

From the Mayor's Desk

iLove Creston – September 2011 issue

DRAFT as at August 11, 2011

I am proud to be a ROTARIAN!!!

In October 2001, I had the honour of becoming a Creston Valley Rotary Club member. It's hard to believe that next month I will celebrate 10 years of membership with perfect meeting attendance!

Our Rotary Club meets every Tuesday at 7AM and if we are away on the day of our weekly Club meeting, we are encouraged to attend a "make-up" meeting. This means attending another Rotary Club meeting, either locally or anywhere in the world we may be travelling. In my last 10 years, or approximately 510 meetings, I have attended 48 other Club meetings. Locations for these meetings have included: Chinatown in New York City; Chinatown in downtown Vancouver; Toronto ; Halifax; Gainesville; Florida; and, Jackson, Mississippi.

You may wonder, "What does this have to do with serving as Mayor?" My response is that belonging to Rotary International has given me a great sense of being able to serve my community, in both the local and global contexts. Additionally, membership in Rotary has enhanced both my leadership skills and service values.

The concept of a weekly Rotary meeting was created by Paul Harris in 1905. Paul, as a young attorney in the big city of Chicago, and three friends met in rotation at each other's businesses. From these early meeting rotations, ROTARY evolved. Today, Rotary International has over 1.2 million members, in over 34,000 Clubs, in over 200 countries around the world. Good things have a way of catching on!





The Creston Valley is fortunate to have two local Rotary Clubs. The Club I belong to has 34 active members. The second Creston Rotary Club, which meets every Wednesday at noon, has over 40 active members. These Clubs have provided the community with numerous valuable projects: the Millennium Park project; the Wildlife Viewing Tower; the Water Splash project; and, the new play gym project at Centennial Park. Additionally, our members volunteer at the Erickson Elementary School Breakfast program and we provide funding to many other local organizations that support youth and seniors in our communities.



At the international level, Rotary has supported many projects including "END POLIO NOW". This project has raised over \$500 million in 25 years to eradicate polio worldwide. Additionally, we sent funds to the recent Japan Tsunami, Earthquake and Nuclear Crisis; the Haiti Earthquake (with our participation in the Shelter Box Program). Additionally, both local Clubs have been strong supporters of, and volunteers for, programs in Honduras that included community development, water projects and education programs.



The fundraising highlight of most Rotary projects, locally or internationally, is that 100% of the funds raised go directly to the specific project itself. There are no major administration fees or deductions because all Rotary Clubs consist of dedicated volunteers committed to "Service Above Self".

I am honoured to be a Rotarian and proud of my upcoming 10 years of membership.