

*The Rotary Club of* **Sackville**  
NEW BRUNSWICK

1931-2021



Charles H.H. Scobie



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Sackville, NB, Canada

2021

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Published by the Rotary Club of Sackville, New Brunswick, Canada

Printed in Canada, May 2011. Digital Update, May 2021.

ISBN 978-0-9869649-0-9

Designed by Leslie Van Patter

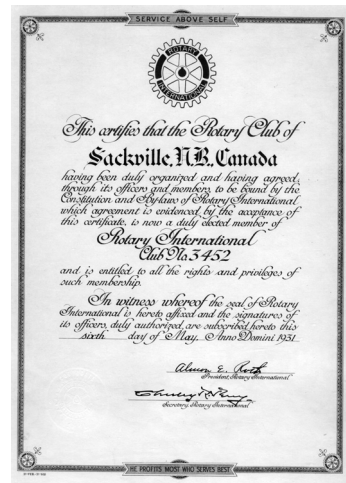
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## PREFACE

THE ROTARY CLUB OF SACKVILLE, New Brunswick, began on 14 April 1931 when a group of seventeen local business and professional men held a meeting and resolved to form a club in Sackville. The first lunch meeting was held on 29 April 1931, and the official inauguration of the club took place at a banquet held in Mount Allison Ladies' College on 2 June 1931 when the club's charter was presented by the Governor of District 32.

The original charter document was preserved over the years, and at one point it was carefully framed. It resurfaced in May of 2019 and at a special meeting of the club, held in the Ralph Pickard Bell Library of Mount Allison University on 30 May 2019, it was entrusted into the safe keeping of the University Archivist David Mawhinney for deposit in the Archives. The charter, dated 6 May 1931, certifies that the Rotary Club of Sackville, New Brunswick Canada “is now a duly elected member of Rotary International Club No. 3452.” The document is signed by the President of Rotary International for 1930-31, Almon E. Roth of Palo Alto, California, and by the long-time Secretary of Rotary International, Chesley R. Perry.



*The Club Charter, 6 May 1931*

The anniversary of the founding of the club has been observed every ten years and in 2001 the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary was marked by the publication of a short historical account. The 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2011 saw the publication of another volume, *The Rotary Club of Sackville New Brunswick 1931-2011* (Sackville, N.B.: The Rotary Club of Sackville, 2011) which aimed to provide a comprehensive record of the club's history. With the approach of the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2021 it was decided to compile a supplement to the 1931-2011 volume, covering the 9<sup>th</sup> decade of the club's life from 2011 to 2021.

The Rotary Club of Sackville is fortunate in that it has fairly extensive archival material in the safe keeping of the Mount Allison University Archives. The Club is very appreciative of this service that the University renders to the community. From the very outset the club published a weekly bulletin; most (though not all) of these have been preserved and they provide a great deal of essential information on the operation and activities of the club. Other documents, letters and photos help round out the picture, along with the personal reminiscences especially of some of the club's more senior members.

Like most historians, I have been able to some extent to build on the labours of my predecessors. In 1963 the first President, Dr. Norman Hesler, wrote an account of the organization of the club covering the events leading up to its formation in 1931. A supplement to the *Sackville Tribune-Post* published in April 1981 to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary includes a detailed article by Rotarian Gerald Rimmington on "The Founding of the Sackville Rotary Club," as well as other valuable historical information. Another supplement published in April 1991 for the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary and edited by Rotarian Peter Penner provides a useful update. I have made use of these documents, though wherever possible I have checked the primary sources, and have used them to supplement these earlier accounts.

My thanks go to the President and Board of the club for commissioning this account and for their continuing interest and encouragement during its writing. Thanks also to club members who contributed information and who read the manuscript. A very special thanks to Leslie Van Patter for all her work in designing the original book and the supplement.

Charles H.H. Scobie  
Sackville, New Brunswick  
April 2021

## THE FIRST EIGHTY YEARS

ON 14 APRIL 1931 a group of seventeen business and professional men in Sackville, New Brunswick met in Miss Sprague's Tally Ho Tea Room in College Place and resolved unanimously to form a Rotary Club in Sackville. The following day a wire was received from Rotary headquarters in Chicago reading, "One Hundred and Fifty-Five Thousand Rotarians throughout world welcome formation Sackville Club."

The groundwork for the formation of the new club had been laid some time previously. Correspondence exists from 1929 onwards documenting the efforts of Jim Norton, a C.N.R. freight agent, "an ardent Rotarian," and a member of the Rotary



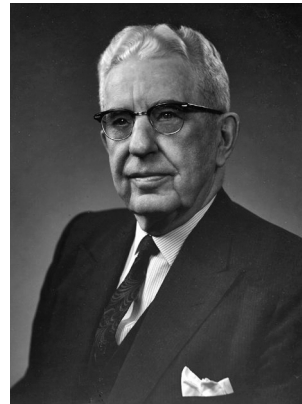
*On 19 February 2009, under the direction of Pam Harrison (left), Muriel Stirling (playing Gus Loehr), Charlie Scobie (Sylvester Schiele), Frank Chisholm (Hiram Shorey) and Wynn Meldrum (Paul Harris) re-enact the first Rotary meeting on 23 February 1905.*

Club of Moncton, NB, to interest people in Sackville in Rotary. As is well known, the Rotary movement traces its origins to Chicago lawyer Paul Harris who in 1905 invited three friends to begin meeting with him on a weekly basis. While the movement developed over the years the essentials were there from the beginning: a fellowship of business and

professional people, representing a cross-section of the community, and devoted to the ideal of "Service Above Self." Indeed Rotary was the original "service club" of modern times. By 1931 it was already a widespread international movement, and when the Sackville club was formed it became Rotary Club #3452.

Prior to the 14 April meeting, two preliminary meetings of interested persons had already been held in Sackville, one in December 1930 and another on 2 April 1931. While Norton and the Moncton Club took the lead, other clubs were also involved, and at the meeting on 2 April Rotarians from the Saint John, NB club and the Truro, NS club were also present.

On the Sackville side the successful launching of the new club was due in no small measure to the efforts of Norman A. Hesler. Hesler already had an impressive track record in business when he was appointed in 1923 to take over the management of the Fawcett Foundry which was reorganized in 1931 as Enamel and Heating Products Ltd with Hesler as President and Managing Director. He went on to chalk up an unparalleled record of service to the local community and to Mount Allison University. It is clear that the leaders of the local community regarded him with respect, and he was the obvious choice for first President of the club. After serving his term as President he continued as a valued member and supporter of the club until resigning in 1962. In August 1978 he was warmly welcomed back on a return visit to the club on the occasion of his 91<sup>st</sup> birthday.



*Norman A. Hesler*  
(Mount Allison University  
Archives No. 2007.07/1217)

The first official weekly luncheon meeting of the Rotary Club of Sackville was held on 29 April 1931. The club received its charter at a banquet held in the Mount Allison Ladies' College on 2 June 1931 at which Jim Norton presided. Some 40 visiting Rotarians were present, and Moncton, as the sponsoring club, presented the new club with a Rotary bell and gavel (for calling Rotarians to order!) which are still in use. The presentation of the charter was made by George J. Smith, Governor of Rotary District No. 32. The original charter document has been carefully preserved, duly signed by the President of Rotary International for 1930-31, Almon E. Roth (of Palo Alto,

California), and the long-time Secretary of Rotary International, Chesley R. Perry, and stamped with the official seal of Rotary International. The list of charter members reads like a roll call of the business and professional leaders of the community. In alphabetical order, they were: Henry L. Berman, F.B. Black, Leslie C. Carey, Frank W. Cole, A.B. Copp, C. Maurice P. Fisher, Charles L. Gass, Harold S. Hamer, Norman A. Hesler, Thomas Bedford Horsler, C.A. Maxwell, Harold W. McKiel, Arthur G. Putnam, William C. Raworth, Fred T. Tingley, George J. Trueman and Frank L. West. With Norman Hesler as President, Rotarians Charles Gass as Vice-President, Frank West as Secretary, C.A. Maxwell as Treasurer, and Maurice Fisher as Sergeant-at-arms made up the first slate of office-bearers.

Rotary traditionally has distinguished four “Avenues of Service”: Club Service, Vocational Service, Community Service and International Service. In keeping with the first of these, all members are expected to play their part in ensuring the smooth and efficient running of the club and its adherence to Rotary goals and principles. Over the years the Sackville club has been well served by those who have held office and served on committees. A complete list of Presidents and Secretaries of the club from 1931 to the present day will be found in Appendix A.

Membership in the club saw a gradual growth from the original 17 members – to 19 in 1933 and 27 in 1937. Unfortunately, newsletters have not survived from the period 1939 to 1944 covering most of the Second World War. Several members of the Club served their country with distinction. C. Fred Johns served in the Royal Canadian Air Force and rose to the rank of Air Vice-Marshal; his outstanding engineering skills won him a position in charge of all buildings and facilities for the air forces of the Commonwealth. W.T. Ross Flemington entered the chaplaincy service and rose to be Principal Protestant Chaplain for the Canadian armed forces with the rank of Colonel. George Stanley served in the Canadian army, retiring with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. Jake Fisher also served in the army with the Canadian Intelligence Corps.

Joe Atkinson and Jim Purdy both served in the navy on board ships escorting Atlantic convoys. Others supported the war effort on the home front; Maurice Fisher, for example, served as chairman of the Civilian Volunteer Corps.

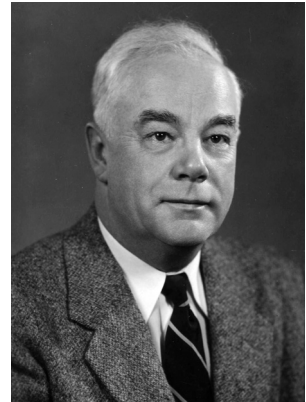
Despite the war years, membership of the Club had risen to 37 by 1945, and to 39 by 1946. From 1950 to 1980 membership fluctuated around the 40 mark. Thereafter a brief rise in membership, with a high of 51 in 1984, was followed by a decline in the late 1980s and 1990s to around 20 at the end of the century. At the time this seemed to be part of a general trend experienced by service clubs and similar organizations; younger members of the community, for business, family and other reasons, seemed less willing and able to make the necessary commitment of time, service and financial support. The new century (and the new millennium!), however, saw a remarkable change in the club. A new spirit seemed to prevail and new members, especially younger ones, were recruited. Membership gradually rose again until by 2011 it was close to 40.



*Club Photo, 2003*

It has always been felt important that new members not only be welcomed into the fellowship of Rotary but also that they become well informed regarding the aims and organization of Rotary. To this end “fireside meetings” have been held regularly in the homes of Rotarians to which both newer members and “old hands” are invited for an informal gathering which includes questions and discussion. In 2010 a system of “mentoring” was introduced with new members being paired with more senior members.

Through its “classification” system Rotary ensures as wide a representation as possible from the various businesses and professions in the community. A feature of the Sackville club’s membership from the outset has been the participation of members from Mount Allison University, something which over the years has played an important role in bridging any possible “Town-Gown” divide. George J. Trueman, President of Mount Allison from 1923 to 1945, was a charter member of the club, as were faculty members Harold S. Hamer, Harold W. McKiel and Frank L. West. W.T. Ross Flemington, though not a charter member, joined the club in 1931, and became President of Mount Allison in October of 1945; he remained a Rotarian until relinquishing the Presidency in 1962. William S.H. “Big Bill” Crawford, President of Mount Allison from 1975 to 1980, was also a member, as was Donald Wells, President from 1986 to 1990, and Wayne MacKay, President from 2001 to 2004.



*W.T. Ross Flemington*  
(Mount Allison University  
Archives No. 2007.07/554)

As an organization of business and professional people it was natural that in 1905 and for decades thereafter Rotary should be regarded as a men’s organization. Changes in society and especially in the role of women in business and the professions led Rotary International in 1986-87 to reassess its criteria for membership and to pass legislation permitting clubs to admit qualified women as members. Marion Holder, Tantramar Regional High School teacher and Principal, holds the distinction of being the first woman member of the Rotary Club of Sackville (1989); she was proposed for membership by Rotarian Dr. Alfred Linkletter. She was also the first woman to serve as President (1994-95). Other women who have served as President are Sharon Meldrum (1998-99), Nancy Gilbert (1999-2000), Pam Harrison (2000-01), Leslie Van Patter (2004-2006) and Sandy Harper (2007-08). At a time when not all Rotary clubs in the world have women members and some are content with a token few, the Sackville Club has led the way; by 2011 representation of men and women was running close to 50-50.

At the core of Rotary is the weekly meeting. Over the years this has been held in a variety of locations. The first meeting on 29 April 1931 was held at the Sunny Side Tea Room on Charles Street, but already by June a move by the proprietress, Mrs. Strain, to raise the cost of the weekly lunch from 50 cents to 65 cents prompted a move to the Hill Top Inn on Main Street! The club seems to have believed in shopping around: in 1932 it moved to Richardson's Restaurant, in 1934 to Tower's Restaurant, though in 1936 it began an association with the Marshlands Inn which lasted until 1953. After a couple of years at the Oddfellows Hall, meetings moved to the Legion Hall in 1955, then to the Kinsmen's Hall in 1968, followed by the Gallery Restaurant, Mount Allison University, and the Marshlands Inn again. From the start the weekly meeting had been a mid-day luncheon one. After the club moved to the Drew Nursing Home in 1996 a significant change was made with a switch to an early morning (7:15 a.m.!) breakfast meeting. This allowed the entry into the club of a number of new members who, for business or other reasons, found it difficult to make time to attend during the day. In 2007 the club moved to its present location, George's Roadhouse, on Lorne Street opposite the CN railway station. By night, an award-winning venue for live music, on Thursday mornings George's hosts the Rotary Club breakfast. In 2008 club members built a ramp at the front of the building allowing wheel-chair access for honorary member Laing Ferguson.

Most weekly Rotary meetings feature a guest speaker and the list of speakers and topics over the years makes interesting reading! The early years also featured the occasional in-house debate; on 17 April 1933, for example, members debated the motion, "Resolved that Music has been and will be of more benefit to the human race than Medicine." Of more than passing interest was a debate on 26 April 1939 on the topic, "Should Canada have a national flag?" Although Mount Allison faculty member Dr. George F.G. Stanley was a Rotarian at the time (he had joined the club in November 1937) the weekly newsletter does not record his participation in the debate. Dr. Stanley who later taught at Royal Military College returned to Sackville in 1969 as Head of the new Canadian Studies Program. He is known for the role he played in the



*Dr. Stanley and his wife Ruth, with the Rotary Club of Sackville (Millennium Photo: 2000)*

design of the new Canadian flag adopted in 1965, and after retirement from Mount Allison he went on to serve as Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick from 1982 to 1987. In December 1987, 50 years after attending his first meeting of the Rotary Club of Sackville, he was made an honorary member. Members of the club honoured him and his wife Ruth at a special lunch meeting on 16 March 2000.

Guest speakers have continued to be a major feature of the weekly program, though Club Assemblies are scheduled once a month to discuss the business and activities of the club. Mount Allison University is a rich source of speakers with both faculty and students often addressing the club. Each new Rotarian is expected to give a “classification talk”, and members often remark that the addresses given by our own members are among the best!

Music played an important role in the club in its early years, due almost entirely to the efforts of charter member Harold Hamer, Professor of Music at Mount Allison University, who remained an active member until he left Sackville in 1949. In October 1931 he compiled a song book for the use of the club, although the official Rotary Song Book was adopted in 1936. Harold also promoted the appreciation of music in frequent talks to the club, as well as getting members actively involved in a succession of concerts. For many years a sing-song was a regular feature of club meetings, and Philip Bishop was the pianist for a number of years. The weekly sing-song fell by the wayside only after the departure of Andy McNichol who served as pianist in the 1970s and 1980s. More recently, singing has been largely confined to the weekly renditions (of varying quality) of “O Canada.”



*Harold S. Hamer*  
 (Mount Allison University  
 Archives No. 2007.07/1216)

From the start the activities of the club were chronicled in a weekly newsletter the format of which varied with the advance of technology. The first newsletters were printed in purple ink using an old-fashioned, hand-operated Gestetner duplicating machine. In 1946 the weekly bulletin became “The Spokesman”, followed in 1951 by “The Tantramar Spokesman” with the outside cover professionally designed and printed in blue and red with annual information on club membership and meeting places and times of other Rotary clubs. The second half of the 1990s saw the bulletin going out to most members over the Internet, and the club really entered the computer age in 1997 with the introduction of its own Web site. Finally, in 2011 the club switched to the “ClubRunner” software system now widely adopted by clubs, districts and by Rotary International. This includes a club web site, weekly newsletter, email, attendance records, events calendar, club documents and much more in one comprehensive club management and operation system, while also making it easier for club members to “connect, communicate and collaborate” with Rotarians world-wide.

Over the years fellowship has been encouraged beyond the regular weekly meetings in a variety of ways. Social events have ranged from formal dinner-dances to very informal barbeques. In the 1990s and early 2000s the annual lobster boil at Wayne and Sandy Harper's cottage by the shore was an event to which everyone looked forward. In January 2002 the club hosted a full-scale Burns Supper complete with home-made haggis! There has also been a Christmas party for many years, a suitably festive occasion, usually hosted by one of the members in his or her own home.

The most popular form of sporting activity has been curling. Curling Bonspiels go back at least to the late 1950s – some local, some jointly with the Amherst and Springhill clubs (competing for the famed, fur-lined “A.S.S. Trophy”), and some in the form of participation in the Rotary District 7810 Bonspiel. The Sackville club has shown itself a force to be reckoned with, having won the District 7810 bonspiel and the F. Dodd Tweedie Shield no fewer than nine times. For a list of the winning teams see Appendix H. A golf tournament has also been held from time to time, while the 1990s saw the introduction of yet another highly competitive sport for a couple of years – croquet !

The Rotary Club of Sackville has taken steps to mark significant anniversaries in its long career. In 1941 the club celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at a function chaired by founding President Norman Hesler; ten of the original seventeen founding members were present. In 1981 the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary was celebrated. The occasion was marked in various ways including a service in the Mount Allison University Chapel on Sunday 3 May 1981. A special 10-page supplement in the *Sackville Tribune-Post* highlighted the history and activities of the club over its first fifty years. The Town of Sackville presented the club with a plaque which reads, “Presented to the ‘Sackville Rotary Club’ by Mayor William R. Campbell, on behalf of the Town Council & Citizens of Sackville, in Appreciation & in Recognition of 50 years of Rotary Service Work in our Town, May 6, 1981.”

1991 saw another celebration for the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the club. A dinner, chaired by Rotarian Chester MacDonald, was held at Tantramar Regional High School, with Prof. Wayne MacKay of Dalhousie University, the club's first Rotary Foundation Fellow, as guest speaker. At the dinner two plaques were presented by Maurice "Jake" Fisher, President of the Club for 1954-55; one plaque listing the Presidents of the Club from 1931 onwards, and the other Rotary Foundation scholars from 1970-71 onwards. The *Sackville Tribune-Post* published a four-page supplement to mark the occasion.

The 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2001 was celebrated at a dinner on 2 June in the Marshlands Inn with representatives from Sackville's three "daughter" clubs in attendance (Amherst, Springhill, and Port Elgin). The event included the book launch of *The Rotary Club of Sackville, New Brunswick 1931-2001*, the club history by Rotarian Charlie Scobie.

In the eighty years of the Sackville's club's existence a number of individuals have chalked up outstanding records of service to the club and to the wider work of Rotary. Here we mention only three, each of whom has been thanked personally by a President of Rotary International.

One special record is held by the Fishers with at least one representative of the family being a member for the entire history of the club. C. Maurice P. Fisher was a charter member of the club in 1931, and was still a member when his son Maurice "Jake" Fisher joined the club in May 1950. Jake was President of the club in 1954-55 and attended both the 50<sup>th</sup> and the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Rotary International Conventions, in 1955 and 2005. In May 2000 the club presented to him a certificate "In Celebration Of His Jubilee 1950-2000 As A Member Of Rotary International." At a special Founder's Day Event in Maine in 2004, Jake was personally congratulated and thanked for his



*Maurice "Jake" Fisher receives honorary membership of the Sackville club, 23 February 2008*

long record of service in Rotary by Centennial Year R.I. President, Glenn E. Estess. Jake's brother Peter and cousin Bill were also long-time members of the Sackville club, as was also, for a time, another member of the family, Meredith Fisher. Meredith's daughter Robin Walker became an active member of the club in 2008 and continued the family tradition after Jake moved to a seniors' home in Ottawa in 2010. Jake's daughter Susan and husband Dave, both Rotarians, are frequent visitors at the Sackville club, as is another cousin George Fisher, long-time member of the Rotary Club of Kemptville, Ontario.

Another Sackville Rotarian who has been honoured for her outstanding record of service to Rotary is Pam Harrison. From every imaginable means of fund-raising at home to extensive travel overseas (Antarctica, South Africa, India) she is a tireless advocate and exemplar of the Rotary ideal of "Service Above Self." In July 2009 Rotary International President John Kenny (the first from Scotland) chose to make the first overseas visit of his presidency to New Glasgow, Nova Scotia. A highlight of the evening, which was attended by several members of the Sackville club, was his presentation to Pam of a special certificate of thanks on behalf of the Rotary Foundation which read, "The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International: Pamela Harrison is hereby awarded the Rotary Foundation Citation for Meritorious Service in recognition of devoted efforts for the furthering of better understanding and friendly relations of peoples of the world : The Trustees of the Rotary Foundation, June 15, 2009, Chair, Jonathan Majiyagbe." In August 2010 Pam paid a special visit to the Winnipeg club which was celebrating its centennial; the first Rotary club in Canada and the first outside the United States, it was also celebrating the centennial of Rotary in Canada and indeed the centennial of Rotary "International."



*Pam Harrison receives her  
Rotary Foundation Citation  
from R.I. President John  
Kenny 16 July 2009*



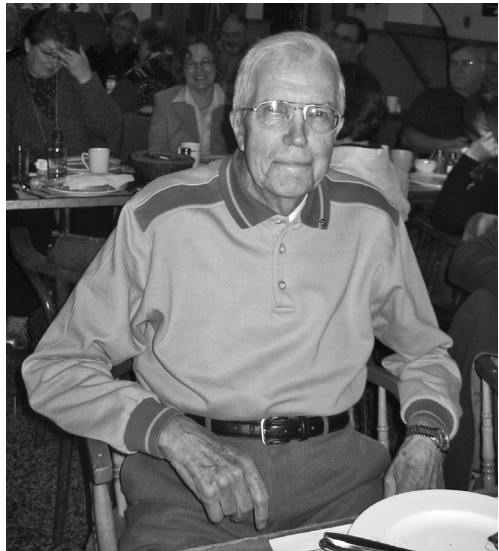
*Nancy Gilbert administers polio vaccine, India 2002*

Though only a Rotarian since 1994, Nancy Gilbert has an amazing record of service to Rotary. Five of her children have participated in the Rotary Youth Exchange program, and she and her family have done more than their share of hosting inbound students. With husband and fellow-Rotarian Paul she travelled to South Africa in 2002 where they helped co-ordinate a highly successful rural school renovation project. Nancy gave outstanding leadership, under difficult circumstances, to a Group Study Exchange team visit to India and Nepal in 2002; while in India she participated in immunizing children against polio as part of a National Immunization Day. In 2003-04 she became the first woman from the Sackville club to serve as Governor of District 7810. In December 2003 she received a special letter of thanks from Rotary International President Jonathan Majiyagbe of Nigeria for her work as District Governor. In 2010 Nancy became Rotary Co-ordinator for Zone 24 east. She is a member of the *Rotary Canada* Editorial Board.

Despite its long history, as noted earlier the club seemed to receive a new lease on life as it entered the twenty-first century. Perhaps this can best be summed up in the frequently heard comment, “Rotary is fun!” From the outset the twin pillars of Rotary have been “Fellowship” and “Service.” The service aspect is greatly strengthened when the fellowship is fun.

Following a common Rotary practice, for many years the levying of “fines” was a feature of the weekly meetings. In October 2002 this practice was dropped and replaced by a time for “Happy Dollars” when members could donate a dollar and share personal or family news (as well as, sometimes, public service announcements). This provides an opportunity for members gradually to get to know one another better, and in addition is often the occasion for great hilarity. Each week members’ birthdays are recognized. It was a visiting Rotary Youth Exchange student, Cassy King, from Australia, who donated her comic birthday hat to the club on 7 September 2006; since then the hat has to be worn by the birthday honouree, with this also usually being an occasion of some merriment.

Few people contributed more to the fun part of Rotary than Joe Atkinson, a Rotarian for 45 years, who, up to the time of his death in 2010, delivered his weekly “Words of Wisdom.” Joe’s weekly musings on daily life, presented with his usual deadpan delivery, always elicited chuckles and frequently guffaws. In 2007 the club collected choice samples of Joe’s wit and wisdom and published them in a booklet entitled “Joe Atkinson’s Weekly Words of Wisdom.”



*Joe Atkinson, August 2009*

In 2009 and 2010 the club engaged in a “visioning” exercise in which members came up with a vision of how the club should look in 5 years time. As the club entered the second decade of the twenty-first century it did so in good spirits and with a healthy infusion of newer and younger members, determined to continue if not surpass its record of service in the community and in the wider world.



*Club members pose for a photo at George's Roadhouse in April, 2010*

## SERVING THE COMMUNITY

THE IDEAL OF “SERVICE” lies at the heart of Rotary. Of Rotary’s four traditional “Avenues of Service” it is “Vocational Service” which challenges Rotarians to apply that ideal in their own personal, social, and business or professional lives. Since 1943, when it was adopted by Rotary International, Sackville Rotarians, like Rotarians everywhere, have sought to follow “The Four Way Test” conceived in 1932 by Herbert J. Taylor (who went on to become President of Rotary International in 1954-55) :

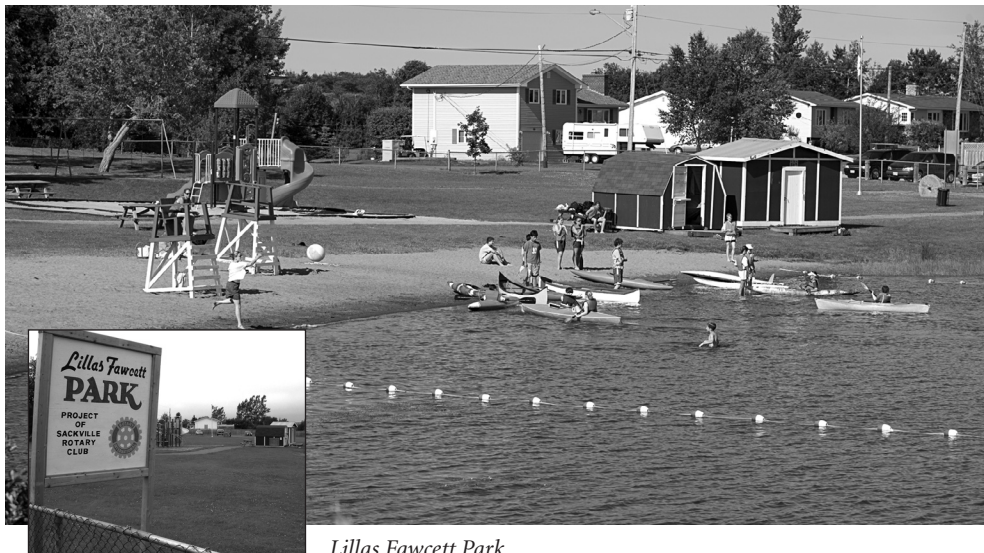
1. Is it the truth?
2. Is it fair to all concerned?
3. Will it build goodwill and better friendships?
4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

These words are repeated by Sackville Rotarians at the end of every meeting.

If “Vocational Service” is very much a personal matter, “Community Service” is probably the most visible way of applying the Rotary ideal. From the start, Rotary clubs have undertaken projects to benefit their local communities. Two days after the meeting to form the Rotary Club of Sackville the *Sackville Tribune-Post* noted that “Sackville has another organization – a new Rotary Club which was formed here on Tuesday evening last. Of course the more machinery one has the more driving power is needed. At first thought, one might be inclined to think that there are already sufficient organizations in the town and that the real need is for more manpower to pep things up a little.” Despite this somewhat negative verdict, the fact is that one of the major motivations in starting a Rotary Club in Sackville was the need for a major local project which no other organization had been willing or able to tackle. An area in the heart of the town, between Main Street and Lansdowne Street, was low-lying, marshy waste ground, used in part as the town dump. Almost immediately the newly formed Rotary Club began discussion of plans to fill in and level this site and use it to

create a “Community Playground.” In April 1932 a formal decision was made that the club would undertake this major project, and work began on the site the following month. As Rotarian Fred Jones later recalled, “When the Rotary Club took on this project it meant that every Rotarian must show up with a pick and shovel and move earth from the high bank nearby and cover and level the earth over the dump. Some assistance was given by people who owned horses and scoops.” As well as this extensive use of volunteer labour, some of the levelling was also contracted out. Thus, in due course the site was transformed into the recreational facilities that remain in use to this day. Rotary continued to be interested in maintaining the Playground site. In June of 1946 a committee was appointed to supervise improvements at the Playground, and in 1953 the club was involved in the purchase of new equipment.

After World War II, attention turned to the lack of any facilities in the immediate area for young people to swim. As early as 1947 some Rotarians raised the question of developing a recreational site at Silver Lake (Morice Mill Pond) in Middle Sackville. The question was again raised in 1952, and in 1965. The obstacles to such a project were major; it would involve the purchase of an expensive piece of property quite



*Lillas Fawcett Park*

apart from the cost of developing the site. Finally, the club decided it could no longer evade the challenge of this important community project and in 1976 it voted to purchase a waterfront site at Silver Lake from Frank Fawcett for the sum of \$10,000, \$2,000 of which the Town of Sackville agreed to provide. Two adjoining lots were donated by Bert Reid. The organizing committee was chaired from the outset by Rotarian John H. Read. A comprehensive plan was prepared in four phases in order to create a park that would provide swimming, boating, picnicking and outdoor recreational facilities. Work on the site began in the summer of 1977. Sand was hauled in to create a “beach” area for swimming. Altogether the club raised some \$16,000 for the project; the remaining funds came from four Canada Works Grants which were obtained, making possible the employment of a number of persons each summer. A second phase of work was carried out in 1978, and a third phase consisting mainly of the installation of picnic tables, barbeques and fencing in the summer of 1979, with the final phase being completed in 1981. The completed site was turned over to the Town of Sackville in 1981 at a ceremony during which Mayor (and Rotarian) Will Campbell promised that “the town will preserve for ever and ever this area as a park, beach and recreation area for the citizens of Sackville.” In keeping with the terms of the purchase of the property the site was called “Lillas Fawcett Park.” It continues to be well used and much appreciated by many families in the area.

Other projects have tended to be on a somewhat smaller scale. In 1984 the club helped commemorate the Bicentennial of the Province of New Brunswick by placing a flagpole in front of the Town Library on Main Street. In 1988 Rotary provided the new Sackville Memorial Hospital with a handsome fountain including a glass sculpture, created by local artist Pat Henderson, along with other furnishings for the atrium area. One of the most popular spots in Sackville, the so-called “Booster Pump” on Main Street, which provides a source of natural spring water, was furnished in 1988 with a wooden structure to shelter citizens from the elements as they wait for their containers to fill up; the cost was shared between the club and the Town of Sackville. In 2001 the “Swan Pond” area of the Mount Allison campus, a popular area



*Club members pose for a photo on the “Rotary Bridge,” 2008.*

with residents and visitors alike, was beautified by the construction of a red sandstone faced bridge, spanning the stream that flows from the pond. Jointly funded by the Rotary Club and Mount Allison University, the bridge continues to be a popular spot, not least for wedding photographs!

Projects like these are the most visible part of “Community Service” but over the years Rotary has been involved in helping those in need in countless somewhat less obvious ways. The club has been the local sponsor of the “Easter Seals” campaign since the early 1950s. It has also sought to help seniors in the community and for a number of years in the 1980s Rotarians, as “Drew Drivers” and “Kingwood Drivers” drove seniors downtown once a week so that they could do their shopping and banking. On several occasions the Club demonstrated its community spirit by entering a float in the annual Marshlands Frolics Parade. In June 1996 the club sponsored the Sackville leg of the “Paralympic Why Not Marathon.” Some idea of the extent of the club’s involvement in the community may be gauged from the fact that the program for a fund-raising event in May 1999 listed no fewer than nineteen local service projects on which the Club was engaged in 1998-1999. In 1999-2000 a club-sponsored appeal raised \$18,000 to buy instruments for the Sackville Citizens Band. In 2006

\$5,000 was donated to establish an Education Room at the newly opened Boultenhouse Heritage Centre. Over the years donations have frequently been made to the Sackville Memorial Hospital; in 2006 for example a donation of \$4,700 funded the purchase of a Go-Bed. The club also frequently responds to smaller requests for help up to a value of \$500, from local community, youth and sports groups.

In 2007-10, in keeping with Rotary's emphasis on the importance of literacy projects, the club turned its attention to the challenge of "literacy" which has been defined as "the use of language in a continuum of learning that allows people of all ages to achieve their goals, to develop their knowledge and potential, and to participate fully in their community and wider society." Although literacy statistics have improved in New Brunswick schools this is still an area of concern, as is the level of adult literacy in the province. Over these years the club focussed its efforts on support for the Tantramar Adult Literacy Centre.

While the Sackville club has supported a great variety of local causes more than anything else their interest has focussed on helping young people. So significant have these efforts been that they will be discussed separately in the next chapter.

The other side of Community Service is the need to pay for the projects being undertaken. From the outset the Rotary Club of Sackville was involved in fund-raising. The Community Playground project was an expensive one for a small and new club to tackle but the members were nothing if not ambitious. In the fall of 1931 they put on three performances of the "Freiburg Passion Play" as their first fund-raiser, with the assistance of members of the Moncton Rotary Club. A group, the Freiburg Players, was assisted by about 60 singers from Sackville, Moncton and Amherst under the direction of Rotarian Harold Hamer who also played the organ for the event. This was followed by a whole series of concerts to raise funds: a play, "The College Flapper" in 1931, a "Minstrel Show" in 1932, a "Vaudeville Show" in 1933, and "Revues" in 1934 and 1935. The 1934 revue was put on by the First World War entertainment group

known as “The Dumbbells”; it was presented in the Charles Fawcett Memorial Hall on the Mount Allison campus, with a number of Sackville performers incorporated into the cast, all in full costume. The “1935 Community Revue,” also held in Fawcett Hall, featured an Overture by the Sackville Citizens’ Band, the Mount Allison Ladies’ College Village Choir, a Boy Scouts’ “Camp Fire” led by Patrol Leader George Fisher, a demonstration of Club Swinging and Tumbling by the Mount Allison Academy, the Sackville Athletic Association Orchestra, and “Bargain Sale,” a one-act play put on by Enamel and Heating Products Ltd.! Typically these events raised in the region of \$300, quite a tidy sum for those days.



*Vera Campbell appeared with “The Dumbbells” in the 1934 Revue*  
(Photo: Edgar P. Smith & Sons, Sackville, NB)

After World War II the club began a long collaboration with the local Kinsmen Club in sponsoring an annual “Ro-Kin Auction.” In May of 1946 Rotary undertook a “Penny Auction” which raised over \$500. This may have suggested the more ambitious “Ro-Kin Auction” the first of which, held in October 1947, raised \$1,800. The Rotary and Kinsmen clubs co-operated in soliciting donations from local merchants, while the actual auction of these goods took place “on the air,” courtesy of radio station CKCW. The proceeds were divided between the two clubs and devoted to local charities. This arrangement which depended so much on the generosity of local merchants, as well as on the participation of the local community, continued into the late 1980s.

A “Henry Scott Concert” was presented in September 1948, while “St. Joseph’s Choir” appeared in November 1951, the “Cabin Singers” in November 1952, the “Schneider Male Chorus” in June 1980, and the “Barra McNeils” in 1992. Nothing, however, can equal the success of the April 1993 concert, organized by Rotarian Steve

Ridlington, and presented by the Celtic group “The Rankin Family,” at that time just approaching the height of their popularity; Convocation Hall was packed to the rafters, and the concert realized some \$10,000.

The undertaking of the “Lillas Fawcett Park” project in the late 1970s called for additional fund-raising. The series of “Gala Nights” which followed in the 1980s represented some of the most ambitious fund-raising efforts attempted by the club. Each one had a theme such as “Moulin Rouge,” “Ports of Call,” “Oktoberfest,” as well as a “Gypsy” theme, an “Irish Night,” and a “Braziliana Gala Night.” The appropriate atmosphere was created with elaborate decorations. A full meal and a cash bar were followed by lavish entertainment, a dance, and a draw for prizes. Typically these events raised between \$3,000 and \$4,000. In the 1980s a “Craft Sale” was held on a number of occasions, and in 1991 and 1992 Rotarians even sold bags of potatoes to raise money. In the 1990s, they were succeeded by a less ambitious annual “Cash Draw.”

The main fund-raising event from 2000 to 2002 was the “Technorama” draw, which saw a monthly draw for major electronic items, including such things as large-screen TVs, stereo systems, computers and camcorders. Tickets went for \$65 and around 400 were sold each year. The club was divided into teams which competed for the highest number of weekly ticket sales. This was followed, from 2003 to 2005, by a “Dream Away Draw” with a Caribbean vacation as the main prize; 500 tickets went on sale at a price of \$30 each.

In 2005 the Sackville club hit upon a very successful fund-raising formula: the annual wine-tasting evening. This event began modestly with an attendance of about 150, and six wine vendors displaying their wares in the local Civic Centre. From that it has grown into one of *the* social events of the year in Sackville with around 400 in attendance. Typically, ten or a dozen wine vendors are featured with offerings of wines from Europe, Australia, South America, the United States and Canada. Other displays feature quality handmade chocolates, artisan breads, fine local and

international cheeses, books on wine and cooking – all the things needed to host one’s own wine and cheese party. A silent auction is also part of the fund-raiser. Each participant receives a suitably inscribed wine glass. The event takes up the entire area of the Civic Centre, which is suitably decorated, while live music helps create a welcoming, festive atmosphere. The main event is preceded by an hour long “Wine 101” class, and is followed by the Good Grounds café featuring a choice of mouth-watering desserts and a selection of specialty coffees. In 2010 a beer-tasting feature was added to the mix. With a net income of around \$12,000 the wine tasting quickly established itself as *the* fund-raising event of the year.



*Wynn Meldrum welcomes guests to the Rotary Club of Sackville’s wine-tasting evening, 2008.*

For many years the club has also put on a fund-raising breakfast twice a year, at a downtown church, and members have long been experts in grilling bacon, frying eggs and flipping pancakes. This not only offers a service to the local community, but also



*Serving line in action at a Rotary pancake breakfast; Sue Purdy prepares to serves customers.*

provides a great opportunity for Rotary fellowship, as members get their sleeves rolled up and work together in a common cause. The event regularly raises around \$2,000 which is directed to such causes as Rotary Youth Exchange or the Marshview Middle School breakfast program.

In 2009 the sale of grocery cards for use in a chain of major stores was introduced; Rotary receives a percentage of the purchases made. In the same year an annual in-house auction was introduced with items donated by members on the block, an event that generates a surprising amount of money as well as considerable hilarity. Never stuck for new ideas, in 2010 the club sponsored a “golf ball drop” at the local Fall Fair.

The efforts chronicled here represent thousands of hours spent in community service and in fund-raising to support projects of benefit to the local community. They exemplify the putting into practice of the Rotary motto “Service Above Self.” Without them the Town of Sackville would be a poorer place.

## 3

## ROTARY AND YOUTH

TRADITIONALLY ROTARY HAS identified four “Avenues of Service”: Club, Vocational, Community and International. More recently a fifth Avenue of Service has been proposed: “New Generations Service”, encompassing the work Rotary does with and for youth and young adults. This classification of service is a most appropriate one for the Rotary Club of Sackville since in recent years especially, it has focussed increasingly on programs for young people both in the local community and on an international scale.

The two major recreational projects undertaken by the club – the downtown Community Playground in the 1930s and Lillas Fawcett Park at Silver Lake in the late 1970s – were intended for use by all members of the community but young people were obviously particularly in mind, and both continue to be extensively used by the youth of the community.

The early decades of the club saw some outreach to local youth. In April of 1937 the club sponsored a Hobby Show open to all the boys and girls of the Sackville area. After World War II Rotarians hosted a number of Christmas parties for local children, a practice that continued until about 1960. These included a meal with turkey and all the trimmings, and presents handed out by Santa Claus. In June of 1947 they invited to their weekly luncheon meeting the entire graduating class of Sackville High School – all 21 of them! In 1949-50 Rotarians co-operated with Kinsmen in renovating a hut for the use of Scouts, Guides and Brownies.

Over the years the Sackville Club has done much to help handicapped children in the community, particularly by making it possible for them to attend Camp Tidnish (operated by the Rotary Club of Amherst), and Camp Rotary at Grand Lake (operated by the Rotary Club of Fredericton).

For many years the club supported Bob Edgett, founder of “Bob Edgett’s Boys’ Club” and a leader in work with local youth. From the early 1950s on Bob worked with thousands of youngsters from southeastern New Brunswick and northwestern Nova Scotia. Young people from the age of six upwards attended the Club regularly and were helped and encouraged to become not only fine athletes but also productive citizens. The Rotary Club of Sackville encouraged and supported Bob’s work with youth for many years and in 1996-97 they raised the sum of \$25,000 to buy the Bob Edgett Club a 14-seater van for use on their road trips.

From the 1950s on the Sackville Club has participated in the annual “Adventures in Citizenship” program organized by the Rotary Club of Ottawa. High school students from all over the country travel to the nation’s capital where they spend several days visiting the House of Commons, meeting with members of parliament, and learning how Canadian democracy works. The value of the experience is enhanced by the opportunities it provides for young people from widely separated parts of the country to meet and interact and learn from one another. The program is run by the Ottawa club but applicants are interviewed and sponsored by local clubs who also undertake to meet the expenses of the students whom they sponsor. Numerous students first from Sackville High School then from Tantramar Regional High School have participated in the program thanks to the Rotary Club of Sackville, and have returned to the Sackville club to recount their experiences. They have been virtually unanimous in testifying to the benefits to be derived from the program and the impact that it has made on their lives. The club has continued to participate in “Adventures in Citizenship” most years up to the present time.

From the mid-1970s onwards the club has also offered bursaries to members of the Tantramar Regional High School graduating class, the amount being gradually increased with the progress of time. Students going on to further studies have faced steadily rising fees and other expenses and the scholarships are designed to help defray these costs. In this way the club seeks both to recognize academic achievement at the

High School level, and to encourage students to go on to further their education at community college or university. On a number of occasions the Club, in co-operation with the High School, has successfully nominated outstanding students for the District-sponsored Rotary Youth Merit Awards.

In 2007 and 2008 the Sackville Rotary club sponsored a “History Challenge” at Tantramar Regional High School with prizes for the best three submissions (essays, pictures or slide shows) on the First or Second World War or the Korean conflict. In conjunction with this contest, Rotarian and veteran Jake Fisher presented the High School library with a generous donation of books on 20<sup>th</sup> century history. For many years it was the custom of the club to present visiting speakers with a token of the club’s appreciation. In 2008 the club switched to donating a book to one of the local school libraries in the name of each visiting speaker (who gets a certificate of thanks). In an era of tight school budgets these donations of books help keep the resources of the local school libraries up to date.

The encouraging of university graduates to pursue a year of post-graduate work overseas has been one of the major aims of the Rotary Foundation, carried out through its program of Ambassadorial Scholarships (previously known as Rotary Foundation Fellowships).

Not only does this contribute to the higher education of the students concerned; study overseas broadens their outlook and makes a real contribution to world peace and understanding. They make contact with Rotary clubs and Rotary families and have opportunities to travel and participate in various activities in the countries concerned. Local Rotary clubs contribute financially to the Rotary Foundation. Each Rotary District is assigned annually one or more Scholarships depending on the amount contributed by the District as a whole. Applications are invited from university students in their junior year and applicants go through a rigorous selection process which takes into account not only their academic record but their participation in

extra-curricular activities and their leadership potential. The Scholarships are among the most sought after in Canadian universities because of their financial value, because of the prestige attached, and because of the many opportunities they afford. The Sackville club has encouraged Mount Allison students to apply and has sponsored many applicants. A number of distinguished students have won Scholarships, beginning with Alexander Wayne MacKay, later a law professor at Dalhousie University Law School, and from 2001 to 2004 President of Mount Allison University and a very active member of the Rotary Club of Sackville, who held the Sackville Club's first Rotary Foundation Fellowship in 1970-71. A full list of Scholarship holders is found in Appendix B.



*A. Wayne Mackay, Rotary  
Foundation Fellow, 1970-71*

In 2002 Rotary International inaugurated the Rotary World Peace Fellowships program under which up to 100 fellows per year are sponsored to study at one of the six Rotary Centers for International Studies in Peace and Conflict Resolution for a master's level degree. Graduates of the program go on to become leaders promoting national and international cooperation, peace, and the successful resolution of conflict throughout their lives, in their careers, and through service activities. The Sackville club supports this ground-breaking program through contributions to the Rotary Foundation. Sackville Rotarian Robin Walker completed her Master's degree at the University of Queensland at the Rotary Peacekeeping Centre in Peace and Conflict Studies.

Of all the programs of the Rotary Club of Sackville directed towards young people the most ambitious and long-lasting, and indeed the one that has become the hallmark of the Sackville club is the Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE) program which makes it possible for high school age students from the Sackville area to spend a year abroad, and students from abroad to spend a year in Sackville. The program operates through Rotary International with the local club being largely responsible for making the

arrangements for hosting the visiting students and for subsidizing the cost of the program. Students live usually with several host families in the course of the year. While the program is an “exchange” in that Sackville will send two students overseas in a given year and host two in return, it is not a direct exchange for the incoming students may come from countries other than those to which the Sackville students have gone for the year. Exchange students are affiliated with the local Rotary club, attend its meetings and enjoy opportunities to learn about the host country as well as taking part in many social, sporting and educational activities.

The Sackville club’s participation in this program began in 1985, and while numbers have varied over the years, generally two Sackville students have gone overseas each year while the club has welcomed two students from overseas. A full list of Rotary Youth Exchange students from overseas hosted by the Sackville Club will be found in Appendix C, and a further list of Sackville students sponsored by the Club in Appendix D.

For almost all the RYE students, participation in the program has been an amazing experience. Students return from their year abroad with a new appreciation for world issues, a stronger confidence in themselves, and improved leadership skills. In most cases they also return with a new language; in non-English speaking countries students generally attain fluency in the new language in a matter of months. Several ex-RYE students have gone on to careers in international relations; for example, Amanda Feindel, RYE student in Japan in 1995-96, returned to Japan for three years to teach English.



*RYE students from Canada and Finland in Puerto Viejo, Ecuador, 2006; on right, Teona Oulton from Sackville*

Typical are these comments from a returning student, Lucy Porter, who spent a year in Mexico in 2001-02: “My Rotary Exchange year was by far the best experience and time of my life. I learned more in my time in Mexico than I ever thought possible about other cultures, languages, people and myself . . . My confidence grew as I faced challenges that I never thought I would face. Challenges arose when I didn’t know anyone or speak the language. All this was happening while I was having more fun than I ever knew was possible.” While a RYE student in Valparaiso in 2009-2010, RYE student Tina Gripton declared, “I love everything about the Brazilian culture, the delicious food, the language, the music, and above all, the people.” Emma Hachey who spent 2009-2010 in India is typical of students who learn to adapt to living in very different cultural situations; she learned Hindi, Indian cooking and traditional Rajasthani folk dances. Many of the participants have described the RYE program as “the opportunity of a lifetime”; Nicola Marshall, RYE student from South Africa in 1999-2000 declared, “My year in Canada has been the biggest turning point in my life.”

Students often develop close relationships with their host families, including their host “sisters” and “brothers.” They also get many opportunities to travel within the host countries. For the inbound students the highlight of the year is the Cross-Canada tour during which the RYE students usually see more of Canada than most Canadians have done! Outbound students also enjoy many travel opportunities; those in a European country often participate in a “Euro-Tour.”



*2011 RYE students (l-r): Katrine Christensen from Denmark, Karissa Gaudreault to Ecuador, Chloe MacIsaac to Belgium, and Pauliina Rintala from Finland.*



*RYE students attending the November 2003 Peace Weekend*

Club members look forward to presentations by visiting RYE students on their home countries, and equally to presentations (nowadays usually PowerPoint) by Sackville students after they return from their year abroad. The visiting RYE students attend Tantramar Regional High school where they have made a big impression and have participated in numerous extra-curricular activities. They also attend Rotary meetings and assist with activities such as the fund-raising breakfasts.

During the course of their year in Sackville incoming RYE students get to know each other on a District basis as they attend several District-sponsored events. On 8-11 November 2003, for example, Districts 7810 and 7820 combined to host a “Peace Weekend” in Sackville for their 38 RYE students who came from 20 different countries of the world. As well as social and recreational events, the students attended and participated in a peace-themed church service, when they formed a choir to sing Bob Marley’s “One Love, One Heart.” They also attended the local Remembrance Day service and cenotaph ceremony on 11 November.

The RYE program has built up a large international family. Some parents of participating students have gone abroad or come to Sackville to visit their children during the program. Students have kept in touch with their host families and have gone back to revisit them. Sackville host families have kept in touch, for many years now, with the overseas students whom they hosted,



*Outbound RYE student Sharoni Mitra at Mont St. Michel, France, during a Rotary weekend in October, 2010. The trip included 250 students, all on exchange in France.*

and have gone abroad to visit them in their home countries. Numerous student participants keep in touch with one another after their year is over.

The Rotary Club of Sackville, beginning in 2005, has sponsored a new form of youth exchange, the Short-Term Rotary Youth Exchange Program. This differs in two ways from the more familiar RYE program. Firstly, it is a direct exchange in which a student in Sackville is paired with another student in an overseas country. Secondly, the length of the exchange is limited to two months. For the first month a Sackville student will go overseas and stay with the overseas student and his or her family, while for the second month the overseas student will come and stay with the Sackville student and his or her family. This does allow an opportunity for each student to learn about the host country and also to travel. Those who have participated so far have enjoyed the experience though it lags far behind the full RYE in popularity. For a list of those who have participated in the Rotary Short Term Exchange Program see Appendix E.

2006 saw the establishment of the South East New Brunswick Rotaract Club which was jointly sponsored by the Rotary Clubs of Sackville and Moncton West Riverview. A Rotaract club is a Rotary sponsored club for 18-30 year-olds. The club received its charter in June 2006, and Erica Nabuurs (a Mount Allison University student) and Heidi Savoie (a Université de Moncton student) both past RYE students, were co-presidents of the club. Heidi Savoie's father, Wayne Wornes was the driving force in the founding of the Rotaract Club and a member of the Moncton West Riverview Club. Virgil Hammock of the Sackville Club was the Rotary liaison in the first year of the Rotaract Club's establishment. Since then, Robin Walker has taken over this responsibility as the primary go-between for the Rotaract and Rotary Clubs in the area. In 2010, she became the District Representative for Rotaract and has helped to keep the lines of communication open between the Rotaract and Rotary clubs in the District.

Rotaract meetings are held on Tuesday evenings on a bi-weekly basis on the Mount Allison campus. Former Rotary Youth Exchange students as well as other young people interested in international service are represented in the Rotaract club. Activities include service projects, professional and leadership development workshops, as well as social activities. A main focus has been fund-raising for a major international project, the Blood: Water Mission which is dedicated to empowering communities to work together against the HIV/AIDS and Water crises in Africa. The Rotaract club's aim is to create awareness for the clean water aspect of the organization and to raise funds for their work repairing and building wells. They have held numerous Coffee Houses, 50/50 draws, a battle of the bands, and a very successful "swipe for the food bank" event that raised money for their local and international projects. In February 2011, the Rotaract and Rotary Club of Sackville hosted their first-ever joint fundraising event, a Chili Cook-Off.

It is a cliché, but nonetheless true, that the young people of today are the citizens and leaders of tomorrow. One of the greatest satisfactions derived by Rotarians involved in programs for youth is to see many of those who have benefited from these programs go on to lead full and productive lives and to make outstanding contributions to their local community, their country and even the world at large.

## 4

## INTERNATIONAL SERVICE

THE FOURTH TRADITIONAL Rotary avenue of service is International Service. From an early stage Rotarians were concerned with serving not just their local communities but the needs of a wider world.

As Rotary grew, so did the size and scale of its outreach. In 1978, for example, the ongoing “Health, Hunger and Humanity” program was inaugurated; it funds large-scale, two- to four-year projects that enhance health, help alleviate hunger, and improve human development throughout the world.

Probably the best known and certainly the most ambitious of Rotary’s international humanitarian projects is “Polio Plus,” nothing less than a campaign to wipe the disease of polio from the face of the earth. In 1985 Rotary launched a fundraising drive to battle polio with the goal of raising \$120 million US. At that time some 350,000 cases of poliomyelitis, a highly infectious disease that has crippled and killed children for thousands of years, were still being reported in 125 countries of the world. The campaign actually raised \$247 million US, and its success encouraged the World Health Organization, and other groups, with Rotary as the catalyst, to develop a strategy for the complete eradication of the disease. Rotary’s contributions have exceeded half a billion dollars in what has become the largest public health initiative in history. Through its Polio Plus program, Rotary has provided vaccine, millions of volunteer hours, and leadership in more than 100 countries. In 2002-03 Rotary International launched a special Polio Eradication Fundraising Campaign with a target of \$88 million US. The Sackville club set itself a target of \$5,000 for the year, and began with personal donations from members before launching an appeal to the local community. By June 2003, a total of over \$10,000 had been raised, more than doubling the target figure. Rotary International also surpassed its target.

In the years leading up to 2005 it was hoped that polio might be eliminated by the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Rotary. While huge progress has been made, that was not to be. Stubborn pockets of the disease remain especially in countries like Afghanistan and Somalia where conflict makes it difficult to reach all parts of these countries and immunize all children. Polio Plus continues and pushes forward ever closer to its final goal. Only an organization with the membership, the resources and the vision of Rotary could undertake a project on this scale which is in the process of changing human history. The program has been strongly supported by the Sackville club from the outset.

Rotary makes it possible for individual clubs to plan and carry out international humanitarian projects, often with the help of “matching grants” administered through the District. For example, in 2001 the Rotary Club of Sackville took the lead in a project to upgrade a rural South African school, a project which is a model of the type of international co-operation that Rotary makes possible. In 1999-2000 inbound Rotary Youth Exchange student Nicola Marshall from Brits, South Africa, stayed with Sackville Rotarians Nancy and Paul Gilbert, at the same time as the Gilberts’ son Will was an exchange student in nearby Pretoria. The Gilberts went to South Africa in April 2000 and during their trip visited Rooikoppies Intermediate School located about 7 kms north of Brits in an area where most parents were low-paid farm labourers, and where the literacy level amongst children and parents was very low. The school had brick classrooms in poor condition, plus corrugated iron shacks. There was no running water, no electricity, poor furniture and equipment, and primitive toilet facilities.

In co-operation with the Brits club a project was planned to provide water supply and install electricity; construct toilets and washrooms; renovate existing classrooms and build three new ones ; provide basic equipment, furniture and teaching aids; erect office and storage space; and provide sport and recreation equipment and facilities; all this at a cost of \$57,000 US. Funds were contributed by both the Brits and



*New building at the Rooikoppies Intermediate School*

the Sackville clubs, by the Fredericton Sunrise club, and by Districts 7810 and 9250. This total received a matching grant from the Rotary Foundation, and that total in turn was matched by the Canadian Rotary Committee For International Development. To this was added a grant from the South Africa Department of Education. The cost was kept down by the fact that members of the Brits Rotary club gave hands-on assistance, as well as ensuring the sound management of the project. All in all a wonderful example of a Rotary combined effort!

Over the years the Sackville club has contributed to many smaller international projects, too numerous to mention in detail. Recent projects are typical: aid to schools in Afghanistan and Zambia, and clean water projects in the Dominican Republic and South Africa (where a “Water for Schools” project funded 6



*The Canadian Centennial Project school in Jalalabad, Afghanistan.*

wells, each providing enough water for 500 children). Most of these projects were enhanced by matching grants from the District. Rotary clubs across the country celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Rotary in Canada with a project to build a fully-furnished school in Afghanistan for 4,000 girls and boys from grades 1 to 12; the school opened on 26 September 2010. The Sackville club contributed to this project which raised \$275,000, an amount which was matched by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

Not all international service consists of raising money and sending it overseas. It is possible for individual Rotarians, or small groups, to travel to other countries and participate in direct, hands-on service projects.

In May 2005 Sackville Rotarian and Past-President Pam Harrison travelled to India with a group of fellow-Rotarians to participate in a Polio Plus National Immunization Day (NID). On her return home she told of what it was like to be able to administer the drops of polio vaccine to small children: “Two drops and a smile to protect a child from polio. It was a thrill and I may have done 50 children that day in 10 different clinics. But in addition to this we had time to play with the kids and pass out treats. It was wonderful. After the National Immunization Day was completed we gathered that evening (May 15th) to celebrate and receive the results from all the clinics. It was like an election day – every clinic called in the number of children that were seen all day. The total was 750,000 children under the age of 5 years”.



*Pam Harrison administers polio vaccine as part of a National Immunization Day*

Also in 2005 Sackville club member and President Leslie Van Patter spent 5 weeks working as a Rotary Volunteer in the Limpopo Province of South Africa. She visited 18 primary schools where the Rotary Club of Tzaneen had introduced a Number Skills Program for grades R-3, to address a major shortcoming in the rural

education system. Using workbooks and concrete materials, the Program was designed to provide hands-on learning opportunities for children to develop fundamental numeracy skills. The schools ranged from well-run, adequately-funded private colleges to drastically under-funded schools with extremely crowded classrooms and shortages of basic equipment such as desks, chairs and writing materials. Leslie was able to assist teachers with implementing the Number Skills Program and evaluate their progress, as well as work with individual children and small groups, to ensure they were grasping the concepts.



*Classroom in a rural school near Tzaneen, South Africa, where Leslie Van Patter volunteered in 2005*



*2006 group of Rotarians in Agra, India, including Leslie Van Patter and Nancy Gilbert*

In 2006, Past Presidents Nancy Gilbert and Leslie Van Patter travelled to Uttar Pradesh, India with a group of Rotarians from Ontario, New Hampshire, and Michigan. They participated in a National Immunization Day in Agra, and visited a “limb camp” in Bareilly; this is where prostheses are provided to survivors of polio and accidents which cause limb damage or loss. They also visited the factory where the prostheses are made. The group spent most nights staying with Rotary families, and so got a good feel for the culture and traditions of the area.

In February 2011 Sackville Rotarians Leslie Van Patter and Pam Harrison went with an international Rotary group to the Dominican Republic. From their base in the city of La Romana they travelled to impoverished rural areas to install Bio-Sand water filters in homes of the “bateys” or company towns housing immigrant Haitian sugar cane workers and their families. The filters are effective in reducing the incidence of many diseases in areas where there is no safe drinking water. “We installed 53 filters



*Rotary water team, including Pam Harrison and Leslie Van Patter, at a Project Fair in Santiago, Dominican Republic, February, 2011*

in 4 days,” reported Leslie, “Needless to say, we were proud and honoured to participate in the project, knowing that we were helping to improve the physical health of 53 families in the process. On our second day on the bateys, several of us were already committed to returning in a year to do it all over again.” The team also visited local schools where they distributed school supplies, as well as bicycles and footwear provided by the Rotary Club of Rothesay-Kings, NB, under their “Bikes and Boots” program.

World-wide humanitarian work on this scale requires not only efficient organization and administration but also funding on a grand scale. The Rotary Foundation began modestly in 1928, but really took off in 1947 at the time of Paul Harris’ death when Rotarians contributed over \$1 million to fund graduate scholarships in his memory. From that point it has gone from strength to strength.

The declared mission of The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International is “to enable Rotarians to advance world understanding, goodwill and peace through the improvement of health, the support of education, and the alleviation of poverty.” Among the many programs it funds are Polio Plus, Ambassadorial Scholarships, Rotary World Peace Scholarships, Rotary Youth Exchanges and Group Study Exchanges.

The Sackville club has donated generously to the Rotary Foundation from at least 1947 onwards and has raised funds for it in a variety of ways. In the 1970s the work of the Foundation was strongly promoted by Sackville Rotarian Max Hickey, and in recent decades support of the Foundation and its varied activities has been an important emphasis in the Sackville club. For many years a “50-50 Draw” has been part of the weekly meeting with proceeds going to the Rotary Foundation. Not surprisingly, in recent years Sackville Rotarians have earmarked much of the money they raise and donate to the Rotary Foundation for support of the Polio Plus campaign.

The work of the Rotary Foundation and especially its support of Polio Plus is known and respected around the world. Witness the fact that in 2007 the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation issued a Million Dollar Challenge: if Rotarians raised \$1 million for Polio Plus they would double it. In January 2009 Bill Gates committed an additional \$255 million, if Rotary would agree to raise a further \$100 million by June 2012. If this challenge is met, a total of \$555 million will go towards the final push to eliminate polio.

More than ever support of the Rotary Foundation is incumbent on each individual Rotarian. In recent years clubs have been challenged to donate an average of \$100 US per member per year; the goal is “Every Rotarian, One Hundred Dollars, Every Year.” The Sackville club has met that challenge and on a number of occasions has actually doubled the target. In 2008 the club received special recognition from the District for donating over \$7,600 US to the Foundation during 2007-08, an average of \$217 per member, more than twice the goal of \$100 per capita. In 2010-2011 the club more than trebled the Rotary International target with an average of well over \$300 per member!

Individual Rotarians who donate at least \$100 US per year become “Sustaining Members” of the Foundation. Several members of the Sackville club are also “Benefactors” by virtue of making a bequest of at least \$1,000 US to the Foundation.

Rotary International makes it possible for someone to be designated a “Paul Harris Fellow” for each contribution of \$1000 in U.S. funds donated to the Foundation. Individuals may make such a contribution, or, as has also been done in Sackville, the club as a whole may make the contribution and name one of its members as a Fellow in recognition of their services to the club. It is also possible for clubs to award Paul Harris Fellowships to non-Rotarians as a way of recognizing persons who in their own way have exemplified the Rotary ideal of “Service Above Self” by their

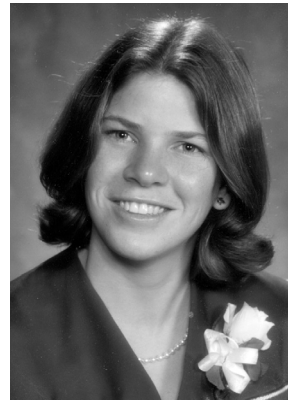
efforts in the local community. The Sackville club has done this on a number of occasions, especially in the past decade. A list of all those who have been recognized as Paul Harris Fellows by the Rotary Club of Sackville, both Rotarians and non-Rotarians, will be found in Appendix F. The list



*A group of Paul Harris Fellows at the Paul Harris Night, 30 March 2009*

does not take account of the fact that a number of club members, who donate regularly to the Foundation, are multiple Paul Harris Fellows.

A unique event occurred on 16 December 2002 when the Rotary Clubs of Sackville and Amherst, N.S. combined to award a Paul Harris Fellowship to Nicola Marshall from Brits, South Africa, who was a Rotary Youth Exchange student in Sackville during 1999-2000. During her year in Sackville, and subsequently, Nicola showed outstanding qualities of leadership, not least in promoting the Rooikoppies School project noted above. Nicola is believed to be the first Rotary Youth Exchange student to receive a Paul Harris Fellowship.



*Nicola Marshall*

Since 2000 the Sackville club has developed a tradition of holding annual Paul Harris Awards Dinners. In alternating years the emphasis is on honouring members of the club and on honouring members of the local community by Paul Harris Fellowships.

Particularly impressive was the 2005 Paul Harris Award Dinner which also commemorated the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Rotary. Four existing members received Paul Harris Fellowships in recognition of their services to club and community, while four new members were inducted into the club. The guest speaker was the Premier of New Brunswick, Shawn Graham, while the Marshview Middle School choir provided musical entertainment as well as singing the “Rotary Centennial Hymn” the words of which were written by Rotarian Charlie Scobie and which was accepted by Rotary International for use throughout the Rotary world during the centennial year. Equally remarkable was the 2008 dinner when, urged on by Pam Harrison to see how many Paul Harris Fellows could be recognized in the year of having a Canadian (Wilf Wilkinson) as Rotary International President, no fewer than eleven persons were so recognized.

While most of the club’s international service is channelled through the Rotary Foundation, Sackville Rotarians have been involved in other international projects, for example, support of a Foster Child, Operation Eyesight, the “shoe boxes” of Samaritan’s Purse, a relief project following the horrific Indian Ocean tsunami in 2004, and purchase of anti-malaria Bed Nets in 2008. In response to the dire situation facing Haiti after the devastating earthquake of 12 January 2010, the club in one week donated \$3,000 to Shelterbox Canada, a sum that was matched by the Government of Canada. Though not an official Rotary organization Shelterbox was founded and is operated by Rotary volunteers, and is able to send, at short notice, containers with waterproof tents, blankets, water purification equipment and other essential supplies to disaster areas.

The challenges that face our world today are staggering: poverty, disease, war, racism, pollution, illiteracy – the list is endless. These problems are so vast that often we are tempted to despair of ever being able to do anything that will make a difference. Rotary International has shown that it is possible to do something. With its over one million members, its financial resources, and its willing volunteers it has made and continues to make significant contributions in many parts of the world. While Sackville Rotarians will always be ready to address the needs of the local community, through Rotary International they continue to be challenged to look outwards to the wider world and to participate in Rotary’s efforts to serve a world in need.

## THE WIDER WORLD OF ROTARY

ALL ROTARIANS ARE MEMBERS not just of their own local Rotary club but of a great international movement known as “Rotary International.” Although Rotary originated in the United States in 1905, it became international as early as 1910-11 with the formation of a club in Winnipeg, Manitoba. In that year there were a total of 16 clubs with a membership of 1,500 Rotarians. When the Sackville club was founded in 1931 it became club #3452 in a movement that by then boasted about 155,000 members in 72 countries of the world. In the years since then Rotary has steadily expanded until today there are more than 1.2 million Rotarians in some 33,900 clubs in more than 200 countries of the world.

One way Rotarians can experience the wider world of Rotary is through “make-up” attendances at other clubs. While the favourite venue for “Make-ups” is the nearby Amherst, NS, club, Sackville Rotarians have attended club meetings in many parts of the world while travelling on business or for pleasure, or even on a cruise. Wearing a Rotary pin at all times can lead to meetings with fellow-Rotarians not only close to home but in many parts of the world. In recent years an item on the regular meeting agenda is “Pin Pal Stories” when members recount meetings they have had with fellow members of the world-wide Rotary family.

The expansion of Rotary brought about the need to organize clubs in districts, and later in zones, a system that has had to expand and be reorganized over the years as the number of clubs and the number of countries with clubs has increased. Sackville was originally in District #32 which encompassed the whole of Atlantic Canada. In 1937 it became part of a new District #192. The newsletter for 12 September 1945 reveals that this district claimed at that time to be the only international one, tri-national in fact since it contained clubs from Canada, and the United States, as well as from Newfoundland (at that time not part of Canada!). Later the Sackville Club

became part of District 781, now District 7810, a truly international district (though far from the only one), consisting of the whole of New Brunswick, and the eastern border of Maine.

The Sackville club has contributed its share of District Governors over the years. The first was Dr. Harold McKiel who had served as club president in 1935-36 and who was Governor of District 192 in 1942-43. In 1977-78 R.J. "Max" Hickey, Director of Continuing Education at Mount Allison University (club president 1968-69) served as Governor, while in 1981-82 the District Governor was Frank Fraser, manager of the local branch of the Royal Bank and a member of the Sackville club since 1967 and club president in 1972-73. Nancy Gilbert (club president in 1999-2000) served as Governor in 2003-04.

Sackville has hosted the District Assembly and Conference on a number of occasions. The custom was established at an early stage of holding the event at the Governor's home club at the conclusion of his or her year of service. Thus the first District Conference (at that time District #192) held in Sackville was in June 1944, with Harold McKiel as Governor. Further conferences were held in June 1978 at the end of Max Hickey's year, and in June 1982 when Frank Fraser was Governor. On the latter occasion *The Sackville Tribune Post* published a special 16-page supplement with information on the Sackville club, on Rotary International, as well as on the town of Sackville and surrounding area.

A memorable Assembly and Conference took place in 2004 at the conclusion of Past President Nancy Gilbert's year as District Governor. Held in the modern facilities of Mount Allison University, the featured speaker was the eloquent Stephen Lewis, former Canadian Ambassador to the United Nations and at that time U.N. Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa. All present were deeply moved by his depiction of the HIV/AIDS crisis and by the work being done by the recently founded Stephen Lewis Foundation. The annual Memorial Service was held in the beautiful Mount Allison University Chapel.

The Rotary Club of Sackville has always sought to make a contribution at the District level. It has been the official sponsor of three new clubs: the Rotary Clubs of Amherst, NS, Springhill, NS, and Port Elgin, NB.

Sackville's role in the formation of the Amherst Club was a product of the enthusiasm of some of its earliest members. Rotarians Harold McKiel, Frank West and Ross Flemington took the lead in meeting with interested members of the Amherst business and professional community, and they were present at the meeting in the Terrace Hotel on 25 February 1935 at which it was decided to form a Rotary Club of Amherst with Norman T. Avard as its first President, and Byrnes Curry as Secretary. The club received its charter from Rotary International on 14 March 1935. The Sackville club presented the Amherst group with a gong to call the members to order! The Amherst Club has a splendid record of service with Camp Tidnish, established in 1937, as its most important, but far from its only community service project. The Camp has a record of over 70 years of service and continues to provide excellent facilities which make possible summer programs for the physically and mentally challenged. Over the years the Sackville club has contributed to Camp Tidnish and sponsored participation in the Camp by young people from the Sackville community. In the early years the Sackville club participated with the Amherst club in a number of joint meetings. To this day Amherst is the most popular location for Sackville Rotarians seeking to "make up" their attendance. When the Amherst club celebrated their 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in March 2010 the Sackville club was strongly represented at the event.

In 1943 Sackville sponsored the Rotary Club of Springhill, NS, with the help of Roy Durling, a Springhill business man who had been transferred to Sackville and had become a Rotarian there. The new club received its charter on 14 June 1943. The Springhill Club's first project was to help the children of families whose fathers were serving overseas during the war; later it played a major role in raising and distributing relief funds following the mine disasters of 1956 and 1958.

Sackville also sponsored the formation of a club in the neighbouring community of Port Elgin; Mount Allison professors Harold Hamer and Harold McKiel were remembered many years later in Port Elgin as the driving force behind this effort. The club received its charter on 13 June 1949, with Frank H. Copp, the local M.L.A. at the time, as its first President. Though small in numbers this club has a fine record of service to the local community.

At the world-wide level Rotary International holds an international Convention every year which often sees upwards of 10,000 Rotarians meeting in a major city of the world for several days to learn about recent developments in Rotary and its many programs, and – just as important – to meet with one another and make new friendships across the barriers of nationality, race and language.

Rotarian Jake Fisher chalked up something of a unique record. He attended the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Rotary International Convention in Chicago in 1955. He vividly recalls the scene in the huge arena with a long line of seats on stage and one – in the very middle – left unoccupied, leaving everyone guessing for whom it had been reserved.



*Sackville Rotarians George Woodburn, Ove Samuelson and Muriel Stirling enjoy local cuisine at one of Montreal's famous pubs during the 2010 Convention. Second from the left is Richard Clarke, Rotary Foundation Canada President, 2010-11.*

When it turned out that the guest of honour was Paul Harris' widow Jean Thomson Harris, brought over from Scotland for the occasion, the thousands of Rotarians present raised the roof with their applause. 50 years later, in 2005, with his daughter Susan (also a Rotarian), he attended the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Convention, again in Chicago!

Rotarian Charlie Scobie attended the Rotary International Convention in Rome, Italy in 1979 (which included an audience with Pope John Paul II), and also in Glasgow, Scotland in June 1997. Attendees at more recent conventions include Nancy and Paul Gilbert (Brisbane, Australia: 2003, Chicago: 2005), Frank Chisholm (Chicago: 2005), Muriel Stirling (Birmingham, England: 2009), and George Woodburn, Leslie Van Patter, Muriel Stirling and Ove Samuelson (Montreal, Canada: 2010).

On one occasion the Sackville club was “paired” with a club in another Rotary International district. In 1977 the matched club was the Rotary Club of Yoeongdeungpo, Seoul, South Korea. An audio-visual (slides/tape) presentation on New Brunswick, Sackville and the Sackville club was prepared and sent to the matched club. A further very interesting link was developed. It turned out that Mrs. Inez Flemington, widow of Dr. W.T. Ross Flemington (member of the Sackville Club 1931-1962 and President of Mount Allison University 1945-1962) was teaching at the Korean Christian Academy in Seoul at the time. She visited the Yoeongdeungpo club and wrote back to Sackville describing her visit and the cordial welcome that had been extended to her. The relationship with this matched club provided the Sackville club with an experience of the world-wide fellowship of Rotary.

Sackville Rotarians have participated in another program of Rotary International designed to promote international understanding and good will, the Group Study Exchange. This makes it possible for a small group of business and professional men and women between the ages



*Nancy Gilbert with members of the District 7810 GSE team on arrival in India in 2002*

of 25 and 40, led by a Rotarian, to visit a Rotary District in another country for a

period of from 4 to 6 weeks. A well-organized program allows the participants to visit the district, meet people in their own areas of interest, develop personal and professional relationships, as well as learning more broadly about the host country. Typically, teams also go prepared to provide a presentation on themselves and their families, and on Canada, its peoples, places and history.

Frank Chisholm, while a Rotarian in Campbellton, New Brunswick, led a Group Study Exchange team to Japan in September/October 1994, in a District 7810/District 2720 exchange. In 2002 Nancy Gilbert led a group to India and Nepal which visited cultural, religious and educational sites as well as participating in a National Immunization Day for Polio Plus. Sackville participants in GSE programs have included Steve Ridlington (England, 1987), and Cheryl Wilson (Australia, 2004).

Sackville has helped host Group Study Exchange visiting teams on many occasions. Members have assisted by accommodating the visitors in their own homes, conducting historical tours of the area, leading visits to Mount Allison University, organizing meetings with local business and professional people, as well as holding events of a more social nature.

In recent years, a GSE team from District 1480 in Denmark, under team leader Ann Lund Rasmussen, came to Sackville in September 2000, while another from District 3290 (West Bengal, Nepal, Andaman and Nicobar Islands), led by Dilendra Raj Shrestha, visited Sackville in April 2002. A group from south-east Texas visited in May 2003, led by Rotarian Don Taylor; they enjoyed their visit to the area, particularly the Anne Murray Centre in Springhill (all of them being Anne Murray fans!). A team from Australia, led by Rotarian Bob Nottage, visited the District in April/May 2004 and participated in the District Conference held on the Mount Allison campus in Sackville. A group of four young professionals from District 9250 in South Africa spent three days in Sackville in May 2008; their business/professional interests encompassed dairy farming, financial management, real estate, auditing and ornithology – an

illustration of the diversity that can be found even in such a small group. May 2009 saw a visit by a GSE group from District 4370 in Venezuela.

Another type of international exchange is the Rotary Friendship Exchange which allows a small group of Rotarians, along with family members, to visit a number of communities in a Rotary District in another country. This is a way of experiencing another culture as well as building friendships by staying in the homes of Rotary Club members.



*GSE members from South Africa with their Sackville hosts, May 2008*



*Club President Virgil Hammock presents Marj Turner, President of the Brits Club with a Sackville club banner during the 2001 Rotary Friendship Exchange*

In 2001 a Rotary Friendship Exchange group, led by Marj Turner, President of the Brits Club in South Africa, visited Sackville; typical of such events, the visitors were treated to a lobster boil at the shore. A group of ten from District 7810, including Pam Harrison from the Sackville club visited South Africa in September 2002, taking with them school supplies; they visited AIDS projects and an orphanage for HIV positive children. In May 2007 a Friendship Exchange group from Nashik in the state of Maharashtra in west India, in Rotary District 3030, spent three days in Sackville. With many cultural, social and dietary differences, this was a learning experience for both the members of the host club and the nine visitors, but as always, Rotary fellowship proved to be a common and powerful bond. A group from District 5020 (Vancouver Island and northern Washington state) visited Sackville in September 2006, while Wayne and Sandy Harper

of the Sackville club returned the compliment in August 2007, with Pam Harrison joining the group for an Alaskan cruise.

These programs remind us that Rotary is not just a local club; it is Rotary “International”, a great world-wide family which builds on fellowship and reaches out to a needy world through “Service Above Self.”

## 2011-2021

### 6

## A DECADE OF CHANGE

THE DECADE 2011 TO 2021 was one of profound change for the Rotary Club of Sackville. The most obvious reason for this was the advent of the Covid-19 virus which was declared by the World Health Organization to be a “pandemic” on Wednesday 11 March 2020.

On Thursday 12 March 2020 the club went ahead with a planned Paul Harris Evening Celebration, held at Cranewood, the highlight of which was the recognition as Paul Harris Fellows of two outstanding local volunteers, Margaret Tusz-King and John Perkin. That proved to be the last in-person meeting of the Sackville Rotary club for 2020 and well into 2021.

The club soon found itself having to comply with the regulations and restrictions put in place by the authorities in New Brunswick – and around the world – to combat the spread of the Covid-19 virus.

The usual weekly meetings ceased immediately. Social gatherings of any kind disappeared; no annual BBQ or Lobster Party. Service activities were severely limited.

The Rotary Club of Sackville had published a weekly newsletter of some kind since the earliest meetings of the club in 1931. The last newsletter was circulated on 5 March 2020. Since then, minutes of online Zoom meetings have been circulated.

In due course the club settled in to the new situation. Two noon meetings and one evening meeting per month were held online with the help of Zoom. While this did not quite produce the fellowship typical of in-person meetings, it did allow for

the occasional participation of Rotarians outside of New Brunswick. By observing social distancing and wearing masks some forms of service remained possible. For example, one of the first things Rotarians did after the pandemic began was to deliver groceries to shut-in seniors.

In fact, so well did the club handle the challenges of the new situation under the leadership of the 2019-2020 president David McKellar that it received a “Rotary Citation,” signed by the President of Rotary International, for achieving the club’s goals for 2019-20. The citation was at the highest or “Platinum” level; Sackville was the only club in District 7810 to receive such an award.

Rotary President David McKellar was invited to be co-chair of the newly constituted Tantrammar COVID-19 Task Force, a sign of Rotary’s positive reputation in the community. The task force established a number of action groups (food security, mental health, physical health, youth and students, economic and business impact, financial and legal), and many Rotarians volunteered to serve on these groups. The Sackville club played a role in channelling funds from the United Way to support the operations of the task force.

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The club’s ninth decade was indeed marked by drastic change but not all the change was a product of the Covid-19 pandemic. By halfway through the decade the winds of change were already blowing through Rotary International. There was concern about a lack of increase in membership, and a feeling that Rotary must shed some of its traditional ways in order to attract more younger members.

In 2016 the Council on Legislation made a series of changes which allowed much greater flexibility in the running of Rotary clubs. Attendance requirements were relaxed; service projects, social events and committee meetings were to count for attendance; clubs did not have to meet weekly; new membership categories were introduced – Associate, Corporate and Family.

The 2019-2020 President of Rotary International, Mark Maloney pushed strongly for radical change within local clubs. “While the club remains the core of the Rotary experience,” he declared, “we are now far more creative and flexible in deciding – what a club can be, how it can meet, and even what can be considered a Rotary meeting. We need to be organized, strategic, and innovative in how we approach membership, forging wider and deeper connections to our communities and forming new club models to attract and engage more, and more diverse members.”

Inspired by these directions, a series of changes were made in the Sackville club beginning in the fall of 2019. The traditional breakfast meeting in a restaurant was reduced to once a month, and familiar features such as the singing of “O Canada,” grace before the meal, and repetition of the Four-Way Test disappeared overnight. Other meetings were to be a breakfast gathering at the Sackville Commons (the former Fire Station on Main Street), a social evening, and a service project or meeting with a community partner. Attendance requirements were greatly reduced.

These wide-ranging changes were overtaken by the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic which made necessary further changes to adapt to the new situation.

Change of the meeting location is nothing new. The decade began with meetings in George’s Roadhouse, opposite the railway station; the building had seen better days, being what was left of an original three-story hotel. (It was finally demolished in November 2020). When the restaurant closed, the club moved downtown to Goya’s on Main Street in February 2014. Then in November 2015 yet another move found the club meetings being held at Joey’s Italian restaurant just around the corner on York Street.

The decade saw increasing use of the “ClubRunner” software program. Especially designed for use by Rotary clubs and districts, it provides the club with a system to manage all aspects of the club’s activities including administrative, commu-

nications, planning, financial and record-keeping. Income from advertisements helps defray the cost of the annual licensing fee.

In 2017 the club was able to rent space in the new Sackville Commons building on Main Street for storage purposes and as a small group meeting place.

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The ninth decade also saw changes in the membership of the club. While the number of members stayed around the 25 to 35 mark, there was a considerable turnover. The old idea of “once a Rotarian, always a Rotarian” seemed to have less appeal. One of the aims of the new approach to Rotary in 2019 was to recruit more members “while ensuring that we are an inclusive and diverse club.” New categories of membership – Corporate and Family – were established. A number of new members were recruited, even after the onset of the pandemic.

Unfortunately the club lost a number of its most valuable members in a different kind of change. August 2011 saw the passing of its oldest member, Maurice Parkin (Jake) Fisher, an avid Rotarian for 60 years, a multiple Paul Harris Fellow, club president in 1954-1955, and son of one of the original 1931 charter members. Laing Ferguson, who died in December 2013, was active in both community and international service. After suffering a stroke in 2000 he continued his regular attendance at Rotary with the help of members, some of whom built a custom-made entry ramp at George’s Roadhouse to accommodate his wheelchair.

Towards the end of the decade the club suffered severe loss in the unexpected passing of three of its most active members. Mary Sears, who died suddenly in December 2019, was a long-time Rotarian and a tireless worker for Rotary causes, especially the new Gold Mine Draw. For several years her own home was the meeting place for Rotary committee work.



*Group Photo of the Club, Christmas 2011*

September 2020 saw the passing of Wayne Harper, a long-time member of the Sackville Rotary Club and a tireless worker, especially for the club's fundraising efforts. Supervision of the club's ClubRunner computer system, editing of the club newsletter and organizing visiting speakers were merely some of his many contributions.

Finally, words fail adequately to acknowledge the impact on Rotary of Pam Harrison who died after a short illness in January 2021. An inveterate traveller, she visited all seven continents, 89 countries and 100 World Heritage sites, often combining her travels with attending Rotary meetings and participating in service projects. With her boundless energy and enthusiasm she was an endless source of new ideas. She inspired the members of the Sackville club and of District 7810 to put service above self and to support all kinds of Rotary projects. A generous donor herself, she was a master fund-raiser. In addition to many other awards, in June 2009 she received from Rotary International President John Kenny the Rotary Foundation Citation for Meritorious Service in recognition of her outstanding efforts on behalf of the Rotary Foundation.

## SERVICE ABOVE SELF

ROTARY'S MOTTO IS "Service Above Self" and during the decade 2011-2021 the Rotary Club of Sackville maintained its record of outstanding service both to the local community and internationally.

Contributions were made on a regular basis to a range of local causes such as the Sackville Memorial Hospital Foundation, the Sackville Refugee Resource Coalition, Open Sky Cooperative, and Ability New Brunswick. Contributions were not only financial. Each year in early September club members served at the corn boil in downtown Sackville organized by the Town as a way of welcoming new Mount Allison University students to the community. The night before, Rotarians gathered to try to break the record for shucking 1000 ears of corn.



*The Corn Boil squad*

In the second half of the decade the club implemented a policy of partnering with other local groups on community projects. This meant being involved with partners in the planning of projects as well as sharing with them in providing the necessary funding.

In 1987 the Rotary Club of Sackville had constructed a shelter around the so-called “Booster Pump” on Main Street. In 2017 they partnered with the Town of Sackville in re-building the shelter and paving the adjacent parking area.

The same year the club teamed up with the Town, the Drew Nursing Home, the Sackville Memorial Hospital Foundation and the Province of New Brunswick in purchasing an electric “duet bicycle” for use with residents of the Drew Home. While the machine is kept at the Drew, it is available for use by anyone in the community.



*The “Booster Pump” Shelter*

Later that year the club joined forces with the local Legion in dedicating an oak sapling and plaque in the Sackville Memorial Park as part of a national commemoration of the Battle of Vimy Ridge (April 1917).

In 2017 the club also partnered with the Province of New Brunswick, the Town of Sackville and local businesses in building a new observation tower in the Sackville Waterfowl Park.



*Sackville Waterfowl Park  
Observation Tower*

2019 saw the club joining forces with the Town of Sackville, the Province of New Brunswick and TD Bank in funding the construction of a new “Natural Playground” at the Lillas Fawcett Rotary Park in Middle Sackville.

In 2020 when Lafford Realty donated a memorial to the four Methodist churches which had stood in succession in downtown Sackville from 1818 to 2015, Rotary provided the accompanying historical marker. The memorial took the form of a 1,200 lb bell from the 1898 church.

For a number of years, the Sackville club, mindful of past major projects such as the Lillas Fawcett Rotary Park and the Rotary Millennial Bridge, contemplated the idea of a “legacy project.” Several ideas were explored and money was set aside for



*Official Opening of the Bridge (l-r): Mayor John Higham, club President David McKellar, MLA Megan Mitton, and Sandy Burnett, Chair of the Sackville Waterfowl Park Advisory Committee.*

such an undertaking. Club members discussed various options and finally voted in favour the construction of a bridge which would link the existing Sackville Waterfowl Park with the new 20 acre “Daniel Lund Park.” The club partnered with the Town of Sackville and contributed \$25,200 to the cost of a fine new bridge.



*Presentation of cheque to the Town of Sackville for the new Sackville Waterfowl Park Bridge.*

The bridge was officially opened on 14 November 2019 by Rotary 2019-2020 President David McKellar, along with John Higham, Mayor of Sackville, Megan Mitton, MLA for Memramcook/Tantramar, and Sandy Burnett, Chair, Sackville Waterfowl Park Advisory Committee.

International Service is one of the key characteristics that differentiates Rotary from other service clubs. Over the past decade the Sackville Rotary club supported numerous international projects that dove-tailed with Rotary’s “Areas of Focus” that seek to address critical and widespread humanitarian needs. The club supported BioSand waterfilters in the Dominican Republic; partnered to provide support to a health care centre in Dominghia, Guinea; adopted a school in Nigeria in need of safe water, sanitation and hygiene education; and supported ShelterBox Canada in providing emergency shelters and tools to families in numerous countries needing to self-recover from natural or humanitarian disasters.

Responding to Rotary’s plea to fund larger projects, Sackville Rotary collaborated with the clubs of Southeastern New Brunswick to maximize their support to various International projects. These included, among others: supporting a village farm training centre in Mulonga, Zambia; supporting a farmer’s cooperative in Terrier Rouge, Haiti; and, at the suggestion of local Rotarian on a Rotary Group Study

Exchange in the area, providing drinking water filtration systems to villages around Nagpur, Maharashtra, India. Together the clubs threw gala evenings to fundraise for these worthy causes and to have a bit of Rotary fun and fellowship while they did so.

Throughout the decade the club maintained its interest in and support of Community Forests International, founded by Paul Harris Fellow Jeff Schnurr, with its headquarters in Middle Sackville. Contributions have been made to projects in Zanzibar that help communities adapt to climate change, that empower women through micro-enterprise, and that build economic prosperity in rural communities. In April 2019 a donation of \$5,000 was made to CFI to provide technical and business training for 137 women in Pemba. CFI's work on the island of Pemba, off the coast of Tanzania, has won worldwide recognition.

Over the past decade the club continued to support the great work of the Rotary Foundation, Rotary International's major instrument for "doing good in the world." As well as financial contributions by the club and by individual members, the work of the Foundation has been supported through the recognition of "Paul Harris Fellows," named in memory of the founder of Rotary, Paul Harris (1868-1947). By making a donation of \$1,000 US to the Foundation a Rotarian can be recognized as a Paul Harris Fellow. Such donations can also be made on behalf of a club member, or of an outstanding member of the local community.

The club has also continued the tradition of holding Paul Harris Evenings to promote the work of the Foundation and to recognize Paul Harris Fellows both from the club and from the local community. Such celebrations were held in 2011, 2012, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019 and 2020.

The biggest and best known international service project of the Rotary Foundation remains Polio Plus with its declared aim of eliminating the dread disease of polio from the face of the earth. The decade 2011 to 2021 saw a continuing decline in



*Rotarians with Former and New Paul Harris Fellows, 18 May 2017*



*"End Polio Now" Walk, 1 June 2019*

the number of polio cases worldwide but the aim of ending the disease remained elusive with stubborn outbreaks continuing in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

The Sackville club maintained its outstanding financial support of Polio Plus, with donations both by the club itself and by individual members. For example, at the 2019 District Conference, Sackville received two award certificates: one from the Rotary Foundation in recognition of the club's support of the End Polio Now: Countdown to History Campaign, and one for reaching Rotary International's Club Polio Goal. Just to prove that they deserved these awards, in October 2019 the club held a series of events, some supported by other clubs, which – counting the trebling of donations by the Gates Foundation ! – raised over \$68,000 for the campaign to eliminate polio.

To help publicise the ongoing campaign, on Saturday 1 June 2019 Sackville Rotarians, family, friends, and members from other clubs participated in a 3 km walk through the Sackville Waterfowl Park in support of “End Polo Now.” The event was organized by Pam Harrison who arranged for a group photo of the participants to be sent to the Rotary International Convention meeting at the time in Hamburg, Germany, and to UNICEF, as a thank you to polio vaccination volunteers in Pakistan.

The Sackville club maintained a special interest in Polio Plus through their link with Nova Scotia native and Mount Allison grad Melissa Corkum, who during the 2011-2021 decade became a world leader in the fight against polio. After serving with UNICEF in Pakistan and Nigeria she went on to become Chief of Polio Eradication at the United Nations. On 27 August 2017 Melissa was recognized as a Paul Harris Fellow at her family home in Millville, Nova Scotia. Pam Harrison, who funded the award, presided and was accompanied by Sackville Rotarians Charlie Scobie and Frank Chisholm.



*Melissa Corkum (left) with Pam Harrison*

## 8

## STRIKING GOLD

EXTENSIVE PROGRAMS OF BOTH community and international service require financial support and during the decade 2011-2021 the Rotary Club of Sackville conducted fund-raising on a variety of fronts.

Following a well-tried formula, the club held community breakfasts, usually twice a year until the advent of Covid-19. These involved considerable planning and effort on the part of members with some help on occasion from Scouts and Rotaract members. Rotarians became experts at flipping pancakes, pre-cooking bacon, and producing home-made beans. On the best-case scenario, such breakfasts could serve some 300 customers and net in the region of \$2,000.



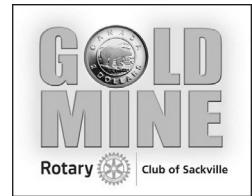
The club also raised money for a couple of years through a golf-ball drop. An unusual fundraiser in 2014 was a showing at the Vogue Cinema of a 3D version of the opera “Madame Butterfly.” For several years a group of club members undertook to organize and tend a bar at events held by other local organizations, with the proceeds of the bar going to Rotary funds.

The largest ongoing fund-raising event began in 2005 as a Wine-Tasting Evening held in the Tantramar Veterans Memorial Civic Centre. In a succession of efforts to attract a larger and a younger clientele this became a Wine and Beer tasting event, and finally morphed into a “Spring Bash,” with a popular band in attendance.

Not all fund-raising efforts depended on the support of the general public. Club members contributed generously through the purchase of grocery cards. The

proceeds of a weekly 50-50 draw went to the Rotary Foundation. One of the most successful events was the annual inhouse auction with items contributed by members, and the auction itself conducted at a regular morning meeting with auctioneer Wynn Meldrum coaxing the best bids from members and friends in attendance. These auctions could produce quite spectacular results. For example, in 2015, the auction brought in \$1,500; the Board decided to double that which brought the total to \$3,000; at that time the Gates Foundation was trebling such efforts so the final amount raised for Polio Plus was \$9,000!

The Sackville club's fund-raising efforts took a dramatic new turn in 2015 with the advent of the Gold Mine Draw. Rotarian Louise MacKinnon brought to the attention of the Sackville club the highly successful weekly draw operated by the Rotary Club of Montague in Eastern P.E.I. With the agreement and support of the Montague club, and a lot of hard work by members of the Sackville club, a "Gold Mine Draw" was established in Sackville and area.



Participants contribute one or more toonies per week to the draw. Blue boxes are installed in ten local businesses. Participants write their number on a sticker, place



*Club Members Help Celebrate the Record Gold Mine Winnings*

the sticker on each toonie they contribute and put it in one of the boxes. Once a week the blue boxes are collected, the numbered toonies checked, and a winning number drawn from all the registered numbers.

Half the weekly income goes to the holder of the winning number. The first winner was Tammy Dauvin who on 14 February 2015 received a cheque for \$1,000. In the event that a number is drawn belonging to someone who has not contributed that week, the pot is carried forward to the following week, and if need be beyond that. The record cumulative amount to date is a cheque for \$12,900 received by Natasha Walton on 7 November 2018.



*Typical Gold Mine grant to a local organization*

The other half of the weekly income goes to good causes. Initially, one half of it went to fund club service projects, while the other half went to a list of local community organizations. Any local group could apply to receive grants; applications were assessed each year and a list of a dozen or so recipients established. Since 2015 recipients of Gold Mine Draw funding have included Atlantic Wildlife Institute, Bob Edgett's Boys Club, Dorchester Consolidated School, Marshview Middle School, Open Sky Cooperative, Port Elgin Regional School, Sackville Community Association, Sackville and Dorchester Fire Departments, Sackville and Dorchester Food Banks, Sackville Early Music Festival, Sackville Memorial Hospital Foundation, Sackville Minor Hockey, Salem Elementary School, Struts Gallery, Tantramar Adult Learning Centre, Tantramar Family Resource Centre, Tantramar Heritage Trust, and Tantramar Regional High School. Representatives of recipient organizations have frequently attended Rotary meetings to express their thanks and to update club members on their work and activities.

From its inception in February 2015 the Gold Mine Draw went from strength to strength with widespread local support. By the end of 2020 a total of about \$650,000 had been received; this means that the sum of \$325,000 had been distributed to worthy charities and not-for-profit organizations in Sackville and surrounding areas.

With the declaration of a global pandemic in March 2020 it looked as if the Gold Mine Draw had come to an end. Provincial regulations rendered a system which involved placing collection boxes in local businesses against the rules. However, in mid-June the restrictions were relaxed so that the distinctive blue boxes could be replaced in the community and the Gold Mine could begin again. Early in August the club received the necessary approval from the provincial lottery licensing department to establish a system for on-line pre-payment, a long sought-after alternative to having to place a toonie in a box each week. This had the added advantage of allowing the Gold Mine to continue to operate when, in mid-January 2021, a second wave of Covid-19 shut down distribution of the blue boxes. A return to a lower level of restrictions in February allowed for their restoration a few weeks later.

As of January 2021 a change was made in the allocation of funds to local community groups. Rather than establishing a list of recipients each year and giving each recipient an equal amount, groups are now invited to apply at any time of year for specific projects which will benefit the community.

The Gold Mine Draw revolutionized fundraising for the Rotary Club of Sackville and enabled it to fund community work on a greatly increased scale. It did not entirely eliminate other methods of raising money. For example, the inhouse auction continued each year. In June 2020 a major online fundraiser, “Tantramar Together,” raised a substantial amount to fund organizations dealing with the effects of the pandemic.

## ROTARY AND YOUTH

THE ROTARY CLUB OF SACKVILLE has always made the welfare of young people in the community one of its chief concerns and this continued to be true in the decade 2011 to 2021.

The decade did see some changes, however, and one of the most regretted was the termination of the Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE) program in 2016. Beginning in 1985, for some 30 years the club hosted 46 high-school age students who came to the Sackville area and lived with host families for a year. During the same period, 49 students from Sackville had the opportunity of living abroad, also for a year.

The program was generally highly successful but it depended on finding three host families per year for each visiting student. This involved a fairly major commitment and for several years it became increasingly difficult to recruit enough hosts. With great reluctance, the club decided that it was not possible to continue the program and the year 2015-2016 saw the last inbound and outbound students.

The RYE program forged friendships between students and hosts which lasted for many years and these continued even after the program had ended. Some former inbound students were able to pay return visits to Sackville, and some members of host families went abroad to visit former RYE students in their home countries in order to renew their friendship and in one or two cases to attend the wedding of a former RYE student.

Within the community the provision of school breakfasts became a matter of increasing necessity and importance. Sackville Rotary supported the breakfast programs financially, and members also volunteered to go and help serve the breakfasts.

As part of an emphasis on “literacy,” the club sponsored a program of providing high-quality illustrated dictionaries to Grade 3 students in Salem Elementary and Dorchester Consolidated schools. Rotary members went to the schools, sat down with students and presented the dictionaries to them. Many of the students were surprised and delighted by the books and a typical response was : “Do you mean I get to keep it ?”

The custom was maintained, whenever there was a guest speaker at the weekly meeting, of presenting a book to one of the local school libraries in their honour. In 2011 the club provided classrooms at Salem Elementary School with “smart boards,” and in 2016 they contributed to the cost of Salem’s new “outdoor classroom.”

Another program aimed at young people and their parents was established in cooperation with the Owens Art Gallery at Mount Allison University. The club contributed financially to “Make Something Sundays” which enabled youngsters to take part in arts and crafts events at the gallery on Sunday afternoons.

Special interest continued to focus on Tantramar Regional High School. Every year the Rotary Club provides bursaries for students going on to some form of post-secondary education or training.

The “Adventures in Citizenship” program also continued with one high school student chosen each year to go to the nation’s capital and take part in a series of events organized by the Rotary Club of Ottawa.

In 2013 the club provided the high school with a fully-equipped audio recording studio for use in connection with the



*Presentation of Rotary International Achievement Award to Gayle Key (right)*

school's music program. On 21 August 2014 District 7810 Governor Pat Perry presented 2013-2014 Sackville President Gayle Key with a Rotary International Achievement Award for 2013-2014, signed by the President of Rotary International, in recognition of the club's support of the school's music program and provision of a sound studio.

One of the most encouraging features of the decade 2011 to 2021 was the growth and vitality of the Mount Allison University Rotaract club which is affiliated with the Rotary Club of Sackville. Rotaract is an organization of young adults between the ages of 18 and 30 which shares the aims and ideals of Rotary. The Mount Allison group has conducted many successful fund-raising events including bake sales, wine and cheese events, and an annual chili cook-off where Rotarians help by cooking some of the chili (as well as by buying some of it back!).

Members of Rotaract and Rotarians have got together on a number of occasions for example on apple-picking expeditions, and on visits to the District Conference.

Members of Rotaract have also been very active in serving the community, for example by volunteering with the breakfast program at Marshview Middle School and the afterschool Homework Club program at Dorchester Consolidated School, by helping with the Sackville Food Bank, and assisting with the fall corn boil for Mount A students.

In March 2019 three Rotaract leaders were honoured by the Sackville Club for their contributions to the community by being recognized as Paul Harris Fellows: Colin Robertson (Rotaract President 2015-2016, 2016-2017, Mount Allison's 54<sup>th</sup> Rhodes Scholar), Elise Vaillancourt (Rotaract President 2017/2018), and Katherine Reiss (Rotaract President 2018-2019, Mount Allison's 55<sup>th</sup> Rhodes Scholar).



*Rotaract Members Prepare to Serve Chili*

Following new legislation in 2019, as of 1 July 2020 Rotaract went from being a program of Rotary International to being a membership type of Rotary, thus elevating its status to resemble that of Rotary clubs. The full implications of this change are still being worked out, but they include flexibility in regard to the upper age limit for Rotaract, and the ability of Rotaract members to serve alongside Rotarians on district and Rotary International committees.

## THE WIDER WORLD OF ROTARY

ROTARIANS SHOULD BE EVER mindful of the fact that they are members not just of a local Rotary club but of a great world-wide movement, Rotary International.

Each year Rotary International has held a Rotary Convention, and many Sackville Rotarians have attended these in different parts of the world. The annual convention for 2010 was held in Montreal, while the 2018 event was held in Toronto, making it easier for Sackville Rotarians to attend. This was an opportunity to make new Rotary friends, as well as to meet up with former Sackville Rotarians.

One of the aims of Rotary is to promote international understanding, and several Rotary International exchange programs contribute towards this end. In 2013, a Group Study Exchange team consisting of five persons from India with a Rotarian leader visited Sackville, staying overnight with Rotary families. Two members of the team spoke at a club meeting.

In June 2019 Sackville Rotarian Pam Harrison was a participant in a Rotary Friendship exchange with Brazil. After visiting Brazil, Pam led a group from Brazil on a visit to Canada including to the Sackville area.

Most Rotary contacts beyond the club level are with the district and the Sackville club has for quite some time been part of District 7810 which consists of all of New Brunswick and ten clubs in northern Maine, thus making it an international district. Sackville club members continued to participate in District 7810 programs and to attend the annual district conference until the onset of Covid-19. Like so much else, the business of District 7810 was thereafter conducted online. For several years the Sackville club was responsible for the “House of Friendship” at the district conference.

For a number of years a decline in the number of club members has been a matter of concern and this was a major factor in a proposed district realignment which will take place in 2022. District 7810's ten clubs in Maine will be transferred to another district, and the remaining clubs (including Sackville) will be combined with the present District 7820 which includes Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland & Labrador plus the French islands of St. Pierre & Miquelon to form a new District 7815.

The new district will thus include all 75 clubs in Atlantic Canada and will have approximately 2,450 members. The participation of St. Pierre & Miquelon will make it an international district and it will be officially bilingual (English/French).

Sadly, in 2017, District 7820 lost one of its clubs when the Rotary Club of Springhill, N.S. agreed to disband. The Springhill club had been formed in 1943 when it was sponsored by the Sackville Club, which presented it with its Rotary brass bell. It happens that Sackville also sponsored the Rotary Club of Port Elgin, N.B. in 1949, but they never received a bell. Before they disbanded, the Springhill club agreed to pass on their bell to Port Elgin. At a ceremony on 7 December 2017 the bell was presented to its new owners. Appropriately, the Sackville club paid to have the bell engraved with the name "Port Elgin" and the date of the club's founding.

As already noted, in recent years Rotary International has been an advocate of change. One long-awaited change in the structure of Rotary itself has finally come to pass with the nomination of a woman as President of Rotary International. Jennifer E. Jones, a member of the Rotary Club of Windsor-Roseland, Ontario has been nominated to lead Rotary in 2022-2023, so a Canadian will make history as the first woman president of Rotary International.

It would be a bold person who would forecast the direction in which Rotary International will go in 2021 and beyond. In recent years Rotary International has identified six areas of focus: peace and conflict prevention/resolution; disease

prevention and treatment; water, sanitation and hygiene; maternal and child health; basic education and literacy; economic and community development. To these has just been added 'protecting the environment.'

The latter will doubtless receive a lot of attention and already, early in 2021, the Sackville club was planning action in this area, subject to the limitations imposed by Covid-19 restrictions.



*Rotarian Pam Harrison (left) with Members of Brazil-Canada Rotary Friendship Exchange*

APPENDIX A

Presidents and Secretaries of the Rotary Club of Sackville, NB

YEAR	PRESIDENT	SECRETARY
1931-32	Norman A. Hesler	Frank L. West
1932-33	Charles L. Gass	Harold W. McKiel
1933-34	Frank L. West	Harold W. McKiel
1934-35	Frederick T. Tingley	Arthur G. Putnam
1935-36	Harold W. McKiel	W.T. Ross Flemington
1936-37	Leslie Carey	Fred Rand
1937-38	W.T. Ross Flemington	Roy. E. MacCluskey
1938-39	C. Maurice P. Fisher	George L. Walker
1939-40	Fred R. Rand	Kenneth MacKenzie
1940-41	Bonar F. Mundle	Kenneth MacKenzie
1941-42	Henry Berman	Harold S. Hamer
1942-43	Roy Durling	Victor Hardwick
1943-44	Harold S. Hamer	Kenneth Parker
1944-45	Alex R. French	C. Donald MacDonald
1945-46	Kenneth A. Parker	Charles W. Moffatt
1946-47	Charles W. Moffatt	Donald McPhail
1947-48	C. Donald MacDonald	Donald G. MacGregor
1948-49	E. Rene Richard	Donald G. MacGregor
1949-50	Donald G. MacGregor	W. Fraser Munro
1950-51	Fred C. Johns	W. Fraser Munro
1951-52	Herbert M. Wood	Donald G.G. Kerr
1952-53	Ralph G. Sharpe	Donald McPhail
1953-54	Donald McPhail	Maurice P. Fisher

YEAR	PRESIDENT	SECRETARY
1954-55	Maurice P. Fisher	John K. Young
1955-56	Herbert A. Beale	Russell E. Scott
1956-57	Roy B. Scott	John W. Wilson
1957-58	J.W.M. Black	F. William Fisher
1958-59	John W. Wilson	Wilson R. Stallworthy
1959-60	F. William Fisher	Weston A. McGarvie
1960-61	Wendell W. Meldrum	John W. Wilson
1961-62	Phillip Bishop	Peter Fisher
1962-63	Ralph B. Fullerton	Peter Fisher
1963-64	Kenneth E. Chisholm	Herbert A. Beale
1964-65	Frederick W. Jones	Herbert A. Beale
1965-66	Norman W. Duxbury	Herbert A. Beale
1966-67	Harry J. Smith	John Hoday
1967-68	Cecil A. MacLeod	John Hoday
1968-69	R.J. "Max" Hickey	John Hoday
1969-70	F. James Thraves	Robert G. Butler
1970-71	John Hoday	John Hazelhurst
1971-72	Joseph Atkinson	Robert N. Hazelhurst
1972-73	A. Frank Fraser	Robert N. Hazelhurst
1973-74	Robert A. Milton	Ove B. Samuelsen
1974-75	John B. Carter	Ove B. Samuelsen
1975-76	Donald Fay	Fred T. Tweed
1976-77	Ove B. Samuelsen	Fred T. Tweed
1977-78	Douglas J. Hamm	Charles H.H. Scobie
1978-79	Fred T. Tweed	Robert A. Knapp
1979-80	Charles H.H. Scobie	Lloyd Carter

THE ROTARY CLUB OF SACKVILLE

YEAR	PRESIDENT	SECRETARY
1980-81	Robert A. Knapp	Stewart Constantine
1981-82	Charles Cook	Stewart Constantine
1982-83	Gordon Manson	Peter Tapley
1983-84	Stewart Constantine	Norman Rees-Potter
1984-85	Peter Tapley	Frank Cormier
1985-86	Norman Rees-Potter	Peter Penner
1986-87	James Purdy	Peter Penner
1987-88	Peter Penner	Philip McNeil
1988-89	W. Chester S. MacDonald	Philip McNeil
1989-90	Matt Smith	Steve Ridlington
1990-91	Philip McNeil	Steve Ridlington
1991-92	Wynn Meldrum	Marion Holder
1992-93	Alan Mitchell	Marion Holder
1993-94	Alan Mitchell	Marion Holder
1994-95	Marion Holder	Wayne Harper
1995-96	Wendell Dawson	Wayne Harper
1996-97	Wayne Harper	Neville Ralph
1997-98	Wayne Harper	Elaine Smith
1998-99	Sharon Meldrum	Elaine Smith
1999-2000	Nancy Gilbert	Ove B. Samuelsen
2000-01	Pam Harrison	Ove B. Samuelsen
2001-02	Virgil Hammock	Ove B. Samuelsen
2002-03	Ove B. Samuelsen	Leslie Van Patter
2003-04	Gary Morice	Leslie Van Patter
2004-05	Leslie Van Patter	Sandy Harper
2005-06	Leslie Van Patter	Sandy Harper

YEAR	PRESIDENT	SECRETARY
2006-07	Bill Swift	Sandy Harper
2007-08	Sandy Harper	Flo Spencer/Bruno Gnassi
2008-09	Peter Hess	Bruno Gnassi
2009-10	George Woodburn	Bruno Gnassi
2010-11	Ken Draper	Karen Noiles
2011-12	Ken Draper	Pam Bowman
2012-13	Trish Edwards	Pam Bowman
2013-14	Gayle Key	Marita Webb
2014-15	John Murchie	Marita Webb
2015-16	Dianne Oulton	Marita Webb
2016-17	Josh Cormier	Joyce Ferguson
2017-18	John Murchie	Josh Cormier
2018-19	Louise MacKinnon	David McKellar
2019-20	David McKellar	Edna Boland
2020-21	Marita Webb	Edna Boland

APPENDIX B  
**Rotary Foundation Scholars**  
**Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Sackville, NB**

YEAR	SCHOLAR
1970-71	Alexander Wayne MacKay
1975-76	Marylea Helen MacDonald
1978-79	Jean Catherine Cameron
1980-81	Sarah Helen Maybee
1982-83	Alexander M. Cameron
1983-84	Diana Lynne Theman
1985-86	Jill Elizabeth Burnett
1988-89	Nathalie Hanrahan (Dakar, Senegal)
1990-91	Deborah Nicole Johnston (Hong Kong)
1991-92	Sara Jennifer Guild (Cardiff, Wales)
1993-94	David Fancy (Dublin, Ireland)
1996-97	Heather Smith (Glasgow, Scotland)

APPENDIX C  
**Rotary Youth Exchange Students**  
**Hosted by the Rotary Club of Sackville, NB**

YEAR	STUDENT	FROM
1985-86	Vanessa Chaves	Kuritiba, Brazil
1986-87	Katrien Tanghe	Kortemark, Belgium
1988-89	Flora Bencik	Tourcoing, France
1994-95	Agnes Herbert	Braunschweig, Germany
	Veronique Landel	Bergerac, France
1995-96	Fernanda Gudiño	Los Mochis, Mexico
1996-97	Nao Ono	Shiogama, Japan
1997-98	Berta Cordes	Sellstedt, Germany
1998	Laura Hills	Cheviot, New Zealand
1998-99	Pierre-Jean Tabourel	Chateau Gonthier, France
1999	Nicola Marshall	Hartebeesport, South Africa
2000	Joyce Chua	Darwin, Australia
2000-2001	Kathrin Schneider	Burgdorf, Switzerland
	Jonas Trollvik	Göteborg, Sweden
	Helena Arkil	Haderslev, Denmark

THE ROTARY CLUB OF SACKVILLE

YEAR	STUDENT	FROM
2001-02	Emerson Venturini	Barquismeto, Venezuela
	Karla Ortiz	Hermosillo, Mexico
2002	Jessica Sterley	Bronkhorstspruit, South Africa
2002-03	Nina Kurdve	Vejbystrand, Sweden
2003-04	Sayaka Matsuo	Nagasaki, Japan
	Erick Delgadillo	Aquascalientes, Mexico
	Cesar Cortez	Frutal, Brazil (hosted by Port Elgin club)
2004-05	Michelle Arias	Quito, Ecuador
	Ulf Tiedemann	Cuxhaven, Germany
2005-06	Ana Laura “Kikis” Fernandez	Juarez, Mexico
2006	Cassandra King	Cairns, Australia
2006-07	Elisabeth Weidner	Seelbach, Germany
	Fernanda Orpineda	Chihuahua, Mexico
2007-08	Frouwke Heeres	Gasselte, Netherlands
	Laura Medeiros	Três Lagoas, Brazil
2008-09	Mona Nilsson	Mariestad, Sweden
	Laurie Desmet	Couillet, Belgium

YEAR	STUDENT	FROM
2009-10	Mizuki Iwanaga	Nagasaki, Japan
	Joseph Lassue	Villeneuve d'ascq, France
	Johanna Brodin	Trollhättan, Sweden (hosted by Port Elgin club)
2010-11	Pauliina Rintala	Lapua, Finland
	Katrine Christensen	Svebølle, Denmark
2011-11	Pernille Sorensen	Assens, Denmark
	Felix Szilagyi	Marburg, Germany
2012-13	Thomas Auchet	Evette-Salbert, France
	Coralie Magonet	Gerpennes, Belgium
2013-14	Henna Paussu	Turenki, Finland
	Christoph Meyer	Solothurn, Switzerland
2014-15	Bente Van Ingen	Zuid Schorwarde, Holland
	Margot Barbotin	Saint Marin, France
2015-16	Louis Alsteens	Braine Le Chateau, Belgium

APPENDIX D

**Rotary Youth Exchange Students  
Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Sackville, NB**

YEAR	STUDENT	DESTINATION
1986-87	Dominic Blakely	Emerald, Australia
	Rob Whitla	Torhout, Belgium
1994-95	Sarah Coll-Black	Hanover, Germany
	Tara Corbett	Devonport, New Zealand
1995-96	Amanda Feindel	Morioka, Japan
1996-97	Heidi Griffin	Gifhorn, Germany
1997-98	Rebecca Koot	Pont-à-Mousson, France
1998-99	Holly Coll-Black	Toulouse, France
	Adam Mills	Charleroi, Belgium
1999-00	Will Gilbert	Pretoria, South Africa
2000-01	Mary Coll-Black	Tucuman, Argentina
	Kate LeBlanc	Albi, France
	Laura Reinsborough	Porsgrunn, Norway
	Steve Smith	Townsville, Australia
2001-02	Lucy Porter	Los Mochis, Mexico
	Emily Schnurr	Göttingen, Germany

YEAR	STUDENT	DESTINATION
2002-03	Kelli Robinson	Havelburg, Germany
	Evelyn Gilbert	Townsville, Australia
	Andreas Hempel	Sønderborg, Denmark
	Katrina Cook	Venezuela (sponsored by Port Elgin club)
2003-04	Liam Finney	Winterhausen, Germany
	Chantal Pauley	Chihuahua, Mexico
	Isabel Trueman	Sweden (sponsored by Port Elgin club)
2004-05	Elijah Manchester	Los Mochis, Mexico
	Megan Mitton	Tachibana, Japan
2005-06	Britton Johnson	Binche, Belgium
	Eric Jones	Vitorio, Brazil
2006-07	Carlene MacIsaac	Aracatuba, Brazil
	Teona Oulton	Ambato, Ecuador
	Sebastian Manchester	Recife, Brazil
2007-08	Rosie Gripton	Uppsala, Sweden
	Laura Fox	Mindelheim, Germany
2008-09	Peter Wellband	Warkworth, New Zealand
	Seth Earle / Dan Aurel	Recife, Brazil

THE ROTARY CLUB OF SACKVILLE

YEAR	STUDENT	DESTINATION
2009-10	Emma Hachey	Chandrapur, India
	Tina Gripton	Valparaiso, Brazil
	Dante Manchester	Aguascalientes, Mexico (sponsored by Port Elgin club)
2010-11	Sharoni Mitra	Mende, France
	Adelia Rodger	Winterthur, Switzerland
2011-12	Chloe MacIsaac	Bruges, Belgium
	Karissa Gaudreault	Quito, Ecuador
2012-13	Dylan Wooley-Berry	Forcalquier, France
2013-14	Marina Cupido	Queue-du-Bois, France
2014-15	Dakota MacLean	Sicily, Italy
	Max Farella	Italy
2015-16	Adam Niles	Brazil

APPENDIX E  
**Short-Term Rotary Youth Exchange Students  
 Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Sackville, NB**

YEAR	OUTBOUND	INBOUND	DESTINATION
2005	Patrick Ward	Johann Scharnhorst	Gifhorn, Germany
2007	Graham Kaye Samantha Richard	Daan Hogeboom Jessica Lefranc	Masselt, Netherlands Cuautitlan Izcalli Edo de Mexico
2008	Sara Thomas	Julia Robbe	Arpajon, France
2009	Caroline Evans	Ursula Stricker	Davos, Switzerland
2013	Ben Hicks  Lindsay Trueman	Norio Zimmermann  Pauline Regnier	Birmensdorf, Switzerland  Thumeries, France

APPENDIX F

**Paul Harris Fellows:**

**Persons Recognized by the Rotary Club of Sackville, NB  
to February 2020**

Joseph Atkinson	Kenneth Draper
Patricia Belliveau	Linda Draper
Lorne Bell	Raymond Dixon
Paul Bogaard	Patricia Edwards
Edna Boland	Amy Lynn Ellis
Willard "Bill" Boyle	Patricia Estabrooks
Susan Bour	Robert Estabrooks
J. Alexander "Sandy" Burnett	Bill Evans
Donald Cameron	Alex Fancy
Margaret Cameron	Laing Ferguson
Robert Campbell	Gordon Finley
Barbara Chisholm	Margery Fisher
Frank Chisholm	Maurice (Jake) Fisher
Brooks Coll	Susan Fisher
Stuart Constantine	William Fisher
Melissa Corkum	Alice Folkins
Josh Cormier	Michael Fox
W. S. H. Crawford	Frank Fraser
Dale Creelman	David Fullerton
The Bud Doncaster Family	Diane Fullerton

Nancy Gilbert	Alfred Linkletter
Paul Gilbert	David MacAulay
Shawn Graham	W. Chester Macdonald
Douglas Hamm	A. Wayne MacKay
Olga Hamm	Louise MacKinnon
Virgil Hammock	Anne Manson
Sandra Harper	Nicola Marshall
Wayne Harper	David McKellar
Alex Harrison	Kathleen McMullen
Lester "Les" Harrison	Sharon Arlene Meldrum
Pamela Harrison	Wynn Meldrum
Darrell Harvey	Robert Milton
Audrey Hicks	Diane Minshull
Margaret Hicks	Lloyd Moores
Wayne Hicks	Gary Morice
John Higham	John Murchie
Marion Holder	Brian Muir
Ralph Howe	Anne Murray
Gayle Key	Joyce O'Neal
Carman Johnson	Dianne Oulton
William Johnstone	Sheila Parker
Fred Jones	Heather Patterson
Moises Sifren Juan	John Perkin
Louis Lambe	Patricia Perry

THE ROTARY CLUB OF SACKVILLE

Otis Phinney

Allan Pooley

Edith Ann Purdy

James Purdy

Susan Purdy

Francis Read Smith

Marjorie Rees-Potter

Norman Rees-Potter

John Read

Leslie Read

Don Reid

Katherine Reiss

Cindy Richendollar

Colin Robertson

Ove Samuelson

Patricia Samuelson

Jeff Schnurr

Charles H.H. Scobie

Jean F.F. Scobie

Mary Sears

Wallie Sears

Ralph Sharpe

Alan Smith

Harry Smith

Pauline Spatz

Elizabeth Ann Stanfield

Muriel Stirling

William "Bill" Swift

Peter Tapley

Margaret Tusz-King

Elise Vaillancourt

Leslie Van Patter

Robert Watt

George Woodburn

## APPENDIX G

**Presidents of the South East New Brunswick Rotaract Club**

YEAR	PRESIDENT
2006-2007	Erica Nabuurs and Heidi Savoie (Co-Presidents)
2007-2008	Erica Nabuurs
2008-2009	Kiera Kent
2009-2010	Kiera Kent
2010-2011	Allen Fowlis and Elise Dolinsky (Co-Presidents)

APPENDIX H

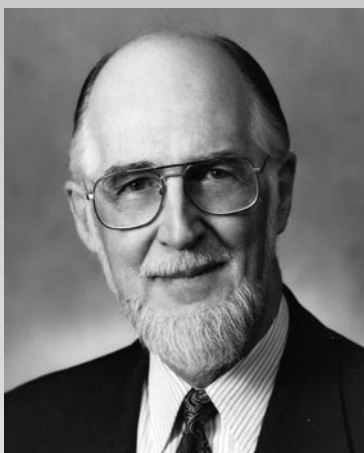
**Presidents of the Mount Allison University Rotaract Club**

YEAR	PRESIDENT
2013-14	Amanda Rundle
2014-15	Amanda Rundle
2015-16	Colin Robertson
2016-17	Colin Robertson
2017-18	Elise Vaillancourt
2018-19	Katherine Reiss
2019-20	Graham Zink
2020-21	Hannah Ehler / Caitlin O'Conner

APPENDIX I  
Rotary Club of Sackville, NB  
Winners of the F. Dodd Tweedie Shield  
(District 7810 Bonspiel)

- 1983 John Read, Jim Purdy, Otis Phinney, Don Johnstone  
1984 John Read, Jim Purdy, Jim Ayer, Cy Bourgoin  
1986 Jim Ayer, Wynn Meldrum, Harry Smith, Marcus Levesque  
1992 Wynn Meldrum, Ove Samuelsen, Les Allison, Ralph Howe  
1993 Wynn Meldrum, Ove Samuelsen, Les Allison, Ralph Howe  
1999 Wynn Meldrum, Sharon Meldrum, Al Smith, Elaine Smith  
2001 Wynn Meldrum, Sharon Meldrum, Al Smith, Elaine Smith  
2002 Frank Chisholm, Barb Chisholm, Sandy MacDonald, Muriel Stirling  
2008 Bill Swift, Sue Purdy, Frank Chisholm, Terry Lenihan

*The Rotary Club of* **Sackville** NEW BRUNSWICK



**About the Author – Charles H.H. Scobie**

A native of Scotland, Charlie Scobie was a member of the Rotary Club of Largs, Scotland from 1959 to 1965. He has been a member of the Rotary Club of Sackville since 1973 and served as President in 1979-80. Between 1972 and 1998 he was Professor and Head of the Department of Religious Studies at Mount Allison University.

