

A BRIEF HISTORY
of the
SOUTH PORTLAND - CAPE ELIZABETH
ROTARY CLUB

The South Portland - Cape Elizabeth Rotary Club was organized on December 27, 1961 with 21 charter members. Richard Kilroy, Charter President, and his brother, William Kilroy, Charter Vice-President, were the chief organizers. The sponsoring club was the Rotary Club of Portland.

The Rotary Club of South Portland - Cape Elizabeth has had a very stable membership of 50 to 55 members. For Rotary this is an average size club. In its relatively short history the club boasts having been honored with three Rotary District Governors, Harold Fralich in 1977-78, Sarando Giftos in 1985-86, and Daniel Mooers in 1990-91.

Over the years since the club was organized it has met at Howard Johnsons, Carolyns, the Bridgeway, the Snow Squall, and the Purpoodock Club.

In 1988, the South Portland - Cape Elizabeth Rotary Club sponsored the chartering of the South Portland Maine Mall club in an effort to extend the ideals of Rotary service to the community.

Rotary is not a secret organization; it is a service club based on business and professional classifications and is open to both men and women. Membership is extended by invitation. Rotary's mottos are, "Service Above Self", and, "He Profits Most Who Serves Best".

The principal fund raiser for the Rotary Club since 1962 has been the annual Christmas Tree sale at Millcreek Park. A donation of \$3,500.00 was given to the City from the proceeds of this sale to purchase the Christmas lights for the trees at Millcreek Park. This spectacular Yuletide show has remained an annual event.

Some of the more significant contributions to the two communities served by the Rotary Club have included \$6,000 to get the South Portland Boys and Girls Club started, \$10,000 as seed money to restore the dam at Hinckley Park and create a trail system, \$10,000 seed money for the Fort Williams picnic shelter, and, \$13,000 as matching money for the restoration and preservation of the Portland Break-water Lighthouse, "Bug Light".

Each year the Rotary Club of South Portland - Cape Elizabeth honors two students from both South Portland High School and Cape Elizabeth High School with \$1,000 scholarships in recognition of their service to their school and community.

Submitted by: John E. Roberts, Jr., President 1989-90
South Portland-Cape Elizabeth Rotary

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