

Connecting Weekly

Every Tuesday at noon Welland Rotarians come together to share a meal and catch up on what has happened over the past week.

Each Rotarian becomes a member of a POD, a team that works together to organize the meetings for one month.



We listen to a speaker on a topic of interest and share plans for future activities. And there are enough programs and activities to keep everyone as interested and busy as they would like to be.

Although members are encouraged to attend every week, sometimes our busy schedules make it impossible. We have the option of visiting another Rotary club or an internet-based club as a make-up.

There are also social activities, such as a Valentine's Dinner, Fireside Chats and other opportunities for the extended Rotary family to spend quality time together.

Four Avenues of Service

Club Service focuses on strengthening fellowship and ensuring the effective functioning of the club.

Vocational Service encourages Rotarians to serve others through their vocations and to practise high ethical standards.

Community Service covers the projects and activities the club undertakes to improve life in its community.

International Service encompasses actions taken to expand Rotary's humanitarian reach around the globe and to promote world understanding and peace.

Community Investment

Rotarians are men and women of integrity who represent a cross-section of business and professional backgrounds. As volunteers of all ages, we work to meet community and international concerns.

The Rotary theme for 2006/07 is Lead the Way and our club consistently rises to the challenge.



Every member makes a personal donation to the Rotary International Foundation to help fund many exciting world programs and projects.

Our club's fundraising efforts generate revenue to reinvest in community. We use the proceeds from the previous year with 70% for local initiatives and 30% for international projects.

Local Community

Rotary Bench – Take some time out and visit our bench located at City Hall.



Elimination Draw – Each May we host a fun evening with a good meal and a chance to win some prize money. The proceeds support local projects.

Rotary TV Auction – This annual weekend event is our biggest fundraising effort of the year run in partnership with three other clubs. Broadcast in the late fall on local cable TV, the auction is highly anticipated by many loyal bidders looking for a great deal on hundreds of donated auction items.



Welland Dragon Boat Festival – We are one of the community partners who work together to organize this fun and exciting event that attracts

hundreds of people to Welland and generates significant revenue for local businesses and organizations.

Pride of Workmanship Award – This initiative recognizes employees in October, Vocational Service Month, for their excellent efforts in the workplace.

LOCAL GRANTS IN 2005-06:

- Big Brothers and Big Sisters Bowling Tournament
- Niagara Nutrition Partners
- City of Welland – Can I Play Too? program
- Great Kids of South Niagara
- Help a Child Smile
- Lakewood Camp
- Niagara Peninsula Children's Centre
- Welland Dragon Boat Festival
- Welland Food Drive
- Welland Hospital Foundation
- Welland Public Library
- YMCA of Niagara.

Many of our members live the Rotary motto of Service Above Self by also serving on volunteer boards of other organizations, and helping out with local and regional community projects.

World Community

We are fortunate to have some members who are very experienced with international work. They provide guidance about sustainable projects to fund and give first-hand reports about how our club's investment improves peoples' daily lives in developing countries.

INTERNATIONAL GRANTS IN 2005-06:

Children of Belarus – The 1986 disaster of the nuclear plant in Chernobyl in Ukraine left a large part of neighbouring Belarus with contaminated soil for many generations to come. Rotary finds homestay families for some of the children, and local dentists and other health care workers offer free services. Pieter Sukaravich comes to Canada annually to stay with a local Rotary family.



Micro Bank Ecuador – In past years many Rotary Clubs in our District financed the construction of an "Eco Lodge" in a protected dry tropical rain forest managed by a local organization. The second step is to assist a couple of local micro businesses with a loan system so that they can offer catering and cleaning services for the management of the organization owning the new visitors' lodge.

Yryapu Indigenous Tourism Training Centre, Argentina – This new centre trains marginalized communities around Iguazu Falls, providing them with greater access to employment in the region's burgeoning tourism industry.



Rotaract Club, Azerbaijan – A grant from our club paid for a computer for this Rotary sponsored group of young men and women ages 18 to 30. There are more than 8,000 Rotaract clubs in some 155 countries and geographic areas.

Wells for Haiti – Clean water is a given for people in Canada, but not at all a sure thing for people in Haiti. Roy Sheldrick, a Rotarian from Ancaster, has worked tirelessly to build wells for disadvantaged communities in war torn Haiti. In 2005 Rotary International celebrated its 100th anniversary and Roy completed the 100th well in a rural community. Our club has sponsored one well per year for the past 10 years.

Group Study Exchange to Sweden – Our club sponsored two local non-Rotarians to go to Sweden in March 2006, and one participant joined Rotary upon her return. This four-week program, funded by Rotary International, is for young business and professional men and women between the ages of 25 and 40. Team members experience the host country's institutions and ways of life, observe their own vocations as practised abroad, develop personal and professional relationships, and exchange ideas.



Youth Leadership

We recognize the value of investing in tomorrow's leaders through Rotary sponsored programs:

International Youth Exchange – This program provides students from 15 to 19 years old an exchange opportunity in a foreign country.



This year we are sponsoring two outbound students: Stephanie Tisi, top left, to Taiwan, and Meghan McNaughton to Brazil. Our club is hosting Shoko Yamamoto from Japan.

Interact Club – Our club is helping to establish service clubs for young people from 14 to 18 years old at local high schools.

SLAPSHOT (Student Leadership Award Program for Students High on Training) – We sponsor young people ages 16 to 18 years old for this popular weekend training session in the spring.

Adventure in Citizenship – Every spring our club sponsors a 17 to 19 year-old student for a four-day trip to Ottawa to learn about how our country is governed.

Medallion School Program – We recognize two outstanding students at each of the five local high schools in June. The winners are selected by their peers for the work they have done in their schools and in the community.

RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) – Young people from 19 to 25 years old, chosen for their leadership potential, attend camp for a week in the summer to discuss leadership skills and to learn those skills through practise.

Ambassadorial Scholarship Program – Rotary International provides a one-year US\$23,000 scholarship for post-graduate studies in another country to further international understanding and friendly relations among people of different countries.

Jim Bagozzi

Associate Vice President, Business Solutions Consulting, member since 1999.

“As a 25+ year member of three different Rotary Clubs, I am constantly amazed at the tremendous amount of community, international and youth services provided through the financial contributions and personal effort of Rotarians – something you should definitely want to be a part of.”



Alison Brown

Owner, A.P. Brown's Jewellers Ltd., member since 2004

“The Welland Rotary Club is an honoured tradition of community service in my family. I am the third generation following in the footsteps of my grandfather and father. Now my daughter, Taylor, is involved with Interact.”



Ray Tisi

Owner, Raymond Tisi, CA, member since 1997

“I greatly enjoy my Rotary experience because I feel like a small part of a very dynamic, benevolent organization that improves the human condition locally and around the world in large ways and in small ways. I feel like I have vastly broadened my exposure and contribution to the world, and all the while having a lot of fun doing it.”



Cheryle Slattery

Controller, St. Catharines Mazda, member since 1991

“The Rotary Club of Welland is a vibrant and dynamic part of our community. Rotary provides Rotarians the avenues to make a difference in their community and globally. Having been a Rotarian for 15 years and one of only two female Rotarians in the beginning, I am happy to say women now represent 25 percent of our membership. There is no greater honour than to be a part of this amazing international organization.”



Cross-Border District

The Rotary Club of Welland was established on April 1, 1920. It is part of District 7090, which includes southern Ontario, Canada and western New York, USA. There are 74 clubs, divided into 18 areas and more than 3,150 Rotarians in District 7090. There are many opportunities to connect with other Rotarians through club-hosted events, as well as the annual District Conference that features topical education sessions and plenty of time to network and socialize.



World's First Service Club

The worldwide movement of Rotary International started with the Rotary Club of Chicago, Illinois, USA that was formed on Feb. 23, 1905 by Paul P. Harris, an attorney who wished to recapture in a professional club the same friendly spirit he had felt in the small towns of his youth.

The name “Rotary” derived from the early practice of rotating meetings among members' offices.

Rotary is an international service organization of 1.2 million business and professional men and women who, as volunteers, address needs of their home and international communities.

As a member of Rotary, you are welcome to attend a meeting at any one of the more than 32,500 Rotary clubs in 168 countries.

Rotary initiates local and global service projects to promote world understanding and peace, and to improve the life conditions for people of all ages and cultures. An example is PolioPlus through which Rotary is working to eradicate polio worldwide. Rotary has contributed more than US\$600 million to the polio eradication activities in 122 countries.

For more information:

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Rotary means Service Above Self

Photo Credits: Bob Vuxinic and Rotary International



Rotary Club of Welland Meets Tuesday at Noon

Adopted by Rotary in 1943, The Four-Way Test has been translated into more than 100 languages and published in thousands of ways. It asks the following four questions:

- “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?”**