

Chiara Garbellini, 2014-15 Rotary Youth Exchange Student from Italy

Chiara Garbellini, a 17 year old young lady from Tirano, Italy, was met on her arrival from Italy at the Kelowna International Airport on August 30th by members of her host club, the Rotary Club of Kelowna Sunrise.

Chiara is the daughter of Marco Garbellini, a mountain rescuer and coach of the rescue team and condominium administrator and Wcia Della Bona, an accountant who assists her dad with his work. She has one sibling, Erica who is 13 years of age.

While residing in Tirano, Chiara attended a specialist secondary school. Liceo Artistico Gaudenaio Ferrari. Chiara has one more year to complete her education when she returns to Italy in 2015. She plans to study architecture upon completion of her secondary education as she has aspirations for a career in the field of architecture.

Chiara applied for the Rotary Youth Exchange program recognizing that this would give her the opportunity to meet people from a different culture, to live in a different country, and to experience being a part of the big family of Rotary. She also feels strongly that traveling enables one to gain a higher level of maturity.

Chiara enjoys skiing, reading books, hanging out with friends, playing the piano, listening to music and drawing.



Kelowna Sunrise Rotarian Don Turri and his wife Lucy were the first host family to provide a comfortable, supportive and safe home for Chiara.

The Rotary Club of Sondrio, Chiara's Host Club.....

Chiara is sponsored by the Rotary Club of Sondrio, a club situated in the city of Sondrio. The Sondrio club, chartered in 1952, now in its 62nd year of service, is one of 85 clubs in District 2040. The current president of the club is Sabrina Cogo.



District 2040 has a total membership of 5400 Rotarians; and is recognized as having a long lasting service tradition in favour of new generations, as testified by the 32 Rotaract and 9 Interact clubs and serving as the host for an annual RYLA seminar.

Tirano, Chiara's Home Town.....

Tirano is a town in the Valtellina Valley, located in the province of Sondrio, in Lombardo Region, Northern Italy. It is estimated that 9,200 inhabitants reside in Tirano. When the ski season opens, that number increases greatly. Tirano is adjacent to the Switzerland-Italy boundary. The river Adda flows through the town.



Tirano includes an area of 32 square kilometres and is situated at an elevation of 441 metres.

The Bernina Express is a vital connection for the tourists who use Tirano as a base to tour Switzerland and Italy's breathtaking beauty from ice-age glaciers to palm trees. This Swiss scenic train serves cities including Lugano, St. Moritz, and Chur to Tirano.





Enclosed within the heart of the Alpines, the Sondrio Province occupies the northernmost part of the Lombardy Region. Typical are the vineyards sprawling over the foothills below the Rhaetian Alps. For centuries, the valley's northern slopes have been cleared of woods and rocks to terrace and cultivate these vines (both an economic and cultural asset of the Valtellina).

Tirano is one of many towns and cities located in Lombardy, one of the 20 regions of Italy. A sixth of Italy's population lives in Lombardy and about a fifth of Italy's GDP is produced in the region, making it the most populous and richest region in the country. It is also the region with the most UNESCO World Heritage sites in Italy.

The Country of Italy.....



Italy, officially the Italian Republic is a unitary parliamentary republic in Southern Europe.

To the north, Italy borders France, Switzerland, Austria, and Slovenia, and is roughly delimited by the Alpine watershed, enclosing the Po Valley and the Venetian Plain. To the south, it consists of the entirety of the Italian Peninsula and the two biggest Mediterranean islands of Sicily and Sardinia, in addition to many other smaller islands. The sovereign states of San



Marino and the Vatican City are enclaves within Italy, while Campione d'Italia is an Italian exclave in Switzerland. Italy covers an area of 301,338 km² (116,347 sq. mi) and has a largely temperate climate. With 61 million inhabitants, it is the 5th most populous country in Europe. Among the world's most developed countries, Italy has the 4th-largest economy in the European Union, 3rd in the Eurozone and 8th in the world by GDP (IMF, 2014).