

# BECOMING A ROTARIAN

*Here are some important things to know*

## ***About Rotary International .....***

§ **Rotary is an international, humanitarian, service organization.** The men and women of Rotary are business and professional leaders who volunteer their time and resources to help others in their local communities and throughout the world. Rotary clubs carry out a variety of service projects that address critical issues including poverty, hunger, illiteracy, and pollution. Service to youth, especially children at risk, is a major emphasis. Working with and for tomorrow's leaders, Rotary sponsors service clubs for youth and young adults and offers career development and mentoring programs. These include but are not limited to:

- **AMBASSADORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS** (international scholarship program),
- **ROTARY YOUTH EXCHANGE** (high school aged students are sent abroad to attend high school in other lands),
- **ROTARY YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARDS or RYLA** as it is more commonly known (leadership camps for young men and women),
- **INTERACT and ROTARACT** (clubs for young men and women aged 18 - 30)

§ **Rotary is the world's first service club.** The first Rotary club was founded in Chicago, Illinois on February 23, 1905. Paul Harris was the founder and organizer of the first Rotary Club in Chicago, however, he was not the first president of a Rotary club. That honour goes to one of the other founding members, Silvester Schiele. Paul Harris was however, the first president of Rotary International.

§ **Membership** in Rotary is by **INVITATION** only and each member is encouraged to bring in new members.

We are not looking for warm bodies to fill chairs, people who intend to use Rotary as a means to obtain commercial gain, people who intend to use Rotary to establish their credibility in our area and people who are unwilling or unable to commit time and energy to what we do.

Ensure that you know the people that you are sponsoring and **KNOW** that they would make a good member of our club **BEFORE** proposing them.

A prospective member **MUST BE**:

- An owner and/or manager of an established local business or a member of a recognized professional organization. Please note its important they be someone who has discretionary authority over their own time.
- A person **KNOWN** to be of high ethical standards
- A person who is **KNOWN TO HAVE OR HAS DEMONSTRATED** a belief in serving their community
- A person who knows of and believes in the objectives of Rotary
- A person who will bring ideas, energy and commitment to the Chilliwack Mt. Cheam Rotary Club

An inability to satisfactorily answer **ANY** of these criteria will preclude a person from membership

§ The Rotary motto is .... **SERVICE ABOVE SELF**

Rotary concerns itself with truth, fairness, improved relations between people and world peace. The avenues of Rotary service include:

- **CLUB SERVICE** (activities that allow the club to function successfully),
- **VOCATIONAL SERVICE** (opportunities to promote one's vocation to other members of the club),
- **COMMUNITY SERVICE** (activities that are undertaken to improve the quality of life in their community)
- **INTERNATIONAL SERVICE** (programs and activities undertaken to advance international understanding, goodwill and peace. Projects are designed to meet humanitarian needs of people in many lands).

§ One of the most widely printed and quoted statements of business ethics in the world is the **Rotary 4-way test**.

It was created by Rotarian Herbert J. Taylor in 1932 when he was asked to take charge of the Chicago-based Club Aluminum Company, which was facing bankruptcy. He drew up a 24 word code of ethics for all employees to follow in their business and professional lives. The 4-way test was adopted by Rotary in 1943 and the message should be known and followed by all Rotarians.

"Of the things we think, say or do:

1. Is it the **TRUTH**?
2. Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
3. Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**
4. Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?"

§ **Rotary clubs** are nonreligious, nongovernmental and open to every race, culture and creed.

§ **The Classification Principle** - Virtually all membership in Rotary is based upon a "classification." Basically a classification describes the distinct and recognized business or professional service that the Rotarian renders to society.

§ **Exchange of Club Banners** - This is a colourful Rotary tradition. Rotarians traveling to distant locations often as a token of friendship, take banners to exchange when they visit local clubs. This is a significant tradition that serves as a tangible symbol of our international fellowship.

§ **Non- attendance Rules** - The Club Constitution specifies conditions under which membership may be terminated for non-attendance.

These circumstances are'

- failure to attend or make up four consecutive club meetings,
- failure to attend or make up 50 percent of club meetings each six months
- failure to attend at least 30 percent of the meetings of one's own club in each six month period.

Under any of these cases, a member may lose Rotary membership UNLESS the club board of directors has previously consented to excuse for good and sufficient reason.

PLEASE NOTE, that being present at club meetings is one of the basic obligations a member accepts upon joining a Rotary Club. Rotary is a participatory organization and our club highly values regular attendance

§ **Paul Harris Fellows** - A way to promote voluntary giving to the Rotary Foundation.

A Paul Harris Fellow is an individual who contributes, or in whose honour or memory is contributed, a gift of \$1000 to the Rotary Foundation. The recognition is in the form of a certificate, a gold medallion and a distinctive lapel pin. In our club these are typically awarded by the Club to honour the recipient and their service.

A 'sustaining fellow' is a person who pledges \$1000 towards a Paul Harris Fellow award at \$100 per year for ten years.

§ **Rotary Foundation** - Began in 1917 and its purpose is to do good in the world. It is supported almost entirely by member contributions and it is through the Foundation that Club members support international projects (like clean water projects in Ethiopia)

§ **Rotarian Magazine** - Once a month, Rotarians receive The Rotarian, the official publication of Rotary International

§ **PolioPlus program** - This is a program to immunize all children of the world against polio and other major childhood diseases that has had dramatic world wide success in eliminating this terrible disease.

§ **Rotary District** - The Rotary Clubs of the world are organized into over 470 districts. The Chilliwack Mt. Cheam Rotary club belongs to District 5050 (50% of the clubs are American and 50% Canadian in our particular district)

## About Our Club

§ **The Chilliwack Mt. Cheam Rotary Club** was chartered in 1990 with 28 members and now has about 65 members. Our club from very early on has had a very clear focus on giving back by supporting the youth of our community

- We are very proud of our partnership with Chilliwack Senior Secondary School; holding annual breakfasts there, and sponsoring a LEADERS OF TOMORROW monthly award to a deserving student from Chilliwack Senior who exemplifies Service Above Self
- We have worked with Rotaract at our various fundraisers and have provided them with financial support,
- We have built a children's playground next to the Leisure Centre
- We have partnered with the students to produce and distribute two environmental tabloids and one anti-abuse tabloid.
- We have partnered with the students to deliver Meals on Wheels to the shut-ins and elderly every January
- We continue to provide scholarships and bursaries to deserving students at Chilliwack Senior Secondary

§ **Children's Foundation** - Our club started the Chilliwack Mt. Cheam Children's Foundation in the early nineties as a means of focusing the club's efforts to assist needy young people in Chilliwack. The purpose of the Foundation is to support children to access an educational, medical, cultural or recreational service or program that, for economic reasons, the family or support system cannot afford. The Foundation is a registered charity and tax receipts are issued for donations that are received. This is one of our most popular committees and we are very pleased with all the people it helps and all the good things it accomplishes each year.

§ **In addition** to the Children's Foundation and School Partnership, our club participates in and supports a wide variety of other community projects and fundraisers. **A small sample** of these include:

- CATT (Chilliwack Athletes for Toys and Tots) Fund Tournament. A volleyball tournament held each November to raise funds and toys for the Chilliwack Community Services Christmas effort
- Vedder River Rotary Trail - a hugely popular walking trail alongside the scenic Vedder River.
- Rotary Forest - walking trail and park located behind Twin Rinks
- Meals on Wheels - Every January we deliver meals to local seniors and shut-ins to assist this Community Services program
- Lobster Dinner and Auction - our largest fundraiser of the year
- Crimestoppers - we helped found this program in Chilliwack and continue to support it

§ **Quads** - Our club groups members into groups of four, known as "quads". Each quad has a leader who, for projects or events, notifies all members in that quad of their duties. Members of a quad sit together once a month to enjoy breakfast and fellowship ... AND new members are encouraged to contact their quad members for guidance or clarification on Rotary or Club matters or questions.

§ **Fellowship** - Our club meets locally every Thursday morning starting at 7am and meetings seldom go much later than 8am. We enjoy a hot breakfast, listen to and learn from, some very interesting speakers and programs .... And most importantly, .... share a few laughs with good friends . The atmosphere is casual and friendly and there is always lots of good natured bantering.

Good people giving back to their community and being part of something great .... **Rotary**