



Rotary Club of West Ottawa Paul Harris Fellow Award¹

Conferred on Robert H. (Bob) Harrison, June 28, 2016

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

What a pleasure it is for our Club to recognize another one of our shining stars. We are blessed with people who care and have the commitment, energy, and leadership talent to help make life better for others. That certainly describes our next Paul Harris Award recipient. This Rotarian has given generously of his time and expertise locally and internationally for years.

He has lived and worked abroad and has travelled extensively internationally, which has made him very aware of how fortunate we are in Canada. Our good fortune enables us to take many things for granted, including excellent and easily accessible eye care. This assumption does not hold in countries where access to eye-care services is limited or non-existent for large proportions of their populations. Through a contact he made in Ottawa, our member became aware of a program in Kakinada, India, that provides eye care, including cataract surgery, free of charge to the poor. Applying his expertise and leadership in the Club's International Service Committee, our member was instrumental in gaining The Rotary Foundation's approval of two grants for the Kakinada program. The first, a Matching Grant, enabled the performance of 535 eye surgeries and the training of 20 ophthalmic nurses in 2014. The second, a Global Grant, has enabled 625 cataract surgeries, and training for another 20 nurses in 2015-16. The member demonstrated extraordinary leadership in the acquisition of these grants.

On the domestic front, using his own clear vision, this member saw there were children in our local community who needed help in learning to read. The abilities to read and write are essential for development, and prosperity in our society. As a man of action, he became a regular volunteer reader in the *OttawaReads* program, helping to equip children for the challenges the future will bring them.

At the club and district levels, the member has served on our Board for four years, one as President. He has also been active in our Rotary District's International Service Committee since 2008 and has made significant contributions to that Committee's program.

Who might this fellow be? -- None other than our own "Mr. Bow-Tie", Bob Harrison. In his eight years as a West Ottawa Rotarian, Bob, with his smile, experience, wit, and fashion sense, has brought us a touch of class, as well as remarkable *Service Above Self*.

The exceptional contributions Bob made in his first 3 years as a Club member were recognized by the Club in 2011, when a *Paul Harris Fellow Award* was bestowed on him. Tonight, the Club is recognizing the outstanding contributions Bob has made since 2011 by conferring a second Paul Harris Award on him.

Bob, we thank you for your time, your effort, your leadership and your devotion to Rotary and to our Club. Please come forward to accept your second Paul Harris Award.

¹ 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.