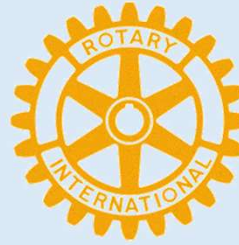


Rotary

Club of Guelph South



***“Coming together as strangers....Working together as friends”
(and having fun doing it!)***



July 2001 through December 2024

Approximately \$759,000 in cash donations
(between Club and its Charitable Foundation)

8% to First Nations causes

26% to International causes

*(not including \$\$\$ raised for the Foundation of Guelph General Hospital
through the co-sponsoring of the Tour de Guelph since 2014)*

66% to Local/Canadian causes

International countries supported include:

Ghana	United States	Ukraine	Venezuela
Egypt	Afghanistan	Uganda	Zimbabwe
Haiti	Nicaragua	Sub-Saharan Africa	Mexico
Nepal	Lesotho	Pakistan	India

July 31 2001: Chartered as “Rotary Club of Wellington South” with 20 members (sponsored by Rotary Club of Guelph Trillium) 60% of whom were female!



February 2003: Held our first “Taste of Italy” Pasta Dinner in support of Sunrise Therapeutic Riding & Learning Centre in Puslinch and other worthy Rotary-supported causes. Has been held annually since then (other than 2 years for COVID) netting about \$124,000. It is now a Puslinch community food and fellowship tradition. Planning is underway for the 22nd event to be held in February 2026.

April 2003: Former Mississauga Mayor “Hurricane Hazel” McCallion was inducted as our first Honourary Member. She owned property in Puslinch and was also an Honourary Member of a Mississauga Rotary club. She attended a number of our meetings over the years.



February 2005: Celebrated Rotary International's 100th birthday by holding a birthday party for a local resident, Norman Mears, who was also turning 100 that day!



February 2005: Partnered with the 3 other Guelph Rotary clubs for a local centennial project "Rotary4Hopewell" that provided funding for the Playsense addition to the Shelldale Community Centre in Guelph.

May 2005: First year participating in the Rotary Golden Triangle Camp Enterprise Program. Many members were involved (driving, chaperoning, etc) and we sponsored 2-3 students every year from Guelph's Bishop Macdonell High School through 2018 (*paused due to COVID and has not restarted since*)



October 2006: Held our first “Grate Groan-Up Spelling Bee” an adult dinner and team competition fundraiser that became an annual event and netted approximately \$140,000 during its 10 year run that was used to support various local and international charitable organizations.



February 2007: Our first District Grant was for \$6,000 and went towards a \$12,000 project to supply/install of disinfection equipment, and operational/maintenance training, for a First Nations community school and the rest of the community that did not have potable water.

NEW!!

March 2007: Rotary International approved our name change to “Rotary Club of Guelph South” – turned out there was another “Wellington South” club in New Zealand and that caused some confusion!



April 2007: We participated in the District 7080 Grade 3 Dictionaries project, labeling and presenting dictionaries to Grade 3 students in local public and private schools through 2014.



January 2008: The start of participation by club members in the annual trip for the District 7080 Mexico Shoebox project, that continues to this day. Rotarians from Canada, US and Nogales Mexico source, package and distribute gifts for children and supplies for the parents in marginalized communities there

April 2008: Our club joined the County of Wellington's "Adopt-A-Road" program, committing to doing road cleanups on Brock Road in Aberfoyle. This fun and fellowship service project has been held once or twice per year (as needed) with the exception of 2020 and 2021 due to COVID and road reconstruction work.



September 2009: One of our charter members, Margaret Nixon, was awarded the coveted “4 Avenues of Service” from Rotary International, and our club earned its first Rotary International “President’s Citation”.



January 2010: An earthquake in Haiti caused significant damage to the island and we were able to respond, donating \$7,900 in immediate disaster relief for ShelterBox tents (2) for temporary housing and an AquaBox for disinfecting water. We have continued that much-needed support for Haiti.

November 2010: We joined other Canadian Rotary clubs to fund a centennial project to commemorate the first international Rotary Club, in Winnipeg in November 2010. The project construction of a co-ed school in Jalalabad Afghanistan. Canadian Rotary clubs contributed \$306,000 and the federal government added another \$519,000.



December 2011: We have a club tradition, every year since 2011, of hosting a Salvation Army Christmas Kettle for a day at Stone Road Mall in Guelph. Members work 2-hour shifts, in pairs, and we never have a problem getting volunteers!



May 2012: This year we started our annual sponsorship of 1-3 youth to attend the District 7080 RYLA multi-day event. We were so pleased that one of those sponsored in 2023 has since joined our club!

January 2013: A project started in 2010 to support local women earning a living by making jams & condiments from local produce over an open fire by the side of the road. We funded construction & equipping of a kitchen building on donated land, piped in water to a water tank, taught them some English (to serve tourists), provided business expertise & product labeling. Members made trips to Nicaragua taking supplies for the women & children. This economic development project, including funding of approx. \$20,000 resulted in these women becoming self-sufficient.



November 2013: Our support for Haiti has intensified and we enjoyed meeting with Sarah Wallace, the Canadian founder of Olive Tree Projects (Jacmel, Haiti) a maternal health facility. We have contributed more than \$53,000 in support of this important centre over the years as they continue to serve the health needs of women and children in Haiti even as conditions in the country continue to deteriorate



July 2014: We co-sponsored, with Rotary Club of Guelph Trillium and Foundation of Guelph General Hospital, the very first Tour de Guelph cycling event. A great success, it has continued to grow, registering 850 riders in 2025 and over the 12 years has raised about \$1,500,000! Club members sit on the organizing team, and one of our members (87 year old Charlie Barnes) has on his own raised more than \$140,000 for his 8 years in the event.

April 2016: With the support of members and corporate sponsors, the first of 5 annual "Volunteer Appreciation Brunch" events was held. 10 volunteers from each of 10 local volunteer organizations were honoured at each brunch, with a \$1,000 donation made to each organization.



Summer 2016: A local Guelph business owner organized community support for Syrian refugees trying to get settled in the Guelph area. Our members stepped up to assist including one of our members (Celia Clark) that coordinated the volunteers as they received, sorted, documented and distributed donations of food, clothing, furniture and other household needs.



December 2016: Our club began an annual tradition of supporting the Children’s Foundation of Guelph-Wellington “Adopt-A-Family” program with contributions to date through 2024 of approximately \$20,000. Members would volunteer to take the club’s annual contribution and shop for their families based on each family’s stated needs for each of the family members.

2017: We had an opportunity to partner with Royal City Quilters Guild in the creation of 200 “Comfort Quilts” for donation to those that found themselves at the Centre for Sexual Abuse and Domestic Violence. Our \$4,000 donation went towards the cost of the batting material, and the finished quilts bore a label acknowledging our contribution.



2018-2024: Members of our club and the other Rotary clubs in Guelph saw a need to address weekend and holiday food insecurity for students. They came together to help address it, leading to creation of the Food4Kids Guelph program. Besides members volunteering for this program the club provided funding of approx. \$22,000. The program has since been taken over by the Children's Foundation of Guelph and Wellington and rebranded as "Keep Kids Fed at Home".

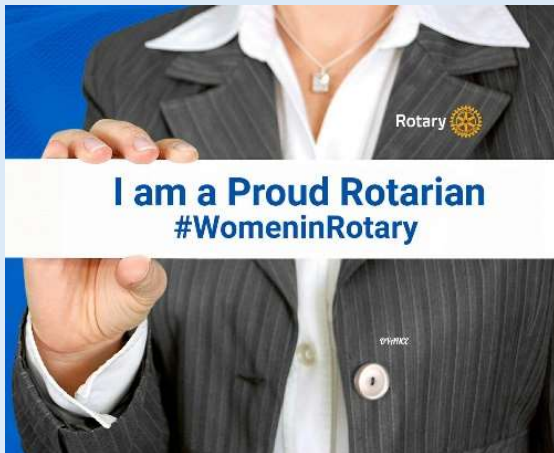


June 2018: A District 7080 Grant was approved for a project to renovate the kitchen and add rooftop solar power with battery backup to the Olive Tree Projects maternity centre in Jacmel Haiti. Members made trips there in 2017 to help with the renovations & oversee the supply and installation of the solar power facility.

July 2021: With the introduction by Rotary International of the 7th and newest Area of Focus "Supporting the Environment" we introduced tree planting initiatives, including at the Sunrise Therapy Forest, with Trees 4 Guelph, at Guelph General Hospital, and the planting of a special Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee celebration tree in a Guelph park.



2021-2022: Members of our club, along with members from the other Guelph Rotary clubs, started a group to address the scourge of human trafficking. They launched public awareness events including flag raisings at Guelph City Hall, a lawn sign campaign, a speaker series and a film event. Their efforts continue and our club provides financial and social media support for the initiative.



July 2023: Another female club President! We are proud that 10 of our 24 club Presidents to date have been female, and grateful for their contributions and unique perspectives.

May 2024: We provided \$5,000 funding to Royal City Mission in Guelph so that they could buy/install heavy duty shelving and totes in their facility that could be used by the unhoused Guelph community members, to securely store their belongings.



2024-2025 Rotary Year: An astonishing \$126,127 in donations were made by our club & its Charitable Foundation. Highlights include:

- \$5,000 to the Puslinch Minor Soccer Club (to help them replace equipment destroyed in a fire)
- \$5,639 to Guelph Community Health Centre (for new sewing machines at Shelldale for “Helping Hands” program)
- \$7,500 to Rotary ICC Canada (for ROOTA Egypt program to support marginalized Zabaleen people)
- \$6,100 to Nightingale Centre (for production of “Grief Kits” to be distributed to students and in libraries)
- \$12,650 to Elora House (for support of survivors of human trafficking)
- \$10,900 to Lakeside Hope House (to address food insecurity in Guelph)
- \$23,450 to Olive Tree Projects (maternity centre support including project to supply Starlink internet + digitize patient records)
- \$13,150 to Royal City Mission (to provide support for unhoused Guelph residents)
- \$4,300 to Salvation Army Guelph Citadel (to support their annual Christmas Hamper program)
- \$9,050 to SEEDS Canada (to help provide safety for trafficked women)
- \$11,200 to Sunrise Therapeutic Riding & Learning Centre (in support of recreational opportunities to children with disabilities)