

ROTA TELLER

ROTARY CLUB OF KINGSTON / FRONTENAC
BOX 29008, KINGSTON, ONTARIO K7M 8W6
CHARTERED 1966

Club No. 01-7040-0004577



Club meets WEDNESDAYS at 6:15 p.m. at the Travelodge Hotel (LaSalle) 2360 Princess Street

For The Record - What Fred Richmond Said at the Centennial Lunch

Good afternoon. So much to share, so little time!

Bill, put a lid on it. Folks, HOLD ON TO YOUR BOOTSTRAPS!

In the mid 60s, Rotarians from District 7040 and the Rotary Club of Kingston realized that the time was ripe to expand the outreach of Rotary in the greater Kingston area.

A select group of twenty-five new "Rotarians" were recruited to form the nucleus of the new club, the club that would soon be renowned for its evening brand of fellowship.

Of the original Charter Members, two continue to play a very active role in the Club today: Bernie Breen and Roy Ford.

The Club prospered and, by the early 80s, had fifty-seven members. We are now 26 strong. In 1995, our first female member was inducted. It was long overdue and our female members have done much to strengthen the club and its ability to serve the objects of Rotary.

The longest ongoing community project, from around 1968, has been our support for seniors at Fairmount Home. We have donated in excess of \$50,000 for a number of capital projects.. An extremely rewarding involvement at Fairmount has been the monthly musical concerts and bingo. Prime movers of these events have been Eric Truman, Joe Watts, Charlie Mooney, Joe Vickers, Gord Lindsay, Don Hart, and Clay Elston.

A very successful event in the late 60s and early 70s was the annual Fishing Derby for mentally challenged children. For this event, the fish "took over" the swimming pool at Roy Ford's Green Acres Motel. The kids enjoyed it immensely.

We helped with fund raising for the building of "Centre 70", equipping the kitchen at the new Catarauqui Community Centre and installing the timing clocks at Centre 70 and Ernestown arenas. Our archives also tell of a major grant we made for a physiotherapist education project at Kingston General Hospital and of another to St. Mary's of the Lake Hospital for equipping of their minor surgery room.

The Centre '70 project was celebrated in July, 1970 when the Club sponsored a gala picnic at the Kingston Airport...a "Thank You Day" to honour all the residents of the Township for their support for the new recreation centre. The day long festivity featured a wide range of activities from sky diving to marching bands, with hot dogs and soft drinks for only 5 cents each.

In '77, and again in '98, the International Plowing Match came to Kingston. The Club was front and centre in the eyes and hearts of visitors hosting a "refreshment tent". In '77, incessant rains turned the grounds into a sea of mud but I understand the "refreshment tent" was a welcome haven where swamp weary visitors could get a welcome smile, a joke or two about the weather, and some nourishment for the soul.

One of our most satisfying projects has been the establishment of Rotary Park. Initiated in the late '70s, it transforming a vacant piece of land into an everlasting source of enjoyment. It commanded the activities of the Club for a number of years involving lengthy negotiations with Government agencies, a heavy financial commitment of our limited resources and the toil and sweat of all Club members. We enjoyed endless hours of good fellowship.

Special accolades must be made to Martin Reid, Joe Watts, Bliss Kelly and Ken Jeffery.

A highlight of the picnics in the years following the opening of the Park was the Bathtub Races in which local dignitaries and out of town guests raced their high speed tubs around the designated course in Collin's Bay. Flora MacDonald was almost convinced to give up her day job and take up racing professionally.

This past summer saw the three Kingston Rotary Clubs combine their efforts in honour of Rotary's centenary to give a face lift and upgrade of facilities at the Park.

Pancake breakfasts and barbeques have been the order of the day on many an occasion. Christmas parade floats have been sponsored. Cooperative efforts have supported the launch of the Easter Seal Telethon and aid in the Red Seal Appeal and Christmas Kettle for the Salvation Army. Funding went to Kairos, CNIB, Literacy Kingston, the YMCA, etc. Extra attention has been given to many "special" individuals' needs...needs that fell through many of our "social nets".

Just as the Kingston club did in '66, together with Kingston Rotarian John Holland, we stepped forward as co-sponsor to the Rotary Club of Cataraqui-Kingston in 1985. It was my personal pride to participate in this special event...as you can see, Kingston is all the better for their presence.

In 1991, the Township of Kingston awarded the Club a Civic Award for "Outstanding Contribution to the Community".

Early International projects include

- supporting Father Petrin's mission in India.:
 - donating to a community in Ghana to drill a well.
 - building a library in Columbia,
 - funding and delivering an outfitted ambulance to a rural hospital in El Salvador,
 - digging a community well for a village in Columbia
- and in the construction of a water purification system for a hospital in Harare, Zimbabwe.
In this area of service, "Mr. Rotary", Joe Vickers was very active and dedicated.

In recent years, Gord Lindsay seized the torch and has been instrumental in spearheading projects for providing beds and medical equipment to a needy hospital in Jamaica and for a large shipment of children's books to that same area. Gord is also a multiple winner of the Rotarian of the Year Award.

Last year, in conjunction with a club in Ottawa, Barbara Borjal secured the transportation of school books

to a region of the Philippines. She further defined her commitment to international service as a Rotary volunteer in community work in the Philippines. Another member, Dorma Grant, who just recently "went AWOL" to the Cataraqi club, inspired us all with her volunteered personal time and travel on a number of International projects.

We take pride in supporting Polio Plus from 1985, to recent efforts working with Napanee's Mark Hanley in the booksale fundraising project.

We are proud of the number of students accepted for scholarships to represent our club in the Ambassadorial Scholarship programme. Several of our members have enjoyed acting as counselors for visiting students from abroad.

Hosting visiting "non-Rotarians" and sponsoring outgoing participants of Group Study Exchange has furthered our appreciation of many different life styles from around the world and supported those, on the exchange, to learn from their travels.

From 1985, our Club has sent and received many students through Youth Exchange...much to the shared learning experience for the students and the host families. The Club has gained tremendously not only from the students but also from those contributing significantly such as Jack Chong who was named Rotarian of the Year in 1991 for his efforts in the exchange.

We maintain bursaries for combined accomplishment in both academics and sports, one each to four local highschools, with another added this past year to include Sydenham. Members traditionally attend the graduation ceremony at each school in order to meet the winner and to extend our congratulations. Over the years, we have also participated in a number of career days.

In the late 90s, we added a bursary for St. Lawrence College.

Our Club supports Rotary Youth Leadership Award. We have been well rewarded, hosting a BBQ for the students when in Kingston and listening to the returning recipient describe the advantages of the leadership training.

Club Service is recognized for membership development, Club programs and special events, and the publication of the bulletin (our "Rota Teller").

Preparing the Rota Teller is a time consuming "labour of love" representing the critical bond holding members together with information of Club activities. We thank all past editors as well as the Pulitzer ready, Gord Lindsay.

Guest speakers have been excellent, inspiring a number of projects. People from all walks of life have given us the inside track on matters of community, national, and international interest. We had the pleasure to hear that great orator, John Diefenbaker. No matter what your political persuasion, old John had the ability to keep you entertained.

Over the years, our Sergeants-At-Arms have contributed greatly to the overall good spirit of the Club. As highly dedicated Rotarians and having a great sense of humour we have two long service nominees for Oscars.....Roy Holloway and Bill Murray.

Another dependable source of entertainment has been our Club "sing song". Eric Truman and Joe Watts had been a major source of musical frivolity, making the evening a bit more fun when on deck. Sadly, they

are missed and have not been replaced.

Dedication to Rotary, good fellowship and a predilection for high jinks are the hallmark of our Club. The annual installation of our executive has always been a time of great merriment as well as a time of reflection over the accomplishments of the past year and insight to the challenges ahead. Upcoming years should be no different.

Fundraising came from the sale of Rotary Peanuts, Christmas bouquets, raffle tickets, "Strike-It-Rich" nights, and the sale of Nevada tickets at Lorne Wilson's Mr. Donuts.

On the heels of our Rotary Park project, the Club had a significant debt to retire. Director, Don Harrison, got us a spot at the newly opened Bingo Palace on Gardiner's Road. Bingo continues to this day as a very good source of income.

Thanks to the same "AWOL" member, Dorma Grant, and also Barbara Borjal's pioneering efforts, we now have a very successful upcoming third annual craft fair....successful in fundraising, fellowship and, I think, community image.

From the founding of the Club through to recent years, wives of members played an important role as members of the Kingston – Frontenac Rotaryans.

Their dedicated efforts provided significant contributions to a wide variety of community projects.

They organized Christmas concerts and social events in support of their own projects and in conjunction with the Club activities. They compiled, published and sold "Rotaryann's Favourite Recipes" during the presidency of Betty Jeffery in 1981 to help with Rotary Park.

The support given to the Club and to the community by the Rotaryans is missed They should be justifiably proud of their many projects. To help fill this void and keep partners as fully involved in Rotary as possible, the Club has increased the number of Club events in which partners are invited to join in.

In honour of the request made by Rotary International on this, our centenary, I am happy to say how happy we are with

- our successful Rotary Park upgrade,
 - our supporting of the Philippine projects and the Kingston club's efforts in AGAPE, Mexico, and a possible twinning with a club in Bacolod in the Philippines.
- They are wonderful accomplishments and promise to lead to even better things.

As was written by the District Governor, in acknowledgement of the efforts by Kingston Rotarian Bill Westlake upon the successful induction of the Rotary Club of Kingston – Frontenac:

"Congratulations you old salesman. I knew you would come through! It must have given you a wonderful thrill and I know your members will be most thrilled with the outcome."

We are.