

HISTORY

DISTRICT 709 SIXTH EDITION

1980-1989

**ADDITION TO THE
HISTORY
OF
DISTRICT NO. 709
*Rotary International***



1980- 81
District No. 709
District Governor
ALBERT E. BOONE
Rotary Club of Galt, Ontario

Bert Boone, like his predecessor Orv Johnston, is a Real Estate Broker. He is a member of The Canadian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy and The Canadian Institute of Management. He was President of The Cambridge Chamber of Commerce, a Director of The Ontario Chamber for five years, Chairman of the Cambridge Social Planning Council, and Director of The Regional Social Resources Council.

Bert has been a Rotarian since 1957 and a member of four different clubs in three Districts. He is a charter member and Past President of the Galt Club. He served for several years on our District Council and, prior to his election as District Governor, was Coordinator of the Area Representatives.

The District Conference was held in Toronto on April 3-5 with Past V.P. Jules P. Flock of Mantua, Ohio, representing R.I. President Rolf Klarich and the attendance of 1140 was evenly divided between New York and Ontario. It was a wonderful experience in international fellowship with the attendance of our Group Study Team to District 168, France, led by John Graham, and the visiting Group Study Team from District 249, Israel, along with over 90 Exchange Students, and four visiting Rotary Foundation Scholars. Highlighting the Conference was the presentation of a charter to the new Rotary Club of Kitchener-Westmount under the direction of Jack Duffy and Glen Stewart.

Other International events were the twinning of Orchard Park with Dunbar, Scotland; seeds of typical trees sent to "Ataturk Forest" in Turkey, and the shipment of two vans filled with medical and school supplies to Dominica by St. Catharines. Nineteen D.G.N's and their Rotary Anns from the U.K., Australia, New Zealand, and France were our guests while enroute to the R.I. Assembly in Boca Raton.

P.D.G. Terry Williams continued to earn honors for himself and the District with new records for Rotary Foundation contributions. The District exceeded \$650,000.00 in accumulated U.S. funds with the District at 1500% and Niagara Falls, Ontario, leading all of Canada at 7000%. P.D.G. John Morris was appointed our representative to the Zone 2 Advisory Council which coordinates the Canadian Government support to our 3H and WCS projects.

Our District continued to "Serve and Grow" with our average club attendance over 80% and the membership approaching 4400. The second new Club, Woodstock-Oxford was admitted to R.I. in May under guidance of Don Hart and Gerry

The Need To Redistrict

District 709 with its present boundaries was formed in 1957 and grew steadily until it became too large to be handled efficiently. At the end of the 1988-89 year there were 75 clubs with some 4600 Rotarians. Rotary International recommends that districts approaching 60 clubs begin to look into the possibility of redistricting.

After consultation with neighboring districts and considerable internal work over a period of several years, two proposals were developed, neither of which met with approval by Rotarians in the District. The first suggested that the District be divided at the Canadian-United States border. There was a strong feeling that an international district should be maintained. The second proposal was for the creation of two new all-Canadian Rotary Districts. The result would have been two small, rather uneconomic districts and this possibility was discouraged.

In a third effort, in co-operation with District 707 centered in Toronto a final decision was adopted. It created a new District to be numbered 708 consisting of 20 clubs from District 707 and 19 clubs from District 709. Included were all clubs in the counties of Dufferin, Peel, Halton, Wellington, Waterloo and Oxford.

It was felt that this area, which is tied together by Highway 401, would have good facilities for District Conferences and assemblies with excellent Rotary growth potential.

This third proposal was approved by the clubs in both districts and by Rotary International and came into effect on July 1, 1989.

McKerral. Planning and administration were the keynotes at the well attended and effective District Assembly Workshops, and the four District Council meetings. Some reorganization took place at the Area level with the major change in Area 7 which was divided into two more manageable Areas making 11 Areas in all.

The "District History" was updated for re-publication by Norm Ford and P.D.G. Charlie Fogel. The first edition of "District Highlights", published by Don Lavery, was an excellent effort by District 709 Rotarians. Another successful RYLA Seminar was held at Ridley College, St. Catharines. A fine Youth Choir was organized by Hamilton-Mountain and a Rotaract Club with 30 members was chartered by Waterloo. The 60th Anniversary of St. Catharines was a district highlight with over 400 Rotarians and friends in attendance and R.I. President Rolf Klarich as a guest speaker.

The R.I. Convention in Sao Paulo, Brazil, was a great experience in Rotary for over 100 district rotarians and their Rotary Anns with over 16,000 in attendance from 90 countries and speaking more than 40 languages. The District was recognized as D.G. Bert was appointed as an aide to Mother Theresa while she was a guest speaker at the Convention. Stanley E. McCaffery of Stockton, California, was elected R.I. President for 1981-82.

Three district rotarians served on R.I. Committees, P.R.I.D. and Treasurer Gerry Wooll was a member of the Committee to Review the R.I. Committee Structure. P.D.G. Paul Williams served on the Committee to Study the Constitutional Documents of R.I. and P.D.G. Charlie Fogel continued as a member of the Consultative Group.



1981 - 82

District No. 709

District Governor

ERNEST NOTAR

Rotary Club of Niagara Falls, New York

Ernest (Ernie) Notar, a native of Buffalo, New York, began Rotary experience as a member of the Williamsville Club in 1960. In 1963 he joined the Rotary Club of Niagara Falls, New York, with classification of Community Colleges-Administrative and became President of the Club for the 1968-69 year. He graduated from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute with a degree in Civil Engineering. Graduate studies were taken at Cornell University, California Institute of Technology and at the University of Buffalo, where he received his doctorate in Educational Administration.

Following service in the U. S. Navy, he entered into the newly developing Community College field, helping to establish Erie Community College in 1947 and later in 1963 Niagara County Community College where he retired as President in

1975. Among Ernie's community and professional affiliations are the American Society of Engineering Education, American Association of Junior and Community Colleges, Board of Directors of the Health Systems Agency and the Board of Professional Medical Conduct of the State Health Department.

R.I. President Stanley E. McCaffrey's theme for the year was World Understanding and Peace Through Rotary. To complement this theme, Governor Ernie emphasized the need for personal involvement on the Club level in the community to insure success in our international endeavors. At the International Convention held in Dallas, Texas on June 6-10, 1982, Hiroji Mukasa of Japan was elected president for 1982-83. The Rotary Basic Library was first made available at the convention. The delegates approved a resolution to eliminate discrimination for membership on the basis of race, color, creed and national origin.

The Rotary Foundation contributions in the district increased 189% during the year. Interest in Rotary Foundation Scholarships was at an all time high. 72 applications received by the Clubs resulted in 25 interviews by the district for three awards.

The Group Study Exchange Team completed the second half of the exchange program in Israel with District 249. Arrangements were completed for an exchange of teams with District 454 - Brazil for the next two years. The chartering of the New Woodstock-Oxford Club was another highlight in the district. Over 400 Rotarians and friends helped to celebrate this significant event.

The first issue of the district's new color-photo publication "Highlights" was distributed in the late summer of 1981. Approval was given to publish again next year.

A committee to study the Administrative structure of the District was established. It was charged to address itself to the concerns that have been expressed regarding the growth and size of the district, the resultant demanding load on the governor's time and energy and the need for a district office.

The District conference was held at the Niagara Hilton in Niagara Falls, New York on April 2-4, 1982. A highlight of the conference was the presentation of successful projects from around the district. Some 25 Clubs shared their experiences in this showcase of Club activities. P. Richard Frantz, P.D.G. of Pottstown, Pennsylvania, was the President's personal representative.

Four Past District Governors served on Rotary International, Committees this year. Charles M. Fogel was a member of the Consultative Group. We are also pleased to report that Charlie was elected a Director of R.I. for the 1982-84 term. Donald H. Swift was a member of Consultative Group on Service for Young People. Paul R. Williams was a member of the Committee to Study the Constitution and Documents of R.I. Gerald R. Wooll was a member of the Appeals Committee.

Health Sciences at Mohawk College and Associate Clinical Professor in the Faculty of Health Sciences at McMaster. He retired in order to take up his responsibilities as District Governor.

He joined the Rotary Club of Hamilton in 1966 and was its President in 1979. John has been involved in District activities for approximately ten years commencing with the Chairmanship of the District RYLA program during the period of its important growth. He had various responsibilities in the District Council structure and in 1987 he led a Group Study Exchange Team to District 329 centered on West Bengal in India and also in Nepal. This was the first all-women's GSE team from 709 and John was accompanied by his wife, Joyce, who is actively involved in many aspects of Rotary.

His District Conference was held at the Hamilton Convention Centre with Art Richardson acting as the R.I. President's representative. The theme of the Conference was on being intelligently informed as Rotary prepares for the 21st Century.

The Elba Club was lost during the year because the economic unity called Elba essentially disappeared. However, two new very strong morning clubs were chartered - Hamilton Mountain Sunrise and Akron-Newstead. -The Rotary year ended then with 76 clubs in District 709 and 4600 Rotarians.

One of the major events of the year was the launching of the new District 708. Nineteen clubs from 709, all on the Ontario side of the district, became part of 708 on July 1st 1989. These are the clubs of the communities of Kitchener-Waterloo and Cambridge, as well as Burlington and Oakville and, in addition, Woodstock, Tavistock and Tillsonburg. There is every evidence that this is a strong new District, ably led by the first Governor, Robert Harriman.

Inasmuch as the undesignated funds of the Rotary Foundation were not well supported during the active Polio Plus campaign, there was a special effort in 709 this year to increase the donations. Each Club was given a targeted amount. Well over half of the Clubs of the District met or exceeded this target, which together meant that 709 gave a major boost to the Foundation this year.

The District also gave major support to the Jamaican Relief Fund, as initiated by the Rotary Club of Simcoe and its President, Jim Jackson. There has been very careful administration of these monies to aid the Jamaicans following their devastating hurricane.

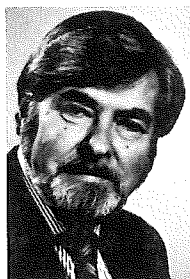
A number of Rotarians from 709 attended the second largest Rotary International Convention in Seoul, Korea. There was also a very successful 709 post-convention tour arranged and led by Past President Vern Asmussen of the Kitchener-Conestoga Club. At the Convention R.I. President Royce Abbey said that Rotary now at the beginning of its 85th year had never had a greater opportunity and responsibility with newfound international recognition because of its great success in Polio Plus, and with its expansion into Hungary and Poland (and 709 specifically hopes in Yugoslavia) and with many other related developments.

It was a great year in Rotary in District 709.

P.R.I.D. Gerry Wooll was a member of the Nominating Committee for President of Rotary International and Chairman for all of Canada for the Polio Plus Campaign. P.D.G. Frederick (Nick) Norton was the official representative to the Council on Legislation and was an instructor at the International Assembly.

Rotary Clubs, the Amherst East Rotary Club was chartered. The club personally received its charter from the incoming President of Rotary International, Royce Abbey. Hamilton Rotary Club celebrated its 75th birthday and R.I. President Nominee Hugh Archer was the speaker at their birthday dinner. The Lewiston/Queenston Rotary Club celebrated its 50th anniversary, and President-Elect Royce Abbey was their birthday dinner speaker. Southshore/Blasdel Rotary celebrated its 20th anniversary. The Polio Plus campaign was completed with the U.S. side of the district raising \$610,923, and the Canadian side \$1,010,710. The total of \$1,621,637. was one of the largest in the world of Rotary. The District Conference at the Ramada Renaissance Hotel was attended by 609 persons and for the first time in many years, every club in the district was represented. Past R.I. Vice-President, Cliff Dochterman, was the R.I. President's representative. The featured speaker at the Governor's dinner was the Hon. Thomas Niles, U.S. Ambassador to Canada. An additional highlight of the dinner was the presentation to Alex Norton of her Paul Harris Fellowship. Also D.G. Nick was elected delegate to the International Council on Legislation.

The International Convention was in Philadelphia where the conclusion of the Polio Plus drive was celebrated. Thereafter, the incoming Board of Directors of R.I. and their staff for the first time met for their organizational meeting in our district at Buffalo, New York. They visited several of our Rotary clubs and were entertained at home hospitality by many Rotary families. After the year was completed and the 75 clubs filed their reports, the district reported to R.I. that 38 clubs had earned presidential citations. This was an all time high and since this was 50% of the total clubs, the district also earned a presidential citation. At the international level, St. Catharines Rotarian Gerry Wooll, served on the nominating committee for R.I. President 1990-91. P.R.I.D. Charlie Fogel continued his activity for Rotary International acting as Advisor to the World Community Service Committee.



1988-89
District No. 709
District Governor
JOHN I. FRID M.D.
 Rotary Club of Hamilton, Ont.

Following active service in the Royal Canadian Navy (1943-45) John Frid graduated from the University of Western Ontario with an M.D. Degree. He then completed his specialty education and became a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada in the Specialty of Rheumatology. In 1957 he became a member of the medical staff of the McGregor Clinic of Hamilton and in due course was privileged to be a part of the original faculty in Health Sciences at McMaster University. He subsequently was invited to establish the Health Science Education programs for the allied health professionals at Mohawk College in concert with McMaster and when he retired he was the Assistant Vice-President,



1982-83
District 709
District Governor
CHARLES D. COMPLIN
 Rotary Club of St. Catharines, Ontario

Charles Complin was born in Rivers, Man. and spent his early years in Toronto, Exeter and Hamilton before coming to St. Catharines in 1942. He was a reporter for the St. Catharines Standard, Manager of the Chamber of Commerce and in charge of industrial relations for several local industries.

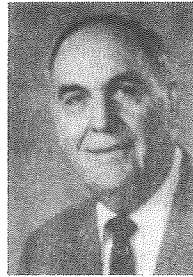
He joined the Rotary Club of St. Catharines in 1945 and was its President in 1967-68 after which much of his time was devoted to District work. He was active in Youth Exchange for nearly 20 years, was a District Director and Co-ordinator of District Activities. He was elected Governor for 1982-83 and emphasized international projects during his year. Of particular interest was the Rotary Foundation. He asked each club to name at least one person as a Paul Harris Fellow during the year to increase the funds available for the work of the Rotary Foundation. He and his wife had both been earlier named Paul Harris Fellows for their work in Youth Exchange. Enough clubs were able to do so that the amount, credited to the Foundation that year reached a new high.

The District Conference was held in late April at the new Hamilton Convention Centre with PDG Gus Vlassis as the International President's representative. The conference theme was "Come Drink Our Wine." One of the highlights was the address by Kenneth Taylor, former Canadian Ambassador to Iran who created great good will with the United States by assisting a group of American citizens to escape persecution following the overthrow of that country's government. Following his address to the Conference both Ambassador and Mrs. Taylor were named Paul Harris Fellows for their contribution to Canadian-American relations. They were part of the 103 new Paul Harris Fellows and 40 Sustaining Members named that year.

One month later the International Convention was in Toronto making it possible for many district Rotarians to attend their first Convention. One of the Convention speakers was a former Youth Exchange Student, Miss Karen Taht of St. Catharines.

The day following the close of the Toronto Convention, R.I. President Dr. Hiroji Mukasa of Japan was the speaker at Hamilton Rotary's 70th Anniversary celebration. That afternoon he and Mrs. Mukasa drove to St. Catharines where he officially opened the International Friendship Gardens of the new 35-acre Rotary Park.

Charles Fogel was an R.I. Director and Liason Director for the Publications Committee. John Morris was a member of the Consultative Group for USCB and Gerry Wooll was a member of the Research Committee as well as a member of the Nominating Committee for President of R.I.



1983- 84
District No. 709
District Governor
HUGH A. SAMPSON
 Rotary Club of Hamburg, New York

Hugh Sampson joined the Rotary Club of Hamburg in 1965 and was its President in 1972-73. He was a Governor's area representative for several years before his choice as Governor for 1983-84.

He was born in Collingwood, Ont., later moving to Fort Erie. He graduated from Queen's University, Kingston, Ont., with a Bachelor of Science Degree. In World War II he joined the Royal Canadian Air Force and served overseas with Bomber Command and with the Pathfinder Squadron, retiring in 1945 with the rank of Squadron Leader. He later organized his own sales organization in the United States.

During his year as Governor there were 102 Paul Harris Fellows created while contributions to the Rotary Foundation rose 9.5% to \$112,807. Clubs that celebrated special anniversaries that year were Woodstock, its 60th; 50 years for Springville, N.Y. and 25 for Hamilton-East Wentworth.

The District Conference was at the Hyatt Regency in Buffalo in May with R.I. Director Geoffrey Pike of R.I.B.I. as the representative of President William Skelton. The conference adopted the theme of "Shuffle Off To Buffalo" honoring the bicentennial of Man's Flight. Col. John Blaha of NASA was one of the principal speakers.

The International Convention in Birmingham, England attracted 91 from this District and was the first ever held in England.

The size of the District and the number of clubs continued to be of concern, but the clubs were unwilling to split the District in two at the Niagara River. It was decided to set up a District office and this was later done in St. Catharines.

The Youth Exchange Program had now grown to become the largest of any individual district in the world. That year a new organization for returned Youth Exchange Students was set up called ROTEX. The year also saw the establishment of the Cal Blachford Memorial Fund for returned exchange students. It was named in honor of a former Youth Exchange Chairman.

Dr. Ed Blair of St. Catharines spent time in Malawi, Africa, preparing for a four-year project in which he would train local medical personnel in surgical techniques. The District provided the financial support.

Two past Governors were active in international affairs. Charlie Fogel served his second year as an International Director in charge of the Publications Committee and John Morris was a discussion leader at the International Assembly.



1987-88
District No. 709
District Governor
FREDERICK (NICK) NORTON
 Rotary Club of Kenmore, N. Y.

Rotary is very much a part of the life of Fred (Nick) Norton. His father was a member and president of the Rotary Club of Kenmore. Nick and his wife, Alex, have hosted 10 Rotary Exchange students, and their three children have all been exchange students. Their oldest son was a District Rylarian. Nick was born in Buffalo, New York, and lives in Kenmore. He is a graduate of Dartmouth College and Yale University Law School. He is a partner in the law firm of Norton/Radin/Hoover/Freedman. In 1961 he joined the Kenmore Rotary Club and in 1976-77 was its president. He is a trustee of the Kenmore Rotary Foundation, Inc. which was organized by his father. Nick served the district on the Youth Exchange Committee, becoming its Chairman in 1982-83. From 1984-87 he was a member of the District's council as a director. He and Alex are Paul Harris Fellows.

The motto for the year established by Rotary International president, Charles Keller, was "Rotarians: United in Service, Dedicated to Peace". Because that was the year of Polio Plus, District Governor Nick created an additional motto to appear with the R.I. motto. The district's motto was: "Dream the Impossible, to do the Improbable." The governor also designed a pin which consisted of crossed American and Canadian flags on a white background upon which an Indian head was superimposed to symbolize the four Indian reservations within the district. Each club president and district officer was given this pin to wear throughout the year. On the governor's visit, each club president was given a chocolate buffalo to remind him of the District Conference to be held in Buffalo, New York. The district's organization was revamped creating the new offices of District Governor's Aides - U.S. and Canada. New district committees were Probus and Retirement Affairs, Publicity and Crisis Control, Rural Affairs, and Rotary Foundation Steering Committee. Fall and Spring dinners for club presidents were begun. A District-wide newspaper, The 709'er, was published and three editions were mailed to each Rotarian. One governor's newsletter was distributed to all Rotarians.

To combat the spread of Chagas disease, the "Bugs" project of the World Community Service Committee was funded with contributions totalling \$32,218.00 from 52 of the clubs. This was the highest percentage (72%) of club participation in a district world community service project. RYLA also had the highest registration to date. District 957 in Australia exchanged Group Study teams with our district. For the first time, the Group Study Exchange Committee agreed to send out two teams in one year. This was the year of women and Rotary. Governor Nick's wife, Alex, had a regular column in the Governor's newsletter and the 709'er. The first woman Rotarian in District 709 was inducted by the District Governor at Elba, New York. The Williamsville Rotary Club founded a ROTEX club at the State University of New York at Buffalo. Sponsored by Amherst North and Clarence

Counties. It is an all-Canadian district with great growth potential. District 709, the Niagara District, is maintained as an international district. A District 708 Transition Committee was formed with co-chairmen Fred Black, P.D.G. from the Rotary Club of Guelph in 707 and Martyn Dabaer from the Rotary Club of Burlington in 709.

Organizational work for Polio Plus was completed in this Rotary year in two parts serving clubs in our two countries. P.D.G. Curt McKown, Rotary Club of Clarence and Paul Baker, Rotary Club of The Tonawandas, headed up the American effort while Lloyd Kirkpatrick, Rotary Club of Dundas, served on the Canadian side. The results of their excellent organizational efforts would be evident a year later. Canada-wide, Past Rotary International Director Gerry Wooll from the Rotary Club of St. Catharines, headed up our Polio Plus efforts. Another District Rotarian, P.R.I.D. Charlie Fogel acted as Vice-Chairman of the World Community Service Committee of R.I.

The District Conference was held at the Toronto Skyline Hotel on May 1, 2, and 3rd, 1987. The President's Representative was Past Rotary International Director Roy Trout and his wife, Ruth, from Chickasha, Oklahoma. Highlights of the conference included the presentation of a Paul Harris Award to guest speaker, the Hon. Stephen Lewis, Canada's Ambassador to the United Nations and the Rotary Foundation Citation for Meritorious Service to Dr. Peter McBryde, Rotary Club of Kitchener, long time member of the Foundation Scholarship Committee and chairman for the past six years. Dr. Ed Blair of the Rotary Club of St. Catharines, a guest speaker, received an individual award from the district for his continuing work with the Malawi Orthopaedic Project. A most memorable moment at the Governor's Ball occurred during the Parade of Flags by Youth Exchange students. The two students from South Africa, a black and a white, carried in their flags together.

During the year the Rotary Club of Buffalo celebrated its 75th anniversary with International President M.A.T. Caparas in attendance. The Rotary Club of Albion observed its 65th anniversary and Dunkirk its 50th.

At the end of his year John expressed greatest pride in two aspects of district operation. Established programs continued to flourish under competent district leaders. Second, the in-coming Governor was involved year-long in planning and preparation for his year, and had a major share in decision making. A close and cultivated relationship paved the way for an easy transition and all possible continuity of effort in 1987-88.



1984 - 85
District No. 709
District Governor
JAMES E. (TED) TURNER
Rotary Club of Preston-Hespeler

This year's Governor was born and raised in Woodstock, Ont. where he was active in the Y's Men's Club. He moved to Galt in 1952 where he became the Charter President of the Grand Valley Chapter of the Canadian Industrial Management Association.

He joined the Rotary Club of Preston-Hespeler in 1972 and was its President in 1976-77. On the District Council he was Chairman of Rotary Information and the Club Extension Committees. He served also as an Area Representative and the Coordinator of Area Reps for the Canadian side of the District. He is President of Canuck Compounders Inc., a reprocessor of plastic materials.

Among the special events during this year was a visit to Yugoslavia of two district Rotarians to establish contact with a Crippled Children's Centre there in the hope that this might lead to the re-introduction of Rotary in Yugoslavia. Several months later the Director of the Centre made a return visit to several crippled children's centres here and this was followed by a visit of one of the country's top surgeons who also inspected our centres and returned much impressed.

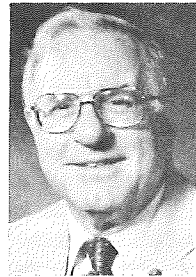
R.I. President Carlos Canseco visited the District for the unveiling of a plaque at the Woodland Indian Cultural Centre in Brantford. Several months later Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth, met with Brantford Rotarians at the same Centre for the re-dedication of Her Majesty's Chapel of the Mohawks which the Brantford Club had helped to refurbish.

The RYLA Program had grown so quickly that it was now expanded to two programs each lasting a week at Ridley College. A Miracle Fund was established in support of Rotary's Polio 2005 Program, planning to eliminate polio from the world by that date. The clubs provided the funds to inoculate 242,323 children while 29 new Paul Harris Fellows were created. Contributions from the District to the Rotary Foundation reached a new high of \$123,000. The Kitchener-Conestoga Club donated \$30,000. toward the construction of an operating theatre in the training hospital in Malawi, Africa.

The Oakville-West Club was chartered under the sponsorship of Oakville and Oakville-Trafalgar.

The District Conference was held in Kitchener for the first time with Philip Lindsey, Associate General Secretary of R.I. representing the President. Principal speaker at the Governor's Banquet was The Rev. Robert Rumball, an authority on working with the deaf. The Rotary Club of Delhi, with only 11 members, the smallest club in the District, was recognized with a special achievement Award at the Conference for undertaking the construction of a building for Senior Citizens at

a cost of several millions of dollars. The R.I. Convention was held in Kansas City where Dr. Ed Cadman of Wenatchee, Wis. was elected President for the coming year.



1985-86
District No. 709
District Governor
CURTIS H. MCKOWN
Rotary Club of Clarence, New York

Curtis H. McKown began his Rotary career in 1960 as Charter President of The Rotary Club of Clarence, New York. He held this position for the club's first two fiscal years.

Akron, Ohio, was Curt's birthplace and he lived in that area until 1943, the year of his entry into active Army service. During World War II Curt served in the U.S. Army at a post located in Prince Rupert, British Columbia. He was later commissioned a Lieutenant and saw service in New York City, Albany and Nyack, New York.

When the war was over, Curt went to work for the Manufacturers and Traders Trust Co. of Buffalo, from which he retired as an Assistant Vice-President after 36 years of service. It was during the early years of this service that he attended the University of Buffalo at night and received a diploma from its School of Management.

"You Are The Key" was the theme given to Curt as he began his year of training in Nashville, Tennessee under R.I. President, Dr. Ed Cadman. Curt carried this theme to each member of every club in 709 during his official visits and throughout the Rotary year.

Growth in the district was outstanding with the chartering of three new Rotary Clubs during the year and a fourth ready to charter. This also meant that it was now time to consider creating a new Rotary district. Meetings were held with several Canadian District Governors for the purpose of studying the best approach to create one or more strong districts without eliminating the strength of an international district. This was done through the creation of Rotary District 708 from clubs in District 707 and 709 to be effective July 1, 1989.

The District Conference was held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Buffalo. We were most fortunate to have had Past R.I. Vice-President Dave Smith and his charming wife Jodie join the conference as the personal representative of R.I. President Ed Cadman.

Internationally P.R.I.D. Charlie Fogel served as USCB Vice-Chairman of the World Community Service Committee on which P.R.I.D. Gerry Wooll was also active.



1986-87
District No. 709
District Governor
JOHN K. GRAHAM
Rotary Club of Oakville, Ont.

John retired from a career in public service in 1985. He had served for more than twenty years as a School Inspector and School Superintendent in Oakville and in the Region of Halton. Special education programs and services were a particular interest and responsibility. Over more than thirty years he built up a strong record of voluntary community service in the human services field and upon retirement was elected to the Council of the Town of Oakville and also to the Regional Council, a role comparable to that of the American County Legislator.

A member of the Rotary Club of Oakville since 1971, John served as president in 1976-77. Subsequently, he served in many capacities at the district level.

The Rotary year 1986-87 was a strenuous and productive one. President M.A.T. Caparas recognized our district with a Presidential Citation, one of only two Canadian districts so recognized that year.

During the year our district completed its tenth Group Study Exchange, our first with a team made up of women. Hamilton Rotarian Dr. John Frid and his wife, Joyce, headed the team to District 329 in India, a district around Calcutta.

With Rotary's emphasis on the needs of seniors, the first Probus Club in North America was formed at Galt on April 29, 1987, a club for seniors retired or facing retirement from professional or business roles. The club was chartered with 89 members. With the persistent leadership of P.D.G. John Morris other Rotary clubs began to explore the potential for Probus in their communities.

Two new Rotary clubs were formed. Gordon German, Rotary Club of Burlington organized the Rotary Club of Burlington-Central, sponsored by his club and by the Rotary Club of Burlington-Lakeshore. Second, the Rotary Club of Niagara County Central was sponsored jointly by the Rotary Clubs of Niagara Falls, New York and Lockport. District Governor's representatives Joseph Weber and Jim Briody served from the two clubs respectively. Both are breakfast clubs.

With 73 clubs our international district had become too large. Since 1981 options had been considered to divide District 709 or to create one or more new districts in co-operation with our neighbors. With assistance and positive response from District Governor Jack Millar of District 707 who also headed a district of comparable size, the necessary steps were taken locally and with the Board of Rotary International to create a new district of 39 or more clubs to be effective July 1, 1989. Twenty clubs came from 707, 19 from 709. This is the first change to District 709 since its formation in 1957-58.

The new district 708 will be made up of clubs from three regions and three counties: Peel, Halton and Waterloo Regions, Dufferin, Wellington and Oxford