

# 100 Years of Rotary in Canada

North Bay Nugget - March 2011



It was 100 years ago, Rotary became Rotary International with the first meeting of a group of businessmen in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Until that time, the only Rotary clubs were located in the United States. The vision of our founder Paul Harris had taken its first step to becoming a World leader in humanitarian service.

What started in Winnipeg quickly flourished through out Canada and North Bay was soon to join in. The Rotary Club of North Bay began in 1923 when a group of 25 local business and professional men began meeting during lunch under the Rotary banner. Dr. Rupert Dudley was named the first president of the Club.

It is 87 years later and the family of Rotary in North Bay involves three distinct clubs, The Rotary Club of North Bay, The Rotary Club of North Bay-Nipissing and the Rotaract Club of North Bay-Nipissing. Our numbers have now soared locally to more than 150 women and men dedicated to both our own community and international service projects.

Canada has more than 27,000 members in Rotary spread over more than 700 clubs. Today Rotary International has nearly 34,000 clubs throughout the world with more than 1.2 million members. Our motto, Service above Self reflects the dedication of all our members internationally, in Canada and here in North Bay. Rotarians make a real difference.

North Bay Rotarians have always been ready and willing to take on whatever projects are required; be it a new hospital (\$500,000), therapeutic pool (\$750,000), a new Learning Library (\$125,000), breast screening equipment (\$220,000) or other projects that serve the best interests of the community. We are currently working on a children's activity park to be located in the still to be developed Waterfront redevelopment site (\$125,000).

Our club has adopted a primary focus towards helping children and youth overcome adversity. Whether it be building handicapped access, mechanical lifts, medical financial assistance or honouring academic excellence, Group Study Exchanges, scholarships and much more, Rotary is there when required.

One hundred per cent of every dollar of profit from our "Rotary4Kids" Longest Radio Show goes into our community youth programs. Our partnerships with NADY (Nipissing Association for Disabled Youth), One Kid's Place and the YMCA are vital to ensuring these dollars are invested wisely. Rotary Bingo has raised over \$1 million for youth and other projects since we began TV Bingo. Through the generosity and support of North Bay and area citizens, Rotary was committed to work for youth, seniors and community betterment during the last 87 years.

Rotary Canada also supports literacy improvement projects in places like Guatemala,

Pakistan and Africa. We have helped build clean water access in developing countries around the world. We have been there with ShelterBox (temporary housing) initiatives in Haiti after the devastating earthquake and we are elsewhere when disaster happens regardless of the cause.

Canadian Rotary Clubs have contributed more than \$2 Million towards the elimination of Polio worldwide. It is Rotary International's focus project and we will not stop until the disease is eradicated.

All Rotarians strive to adhere to a four-way test in both our professional and personal lives...

1. Is it the truth?
2. Is it fair to all concerned?
3. Will it build goodwill and better friendships?
4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

If you are interested in becoming a Rotarian and this 4-way test is something you think is reflective of the way you live your life then we would like to welcome you into Rotary. Somewhere within our three Clubs there is a place for you and we will help you to decide which Club best fits your talents and desires.

The citizens and businesses of North Bay and area (as well as Canada) have always supported us and without them Rotary could not accomplish the great work we do.

Thank you to all who support Rotary!

Tom Tucker  
2010-2011 President  
Rotary Club of North Bay