



Rotary Club of West Ottawa *Paul Harris Fellow Award*¹

Conferred on Edward A. (Ed) Balys, June 28, 2016

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

There are many different kinds of contributors in our Club. Some members go in spurts, contributing more time and resources for a while, but then scaling back and recharging before eventually gearing up again to become more involved. Then there are other members who consistently plug along on a more regular basis, always involved and contributing even though their roles may change over the years.

One approach is not better than the other; they are just different.

This Paul Harris Award recipient falls into the second category. Since joining us 15 years ago (for the second time), he has steadily contributed in many different areas of the Club. He has already received two Club awards, and tonight he will receive his third, this one for his service since 2009. He has provided distinguished service that exemplifies the spirit of Rotary in accordance with the criteria our Club uses for determining *Paul Harris Fellow Award* eligibility.

He has chaired our Program Committee since 2008. He has consistently ensured that the programs are interesting, varied and always in keeping with the ideals and objectives of Rotary, whether dealing with local, national or international issues.

This recipient has also played a significant role on the *Rotary Cash Calendar* committee, finding photographers and selling ads. Each year for the past 7 years he has also negotiated the printing contract for our calendar, which is an important and unique service to our Club.

All of us are so grateful that since 2010, this member and his wife have hosted our Club's annual summer BBQ. Their wonderful country retreat is both calm and relaxing for adults, while being fun and exciting for an increasing number of children. Once again, this is an important and unique service that is being providing to our Club.

These three examples of this recipient's Rotary service certainly fulfill the eligibility requirements for a *Paul Harris Fellow Award*. This Rotarian has consistently been a contributor to our Club and community in so many ways since 2009, and is a true role model, embodying the Rotary motto: "*Service Above Self*."

The Club is pleased to honour him this evening. Ed Balys, please come forward to receive your *Paul Harris Fellow 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.