario and served as its chair in 1999. He was also a member of the Big City Mayors Caucus (Canada) from 1997 to 2014. Carl is also a Rotarian, joining in 1975 and serving as the president of the Rotary Club of Kitchener in 1981-82.

In recognition of his nearly 30 years of public service, the four Kitchener Rotary Clubs, led by our club, held a tribute in Carl's honour on November 27, 2014. The event was emceed by local celebrity Dave Schneider and featured a video presentation by Governor General David Johnston. Other tributes came from Ken Seiling, Chair of the Region of Waterloo; Bryan Larkin, Chief, Waterloo Region Police Services; Ian McLean, President & CEO Greater K-W Chamber of Commerce; Feridun Hamdullahpur, President, University of Waterloo, and Brenda Halloran, Mayor of Waterloo. Funds raised through the event were donated to the Kitchener Public Library.





Rotary Fellowship

Every Rotarian has a reason for joining Rotary. But when you ask them why they stay in Rotary, many will tell you it is because of the fellowship. Rotarians know that all Rotarians share a common goal of making this world a better place to live by supporting those people in our community who need a hand up. Given that you will meet like-minded people at Rotary, you are sure to make some very close friendships here.



MEETING IN THE PARK

For a nice change of pace, rather than holding a regular meeting indoors, President Karen Redman had us take advantage of the nice weather for a picnic. Kitchener's Victoria Park is a gathering place for people from all over the region to enjoy themselves. After a delightful lunch and fine fellowship, we all gathered at the clock tower for the requisite photo.





DINE AROUND

The winters in Kitchener may be cold, but our hearts are warm. Warm from our planning of upcoming events, and warm from fellowship. During the winter, Club members and their spouses attend a dinner with other Kitchener Rotarians each month. We all have a chance to host one of these dinners and everyone wants to be a host, so sign up early.



CHRISTMAS PARTY

There are no shortages of reasons to celebrate in Rotary: meeting and exceeding fundraising goals, cheque presentations, hearing about how our efforts have changed lives. And then there are traditional times of the year to celebrate: Club turnover, Club golf tournament, and Christmas. This is a time for Rotarians, spouses, and guests to relax and enjoy the fellowship of Rotary.



PIE AUCTION

In 2008, then-Club President Jean Deschenes issued a challenge for a cake baking contest as a fundraiser for Polio Plus. This was a big hit and evolved into the annual pie auction held at the Rotary Christmas Party. Each year, a number of Kitchener Rotary members would bake a pie or cake and these would be auctioned off to the highest bidder. This was a fun event with bids for pies climbing to hundreds of dollars. Who could forget Hubert's famous curry pies, or Cam's delicious mince pies?

The exchange students would often get in on the fun and the highest priced pie ever was for our Italian Exchange student Clara Mondo creation. Funds raised from the pie auction went towards Polio Plus and since 2008, over \$15,000 has been donated to Polio Plus through this most delicious fundraiser.





BOARD PARTY

Rotary is a unique organization in that it changes its leadership from top to bottom every year.

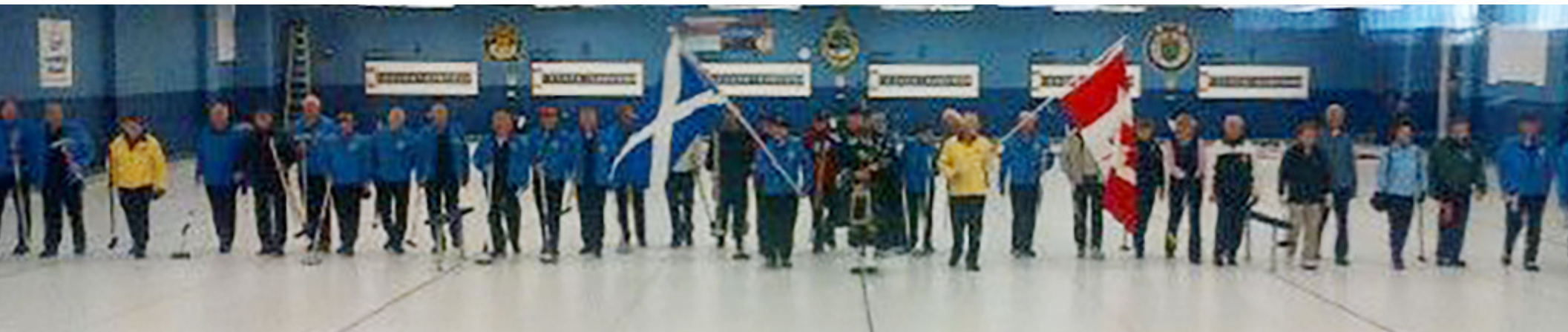
Our Club President has a challenging task, and it couldn't be done without the support of the Board of Directors. At the end of each Rotary year, Kitchener Rotary celebrates the success of the outgoing Board and President.

Pictured are Rotarian Hubert Singh and Rotarian Cam Yule, Kitchener Rotary's famous chefs. Between the two of them, they have hosted this event many times, to the delight of the entire Board.

SCOTTISH CURLING EXCHANGE

In the fall of 2012 (Oct 28-Nov24) The Scottish Curling Team arrived in Canada for the 30th International Rotary Curling Tour. The “Tour” is a wonderful mixture of Rotary and Curling Fellowship, and warm hospitality that continues to this day. That formula has enabled the tour to endure for over 65 years with countless friendships made and many stories told and retold. It is a trip of a lifetime that crosses the Atlantic every two years and Kitchener Rotary has had many a member visit abroad and host locally.

In 2012, the Scottish team was greeted in Montreal, played in Ottawa, Kingston, Peterborough, Toronto, Barrie and Guelph before arriving in Kitchener-Waterloo. That year the team was hosted by fellow Kitchener Rotary members, Louise & Graham Gardiner, Hubert Singh and Cam Yule. On Friday November 16th, the team toured the KidsAbility Centre in Waterloo, followed by a Kitchener-Conestoga Rotary lunch, a curling competition at Westmount Golf & Curling Club and closing with an Oktoberfest Party at the Concordia Club. The program noted that “the energy dynamism and progressiveness of the K-W Area were exceeded only by its reputation for hospitality”. A fun time was certainly had by hosts and players alike.



JAPANESE STUDENT EXCHANGE

When Al Way was Club President in 1999, several personal connections resulted in the start of a short-term student exchange with the Rotary Club in Mikuni, Japan. Rotarian Charlie Belair's wife was from Japan and their daughter went on an exchange to Japan; Kitchener Rotary Members had close ties with the KW Symphony and the Music Director of the KW Symphony at that time was Chosei Komatsu, who hailed from Mikuni, Japan.

This student exchange saw two high school age students from Canada visit Mikuni, Japan for two weeks, immediately followed by two students from Mikuni visiting Canada for two weeks. The children of many Kitchener Rotary Members were able to participate in this program. What a great experience for the students who were able to take advantage of this exchange with Japan

Following on the success of the Japanese student exchange, Mikuni Rotary Club members expressed interest in a Rotary exchange between our two clubs. This was set up in 2004, with an exchange between our Clubs every second year. Japanese Rotarians visited our Club and were able to experience local Canadian events including Oktoberfest, Niagara Falls and other Canadian venues. Kitchener Rotarians visited Mikuni and experienced incredible Japanese hospitality.



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

It isn't until you attend a Rotary International Convention that you fully realize the power of Rotary. Just you and 30,000 of your closest friends. People who want to make the world a better place to live for everyone.

Once you attend one convention, you'll want to attend more, and each year you'll make new friends and renew old friendships. You never know who you're going to meet. Oh yes, and don't forget to bring your business cards, handfuls of lapel pins, a notepad, and a whole lot of pens.





Rotary Service

Kitchener Rotary has been a big supporter at the District Level. Our Club is part of District 7080, which covers some 50 Rotary Clubs in Southwestern Ontario. Kitchener Rotary members have served at the District level as Secretary, Treasurer, and various Committees including Training and Strategic Planning.

Several of our Club Members have aspired to the role of District Governor (DG), including Terry Williams, Mike Knell and Bill Proctor. This is both a huge responsibility and commitment. Bill Proctor noted that in order to take on this role, you need the strong support of your Club. The rest of the Club has to assume your Club duties as well as assist with the District Governor requirements.

However, Bill also noted that taking on the DG role provided opportunity for growth in Rotary as well as a very satisfying commitment.



CAMP ENTERPRISE

Camp Enterprise Golden Triangle is a cooperative effort between multiple Rotary Clubs in the 'Golden Triangle' region surrounding Cambridge, Fergus, Guelph, Kitchener, and Waterloo. Selected high school students can attend a three-day immersive camp at the University of Waterloo about business and entrepreneurship at no cost. Students get to attend keynote speaker lectures and participate in collaborative activities culminating in a business plan presentation at the end of camp.

ROTARY YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) is an intensive training program that brings together youth and young adults to further develop character and leadership skills, and learn about Rotary. Run on a District-wide basis, Kitchener Rotary supported this program by selecting and funding one or two students annually to attend this week-long program.





GROUP STUDY EXCHANGE

Rotary Group Study Exchange (GSE) was a unique cultural and vocational exchange opportunity for businesspeople and professionals between the ages of 25 and 40 who were in the early stages of their careers. Travel grants for teams to exchange visits in paired areas of different countries were offered. In 1974, Kitchener Rotary joined other Rotary Clubs in sending three Americans and three Canadians to Japan.

COLONEL HUGH J. HEASLEY

Kitchener Rotarian Colonel Hugh J. Heasley, through unstinting service, made a great impact on the life, culture and welfare of his home community, Canada and internationally. He was awarded the Canadian Armed Forces Distinguished Service Order, the Victoria Decoration by the Canadian Army Service Corps, which he represented at the 50th anniversary ceremonies at Vimy Ridge, the Canada Service Medal, and the Croix de Guerre by the French government.

Heasley was named K-W Citizen of the Year in 1959; was awarded three of scouting's top honours; and a promontory at Everton Scout Forest was named after him. He served on the Board of Rotary International as director from Canada, and a park in Lakeshore Village, Waterloo was named Heasley Park in his honour. He was a President of Kitchener Rotary in the year 1945 to 1946.

He also served in an executive capacity the Canadian Arthritis and Rheumatism Society, the Canadian Cancer Society, the Red Cross, the K-W Federated Charities, the K-W YMCA, the Art Gallery, the K-W Symphony Orchestra Association, the Waterloo Chamber of Commerce, and his service on the Advisory Board of St. Mary's Hospital led to the naming of Heasley Hall in his honour.





VOCATIONAL TOURS

Vocational tours have been a key part of Rotary for many years. These are an opportunity for Rotary Members to showcase their business to fellow Rotarians. Our Club has enjoyed tours of many manufacturing facilities, office operations, unique building projects, public works facilities such as water and sewage treatment plants, and airports, public buildings such as City Hall, and the Courthouse.

Our tour of Home Hardware's Head Office and warehouse in St Jacob's, gave Rotarians a chance to learn about one another's work in a rewarding and informative way.



DISTRICT CONFERENCES

Each year a District Governor is chosen from all the clubs in the district. We all look forward to the District Conference, and enjoyed by all. Fabulous entertainment, great food, great fellowship and many opportunities to learn more about Rotary in general and Rotary in our own district.





WOMEN IN ROTARY

In November of 1988, the RI Board of Directors issued a policy statement recognizing the right of Rotary Clubs in Canada to admit female members. Kitchener Rotary was the first club in Ontario, and second in Canada, to induct two women into Rotary. In 1989, Pat Tallman and Kathi Smith became the first female members of the Club. These prominent local executives were the first of many women to enrich the club's activities, spirit, and sense of goodwill. In July of 2000, Carol Wiebe became the first female President. Since then, seven females have led our club, with Louise Gardiner serving twice.

Today, over 26% of the membership of Kitchener Rotary is made up of women and our 100th celebration of Women in Rotary included Canadian Rotary International Director Valerie Wafer and other local club female Presidents. We are most proud, that in our 100th year 2022-23 the Rotary International President is Jennifer Jones, a Canadian from Windsor, Ontario.



ADAPTING TO TECHNOLOGY

The Rotary year 2020 - 2021 will long be remembered as the year of Covid-19 and the year of Zoom. We were fortunate to have access to technology to hold our meetings online and have President Louise Gardiner to skillfully lead and guide us through this new time.

On the bright side, we proved that not only could Kitchener Rotary weather this pandemic, but we could also thrive and flourish.

Although we missed our in-person meetings, it was a great opportunity to meet people from all over the world who could stop in on one of our Zoom meetings (including a man from Ireland who was up for the Toronto Maple Leafs game one evening). Through Zoom, we met some of our RAWEF students, held a joint meeting with the Rotary Club of Moscow, and enjoyed speakers from across Canada.



