

## President Colleen's Year-End Review

I cannot believe I am already standing before you reviewing our accomplishments over the last year. I know I have not captured everything. One of the things I enjoyed most about my year was getting to know some much more about our Club and the work done by you. I have also enjoyed getting to know my fellow Rotarians better. You are an inspiration. So now join me for a trip down memory lane of our 2017 – 2018 year.

A few basic facts about our Club. When I did my address in July 2017 I talked about our Club and its diversity. I am happy to say we started with 130 members on July 1 and we ended with +2 by June 2018. The diversity in our Club continues to increase and I am proud to be part of a Club that values diversity. The % of female members has increased. When I sat next to RI President Riseley at our Gala he was speaking to me about the fact that the % of female members across RI remains low at 21%. We are at 28% and hopefully growing. We have also seen some growth in the number of members who are under 39 years. For sustainability and another 100 years this is an important group. We have 4.1% of members under 29 years and 7.4 between 30 – 39 years for a total of 11.5%. The average age for our Club is 59 years.

We have remarkable Years of Service, something we celebrate at every meeting. This year we have worked hard to ensure we are capturing years of Rotary service as a whole and not only in our Club. We have 67 members with years of service under 10 years; again representing a solid foundation for moving forward. The average years of service is 15 years.



I am most grateful to Rotarians who encouraged new members. We had a total of 13 new members for this year. This is great momentum and adds energy to our Club each time we induct new members. Of the 13 members, we had people returning to Rotary – this is also a great sign for our Club.

Rotary identifies each month with a theme. Over my year I tried to use the themes as a framework for guest speakers. I loved our meetings. I also tried hard to have Club members and committees share their work. I love Windsor. I believe we have so many wonderful leaders in our community. We are blessed that these leaders are always interested in bringing their messages to us. I must say though there was one meeting that had great impact on me. We need to thank PP Lex McCrindle for his idea of Past President's Day. I believe this is going to be an annual tradition. I can't wait to join the group for next year.



I am highlighting our youth initiatives because this is one area where I did not have a lot of knowledge. Our Committees, New Generations and Youth Exchange do a remarkable job. In our District we are a Club known for its commitment to Youth Exchange. Youth Exchange has been changing over the years. I hope our Club continues with its work; it is a story we continue to share with other Clubs. We were blessed to have Fernanda as our inbound student from Chile.

She has a genuine

smile and was eager to experience our community. We had two outbound students, Nathan and Malcolm. From the pictures it sure looked like they had the experience of a lifetime. RYLA is also a great success for our Club. Thanks goes out to Don Larkin for his coordination. Our Interact Club remains very active under the leadership of Marcela Diaz. Our Rotaract Club was reenergized this year. It has a solid foundation for going forward. Thanks to Nikolas Pizzolitto and Alene Abati along with advisor Zora Savic. Of course our annual Dr. Clare McLeod awards is a celebration that sends a message that we are in good hands for the future with all the service-minded young leaders in our community. Thanks to Lissa Percy for the coordination.



We are a Club that is part of a District – Super District 6400 with currently 52 Clubs. This year 1918 sponsored the new District E-Club. Our District journey really started at last years Meet the Governor where we had an excellent turnout of members to usher DG Rick in for his year. As a President it was great to have the support of the DG within your Club. We attended District Assemblies, participated in RYLA, the tree planting initiative, the new members dinner and of course District conference. Some of our members, Janet, Dr.

Rajan and myself were there this past Thursday to greet Ralph Zuke who is riding his bike with a rickshaw attached to Toronto conference. He started out in Illinois.

I was so proud of our participation at District conference. For newer members I highly recommend attending a District conference as soon as you are able. It is such a great fellowship opportunity with your fellow Rotarians and a wonderful way to understand the impact of Rotary both at home and globally. The conference started with a bang when DG Rick was teleported to the stage in true Star Trek style.



As a Club we are grateful for the recognition we receive. This year we had lots of media attention. I set out to do a blog and started out well. It was fun and hopefully we can find a way to continue. Maybe a group of us could share the blog responsibilities so we can share our Rotary experiences. Please let me know if you are interested in joining me.

Some quick facts on our Rotary International participation. We did achieve our average of 105.70 in annual giving; we must reach 100.00 in order to qualify for grants. Grants continue to be an important way for our Clubs works in international communities. We were one of the highest contributors to Polio Plus in our District largely due to the success of our Pig Out for Polio. Thanks to Nick and his Committee for another fine year. We continue to have many Paul Harris Fellows and major donors as well. With our Centennial this year, I appreciated how we stepped up to the plate for RI.

Now we know a little more about our Club and its connections to the District and RI lets take a look at what we did over the year. This year's theme was Rotary: Making a Difference. There is no doubt in my mind that we made a difference in many ways – some of which I am sure I do not even know about. One thing I learned is that 1918 Rotarians are busy people and they are not only involved in Rotary activities – they are involved in our community. The Centennial history gave us the chance to see the contributions that have been made by our Club and also by individual Rotarians through the year. We are so lucky to have the Centennial video to mark that legacy. I can't tell you how many times people in the community and Rotarians from across the District have told me how much they love the video because it tells the Rotary Story.



I have had the honour of being President for the first half of our Centennial year. We started off in January with our community luncheon that was jam-packed with Rotarians and community leaders, family and friends. It was a great launch. Thanks to Don Marsh for coordination. We dedicated the Community Hub, had our beautiful Gala despite some challenges – magic did happen. We opened the Rotary Centennial plaza which is hard to appreciate until you see it in person. It is truly incredible. We have had an excellent Speaker

Series with 3 more to come in the next half of the year. We have had great support from other Rotary Clubs and also from the community. The next event on the Centennial Calendar is the opening of the museum exhibit and you will hear more about that today. Thanks to Maureen and her Committee for all their work.



We continue to play an active role in international projects in Ghana, Tanzania, India and Jamaica. This year Theresa Schuurman got the international bug and participated in a VTT to Ethiopia and a National Immunization Day with the Koushiks in Pakistan and India. Thank you Theresa for all your work to promote Rotary. Thank you to the World Service Committee and Rotarians who travel for these projects.

There is no shortage of Service Above Self in this Club. Recently you heard about the partnership between the Peace and Conflict Resolution Committee and the Literacy Committee. You have heard about how the Young Rotary Leaders partnered with Art in the Park Committee to run the Kids Zone. Pig Out for Polio partners with the Walkerville Club and we are partnering on the upcoming Fish Fry again. Children's Fest is an excellent partnership. Art in the Park provides many opportunities to partner and partnering has been a strong theme of our Centennial. I believe it is through partnerships that our Club will grow and we will continue to be strong. We also partnered on a joint meeting with the Clubs in Area 9 and 10.



We also partner with community organizations. Salvation Army is one of our favorites. We got out strong for the Kettles; we are serving community meals on Wednesday nights which I find to be one of the most satisfying things I do in a month. We support the Sallyfest BBQ. We also through the support of our Foundation provide community grants. As you heard our Peace and Conflict Resolution Committee is partnering in our schools. Our message has been spreading. It is almost impossible to mention all we do. It is why we are acknowledged each year by the District for our Service projects

It is now time for many thank you's. I hope you would agree with me that we have overall had a successful year. There are always hiccups and I apologize for those. I want you to know though that I had a ton of fun, learned so much, and wouldn't trade my experience for anything. I want to thank all of you for your contributions. I need to thank my Board of Directors who provide guidance that is much needed. DG Rick it was great to serve as President in your year – forever grateful. Brenda and Suzanne – we would not have made it through the year without your work. Which leads me to the Foundation who boldly went with the Centennial and who provides the financial support to enable us to do our good works. The Centennial Committee – you are halfway there. Our Service Committees who do a great job of continuing to move our

projects forward. I look forward to my role as Past-President and I look forward to many more years of Rotary participation. Thank you all for your kindness this year and your contributions to the best community around.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Colleen Mitchell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underlining the name.

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Colleen Mitchell, Rotary Club of Windsor (1918) President 2017-18