



## **Rotary Club of West Ottawa *Paul Harris Fellow Award*<sup>1</sup>**

### **Conferred on Andrew H. Young, June 28, 2016**

*(The following text was read at the awards presentation ceremony)*

We honoured our next recipient with a *Paul Harris Fellow Award* in 2008, only five years after he joined West Ottawa Rotary. Tonight, the Club is bestowing another Paul Harris Award on him to recognize the contributions he has made since 2008.

This member spent the better part of the past two years hunched over his home computer volunteering on behalf of our Club. He had a vision and he worked tirelessly over countless hours to realize that vision. This effort has produced significant dividends.

One of our Club's fundraisers, *Mums for Thanksgiving*, was at risk, but this member had an idea on how it might be saved. He had the necessary skills to rescue this crucial project, and stepped up when he was needed. He was aware that the magnitude of the required undertaking was huge, but he forged ahead anyway. He spent countless hours testing, retesting and perfecting software code. The successful application of this customized code has materially decreased the man-hours involved in processing orders for the fundraiser and, most importantly, has lowered the incidence of errors. Our member's very specialized contribution played a material role in extending the life of *Mums for Thanksgiving*, currently, the Club's largest fundraiser.

This fellow has always been good at persuading computers to do magical things. Software he developed has also been used to great effect in other Rotary endeavours; for example, in our *Rotary Cash Calendar* fundraiser, and at the 2010 Rotary International Convention in Montreal. He also introduced a new system for the Club to issue tax receipts.

The computer processes developed by this member have greatly enhanced our Club's reputation amongst other Rotary clubs and our project partners. Some of them have adopted his technology, or parts thereof. Many have benefited from greatly reduced processing times, while others have seen their visibility with their clients enhanced through our member's creative use of business information.

But, the member does not spend all his waking hours with computers. He does many other things for Rotary as well. For example, in each of the past six summers, he and his wife have hosted a summer cocktail party at their home following professional outdoor theatre performances at their local park. These events have promoted great fellowship and a lot of laughs for many Rotarians and their families and friends. This certainly qualifies as a special service to our Club.

Tonight, the Club is pleased to recognize the outstanding contributions this member has made since 2008. Of particular note is the leadership he has contributed in harnessing computer capabilities to serve our Club's data processing needs. Who is this fellow? Of course, it could only be Andrew Young. Andrew, please come forward to receive the second *Paul Harris Fellow Award* your Club has bestowed on you.

<sup>1</sup> Named after the founder of Rotary International, the Paul Harris Fellow Recognition program was introduced by the trustees of the Rotary Foundation in 1957 to encourage donations to the Foundation. The Rotary Club of West Ottawa adopted the program to create the Club's *Paul Harris Fellow Award*. The award recognizes individuals who have given distinguished service that exemplifies the ideals and objectives of Rotary. To bestow the award, the Club makes a contribution of \$1,000 US to the Rotary Foundation in the name of the individual to be honoured; that individual is then named a *Paul Harris Fellow* by the Foundation.

For individuals who are members of the Rotary Club of West Ottawa, a nominee should meet at least three of the following criteria to be a recipient of a PHF Award: 1) served a minimum of two years on the Club's board of directors; 2) chaired two or more of the Club's standing committees; 3) performed noteworthy volunteer service in the Club over the years; 4) provided extraordinary support or leadership in Club fundraising; 5) performed a unique role, or provided a special service, for the Club over a period of years; 6) enhanced the Club's reputation or public profile; 7) been active on a Rotary district committee; or 8) performed outstanding volunteer service for the community, external to Rotary.