



Why Join Wellington Rotary?

Wellington Rotary is a young club, formed in 2002, with membership reflecting the demographics of the community including business people, retirees, with a very good representation from both sexes.

Club members have many opportunities for humanitarian service, both locally and internationally. Service programs address concerns such as health care, hunger, poverty, illiteracy, and the environment. Rotarians regularly experience the fulfillment that comes from giving back to the community.

Encouraging high ethical standards has been a hallmark of Rotary from its earliest days. In their business, professional and private lives Rotarians abide by The Four Way Test:

Of all the things we think and 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?

Attendance at informative weekly meetings develops both fellowship and friendships. Club members also commit to participating in club committees and to volunteering for ongoing and special club activities in the community during the year

Organization

The Wellington Rotary Board, elected annually, consists of a President, an Immediate Past President, a President-Elect, a Vice-President, a Treasurer, a Secretary and three Directors. The Board meets monthly and provides a full accounting and opportunity for discussion of its activities to Club members through the Forum meeting, which follows each Board meeting. Club members may be assigned to committees that carry out the various projects of the club.

The club is part of Rotary District 7070 which covers a geographic area extending from Alliston, Ontario, to Toronto East and then eastward to Belleville and Picton. The Rotary International office is located in Chicago with 33,855 clubs worldwide reporting through 531 Districts and an overall membership of 1.2 million Rotarians. In Canada there are 27,000 members in 733 clubs.

Meetings

Wellington Rotary meetings, which last a little over an hour, include breakfast and are held weekly on Tuesdays at 7:07am in the Wellington Legion. Board meetings are held monthly, and committee meetings are held as required. Most weekly meetings include an educational, informative and entertaining guest speaker. Special club events during the year include a club anniversary party in November, a Christmas gift exchange dinner in December, and a Past President's Night in June.

Dues and Other Costs

Annual club dues are \$175 (payable annually or semi-annually) weekly breakfasts are \$12 and a weekly 50/50 draw \$2, plus a Happy Dollar collection.

Fund Generation

Wellington Rotary generates funds through the following activities:

1. Bottle Recycling Depot – for wine, beer, and liquor bottles or containers.

For four hours on Wednesdays and Saturdays, Wellington Rotary members operate a bottle return depot for Wellington and the Prince Edward County area on behalf of The Beer Store. The depot is located at the old mill on Second Street in Wellington. Members volunteer for duty in shifts. For returning their bottles and packaging, the public receives the same refund for their returns received in other outlets across the province. The Rotary Club receives a payment, based on volume of bottles, cans and containers collected and returned directly from The Beer Store organization. The bottle return is the club's biggest fund generator and is dependent on all able-bodied club members committing to a couple of two-hour shifts per month at the depot. Serving at the depot is a wonderful chance to get to know fellow club members and to meet residents of the community.

2. Diner's & Duffers Quinte Area Valuebook

This popular booklet is sold annually by club members to friends and neighbours. It contains discount coupons for local restaurants, wineries, theatres/tours and golf courses, all located in the Quinte/Prince Edward County area. It is sold for \$35 and the coupons have a retail value totalling \$3500 and are valid for a full year. The Rotary clubs of Belleville, Trenton, Brighton, Quinte Sunrise, Stirling as well as Wellington participate in the development of the book each year.

3. Golf Tournament

This is a popular annual June event attracting golfers from the area, including members of other Rotary clubs. Most recently, the format has been Nine and Dine, held at the local golf course.

4. Wine Celebration

This annual fund raising event was started in 2014 and has proven very popular each year. It features wine & cheese tasting, a sit-down dinner, dancing music and live and silent auctions. In the first year it raised \$4,400 for the Millennium Trail Upgrade project. In 2015 it was entitled The Grape Gatsby; people came in 1920's dress and had their pictures taken beside vintage automobiles. It raised \$8,600 for the PEC Hospital Foundation. In 2016 Grape Balls of Fire was

the theme and it raised \$11,300 for the Storehouse Food Bank and the Wellington Community Gardens.

Major Local Community Projects

- **The Millennium Trail**

This major project was an upgrade to 11 km of the Millennium Trail passing through Wellington to make the trail more suitable for walkers, joggers, cyclists, ATV's and snowmobiles. Improvements included re-surfacing the trail, clearing brush, establishing a kiosk, a parking lot and washroom at West Street, and signage and annual maintenance. Rotary and community volunteers worked on the improvements along with contractors supplying material and specialized equipment. The first stage, Belleville Street to Conley Road, was officially opened January 2013. Stage 2, west from Consecon Street to Danforth Road was completed in September 2013. Stage 3, from Consecon Street to Belleville Street, and another section, from Conley Road east to the Loyalist Parkway, were completed in 2015. The West Street installation was built in 2016.

- **Wellington Rotary Beach**

Wellington Rotary's first major project was a five year \$150,000 Wellington Beach Improvement Project. In addition to funds generated by club fundraising, grants were obtained from The County of Prince Edward, PELA-CFDC, The Stark Foundation, Ontario Ministry of Rural Affairs, Scotiabank, and Rotary District 7070. The project consisted of Rotary volunteers building picnic tables, barbecues, a 1900' boardwalk/pathway, benches, a sunshelter, and a washroom/changeroom. In addition 13 interpretive signs were created and installed along the boardwalk/pathway on history of the beach, and the birds, plants, and fish of the area. The improvements have resulted in increased usage and enjoyment of the beach by locals and visitors. The boardwalk gives access to the beach to people who previously were unable to enjoy it, including those with mobility issues, giving some the opportunity of seeing their grandchildren at play.

- **Wellington & District Community Centre**

In 2009 the club committed itself to a \$50,000 donation, over five years, to the new Wellington & District Community Centre. This commitment was completed in four years. A large meeting room at the Centre is named The Wellington Rotary Multi Purpose Room.

- **Scholarship and Literacy**

Through its Literacy program, the club provides two scholarships a year to graduates of CML Snider Public School to go towards their post-secondary school education. The club has funded the purchase of special books for a CML Snider class and the club donated a large quantity of books for children of all ages to the school. A donation to CML has also been made to help with the purchase of a SmartBoard for the school. In addition, beginning in 2014 the club has conducted a children's book drive, with the books donated to the Highland Shores Children's Aid Society, Picton Branch, and this is being repeated in 2015.

- **Local Donations**

During the year, the club donates a significant amount of funding to local causes, including the Wellington Storehouse Foodbank, Branch 160 of the Royal Canadian Legion, the Wellington Public Library, Community Care for Seniors, PECM Hospital Foundation, Quinte Access, Hospice Prince Edward. As well, the club considers private requests for assistance.

- **Local Events**

The village of Wellington goes all out to celebrate, Canada Day, Pumpkinfest and Christmas. Each of these events starts off with a parade and Wellington Rotary decorates its float and enters each of these parades. On Canada Day the club also presents a Ribfest in the town park – a very popular feature on this day and a revenue generator for the club.

International Projects

- Wellington Rotary participates in the funding of Rotary International causes through an annual contribution to the Rotary Foundation.
 - The Wellington club has helped to fund a clean water project in the district of El Paraiso, Honduras, in Central America. The Honduras project was done in conjunction with Pure Water for the World, a non-governmental agency specializing in clean water projects. This project provides hygiene education and techniques, clean water, and sanitation to over 1500 families in 31 villages.
 - The club participates in the ShelterBox program which supplies equipment to disasters anywhere in the world, such as the Haitian earthquake disaster.
 - The club recently made a contribution towards the construction of a school for girls in Afghanistan as part of a commemoration of Rotary's 100th year in Canada, and to a WASH project (water, sanitation and hygiene) for a school in the Rift Valley area of Kenya.
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- ❖ The Rotary Club of Wellington seeks to continue to play a worthwhile positive role in both the Wellington area community and in helping to assist less fortunate communities internationally. In return, members enjoy the fellowship and friendship that come from meeting together and participating in club activities together. The club values the unique nature of its location in Prince Edward County, a place of history and new beginnings.

- ❖ Contact information is available on the club's website www.wellingtonrotary.ca