



ROTARY MOMENT

FW Rotary,

September 2014

New Generations

This month's Rotary theme is New Generations. New Generation became an avenue of service adopted by Rotary International in 2010. The purpose of doing this was to ensure that there is a path to the Future for Rotary in the World. In order for Rotary to continue to be relevant in the World we must find ways to make Rotary a meaningful experience for new generations of leaders who desire to put "Service Above Self" and continue to build on the purpose of Rotary in World to

- Support humanitarian work
- To spread peace and goodwill
- To strive for high ethic standards
- Promote tolerance and inclusivity

We have a number of ways we work toward this here in the Fort William Rotary Club and I will provide an overview these in this Month's publication of Rotary Moment. In addition to these programs the Board of Directors feels very strongly that we need to get the message out about Rotary!! This world we live in today is very fast paced, work life and personal life are becoming more challenging to balance for people and so we need to adjust what we do, how we do it and how we share our story. That's why the largest project we are taking on this year is to focus on getting our story out. We hope to overhaul of website and leverage social media to achieve these objectives. This work will likely take the better part of my presidency to accomplish but I hope that this work will spring board us forward into the communication age via, Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and other social media platforms.

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others"

Mahatma Gandhi



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Rotaract Dinner

Rotaract

The Rotaract program is meant for those between the ages of 18-30 years of age and is typically found in Universities. These clubs also plan organize and execute service projects within their own communities or throughout the world. They build leadership skills and build their professional network of contacts. They manage their own funds and govern themselves but have access to a Rotary Club to help guide them. We have witnessed the growth on many leaders here in Thunder Bay through these clubs, most notably our very own Stephen Margarit for which we all have a sense of pride having watched him grow from a boy to a young man. I believe Stephen is the poster child for such programs.

RYLA

The Rotary Youth Leadership Awards is an annual program that focused on the development of leadership skills amongst participants. The age for participants is typically those in high school or university. The topics covered in these programs are:

- Leadership Fundamentals and ethics
- Communication Skills
- Problem Solving and conflict Management
- Community and Global Citizenship

Fort William Rotary has supported 5 participants to attend this event every year for many years and we all enjoy their annual presentation back to the club. Many participants have shared with us that this program has been a life altering experience for them.

Interact

Interact clubs are designed for children between the ages of 12-18 who desire to connect with others who desire to take on service projects in their community and to learn more about the world. Interact clubs are responsible for taking on 1 or 2 service projects per year that benefit their local community or the world. These clubs govern themselves but are guided by a Rotary Club.

FW has had tied to it an Interact club however it has not had members for several years. In years gone by it has been an avenue that has allowed future Rotarians like Stephen Margarit, get started on his Rotary Career. The absence of this source of recruitment in Thunder Bay is concerning for the Future of Rotary in our community.



Stephen Margarit

Rotary Youth Exchange Programs

Since 1929 the Rotary Youth Exchange Program has provided opportunities for secondary school students to travel and live abroad typically for a full year. The goal of this program exposes the students to another culture, often a new language. These students stay with multiple families during their exchange exposing them to many aspects of life in their exchange country and share with their families' aspects of their own culture. These programs promote global understanding and peace. Although we have not had an exchange student in recent years, we all enjoy the weekend event each November which brings together all the exchange students in district 5580 during the Christmas Parade.



Photo Caption

Adventures in Citizenship

This program that FW Rotary supports sending youth to Ottawa for this annual event. This event provides an opportunity for 200 young Canadians from across the country to join together to:

- Explore what it means to be a Canadian
- Learn about our shared values and the freedom and responsibilities that comes with being Canadian
- Learn about our democratic process and institutions
- Learn about and appreciate the diversity of our society



Satellite Club

Our club sponsored the development and implementation of the Pilot Satellite Club program launch by Rotary International in 2011. The goal of this initiative was driven by feedback from younger members who work looking for more flexible options. The purpose of the pilot was to explore alternatives and options for clubs with a focus on effectiveness that might enhance membership. Our Satellite club meets in a less formal setting and focuses on smaller hands on projects that are both local and international. This initiative has resulted in much growth in the total membership of the Fort William Club since starting in 2011 and has demonstrated their value through their meaningful projects.

Satellite Club at Shelter House

