



Rotary Club of West Ottawa

Paul Harris Fellow Award¹

Conferred on J. E. (Joe) Wattie, June 30, 2015

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

Our next recipient just cannot go incognito. There is no way to deliver this citation in a way that would disguise his identity until the end. That is because there is only one person in our club who has worked so consistently and so hard for the past 5 years. He is Joe Wattie, our esteemed Treasurer.

The Treasurer's job, with apologies to incoming Mark Sherbonneau, is a thankless task. Our members are asked each year in a survey what they'd like to do the following year. We can choose if we want to participate in certain projects or activities. We can choose who we'd like to work with. The Treasurer must work with everyone, on every fundraising project, all year-round. Joe was our Treasurer for 5 years. Rare was the weekly meeting that Joe didn't accept some form of payment or answer some questions, usually in the middle of his meal. Too many cold ball 'o beefs! Hey, maybe that's how he lost all the weight!!

Joe has attended Board meetings for 5 years. That is 60 meetings. Does anyone else even come close? He has even been the host of our Board meetings for the past several years. Most of us slack off a bit in the summer since our club doesn't have a lot going on. But the Treasurer can't do that. The budget must be prepared, the questions keep coming and there are Board meetings to attend, statements to prepare.

Being a Chartered Accountant and Partner at Collins Barrow, Joe knows how to do the Treasurer's job better than anyone. But that knowledge, unfortunately, doesn't cut down the number of hours required. Last December who was in his office on Boxing Day preparing tax receipts for our club? That was Joe. His tireless dedication and invaluable knowledge have kept our club's finances running smoothly for years. We are so fortunate to have him in our club.

Plus he has done a lot more for our club besides being Treasurer. Since joining us in 2005 Joe was active on the Calendar Committee, helping to select the photographs in the early years and later selling advertisements. He served time on the Board of Directors and was Chairman of the New Generations Committee. Before becoming Treasurer he had served as Auditor for our club. He has also been active on the Mums project, as a salesman and delivering the plants. Just imagine the time involved in processing all those Mums payments! Joe and Mary have also hosted the Scottish curlers and organized the successful whisky and beer social events that were held for a couple of years.

Joe, we cannot thank you enough for your time, commitment and dedication to our club. After five years you have earned a well-deserved break. We look forward to seeing what other activities and projects you become involved in. We have no doubt that your pleasant manner, hard work and consistent dedication will be of value to our club for many years to come. Sorry, but the pun is too obvious: you have been a treasure!

Joe Wattie, 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.