



Conferred on the Rainbow Amplifiers on June 25, 2024

The Rainbow Amplifiers as non-Rotarians meet the following criteria: an outstanding personal or business contribution that has significantly enhanced the welfare of the community at the local level.

The Rainbow Amplifiers are: **John Sicard** – Kinaxis; **Cyril Leeder** – Myers Automotive (Cyril is back with the Sens org now); **John Jastremski** – MDS Aerospace; **Jim Harmon** – Boyden; **Kathryn Tremblay** – Excel/Atlis HR; **Darren Flemming** – Real Strategy; **Andrew Penny** – Kingsford Consulting; **Paul Renaud** – Mark Motors; **Warren Tomlin** – EY; **Franklin Holtforster** – Colliers ; and lead **Kevin Ford** – Calian.

After being shut down for 1.5 years due to Covid, the Rainbow Bistro, established in 1984, announced that it had made the tough decision to shut its doors for good. They sent out messages through social media that they were going to close at the end of Sept 2021, planned and held a swan song final party that was hosted by longtime friend and blues musician Tony D (of MonkeyJunk). Lynn Saxberg of *the Ottawa Citizen* wrote a story about the fall of the legendary live music club.

It was this story that was read by Kevin Ford of Calian. He had wonderful memories of the Rainbow, especially one notable day where he and all four of his sons had jammed together on the Rainbow's stage. A touching memory that was framed and sat in his office as a daily reminder of what music - at the Rainbow, meant to so many people. Kevin reached out to Danny Sivyer (CEO and President of the Rainbow) and was adamant that something could be done to save the legendary live music club. He used his personal connections to pull together a group of business leaders, and collectively, they were able to create a pot of money to be used to help put a dent into all the bills that had piled up with no revenue for over a year. They then helped the Sivyer fill out government grants, ran a successful crowd funding campaign (where Serena Ryder played a secret concert), and connected with Long and McQuade who re-hauled the Rainbow's entire lights and PA system. Danny and his daughter Stacie Sivyer have met by Zoom with this group of business leaders - who are lovingly now called "The Rainbow Amplifiers", on a regular basis as they help navigate the waters of a post-Covid economy.

It's been almost 2 years since the Rainbow officially pulled through Covid and re-opened its doors to the public. In that time, they've put over 600 bands on stage at the Rainbow and have paid musicians (most of them local) almost 200,000\$.

The Rainbow recognizes its role in the community and have used their platform to give back by hosting fundraisers and charity events for local organizations.

They've supported our education institutions by providing vital hands-on radio broadcasting field experience.

The Rainbow also has a mandate to support Cultural Diversity. In the last 2 years, they co-produced events with the intention to promote diversity within our community such as: Dreammore Productions - that specifically features BIPOC artists; Capital City Hip Hop; The Peptides (LGBTQ); and First Nation's artists such as: Aysanabee, Twin Flames, and Dank Aspects.

If it weren't for the Rainbow Amplifiers stepping up to the plate, and using their own time, money, and resources, the Rainbow Bistro would have been a Covid casualty. The Ottawa community would have lost a family run business that is part of the heart and soul, the pulse of the city. The Rainbow will turn 40 this November 2024, and they are so grateful to the Rainbow Amplifiers and everyone else who helped them reach this milestone.

Would the two Rainbow Amplifiers Kevin Ford of Calian and John Sicard of Kinaxis please come forward and accept this Paul Harris Award for Non Rotarians.

Criteria for Awards to Non-members Paul Harris Fellow Award:

At the Club's request Rotary International issues a certificate in the awardee's name and a PHF pin, both for presentation with the award citation to the awardee. Paul Harris was the founder of Rotary. A nominee must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- a. Has made an outstanding personal or business contribution that has significantly enhanced the welfare of the community at the local, national/international level; or
- b. Has 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; or
- c. Has performed outstanding community service in support of youth, the elderly, the underprivileged, the disabled or the developmentally challenged; or
- d. Exemplifies the qualities of the good citizen and provides a role model of the ideal community builder.