

Rotary Club of Richmond epitomizes service above self

The Rotary Club of Richmond celebrated 50 years of friendship and community service Sunday at River Rock Casino with a yellow ribbon tribute to Canada's service men and women.

More than 250 people attended the special anniversary gala, highlighted by the stirring musical entertainment by the Band of the 15th Field Artillery Regiment and Pipes and Drums of the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada. Rotary Club of Richmond president Ken Whitney, a former military Band Master, conducted the orchestra finale in full regalia.



A portion of the proceeds from the dinner and silent auction will support Canadian Forces veterans returning from recent deployment overseas in our peacekeeping endeavours, as well as the [Rotary Hospice House](#) and Richmond youth. The hospice house is a free-standing community home established in partnership with the Salvation Army. Recently, a music therapy program was started at the hospice house.

As well, the members of the [Rotary Club of Richmond](#) acknowledged the generous financial support of Richmond philanthropist Milan Ilich who passed away in 2011. A successful and respected businessman, he believed in giving back to his community and through the Ilich Foundation, he and his wife Maureen supported many charitable organizations.

The Rotary Club's motto is service above self and the Rotary Club of Richmond has a long history of making this principle reality. Examples include the 1981 donation of a cardiac monitor to the Richmond Hospital, donating a comfort bus in 1985 to Richmond Fire-Rescue and more recently sponsoring a Rotaract Club and introducing younger individuals into the Rotary family. Rotaract is for young adults ages 18 to 30.

Raising funds for the Richmond Food Bank, the Christmas Hamper Fund and the Richmond Centre for Disability are further examples of the Richmond Rotarians' efforts.

A worldwide organization of more than 1.2 million business, professional and community leaders in 34,000 clubs worldwide, Rotarians are committed to volunteering in communities at home and abroad to support education and job training, provide clean water, combat hunger, improve health and sanitation and eradicate polio.