

Local Rotarians honored by president of Rotary International

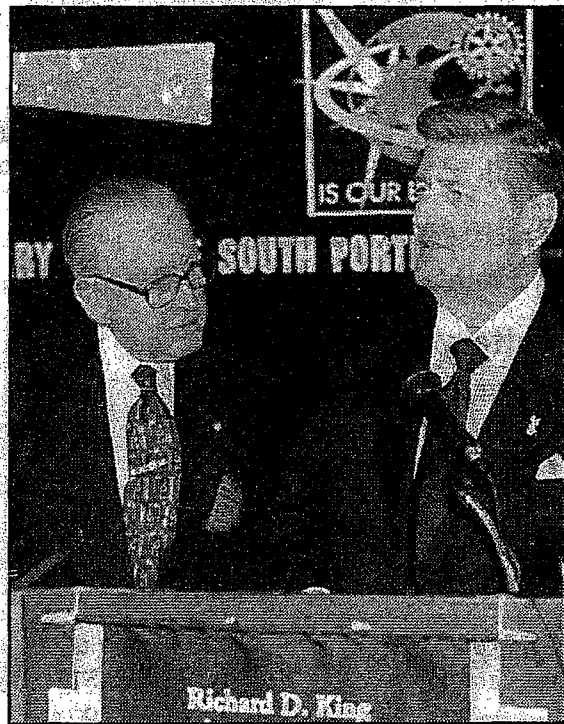
More than 300 members from some 80 Rotary Clubs across New England attended as Richard D. "Rick" King, president of Rotary International, honored the Rotary Club of South Portland/Cape Elizabeth on Jan. 19 for its 40 years of service to its communities.

King also honored the club's remaining four charter members: inaugural club president Richard D. Kilroy, second-year president Warren Simpson, Dan Gazette (all of Cape Elizabeth) and Richard Yerxa of Portland.

Sadly, charter member William Stanton passed away less than one month prior to the ceremony.

Simpson was presented with a 40-year, perfect attendance award by King at the celebration. Kilroy, also with 40 years of perfect attendance, was unable to attend.

In its 40-year history, The South Portland/Cape Elizabeth Rotary Club has raised and contributed more than \$400,000 to charity and people in need. The donations include more than \$75,000 for local scholarships, funds for future development of local parks and other community facilities,



Rick King, president of Rotary International (right), presents a 40-year perfect attendance award to Warren Simpson of Cape Elizabeth.

and contributions of more than \$29,000 to assist with Rotary International's global effort to eradicate polio.



ROTARY CELEBRATION — Richard King, president of Rotary International, presents a perfect attendance award to Cape Elizabeth's Warren Simpson. (Contributed photo)



40 YEARS RUNNING -- Richard King, president of Rotary International, presents 40-year perfect attendance award to Warren Simpson.

Rotary Marks Its 40th

Richard Kilroy and Warren Simpson, Cape Elizabeth, the first and second (respectively) presidents of the South Portland-Cape Elizabeth Rotary Club, were specially honored when the club celebrated its 40th birthday Jan. 19 at Verrillo's, Portland.

Both are charter members and have perfect attendance records.

"What that says is, Good Health," said Simpson, former owner of Shoppers True Value Hardware, South Portland, who is 85,

Dan Gacetta, Cape Elizabeth, and Richard Yerxa, Portland, the club's other living charter members, also were honored.

The anniversary brought the world president of Rotary, Richard D. King, Fremont, Calif., and King's visit brought a crowd, 384 people, including at least one from each of 80 Rotary Clubs.

King told them he had been

warned not to attend anniversaries or he'd have one to attend every night. He was persuaded to come to Maine by his aide Dan Mooers, South Portland lawyer and former Rotary International director.

On Jan. 18, King had installed six new Rotary Clubs in Clearwater, Fla., with 750 attending. Among them was Richard Kilroy, now in a wheelchair, who didn't make the trip north for the local 40th. He keeps his attendance record by visiting Florida clubs.

At its 40th, the South Portland-Cape Elizabeth Rotary counts \$400,000 raised over the years for charity and people in need, including more than \$75,000 in scholarships.

It has contributed \$29,000 to "Polio Plus," Rotary International drive to eliminate polio world-wide by 2005. It began in 125 countries, and today only 10 are still afflicted by polio.