

HISTORY OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF OTTAWA

1916 -- The establishment of the first Service Club in the City -- the Rotary Club of Ottawa -- with 67 charter members. Meetings were held weekly at the Chateau Laurier.

1916 – to 1918 during WW1 War-time fund-raising activities were mainly devoted to supporting the Overseas YMCA.



In the early days of the Club, activities were at a more leisurely pace. Occasionally the regular meeting took the form of a visit to some commercial or industrial establishment where luncheon would be served, or, perhaps a picnic outing to some member's summer home, or as this 1916 photograph shows, lunch at the Dominion Experimental Farm.

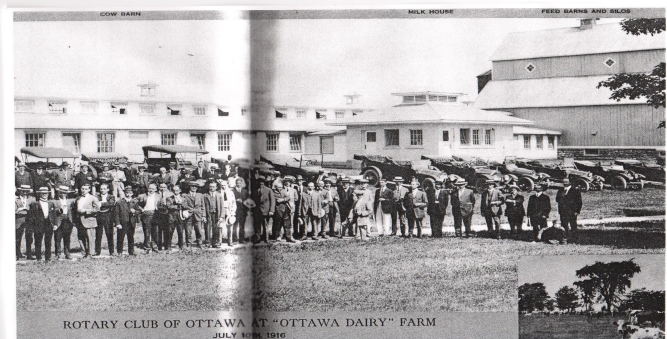


The Chateau Laurier, home of the Rotary Club of Ottawa since its first regular meeting, 20 March, 1916



The first Executive of the Rotary Club of Ottawa, 1916.

left to right E.F. Gilmour, director
H.W. Chamberlain, director
T.E. Cledinnen, president
G.D. Kelly, vice president
G.S. May, director



1921 -- The Rotary Club of Ottawa hosted the first District Conference of Rotary Clubs, with delegates attending from other Rotary Clubs in Eastern Ontario, Western Quebec and Northern New York State. The president of Rotary International was the principal guest speaker.

1922 -- The Rotary Club of Ottawa formed its Crippled Children's Committee, and so began our long relationship with the Easter Seal Society.

In current times, to describe someone as “crippled” or even “handicapped” is deemed derogatory. However “Crippled Children” was the acceptable term used in those days.

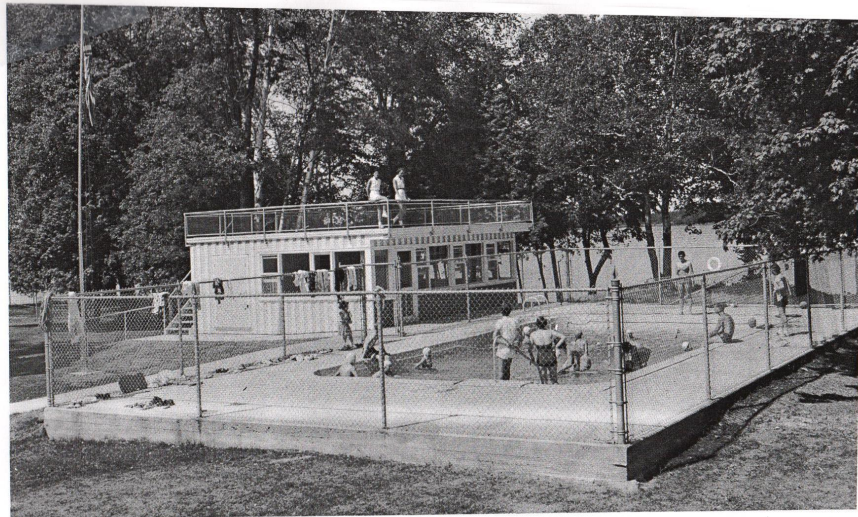
In 1931, our involvement was expanded when we co-sponsored the formation of the *Eastern Ontario Council for the Society for Crippled Children* so as to support activities outside of Ottawa.

1939 WWII began -- The Rotary Club of Ottawa established its War Services Committee. Among its contributions were a mobile canteen and clothing to war-torn civilians in England.



A "Victory House" was built on Madawaska Drive in Ottawa, and raffled off for the Club's charities. (no pictures)

1948 -- Merrywood Camp for Crippled Children, became a principal activity of the Club. We and sister Clubs in Eastern Ontario financed most of the buildings. WE were very hands on and Ottawa Rotarians oversaw the annual opening and closing chores and necessary repairs. A number of teen-age children of Rotarians served as Camp Counsellors and Helpers



SWIMMING POOL AT MERRYWOOD

Similar camps operated in other countries; and Ottawa Rotarian, Hall Popham, became president of their international association.

1948 - By far the greatest involvement of Ottawa Rotarians and their families, however, took place with regard to the annual Stuffing Day. As the agent for the Easter Seals Society of Ontario, the club was responsible for the distribution of the annual appeal for funds in Ottawa. Envelopes addressed to everybody in the telephone book were stuffed with a letter from the club's president, a sheet of Easter Seal stamps and a return envelope. This was performed at long

tables in the Chateau Laurier's ball room. At the end of the day the boxes of the mailing piece were then transported to the Post Office.



In later years, we had created a computer database of donors and hired a full time person in the Rotary Office to maintain the database and recording of all incoming donations. Rotarian Andre Bourdon oversaw this operation. Eventually the Easter Seals organization wanted to send our more mail outs to a wider base and decided to do the operation from Toronto.

A "Photo Op" also took place every year, at which the Club's president and one or two other members and the year's young Easter Seal "Timmy" or "Tammy" visited the Prime Minister or the Governor General to sell the first sheet of Easter Seal stamps in the campaign.



The Chateau Laurier Ballroom was also the locale for a related annual fund-raiser -- the *Easter Egg Painting Contest*. The Chateau's kitchen staff hard-boiled crates and crates of eggs. These and paints, brushes and water glasses were spread out on long tables for use by large numbers of contestants whose parents purchased the eggs. Prizes were awarded for the best works of art in this popular event.

1951 -- The Rotary Club of Ottawa established its annual "*Adventure in Citizenship*" Program. Public figures including Governor General Adrienne Clarkson, Right Hon. Joe Clark and Hon. Ed Broadbent participated in the program as students. Then, as now, students were hosted in home of local Rotarians. Many of the participants made the cross-country journey by train (for some a 3 day affair) to be part of the program.



Picture – Prime Minister Louis St. Laurent



Picture – Adventure Group 1952 - luncheon

1958 – Fly Day first began. In the 58 subsequent years, the Ottawa Flying Club and our club have partnered to raise over \$300,000 for the children of Easter Seals and subsequently the Ottawa Rotary Home.



1964 -- The Rotary Club of Ottawa established a fund leading to the creation of the Ottawa Crippled Children's Treatment Centre, a rehabilitation centre and school for children with disabilities. It is still in operation today, under the auspice of the CHEO.



1980's - Over the years the Rotary Club of Ottawa has sponsored the formation of some 20 other Rotary Clubs, including a number within Ottawa. It was during the 80's that most of these clubs were formed with the base of members from the downtown club.



1982 – the Rotary Club of Ottawa built the Rotary Home for Crippled Children (now the Ottawa Rotary Home) on Rochester Street in 1982. The ground-breaking ceremony was in August, 1981. This was the first such facility established in the world.



Rotary Home 1991

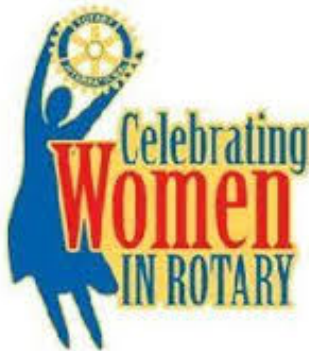
Photo: Philip Doyle

1982 - With the advent of telethons the club organized an annual Easter Seals appeal with a local TV station. This was a huge



operation involving program planning, texts, special interviews and liaison with the TV station staff. We were in fact the Producers. In addition, the Club provided personnel to man the telephones. The club was greatly aided by Dave Smith and Steve Madely who conducted interviews and urged viewers to donate. Both of these gentlemen were awarded Paul Harris Fellowships by the Club for their great contribution over the years to the telethons' success. We would raise on average about \$200,000 each year.

1990 – Saw the introduction of women members into the Rotary Club of Ottawa.



Of interest, long before women Rotarians there were the “Women of Rotary”. Established in this club during the 1930’s, I quote “this was a sociable group of wives and daughters who supported the work of their husbands in Rotary”. The Women of Rotary functioned actively for 60 years into the 1990’s and were the prime movers in billeting adventurers, fundraising events, etc. The wife of John McCalla, Joan, was one of the last presidents of this auspicious group.

1993 - Inaugurated the first annual Youth Citizenship Award to recognize graduating students who showed exceptional qualities of good citizenship by our youth, the very persons who will soon become the leaders of our society. The presentation of this award continues until present. We work in partnership with Lisgar Collegiate



1996 -- Another publicity and fund-raising event initiated by the Club was an “Easter Parade” along downtown Ottawa streets comprised of assorted floats led by an open convertible car containing the Club’s president and the Mayor of Ottawa. Members of the Ottawa Fire Department collected donations from the many curbside onlookers.

Some years ago the Easter Seals Society of Ontario underwent a large re-organisation. Our Club could not meet the very substantial new financial obligation involving in acting as its Agent and so ended its long-term relationship with the Society. The latter now maintains a sizeable staff of professional fund-raisers.

1998 - The Rotary Club of Ottawa was the Executive Agency for a CIDA grant to evaluate Ontario's French-Language Immersion methods and their use in Estonia for students who were Russian speaking. Estonia was faced with the challenge of integrating a significant portion of its population that did not speak the national language. The Ottawa Rotary Club worked with the Toronto District School Board to evaluate skill transfer and training possibilities to establish a national network of Estonian language immersion schools. The Ontario model was determined to be practical and was implemented in five schools in year 2001. Today the Estonian Language Immersion Program is established nationally throughout the system in 34 public schools.

1999 - Sponsored the formation of The Probus Club of Alta Vista, offering a series of lectures and discussions for retired people. It continues to this day.



2000 - Sponsored the formation of The Interact Club, a service club for students attending Lisgar Collegiate Institute. We continue to provide Rotarian leadership to this club.



2001 - Sponsored the formation the Rotaract Club, a service club for students attending the University of Ottawa and young professionals. We continue to provide Rotarian leadership to this club. 2001



2001 - Members of our club participated in the 2001 International Plowing Match. We undertook the responsibility of manning all “Ticket Gates” throughout the weeklong event. We raised \$12,000.00 for club projects with this fundraiser.

International Plowing Match & Farm Machinery Show
EXPO 2001
 September 18-22, 2001
 Navan, Ontario, Canada
 (613) 835-7569
 ipm2001.com

1,500 acres with something for everyone!

800 exhibitors under 1,000,000 square feet of tents in Tented City
 Everything you need for life in the country or a country life in the city.

- Tools, equipment and supplies to manage the great outdoors, whether 1,000 acres, your cottage or your backyard.
- Products and ideas, foods and fashions to reflect a country lifestyle, indoors and out.
- Cars, trucks and RVs to get you around the farm, the woods or the city.

Entertainment
 Continuous programming on 5 stages, showcasing well-known professional entertainers and local school groups and choirs.

Food
 50 vendors to tempt the palate with the usual and the unusual.

Education
 Workshops and seminars for adults. Programmed activities that integrate with the new Ontario school curriculum.

Championship Plowing
 Antique, Horse and Modern plowing with competitors from across the province and beyond.

Antiquities and Historical Displays
 15 acres of restored vehicles and equipment, some rare and unusual, with working displays from as early as the late 1800s.

Machines in Motion
 Demonstrations of some of the newest and finest farm equipment on 100 acres of specially planted crops.

Conservation Area
 200 acres of wood lot and ponds with displays and guided tours of environmentally sensitive logging and farming operations.

Tickets

Adults (ages 16+)	\$10/day
Children (ages 6-15)	\$5/day
Children (under 6)	FREE
Parking and on-site transportation	FREE

Hours: 8:30 am - 5:00 pm
 September 18-22, 2001

Presented by:
 GRENVILLE MUTUAL
 OTTAWA CITIZEN

2002 - Rotary International undertook the most ambitious humanitarian program ever by a private organization with its Polio Plus Program. The mandate of which is to rid the world of this dread disease. Since 1985 Rotary has purchased oral vaccine and sent volunteers to dispense it to countless children around the world. This final push was a campaign lasting for 3 years from 2002 to 2005. This Rotary Club of Ottawa contributed \$18,000 to this project from 2002-2005.

2003 - The Rotary Club of Ottawa hosted a dinner in honour of the President of Rotary International, Richard King. All proceeds of the event were dedicated to the Rotary International Wheelchair Foundation. Club President **Eva Hammond** was honoured that year as a most “*Distinguished President*” by Rotary International, only 2 in Canada to have ever received that award at that point, and certainly

the first woman. Gib and Elsie Patterson hosted President King at the bed and breakfast at Emerald links.

2003 - The Rotary Club of Ottawa formed the *Ottawa Rotary Children's Foundation* to fund and support the charitable purposes of the Rotary Club of Ottawa.



2004 - To promote the “Polio Plus Program” the Rotary Club of Ottawa initiated an exhibit at the Canadian Museum of Science and Technology “Polio 50 Years Later”. The exhibit included an “iron lung” and other medical devices used in the treatment of Polio over the last century. There was a large public launch of the exhibit attended by two cabinet ministers including the Minister of Public Health. The exhibit continues at the Museum.



In addition, Rotarian Eva Hammond and Rotarian Ruedi Mueller each took part in “Rotary National Immunization Days”, traveling to Africa and India to help dispense polio vaccine. Earlier that year Rotarian John Clipsham, travelled to Istanbul and Bursa, Turkey on behalf of Rotary International to audit matching grant programs.

2007 – The Ottawa Rotary Home capital campaign to build a larger facility which could provide respite services for adults and well as for children began in earnest. With the donation of the land by the Halpenny family, and a capital campaign led by Rotarian Patricia Murenbeeld, the new 21 bed



home was opened in 2009. Many of our club members played significant roles in the campaign and building of the facility and continue to provide leadership on its Board of Directors.

2012 – As a partnership between the local Rotary Club and the City of Ottawa a playground for children of abilities was built at Brewer Park. It bears the Rotary name “*Rotary Park of all Abilities*”.



2014 – The Rotary Club of Ottawa committed to providing \$100,000 in scholarship bursaries for graduates of the Operation Come Home Achievement Centre for post-secondary education.



2015 - Led by the Rotary Club of Orleans, our Rotary Club contributed \$30,000 to the Miracle League Field, a fully accessible baseball and recreational facility at the Notre Dame des Champ Park.



2016 – In response to the world crisis of desperate Syrian Refugee families, our club, in partnership with Christ Church Cathedral undertook the sponsorship of one such family. Mohamad and Shoq Othman and their 4 children arrived in February 2016 to the welcoming shelter of our joint committee

THANK YOU!!
100 YEARS OF SERVICE

