

“Helping Those in Need” is Why Two Individuals Became Rotary Members

Story by Ed Kolybaba on Jun 06, 2018

Two local citizens joined the membership of the Rotary Club of Kelowna Sunrise during the month of May. Adrian Petraroia, an up and coming lawyer, sponsored by club member Stuart Lang, was inducted on May 11th; while Bill Andersen, a retired millwright, sponsored by club member Vic Spolia, was inducted on May 18th.



Adrian Petraroia, born in Abbotsford, received his high school at Immaculata Regional High School in Kelowna, before continuing on with studies at Acadia University in Wolfville, Nova Scotia and at Bond University at Robina on the Gold Coast of Australia, where he attained his law degree.

Soon after attaining his law degree, Adrian returned to his Kelowna roots to practice law with Pihl Law. In early June of 2018, he joined the firm of Farris, Vaughan, Wills & Murphy LLP, where he is practicing in the areas of corporate commercial, real estate and estate planning.

Bill Andersen, born and raised in his early years in Chilliwack, attended Ashcroft Secondary School, followed by further education at Cariboo College and British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT).

After a year at college, he joined Bethlehem Copper Corp as a surveyor in pit operations during the summer of 1978. During his career in the mining industry, he was very involved with the blending of two mines, the smaller Bethlehem Copper Corporation with the giant Lornex Corporation which was birthed in 1986 as Highland Valley Copper Ltd. After 36 years in the mining industry, he retired in 2014 as a Journeyman Millwright.



Adrian has recognized that serving his community and abroad is an important aspect of his life. He has been involved with United Way Kelowna, the Kelowna General Hospital Auxiliary and has completed missionary work in Mexico. His strong desire to serve was what led him to seek membership with a service club, which then led him to the Rotary Club of Kelowna Sunrise where he quickly began to enjoy the fellowship and to recognize that his personal values aligned well with those of the Sunrise Rotary Club and its membership.

Rotary is a family tradition as his father was a member of the Okanagan Mission Club and his uncle was a member of the Westbank Club.



Bill discovered that Rotary was an avenue for him to seek out back in Kamloops in 2004 when he recognized the hard working volunteers within the Rotary Club of Kamloops Daybreak and the impact they were making within the community. Within a short period of time, he was actively engaged in the fellowship, feeding the underprivileged and showing up for projects within the community sponsored by his club. He recalls the landscaping project at the local hospice house in Kamloops as a special project he was involved in with his club members. His focus as a Rotarian since his induction with the

Kamloops club in 2004 has always been as an active participant, an asset and a 'go to guy' whenever and where ever assistance is needed, always there as a keen, involved team member.

His passion to help others has gone beyond his community. In 2006, he volunteered as a member of *Developing World Connections*, a local Kamloops company sponsored by his Rotary club. Travelling to the Tsunami ravaged Sri Lanka, over a two week period he and other local volunteers helped to build homes for those who lost them during the tsunami. Bill recounted that the experience was a "life changing time for myself and the other people who I travelled with." Bill's concern for those in need around the world is reflected in his generous financial support of The Rotary Foundation where he has been recognized as a PHF+2 donor.