

Committed to Service through Rotary, Rotarian Transfers to the Kelowna Rotary Sunrise Club

Story by Ed Kolybaba

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On October 15th, Lynn Spence was inducted into the membership of the Rotary Club of Kelowna Sunrise, bringing with her the experience and proven leadership as a Rotarian since 2008 with the Rotary clubs of Ladner (2008-09) and Surrey Guildford (2009-2021).



Lynn served as President of the Guilford club in 2011-12 and Secretary from 2013-14. She extended her leadership experiences by serving in several positions in District 5050, including Assistant Governor (2015-18), Visioning Facilitator (2015-21) and Visioning Coordinator (2017-21). She also supported the Rotary Foundation as a PHF+4 donor.

Together with another club member, and a Steering Committee composed of three clubs in her Area within District 5050, Lynn cooperatively provided leadership in the development and implementation of the Surrey Starfish weekend backpack program. In addition to involvement in this Rotary program and many other Rotary community projects, she volunteered with school breakfast and lunch programs, and with Newcomers' programs.

Born in Jasper, Alberta, Lynn attended Bonnie Doon Composite High School graduating in 1966. She continued with post-secondary study at the University of Alberta (1969) and graduate study at the University of Toronto (1974).

Lynn commenced her career in the Mental Health field in 1974, working in Social and Community Services including Mental Health, probation, child and family counselling, and school psychology before taking on a new role as an Associate Executive Director, Director of Branch Development for the not-for-profit CMHA BC Division in 2008 which she was involved with until 2017.

Upon moving to the Okanagan, Lynn desired to continue her service as a Rotarian which led her to check out the clubs in the Okanagan. After checking out the Kelowna Sunrise club website, attending several Zoom meetings with the club, and recognizing the energy and active focus of the club on serving the community, her mind was quickly made up as to where she wished to serve.

Lynn is very interested in being involved in community service projects especially related to children, shelter and food security, and in providing leadership with respect to membership development/retention.