



Rotary Club of West Ottawa **Paul Harris Fellow Award¹**

Conferred on Hadi Mortada, June 30, 2015

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

The most popular movies these days seem to be about superheroes. That trend may have started with the story of Superman, who worked in the newspaper industry as Clark Kent by day and saved the world in his long underwear and cape during his spare time. Most of us haven't thought about this much, but we actually have our own version of Clark Kent right here in our club. (minus the long underwear and cape, as far as we know).

This fellow worked diligently in the newspaper industry, climbing to become a successful sales executive before health issues forced his retirement. For the past 12 years, during his "spare" time, he has truly been a superhero for our club. Here is just a brief list of the traits he has in common with Superman:

Solar Energy Absorption and Healing Factor – basking in the sun to recharge is unnecessary for this guy. He works hard, he smiles and he heals himself and others with his infectious laugh and warm sense of humour.

Gravimetric Field (Flight) – we think of this person running from Rotary project to project. But in fact, his feet never even touch the ground! Give him a job to do, he will smile and soar above your expectations.

Superhuman Strength and Endurance – despite his significant health challenges, he has done it all and has hardly broken into a sweat. He has a strong character that allowed him to contribute to our club even when he did not feel up to it. He has a very strong commitment, but makes it look easy with his calm, casual manner and can-do attitude.

Superhuman Speed and Reflexes – allowing him to move, react, run and fly faster than the human eye can perceive. We don't realize how much work he has been doing keeping our club's *ClubRunner* site and media links up to date. This member gets things done. Send him an email and he will respond with lightning speed.

Superhuman Senses: X-Ray Vision, Superhuman Hearing and Vision, and Olfaction – he used all of these superpowers, especially his super breath, to breathe new life into our Rotary Clock in Westboro. That breath was also a cooling balm, when it became a possibility that we might lose our potted mums fundraiser.

He has been heavily involved in almost every club fundraiser over the years including Mums, Cash Calendar and Music for Humanity. He has also been an organizer for many social events including the BBQ and Voyageurs, and several family events including the Sugar Bush and sleigh rides.

During his wonderful year as President, this member rejuvenated the President's Rose tradition by handing out 50 during his term. He didn't blame or consult his predecessor Ken Murray, aka *The Joker*; he just did it. By the way, the roses he gave out were all red. Like his superhero costume.

Who else could this superhero be? None other than our own beloved Hadi Mortada. Hadi you have truly been a superhero to our club. In your 12 years of membership your contributions have been immense, most notably your contributions to our multimedia projects which will truly be your legacy. As impressive as your efforts have been, they have been surpassed by the way in which you conduct yourself: always smiling; always willing to help; never a negative word for anyone or anything. We thank you for your time, your effort and your devotion to Rotary and to our club.

SuperHadi, please come forward to accept 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.