



“LET THE CELEBRATION BEGIN!”

ROTARY CLUB OF WINDSOR (1918) CENTENNIAL KICKOFF LUNCHEON

CABOTO CLUB

MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 2018 11:45 A.M.

After years of keen anticipation and planning, the Rotary Club of Windsor (1918) is celebrating its centennial this year.

The celebration officially begins with a gala *Centennial Kickoff* luncheon at the Caboto Club on Monday, January 8, 2018 – the first in a continuing series of exciting special events planned to mark the formation of the Rotary Club of Windsor club one hundred years ago.

“The new year marks a full century of “Service Above Self”, and with all the amazing initiatives we’ve helped establish over the years, we’ve got a lot to celebrate”, Rotary Club of Windsor President Colleen Mitchell said. *“Windsor’s news media, which has always supported and communicated the club’s activities to the Border City area citizens since the first Windsor Rotary Club meeting in 1918, are cordially invited to join us for this happy, milestone event.”*

“For over two years now, we’ve been planning how we’d like to celebrate our club’s 100th anniversary. We’re so pleased and excited that the time has finally come. Let’s start the celebrations”, Maureen Lucas, Chair of the club’s Centennial Committee, added.

The Kickoff Luncheon program will include greetings from Rotary District Governor Rick Caron and a presentation of *This Is My Home* performed by the Windsor Symphony Orchestra Choir. The program will also include a specially-created video history of the club over the years.

Most importantly, however, the special luncheon program will highlight announcements of details of the Club’s special centennial events and legacy projects – among them the *Rotary Centennial Hub*, which will connect the Herb Gray Parkway, Tecumseh, LaSalle and Chrysler Canada Greenway trails, and the *Rotary Centennial Plaza* on Windsor’s riverfront. Developed in conjunction with the City of Windsor and scheduled for dedication in May, the Rotary Plaza will be located on the waterfront between the Spirit of Windsor steam locomotive and the Festival Plaza. The plaza will be designed a family destination as well as a reflection of Rotary International and its long, proud history.

Rotary Club of Windsor (1918) members have provided essential services and support in 30 countries, from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe. These projects have helped to better the lives of many, providing life-saving services and education. Rotarians not only provide funds for these projects but also time and resources, travelling to administer aid in person and spending time in the communities. Current projects include establishment of a learning centre for school children in Tanzania, and clean water for a town in Ghana. In partnership with the Windsor Essex Community Foundation, the club has also established a scholarship program for Youth Exchange program participants following their return home.

Rotary was founded by a Chicago attorney in 1905. The club took its name from its early practice of rotating its meetings between the offices of its members. The Border Cities Rotary Club was organized in Windsor in June, 1918 under the auspices of the Rotary club of Detroit. Assisted by several prominent Windsor citizens, the Border Cities Rotary Club -- the name was later changed to the Rotary Club of Windsor (1918) -- held its first meeting at the Essex Golf & Country Club. The club's weekly meetings were originally held on the second floor of a Woolworth's Store on Ouellette Ave. For 45 years --nearly half of its existence -- the club held its meetings at the Prince Edward Hotel on Ouellette Ave. at Park St. E. and later at the Seaway Hotel, also on Ouellette, and the Holiday Inn on Riverside Drive W. Since 1995, the club has met at the Giovanni Caboto Club.

A century later, the Rotary club of Windsor (1918) continues to embody the Rotary motto, ~Service *Above Self* through community initiatives and engagement, international projects, global exchange programs and a commitment to enhancing the lives of others. More recently the club helped fund the development of Maryvale and the John McGivney Children's Rehabilitation Centre and the Children's Safety Village. Also during its busy centennial year, the club will mark 40 years as sponsor of *Art In The Park* -- the city's beloved annual outdoor arts and crafts show held on the grounds of Willistead Manor in early June.

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