

A HOME AWAY FROM HOME



For Cameron Wilson, the [Ottawa Rotary Home](#) has become a second home. Wilson, 20, has cerebral palsy; he's also blind, developmentally delayed, and uses a wheelchair.

He first stayed at the home when he was four years old. His mother, Joan, cheerfully describes her daily routine: cutting up his food, changing his diapers, and checking on him in the middle of the night – except during his visits to the Ottawa Rotary Home.

Rotarians in Ottawa opened the home in 1982 – when the concept of respite care was new – to provide overnight relief to families whose children have severe physical disabilities or other complex medical conditions. “You have to look after the

caregivers,” says Patricia Boomer, a member of the Rotary Club of Ottawa and past chair of the home’s board of directors. “They need a break sometimes. They need support. It doesn’t mean they want to give up their child.”

Joan and her husband use the respite time to go on vacation with their two daughters, attend the girls’ soccer tournaments and piano recitals, and deal with family emergencies. Last year, Joan hurt her back while moving her 160-pound son, and again, they turned to the Ottawa Rotary Home for support while she recovered.

She credits the home with providing a sense of balance between Cameron’s needs and the rest of the family’s. “If it hadn’t been for Ottawa Rotary Home, I don’t know how healthy our family would be,” she says. “The home has alleviated an incredible amount of stress in our lives and for other families as well.”

Since 1922, the Ottawa club has focused on helping children with disabilities, supporting a local summer camp and Easter Seals over the years.

The home opened with 8 beds, later expanding to 12 and quickly becoming a model for respite care. “For years, people have come to us and asked, ‘How do you do this, how do you do that, how does it work?’” Boomer says.

In 2007, the Ottawa Rotary Home Foundation launched a capital campaign to build a larger facility. Over 18 months, it raised \$2.3 million (surpassing its goal of \$2 million) from 11 Rotary clubs in eastern Ontario, individual Rotarians, families who use the home, and other donors.

With additional funding from several major donors and the government, along with a land donation of 5 acres by a Rotarian, the \$6.5 million project opened in February 2009. The original home also was renovated for adult residential care, for a total of 29 beds serving more than 200 families.

The new 18,000-square-foot building offers plenty of space and state-of-the-art features, such as a Snoezelen multisensory room, which uses combinations of gently stimulating colour, light, sound, shape, and texture to enhance therapy, learning, and relaxation.



The Four Way Flasher

Rotary Club of MeadowRidge Newsletter

Vol. 17 Issue 04
July 27, 2010

Web-site: www.MeadowRidgeRotary.ca

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INVOCATION

July 27	Ineke Boekhorst	Aug. 3	Peter Boekhorst
Aug. 10	Lyndy Buyze-Kerr	Aug. 17	Tirenzio Calzuolo



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

July 27: Laurie & Lorna Anderson

July 31: Peter & Kelly Fry

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

July 28: Cindy Serry

July 30: Brian Bekar

TODAY’S PROGRAM: Installation of Mariella Ignatieff
Who's Who - Lindsay Hendy

NEXT WEEK’S PROGRAM: Wilson Sieg – Past President of Rotary Club of Mission Mid-day

CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT 5050 EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
July 31	3:30 pm	Heritage Day Festival	Memorial Peace Park
Aug. 11	6-7:30pm	MeadowRidge / Haney Awards Ceremony	The ACT
Aug. 24	noon	Membership Meeting	
Aug. 29	3 pm	Family BBQ at Patrick O’Brien’s home	10328 – 276 St. M.R.
Sep. 11		Ride & BBQ at Mustang Riding Stables	14729 Sylvester Rd., Mission
Oct. 5		Sports Banquet	Meadow Gardens Golf Club

50 / 50 draw - Jackpot at \$1,289.00 + 1/2 of today’s sales, 13 cards left, Jackpot on “Queen of Hearts” only!

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

Our Guests today were Roxanne Davidson, Mariella Ignatieff, and Carmen Zajac.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Lynda reminded members of the fellowship event planned at Patrick O' Brien's home on Sunday 29 August 2010. We will also be celebrating the Charter of the club.

Walter announced that there were several members who had not yet paid their annual membership dues.

Terry was pleased to announce that she was a proud breast cancer survivor of 3 years, but sadly she would need to support her sister through the same ordeal.

Marco announced that shortly the club would be getting a slot in the local newspaper.

ROTARY MOMENT:

Adrienne told the club about the origins of the Rotary International Group Study Exchange Programme.

GUEST SPEAKER :



Carmen Zajac spoke to the club about the work of her family's Foundation, Zajac Ranch on Stave Lake. The Foundation was started by her parents, Mel & Wendy Zajac in memory of their two sons who both tragically killed in sporting accidents, within a few months of each other in 1986/1987.

The ranch hosts hundreds of children with serious/chronic illnesses or severe handicaps/disabilities each year, who might not otherwise have a chance to enjoy a summer camp experience, due to their constant need for round the clock medical attention. Their individual medical conditions are varied, including Autism, physical and mental handicaps. Some 30 volunteer medical personnel man a fully equipped facility to allow the children to receive the medical care they require on site.

The children are assisted by volunteers who allow them to partake in horseback riding, canoeing, kayaking, paddleboats, swimming, archery, hiking, basketball, softball, volleyball, high- and low-ropes courses, climbing wall, arts & crafts, drama and music. The camps run throughout the summer holidays and in the winter months the ranch is used for other activities including church groups, RYLA etc.

Funding comes from many sources including corporate sponsors, health organizations and several BC Rotary clubs.

Gordy thanked the speaker.

For more info on Zajac Ranch see www.zajacranch.com

Submitted by Adrienne Dale



HERITAGE DAY FESTIVAL

Saturday July 31st

We are looking for Rotarian volunteers for this annual event in Memorial Peace Park.

Between 4 and 6 pm the Kiwanis and Rotary Club "flip burgers" to assist in this event. The burgers are donated by the Canadian Superstore and Save on Foods. We serve FREE burgers for seniors and "twoonie burgers" for the general public.

Please inform Ineke (467-2420) if you can assist with this event

You need to show up at 3:30 at the Rotary tent, by the Leisure Centre entrance; we'll be done by 6:30.

WINE & CHEESE EVENT AT THE ACT

Wednesday, August 11, 6-7:30 pm

On Wednesday August 11, from 6 - 7:30 pm, we are organizing an "informal" awards ceremony event in the foyer of the ACT. Cost: \$20 (or ticket), guests welcome.

Grants from the Wine Festival proceeds are awarded during this joined MeadowRidge / Haney Club event. Red or White wine, soft drinks, assorted cheese will be served.

Attendance to this event will count as a "Make Up"

FAMILY POTLUCK BARBEQUE

Sunday August 29, 3 pm

PLEASE mark Sunday August 29 (3:00 pm) on your calendar and participate in our 2nd Annual Rotary Family BBQ at Stefanie and Patrick O'Brien's home. This promises to be a wonderful afternoon of games, fellowship, swimming, maybe even horseback riding (?) and great food in the ambience of the O'Brien's beautiful garden.



Sharon and David Rempel's Homestead is only a couple of blocks away and they are offering "Frisbee Golf " for those interested to get into a bit of friendly competition, at the same time.

Bring the kids (or grandkids), or the whole family for this great "Family of Rotary" event and enjoy the company! Cost is \$10 each, \$20 / family (two or more), or donation. ALL PROCEEDS towards Rotary Foundation; there will also be a Silent Auction and Twoonie Toss

Please bring a "potluck dish" to share (meat for the BBQ will be provided); a sign up sheet will be circulated during Rotary luncheon next week.

You don't want to miss this fantastic event!