



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

### Conferred on Brian Waters, June 30, 2015

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

Our Club likes to award the Paul Harris to recognize community leaders of all types; from high-profile to under-the-radar, and every type in-between. There is no "one-type-only" template. However, all recipients have one thing in common: all have performed distinguished service that exemplifies the ideals of Rotary.

Our next recipient has worked for decades on the front lines with many organizations across the city. It started more than 30 years ago when he began, with his wife, delivering for *Meals on Wheels*. He has kept up his weekly route to this day. And he works in the *Meals on Wheels* kitchen every Christmas Day, lovingly preparing meals for the lonely and destitute.

He was a member of a small group of volunteers that, in the early 1980s, recognized there were women living on our streets who desperately needed help. The group started a shelter in the All Saints Anglican Church basement in Sandy Hill. The shelter evolved into *Cornerstone*, one of the most successful women's shelter programs anywhere. With 4 residences, *Cornerstone* has helped thousands of homeless women over the years, and continues to do so.

He quietly donates money each year so that a child with Down syndrome can attend the *Lanark County Therapeutic Riding Program*. Each year he has worked for the *Christmas Exchange*. He started as a delivery person and now is a coordinator for that massive undertaking, which brightens up Christmas Day for those in need. In addition, he has worked countless hours at *Centre 507*, a drop-in service for adults on Bank Street. The Centre helps anyone in need by providing basic necessities, services and fellowship to help individuals get back on their feet.

When needed, this gentleman will step up for positions with heavy responsibilities; e.g., he has served on the board of directors of *Meals on Wheels*. And when the future of our own *Mums for Thanksgiving* fundraiser was temporarily in doubt, he stepped-up and volunteered to co-chair the program.

Yes, this recipient is no stranger to West Ottawa Rotary. For years he has participated in the time-consuming task of planning Mums' deliveries, and has always done a delivery route as well. For the past 4 years, he has volunteered with *Project Chance Africa*, a Canadian charity supported by our club, that addresses the needs of children living in poverty in the Mathare slum of Nairobi, Kenya. Our recipient has visited and worked in Mathare twice, while raising funds and awareness of the charity at home. He has had an impact on lives locally and internationally.

By now you have likely guessed. This tireless worker is part of a dynamic duo that Ottawa is so fortunate to have. Carol Waters loves to promote her causes and talk things up. Her husband, Brian, works just as hard for so many great causes. He certainly deserves to be recognized with a Paul Harris Fellow and we are honoured to do so tonight. Brian please come forward to accept your Award.

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<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.

A nominee for the award who is not a member of the Rotary Club of West Ottawa must meet at least one of four criteria to be named a Paul Harris Fellow. The nominee must: 1) have made an outstanding personal or business contribution that has significantly enhanced the welfare of the community at the local, national or international level; 2) have made an outstanding personal or business contribution that has significantly improved understanding and generated mutual respect between or among people of different races, cultures or countries; 3) have performed outstanding community service in support of youth, the elderly, the underprivileged, the disabled or the developmentally challenged; or 4) exemplify the qualities of the good citizen and provide a role model of the ideal community builder.