

# Recognizing 38 Years of Rotary Service

Story by Ed Kolybaba on Apr 14, 2024

On April 26, 1986, a new District 5060 Rotary Club started its journey in providing significant service within the community of Kelowna and throughout the world. On this day, the Rotary Club of Kelowna Sunrise was officially chartered with a Rotary International membership of thirty-two members. From that day forward, the club with its members began its commitment to providing exceptional and dedicated service with the motto of "Service above Self." Indeed, to this day, that motto exists among the current members thirty-eight years later, each striving to making a difference for local non-government service organizations that are committed in responding to needs within the community and for those in need throughout the world with their service. Through personal financial donations, participation in club fundraising campaigns, and volunteering locally and in many foreign countries, Kelowna Sunrise Rotarians are truly committed to the "Service above Self" motto.



On Friday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, club charter member Paul Mulvihill provided an overview of the club's beginnings and the club's service over the past 38 years through a presentation to the members of the Rotary Club of Kelowna Sunrise at their regular meeting.

Mulvihill shared how he personally became involved as a charter member, joining several other charter members including Wayne Duchart, Bruce Brown, and Andy Griffin, who to this present day remain actively engaged in service through the club. The newly formed club began its initial meetings at the Lodge Motor Inn at 2170 Harvey Ave, currently the location of the Ramada by Wyndham Kelowna Hotel and Conference Centre.

Mulvihill shared that considering that Rotary International was a men's service club in 1986, women were not permitted to become members of the Kelowna Sunrise club at that time; but he explained that this changed in 1987 when the US Supreme Court ruled that Rotary could not exclude women. He noted that it wasn't until 2004 that the Sunrise Rotary club saw the light and inducted two women, including Barb Penner who remains an outstanding member of the club.





Over the years, the club has had exceptional leadership from many past presidents, many of whom still maintain their membership with the club, explained Mulvihill. Currently, 15 active members have served as past presidents, including Wayne Duchart (1987-88), Graham Bell (1991-92), Don Turri (1994-95), Wayne Evans (1996-97), Bruce Falkins (2004-05), Don Martin (2007-08), Paul Mulvihill (2010-11), Craig Garries (2012-13), Greig McPhee (2014-15), Andy Griffin (2017-18), Susan McIntyre (2019-20), Norm LeCavalier (2020-21), Marjolein Lloyd (2021-22), Randall Bamford (2022-23) and presently Colleen McEwan (2023-24). Nine other current members have served as presidents of other Rotary clubs, added Mulvihill.

Responding to humanitarian needs throughout the world have been a major emphasis for the Kelowna Sunrise club explained Mulvihill. Just since the Rotary year 2008-09, the club and its members have contributed **\$256,340USD\*** through the Rotary Foundation to specific projects and programs of Rotary International. With District, Global, Rotary International, Canadian International Development Aid (CIDA) Grants, partnerships with other Rotary Clubs and help of friends of Rotary and individual Club Members the club, its members and its partners have raised and donated over **\$1,202,565USD\*\*** to assist in making a difference in the world.

\*signifies that the statistical information noted here is higher than when the presenter shared the information with the gathered Rotarians because the statistics for the period of 2009-10 to and including 2011-12 were not available at that time.  
\*\*while updated from the presentation, statistical information is still not available for the Rotary Years of 2009-10 to and including 2011-12.

The presentation to the club reviewed many of the successful and impactful projects and programs that have been supported and financed by the club and its members. Projects have been conducted in India, Ethiopia, Nepal, Kenya, Mexico, El Salvador, Uganda and Honduras. Additionally, the club has annually contributed to the elimination of polio through the PolioPlus program, Rotaplast, and ShelterBox.

Mulvihill reported that since 1986 the club members had donated \$464,452USD to the Rotary Foundation. Over the 38 years of the club's existence, the club had 161 Paul Harris Fellows, 39 of which are still active; and 11 major donors of which eight are currently active. As of April 01, the club had three Paul Harris Society (PHS) members; but as in the past Rotary Years, undoubtedly the club will have an additional five or more PHS members before the end of the current Rotary Year. PHS members are individuals who donate at least \$1000USD per Rotary year. At the present time, the club has 13 benefactors and nine Bequest Society members. These are members who have included the Rotary Foundation in their wills.

At the same time while the club continues to support the Rotary Foundation, Mulvihill expressed appreciation for the volunteering and donations of the club members and the club members who provide leadership and sales during fundraisers and all who continue to support local project and program endeavours. Year after year, the club has invested in the work and care provided by such organizations/projects as the Kelowna Museum Kekuli Roofing Project, the construction of the Boy Scout Camp Dunlop Dock, the placement of the Small Boat Association Accessibility Lift, the modernization of the Girl Guide Camp Arbuckle Kitchen, Women's Shelter, Now Canada, Freedom's Door, Abbeyfield House, JoeAnna's House, the Child Advocacy Centre, Hope Outreach, Kelowna General Hospital Foundation and many more.

From 2012 to 2023, \$842,000 has been donated by Sunrise Rotary to Local Projects. Unfortunately funding statistics are not available for the period of 1986 to and including 2011.

The care and support for others, particularly young people, does not end with support for international and local endeavours which has already been addressed, expressed Mulvihill. For instance, since 1987 Sunrise Rotary has hosted over 50 International Students and sponsored an equal number going out to countries all over the world. Other support for youth has been expressed through the Lady of the Lake program, leadership programs, provision of scholarships, youth parliament, adventure programs and other programs.

In his closing words, Mulvihill expressed that the club has always and will always provide fellowship and care and concern for its members and their families, and for all others. "What we do best is care for each other. We provide a friendly caring place to meet for a walk, coffee, breakfast, 'happy and sads', and empathy."