Rotary Club of Midland

1951-2026

Anniversary Gala

May 13, 2026

Midland Cultural Centre

For 75 years, the Rotary Club of Midland has proudly supported the organizations and initiatives that make our community stronger. This year, we celebrate a legacy of service, generosity, and impact.

We thank you for celebrating this milestone with us.

Rotary Club of Midland

1951-2026

75

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A Message From Our Club President

Rotary Club of Midland
P.O. Box 93, Midland, ON L4R 4P4
www.MidlandRotary.org

Rotary Club of Midland

Welcome to Midland Rotary's 75th Anniversary

Where we are today as a club is a testament to all those Midland Rotarians who preceded us. Looking back on the 75-year history of the Rotary Club of Midland is both emotional and uplifting.

As current members of this Club, we are truly walking in the steps of Rotarians who came before us, and for whose dedication and efforts we should all be thankful. These Rotarians truly believed in Service Above Self, and their impact on this community and abroad is apparent in all of the Club's work. As Rotarians we do not look for thanks or accolades for what we do; however, there are times we need to look back and say "Thank You" and admire the work the Club has done in its 75-year history. This is especially true now, and I personally want to express my thanks, gratitude and congratulations to all Midland Rotarians, both past and present.

Please take a moment to read the history of the Club outlined in this programme. I'm sure you will find it both informative and inspirational. What Rotarians have accomplished over the 75-year history of our Club is nothing short of amazing.

A special thanks to our 75th Anniversary committee, who began meeting weekly to plan this event in November 2025. The Midland Rotary Club is grateful for the planning and preparation by Committee members Christine Edwards, Helga Noyes, Maureen Reid, Cathy Tait, Darryl Lalonde, and Fred Hacker.

An additional note of thanks to all the current Midland Rotarians for stepping up and helping put this evening together, through volunteering their time, energy, knowledge, history and enthusiasm. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

It has been both a privilege and honour to serve as President during the 75th year of the Club. I hope we have done all the past members proud in celebrating their achievements, and we look forward to the next 75-years of service.

Shawn Nielsen
President, Rotary Club of Midland
Chair, 75th Anniversary Committee

Rotary 75 Club of Midland 1951-2026

A Message From Rotary District

May 1, 2026

President Shawn Nielsen
Rotary Club of Midland
333 King Street
Midland ON L4R 4L3

Dear President Shawn and the members of the Rotary Club of Midland,

"The only way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."
Paul P. Harris, Founder, Rotary International

What a wonderful accomplishment – 75 years of Rotary service to the Midland community and to communities around the world. It is a milestone well worth marking, and I'm so disappointed that I couldn't be there to celebrate with all of you.

As District Governor, I am not supposed to have favourites, but I have been consistently impressed with the accomplishments of your Club over the years. From bingo to random acts of kindness; from walks to end cancer and polio to Christmas hampers and parades; from supporting youth exchange to the Life for Kids mission in Nairobi and Kenya – the Rotary Club of Midland is a model for what can be achieved when members work together in fellowship and service. Plus, you're all fun at a party!

On a personal note, Joyce Campbell was my first District friend – we called ourselves 'sisters from another mother.' She represented Midland and Rotary in such a strong light – I am so pleased to see her legacy continue with your annual memorial golf tournament.

On behalf of District 7010, congratulations to the Rotary Club of Midland on your 75th anniversary. You are a shining example of how Rotary can create a legacy of *service above self* for the benefit of all. Keep making waves in the world and enjoy your evening!

Yours in Rotary,

DG Sandi
Sandra J. Campbell
Governor, District 7010

A Message From The M.P. Simcoe North

Adam Chambers, M.P.
Simcoe North

CANADA

Adam Chambers, député
Simcoe North

May 13, 2026

Rotary Club of Midland
PO Box 93
Midland, ON L4R 4K6

Dear Members of the Midland Rotary Club:

Congratulations on the remarkable milestone of your 75th anniversary on May 13.

For three-quarters of a century, the Midland Rotary Club has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to service, leadership, and community building. Your dedication to improving the lives of others, both locally and beyond, has made a lasting and meaningful impact.

This anniversary is a celebration of your past achievements and testament to the strength of your membership and the enduring spirit of Rotary's mission. The contributions you have made to the Midland community are deeply valued and sincerely appreciated. Your members over the years have made significant and lasting contributions to our community. Thank you!

On behalf of the people of Simcoe North, please accept my heartfelt congratulations and best wishes for continued success in the years ahead.

Sincerely,

Adam Chambers, MP
Simcoe North

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Orillia, ON L3V 7N6
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AdamChambersMP.ca

Rotary 75 Club of Midland 1951-2026

A Message From The M.P.P. Simcoe North

Ontario
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

JILL DUNLOP, MPP
Simcoe North/Nord

Midland Office:
320 King Street,
Midland Public Library
Midland, ON, L4R 3M6

Orillia Office:
575 West Street South, Unit 9
Orillia, ON, L3V 7N6
Tel: 705-326-3246
jill.dunlopco@pc.ola.org

It is a true pleasure to extend my warmest congratulations to the Midland Rotary Club as you celebrate your 75th Anniversary.

For over seven and a half decades, your Club has been a cornerstone of service and leadership in the Midland community. Guided by Rotary's enduring principle of *Service Above Self*, your members, past and present, have dedicated countless hours to strengthening the social fabric of the region. Through hands-on service, fundraising efforts, and philanthropic leadership, you have supported local families, enhanced community programs, and provided vital assistance to organizations that enrich the lives of residents across the area.

Your contributions have helped build stronger connections within the community, uplift those in need, and create opportunities for growth and inclusion. Just as importantly, the Rotary experience has fostered a spirit of camaraderie, mentorship, and shared purpose among your members, leaving a lasting impact not only on those you serve, but on those who serve alongside you.

As you gather on May 13, 2026, at the Midland Cultural Centre to reflect on your remarkable history, share meaningful stories, and celebrate your many achievements, you honour a legacy built on compassion, generosity, and unwavering commitment. This milestone is not only a celebration of the past, but an inspiration for the future.

On behalf of the Province of Ontario, please accept my sincere appreciation for your continued dedication to making a difference. Congratulations on 75 years of outstanding service, and best wishes for many more years of positive impact in your community.
Sincerely,



Jill Dunlop,
Member of Provincial Parliament for Simcoe North
Députée provinciale de Simcoe-Nord

Rotary 75
Club of Midland
1951-2026

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
TOWN OF MIDLAND

575 Dominion Avenue
Midland, ON L4R 1R2
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info@midland.ca

April 28, 2026

Dear Members of the Midland Rotary Club,

On behalf of the Council and residents of the Town of Midland, it is my great honour and privilege to extend heartfelt congratulations to the Midland Rotary Club on your 75th anniversary. This remarkable milestone is a testament to the vision, dedication, and enduring spirit of service that has defined your organization since its founding.

Over the course of seven and a half decades, Midland Rotary has woven itself into the very fabric of this community. Your financial generosity has touched virtually every major organization in our region, from the Georgian Bay General Hospital and Waypoint Centre to Big Brothers Big Sisters, the Boys and Girls Club, our local food banks, soup kitchens, and the Georgian Bay Cancer Support Centre. The breadth of your support is nothing short of extraordinary.

Beyond annual giving, your Club has been instrumental in shaping the landmarks that define Midland today. The acquisition of the first building for what is now Community Living Huronia, the artwork gracing Georgian Bay General Hospital, and major contributions toward the Midland YMCA and Midland Arena are among your enduring legacies.

What sets Midland Rotary apart is that your commitment has never been limited to writing cheques. Your members have shown up, sleeves rolled up, to assist with the establishment of the Rosewood Shelter, to construct the Rotary Pier on the Town Dock, to lay the waterfront trail that so many of our residents and visitors enjoy year-round, and to build the music stage in Little Lake Park. Through events like Random Acts of Kindness, Music in the Park, civic luncheons, and food drives, you have brought our community together in ways that money alone cannot measure.

As both a resident and Mayor of Midland, I have seen first-hand how the spirit of “Service Above Self” shapes lives and strengthens our neighbourhoods. Midland Rotary exemplifies that ideal in everything you do. Your 75 years of service are a source of immense pride for this community, and I have no doubt that the next 75 will be equally inspiring.

Please accept my warmest congratulations to every current member, every past member, and every family member who has supported this incredible organization across the generations. Here’s to 75 more years of making Midland a better place for all who call it home.

Sincerely,

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF MIDLAND

Bill Gordon, Mayor
Town of Midland

Rotary 75 Club of Midland 1951-2026

75th Anniversary of the Rotary Club of Midland

June 15, 1951 – June 15, 2026

Compiled by Jamie Hunter and Fred Hacker

Rotary origins began on February 23, 1905 when Paul Harris founded a movement in the city of Chicago, USA that espoused a doctrine of "carefree fellowship." Paul Harris became its first President and drew upon his friends and associates to create a club that would improve peoples' lives through service. These men would hold weekly meetings and rotated the location of each, whether it be at their place of business, or restaurants for lunches and dinners, thus the term Rotary. Even with this success, Paul Harris had an idea that the movement should grow, and in 1908 another club was founded in San Francisco, followed by new clubs in Oakland, Seattle, Los Angeles, New York, and Boston. These clubs formed a national association, but again this was not enough. In August 1912 the association met to consider a new club from Winnipeg, Manitoba in Canada. It was accepted and Rotary went international. Paul Harris and his associates organized new clubs in Belfast, Northern Ireland, Dublin, Ireland, and London, England to expand Rotary worldwide. An organizational platform and motto were adopted which stated, "Service Above Self," and "He Profits Most, Who Serves Best." Rotary formally changed its name to the "International Association of Rotary Clubs," and by 1915 expanded its structure to include geographical districts throughout the world. Clubs were required to adopt a constitution with regulatory by-laws. Rotary admitted the first non-English speaking club with the acceptance of the Rotary Club of Havana, Cuba.

In 1917, Arch Klumph proposed creating an endowment fund, the forerunner to the Rotary Foundation. In 1921, Canadian Rotary President, Crawford McCullough, changed the name and outlook to "Rotary International" and made it mandatory for all Rotary clubs joining the movement to adopt a standardized constitution. It was a Canadian who moved Rotary into a truly international humanitarian organization with service as its core. In 1950, following World War II, Canadian President Arthur Lagueux of Quebec City finally achieved the $2,000,000 US endowment fund goal set by Rotary International in the 1920s. He and his board changed the "objectives" of Rotary to just one, that of "Service" with four distinct avenues: Club, Community, International and Vocational. Rotary had come a long way since its inception as a men's fellowship club in Chicago in early 1905.

Creation of the Midland Rotary Club: The Early Years 1951-1961

On June 15, 1951 the driving forces behind the creation of the Midland Rotary Club were members of the Rotary Club of Orillia, visiting Rotarians like Huston Brown, and Elmer Shaw of the Midland Foundry and Machine Company. Elmer recruited 21 local business operators from the Midland-Penetanguishene area, and all became Charter Members of the Rotary Club. Unfortunately, few of the 21 members had any appreciation for what Rotary really did. One member recalled "that few projects were undertaken and those that were, rarely succeeded. The members were all too old." In 1956, then President Frank Doherty folded the Club. But when District Governor Art Ferguson learned of the pending demise, he enlisted the help of local druggist John Jory to save it. John personally revived the Club and changed the tone of the activities to become a "boys' night out" complete with poker games, lots of food, and lots of drink. It became a "weekly card game" with an annual project to provide Christmas hampers for the Salvation Army food distribution and a plan to slowly initiate other fund-raising initiatives.

The Presidents for the years 1951-1961:

1951-52	Elmer Shaw	1952-53	George Mason
1953-54	Les Taylor	1954-55	Larry Curran
1955-56	Frank Doherty	1956-57	Vern Beatty
1957-58	Les Barber	1958-59	Clive Park
1959-60	Jack Duggan	1960-61	Al Farewell

Meetings: Georgian Hotel (Valu-Mart), Midland Legion, Midland Globe Restaurant.

Projects: Christmas hampers for the Salvation Army, community musical events and programs, intermediate A level Baseball confection sales.

Midland Rotary Club: Growing Pains 1961-1971

Since inception, evening meetings were still how the Club functioned, but the Club was slowly evolving from a weekly poker game to supporting community projects such as the Midland Indians baseball team, a Sportsman Show and a boat raffle which all generated funds. The real success story was the annual Rotary curling bonspiels. The Club produced a succession of curling victories, with competitions held throughout Ontario and New York State. They brought considerable bragging rights to Midland Rotary. The biggest change took place when President Clare Armstrong moved the meetings from Tuesday night to Wednesday at noon at the recommendation of District Governor Art Grant. Local businessmen really appreciated the break mid-week and attendance doubled. The Midland Rotary Club never looked back. In 1965, the Club agreed to raise $25,000.00 towards the building and programming of an adult mental health rehabilitation facility in Midland. This project is still considered a major success for the Club. This period also saw the Club participating in its very first international project (1968-69) by contributing $56.00 toward the $700.00 raised by District 701 to dig a well in Bolivia.

The Presidents for the years 1961-1971:

1961-62	Jim Henry	1962-63	Joe Faragher
1963-64	Clint Truax	1964-65	Clare Armstrong
1965-66	Murry Lye	1966-67	Joe Faragher
1967-68	Guy Johnstone	1968-69	Jim Shaw
1969-70	Ted Brennan	1970-71	Alec Gilmour/Bob Paulin

Meetings: Six different Midland restaurants.

Projects: King Street Carnival, Sportsman Show, Talent Show, Music Shows, Boat Races on Little Lake, Rotary Barbeque, Rotary Family Picnic, First International Project.

Midland Rotary Club Goes Mainstream 1971-1981

The success of the Bolivia well project, small as it was, brought the Club into the Rotary mainstream. A new and younger generation of businesspeople and community leaders joined the Club and programs and projects proliferated. The Club's success attracted new members, but many members left creating a revolving door on membership. Despite this, by the late 1970s, forty-two members were proud Midland Rotarians. The Club participated in Rotary Student Exchanges, both inbound and outbound, Group Study Exchanges, and Rotary Club exchanges with Midlands in Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Texas. The very successful Midland Rotary Auction commenced, and the Club was coalesced in so many ways into the Rotary mainstream. It was the broadening membership and innovative fundraising ventures that drove the Club into the 1980s.

The Presidents for the years 1971-1981:

1971-72	John Bourgeois	1972-73	Harry Cox
1973-74	Bob Paulin	1974-75	Gerry Van Klink
1975-76	Ross Jones	1976-77	Bob Brown
1977-78	Don Sherk	1978-79	Ken Walker
1979-80	Howard Markham	1980-81	Don McNee

Meetings: Odd Fellows Hall, Windrifter Restaurant, Athenian Hall, Brooklea Golf Club.

Projects: Fundraising, Rotary Auction, Rotary Barbeque – Canada Day, Adventure in Civilization, Group Study Exchange, Rotary Student Exchange – inbound and outbound, Civic Luncheon.

Midland Rotary Club Matures 1981-1991

This period is characterized by stability in programming and member retention. This expressed itself in the Club's social life as well as the community fundraisers that covered all aspects of Rotary's operational expenses. Interesting guest speakers were a regular feature of the Wednesday noon meetings. And the changing board of directors held Rotary fireside meetings to determine where support should be directed. This developed an esprit-de-corps that gave members a real sense of accomplishment and a place in Rotary's global world, Rotary's local community, and Rotary Club activities. By the 1990s the Club was raising over $25,000 annually. The biggest single event Rotary fundraiser ever was certainly the Rotary cottage lottery draw which involved the purchase and clearing of a lot on Georgian Bay, building an attractive cottage, and selling 4500 tickets at $100 each. The Club raised well over $225,000 with $93,000 going to the Huronia District Hospital Fund Raising Campaign. This has been often described as Midland Rotary Club's finest hour.

The Presidents of this most successful decade:

1981-82	Herb Henderson	1982-83	Nelson Coté
1983-84	Fred Hacker	1984-85	Thom Lackie
1985-86	Rod Ferguson	1986-87	Dean Nicholls
1987-88	Des Carpenter	1988-89	Ernie Cowden
1989-90	Dave Chambers	1990-91	Ken MacDonald

Meetings: Athenian Hall, Budd Watson Gallery, Highland Inn Conference Centre.

Fundraising: Rotary Auction, Rotary Cottage Lottery Draw, Adventure in Civilization.

Other Projects: Group Study Exchange, Rotary Student Exchanges, many club activities including the Boat-In, the Christmas Party and more.

Midland Rotary Club: Coming of Age 1991-2001

The Club moved into its 5th decade with a commemorative 40th anniversary booklet written by Club Rotarian Fred Hacker. This brought together the accomplishments of the first 40 years of service and laid the groundwork for all Club members to remember the ups and downs of a volunteer group such as Rotary. Without a doubt, the most progressive initiative was finally accepting women into the Rotary movement. In this decade came an emphasis on women members with the Club's first female president, Anne Maher, in 1997-98.

Many projects were undertaken including assisting in the creation of the Rosewood Shelter for Women, the walking trails in Little Lake Park, and the partnership with the Town of Midland for the conversion of railway lands into beautiful walking trails from Penetanguishene to Tay Township and beyond. The trails project, presided over by several Presidents, was likely the largest multi-year funded initiative ever undertaken by the Club. The cumulative estimated total of $200,000, provided by the Club, is deservedly recognized in signage at the foot of King Street and Bayshore Drive.

The most significant long term fund-raising project undertaken by the Club began in this era. The Rotary TV Bingo has been a source of significant funding since its inception in 1993-94. It has also been a significant contributor to the profile of the Club.

The Presidents for the years 1991-2001:

1991-92	Ed Hartley	1992-93	Dunc McLaren
1993-94	Gerry Lees	1994-95	Wayne Cowdry
1995-96	Michael Scherloski	1996-97	John Shewfelt
1997-98	Anne Maher	1998-99	Rob Thompson
1999-00	Jamie Hunter	2000-01	Terri Brophy

Meetings:	Highland Inn and Conference Centre, Brooklea Golf and Country Club.
Funding Projects:	Rotary Auction, Adventures in Civilization, Trip of the Month, Rotary Canada Day Barbeque, Rotary TV Bingo
Rotary Projects:	Group Study Exchanges, Rotary Youth Exchanges - both inbound and outbound, the Rotary Christmas party and numerous others.

Midland Rotary Club: So Much More 2001-2011

Over this ten-year period, a number of innovative projects were established. The Club Christmas party was transformed from a formal evening-out to a "Hamper Night" where Rotary friends and families prepared 300 or so food hampers. These were given to the Salvation Army food bank for distribution at Christmas. Other bigger projects were a celebration of Rotary International's 100th Anniversary where members of the Club built a bandstand in Little Lake Park, and the founding of the fundraiser "Party on the Dock", a musical performance to kick off the summer season on Georgian Bay. With the amount of alcohol consumed, it's a wonder no one drowned! This event raised $40,000 annually for several years. Additionally, the student "Service Above Self" awards were made available to the two local high schools for students selected by their teachers. Membership held consistently at over 50 and long serving members, rather than retire from the Club, were able to join the 73B option or become senior active members. Enjoying a drink at Board meetings was introduced and agendas flowed smoothly.

The Presidents for the years 2001-2011:

2001-02	Jamie Tripp	2002-03	Barry Bergey
2003-04	Kevin Denis	2004-05	Jim Feheley
2005-06	Mike Thor	2006-07	Joyce Campbell
2007-08	Alison Durtnall	2008-09	Steve Rastin
2009-10	Ralph Befort	2010-11	Phil Edmunds

Meetings: Brooklea Golf and Country Club.

Major Projects: Fundraising, Rotary Auction, Rotary Bingo, Party on the Dock, Rotary Golf Tournament.

Rotary Projects: Hamper Night, Group Study Exchange, Rotary Student Exchange – inbound and outbound.

Midland Rotary Club: Innovation Continues 2011-2021

Presidents of this decade introduced new programs such as the "Rotary Random Acts of Kindness," a barbeque free to the public to encourage our community to be more responsive to being kind, and the Rotary Girls' Night Out where the female members gathered for fellowship, fundraising, and fun. Regular Rotary programs such as the Rotary Auction were upgraded and computerized, and several international projects to Haiti and elsewhere were undertaken. But the decade concluded with the Club's greatest challenge yet, the sudden changes brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. The strict isolation measures imposed by the government required the Club to hold on-line meetings through "Zoom," an electronic platform. As a thank you to the doctors, nurses and other staff at the Georgian Bay General Hospital, the Club implemented the complimentary "Rotary Coffee Program" replenishing supplies weekly. Many Rotary fundraisers and programs were deferred or cancelled during this period of catastrophic change.

The Presidents for the years 2011-2021:

2011-12	Susan Hrickovian	2012-13	Ron Crane
2013-14	Britt McKerrow	2014-15	Maureen Reid
2015-16	John Lister	2016-17	Aaron Ledlie
2017-18	Bill Richardson	2018-19	Mora Austin
2019-20	John DeCarli	2020-21	Amanda Woodman

Meetings: Rotary Hall, Midland Cultural Centre.

Projects: Random Act of Kindness, Girls' Night Out, Going Online with the Rotary Auction, Rotary Complimentary Coffee at GBGH, Initiative in Haiti, Refuge Project in Kenya, Rotary Bingo, Shelter Box International Program

Midland Rotary Club: Serious Challenges 2021-2026

The current decade focused on maintaining the cohesiveness of the Club which required innovative techniques and a whole new way of thinking – the shift to a virtual meeting format, during the pandemic, was a major challenge for many Club members. Membership declined to less than 30. Thankfully the Rotary Auction, the Rotary Bingo and the Rotary Foundation Golf Tournament were shielded from cancellation resulting in an increase in the Club's cash flow.

Post pandemic, Rotary International projects were further developed and new projects were initiated. The Life4Kids project in Nairobi, Kenya was expanded to include a visit from a small group of Rotarians and friends who constructed a computer lab, built a library, and planted a "Garden of Love,' with fruit trees and vegetables. The Shelter Box program continued and The Kenyan Women's Business Project in Nairobi was initiated.

As we reflect on the last 75 years of Rotary in Midland, the Club can feel proud of its accomplishments. Some of the highlights include: the donation of funds to Rotary International by the Club as well as donations by individual Rotarians totalling more than $600,000 over the last 25 years from 20 Midland Rotarians, and the continuing support since 1985 of Polio Plus. Cumulatively these contributions have put the Club near the top of our District in giving. Today Club activities are far ranging and successful. Annually the Club raises nearly $200,000 from the major projects: Rotary TV Bingo ($135,000), Rotary Auction ($26,000), and Rotary Foundation Golf Tournament ($20,000) and other smaller projects. These enable our Club to support a wide range of community and international projects. Our involvement in so many projects confronts each President and Board with "what shall we do this year?" The Rotoract Club, the Penetanguishene Rotary Club and the Midland Rotary Club all play a role in Rotary supporting many humanitarian projects for the betterment of the entire area of southeastern Georgian Bay.

The Presidents for the years 2021-2026:

2021-22	Wanda Arreola	2022-23	Christine Baguley
2023-24	Jason Wilson	2024-25	Cathy Tait
2025-26	Shawn Nielsen	2026-27	Helga Noyes

Meetings: Rotary Hall in the Midland Cultural Centre.

Midland Rotary Club: Into the Future

The Rotary Club of Midland celebrates the 75th Anniversary of service and remains a movement for "Service Above Self."

The Club faces challenges similar to those faced by many organizations in our society. Participation in charitable work is declining. Involvement in civic and public events has declined. Attendance at cultural presentations has declined. Church attendance has declined. Other Rotary Clubs have faced losses in membership beginning before the COVID-19 pandemic and accelerated by the pandemic.

It is to be hoped that the foundational strength of the Rotary movement will encourage future generations of Rotarians to survive and thrive. Serving others does not go out of style. Fellowship opportunities are not date stamped. International engagement is needed now more than ever. The relevance of the 4-Way Test was never greater.

The Object of Rotary provides guidance to us, as individuals and as a Club. That Object is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster: FIRST: The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service; SECOND: High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society; THIRD: The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business, and community life; FOURTH: The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service. May we be guided by those guidelines.

A toast to the next 75 years: may there be an abundance of opportunities for achievement and service awaiting the men and women who believe in the Rotary movement. Good luck to those who carry on this tradition and understand what has come from the past and hold it to the highest standard in the future that it so richly deserves.

Rotary 75 Club of Midland 1951-2026

Club Service

Club Service focuses on making our Club strong. Club Service is concerned with the health and vitality of our Club, the wellbeing, education, and engagement of Rotarians, and the effective and efficient administration of Club business. The objectives include the enrichment of members' lives through the development of personal friendships. In other words, promoting fun, fellowship, friendship and a sense of belonging to our Club.

In the case of the Midland Rotary Club, for a while Club Service was the only Avenue of Service adopted. From the original 21 founding members, attendance at meetings for the first four years was often less than 6 and usually revolved around card games. Rotary was a "boys' night out."

But things have changed. We have had many Club Service events over the years. From curling in the early 60s, to boat-ins in the 70s and 80s, often hosted by Kathy and Guy Johnstone, to dances, to annual Christmas parties. There have been fishing trips, boating trips, broomball games, family picnics, and excursions to Blue Jays games. The Midland Rotary Club has entered floats in community parades, winning best float in a Santa Claus Parade. We had a "Day of the Dead" event last year. We entered a cardboard toboggan in Winterama (which promptly fell apart on its first run.)

We might take Club Service for granted. Sometimes we think it just involves parties and social events. But it is much more. It can include:

- Promoting service on committees or in other Club leadership positions
- Contributing to our Club's membership development plan
- Fostering communication among Club members and with the community
- Promoting new Club members, and
- Working to make our Club more inclusive.

In addition, there are small but important regular tasks like

- Meeting set up and speakers.
- Assisting with President's Night
- Holiday event celebrations
- Flowers when a Rotarian passes.

Club Service is always looking for new ideas. Please share yours!

Vocational Service

Vocational Service is one of the least understood Avenues of Service in Rotary. But it's also unique because it merges professional life with service.

Vocational Service promotes high ethical standards in all professions and encourages members to use their business skills to serve their communities. It calls on Rotarians to practice integrity in the workplace, to promote career development, and to recognize the worthiness of all occupations.

The Midland Rotary Club first became involved in vocational service activities in 1978. Since that time, the Four-Way Test and the Objects of Rotary have become important elements in Rotary life.

Down through the years, vocational service has been celebrated in many activities. The Club has hosted panel discussions on the application of the Four-Way Test to real-life situations. Rotarians have hosted competitors, secretaries, and associates over the years in special events dedicated to those groups.

Each new Rotarian presents a Classification Talk, introducing themself and their vocation to the Club. Periodically, members are called upon to deliver mini classifications: updates on their personal and vocational lives.

Club members hold meetings from time to time at local businesses or institutions. Often these meetings have been held at the workplace of a Rotary member. Most recently we visited the Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care in Penetanguishene.

One of the significant ways that the Midland Rotary Club has of recognizing vocational excellence is our Vocational Service Award. Every year since the early 1980s, a worthy recipient is honoured for exemplifying Rotary's high ethical standards in their professional lives. Recipients are persons who use their careers not solely for personal advancement but also as a platform for integrity, fairness, and positive impact on others.

Vocational Service reminds us all that every vocation, when practiced with integrity, can be a powerful force for positive change in our community.

Community Service

Rotary Community Service refers to efforts by our Club to improve the quality of life of those who live within the Midland area. Those efforts can take two forms. The first is providing funding to support worthwhile local service projects. The second is becoming directly involved in a "hands-on" way in making improvements to our community.

Midland Rotary invites community organizations to submit funding requests. Typically, we receive 60 to 80 requests per year. We currently have an annual budget for Community Service projects of approximately $125,000 to allocate among worthwhile projects. Since 2020, we have supported between 80 and 100 projects.

Funding requests are reviewed by the Community Service Committee. The Committee decides on requests up to $2500. Over $2500, approval of a majority of Club members is required.

Over the years, financial support has been extended to most of the major community organizations including: CLH, GBGH, Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Boys and Girls Club, Food Banks, Soup Kitchens, Waypoint, Warm & Cozy, GB Cancer Support Centre, and school projects.

Among the significant projects funded by Midland Rotary would be he acquisition of the first building for what is now Community Living Huronia, artwork at the new Huronia District Hospital, funding towards the new Midland YMCA, funding towards the new Midland Arena, $93,000 towards the Huronia District Hospital Campaign Fund in 1987-88, and Funding towards the Southern Georgian Bay Airboat Rescue, now operated by the Township of Tay.

The Midland Rotary Club has also supported "hands-on" projects with both labour and financial support including construction at the then new Huronia Transition House (known as Rosewood), construction of the new Rotary Pier on the Town Dock (with a $22,000 donation), construction of the Midland waterfront trail. construction of the band shell in Little Lake Park, hosting the annual Random Acts of Kindness luncheon, hosting civic luncheons with guest speakers in the 70s and 80s, and food drives

The Midland Rotary Club provides support where most needed through the Community Service Avenue of Service.

International Service

It was the late 1960s when the Midland Rotary Club was encouraged by a District Governor to become involved in the first World Community Service project. The sum of $55 was sent to a Rotary Club in Bolivia to finance a well. From that humble beginning, the Club became involved with Group Study Exchanges and then with sponsoring foster children in Columbia, Venezuela, and Haiti. In the late 1970s, the Club made donations to the Guatemala Relief Fund and to the Vietnamese Boat People. The international outlook of the Club was not limited to sending funds overseas. The Club initiated exchanges during the 1970s with Rotary Clubs in Midland Texas, Midland Pennsylvania, and Midland Michigan.

The first major donation by the Club was $4000 to Operation Eyesight Universal which, with matching funds, resulted in a total donation of $16,000 to purchase equipment and a van for a mobile eye clinic in Bangladesh. $5000 was raised to support the Ethiopian Relief Fund. As the Club moved into the 80s, the major thrust of Rotary International was “Polio Plus.” Throughout the 80s, the Midland Rotary Club focussed on the Dominican Republic, sending medical supplies, funds to establish a medical and eye clinic and provided musical instruments to a high school.

While individual Rotarians had made mission trips, the first major expedition was when 20 members of the Club joined the HHart project in the Dominican Republic in 2013. Our Club has also participated in Group Study Exchange visits with Turkey and India, Friendship Exchanges with Korea and Brazil, and many members have attended international conventions worldwide. We also have made frequent donations to shelter boxes in hard hit areas, both natural disasters, and war-torn areas. We have distributed wheelchairs in St. Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago.

Beginning in 2021, the Midland Rotary Club became a major supporter of Life4Kids Canada providing financial support for individual boys, funds to sustain the program, and many needed items. Midland Rotarians took a hands-on approach in 2024 when the home in Kenya was visited by 11 Canadians who financed and created a computer lab, a library, and a garden of love, planting fruit trees, and vegetables where there had once been a concrete pad.

International Service continues to be a significant part of the vision of the Midland Rotary Club.

Youth Service

There are now Five Avenues of Service. The newest is Youth Service. Its purpose is to develop the next generation of leaders. Our programs help younger leaders build leadership skills, expand education, and learn the value of service.

The Midland Rotary Club has been engaged in youth service from early days. In the 1960s, we sponsored a minor lacrosse junior "A" team. In the later 1960s the Club brought musical groups to perform in Midland.

In the 1970s, the Midland Rotary Club launched two significant youth projects. The first was participation in the Youth Exchange program.

The second was Adventure in Civilization, a program that brought young people from across the province to Midland to be immersed in the historical and cultural roots of our area. That program continued for several years through the 1980s and into the 1990s.

The Club has also sponsored youth participation in several programs, including Adventure in Citizenship in Ottawa, Adventure in Technology, and the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards.

In the early 1980s, the Club supported a community program called Performing Arts for Children, featuring cultural programming aimed at children. This initiative continues today as our Club sponsors the "Family Scene" programming for young people at the Midland Cultural Centre each year.

Several scholarships have been created for our high school students. For example, Service Above Self scholarships valued at $2500 each are presented at both Midland high schools. A new Midland Rotary Trades Award, also valued at $2500, is presented to a graduating student who will attend the Midland campus of Georgian College. Another new award is the Youth Empowerment Scholarship for students aged 14-18.

Another mainstay has been the monthly Student of the Month Awards to high school students who have demonstrated helpfulness and growth in attitude, skill, and ability.

Supporting youth continues to be a priority of the Midland Rotary Club.

Fundraising

The Midland Rotary Club has hosted individual fundraising events for more than 60 years. But the real economic success of the Club came from recurring projects.

The first was the Rotary Barbeque which began humbly in 1968 but became a mainstay for the next two decades. In the first year, $192.32 was raised, but brought in more than $2000 per year by the mid 70s and $3500 by 1978. In the early 1970s, the Club initiated an Oktoberfest event which ran for several years, generating funds to sustain community projects of the Club. This project was revived in 2019 and 2020.

The first of the truly "big dollar" fundraising projects was the Rotary Auction, which began in 1979. In the early years, annual profits were $7000-$8000. At its peak, the Auction was raising almost $40,000 profit annually. Over the course of the last 47 years, the Auction has raised well over $1,000,000. Another significant fundraising project began in the late 1970s. The Adventure in Civilization brought students to Midland to explore our historical sites and raised between $2000 and $5000 each year. A new project was initiated during the mid 1980s. The Trip of the Month involved Rotarians selling $100 tickets, generating profits between $7000 and $9500 per year.

The most successful single event fundraising project in the history of the Club was the Cottage Lottery. The project was a massive undertaking. 4500 tickets were sold at $100 per ticket with the successful ticket holder winning a cottage on Georgian Bay. The project raised net profits of almost $200,000 for the Club.

Another long-term highly successful project was the Annual Fall Golf Tournament which has raised between $16,000 and $28,000 annually for the Rotary Foundation. The Party on the Dock started out in 2006 like many of our fundraising projects as a single event which evolved into a highly successful annual event. At its peak, the Party raised more than $40,000 a year and over its lifetime raised more than $900,000. The most successful recurring fundraising project in the history of the Midland Rotary Club Is unquestionably the Rotary TV Bingo. The Bingo was launched in 1993-4 and now raises in excess of $130,000 per year and over the past decade alone has raised more than $1,000,000

The Midland Rotary Club can be proud of its success as a fundraising machine and even more proud of the programs and support that have been made possible by raising this money.

Rotary Foundation

The Rotary Foundation is the financial arm of Rotary International. It was founded more than 100 years ago and has spent more than $4 billion on projects that make the world a better place to live.

The Foundation helps the more than 1.4 million Rotarians in 46,000 Clubs worldwide to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace by improving health, providing quality education, improving the environment, and alleviating poverty.

The Rotary Club of Midland was slow off the mark in donations to the Foundation. A statement of contributions to the Rotary Foundation as of July 31, 1968, indicates that every Club in our District except one had contributed more than Midland.

The first significant donation to The Rotary Foundation was a $500 donation in 1974.

The highest honour that Rotary can give is a Paul Harris Fellowship. The first awarded by the Midland Rotary Club was to Murry Lye on June 20th, 1979. Since then, 191 Paul Harris Fellowships have been awarded by the Club.

Today the Midland Rotary Club should be proud of its subsequent contributions to the Foundation. To date we have donated $638,389 to the Foundation.

One of the major sources of funding comes from the annual Rotary Golf Tournament which raises around $25,000 for the Rotary Foundation.

Midland Rotarians have been recognized for their generosity. We have 7 members recognized as Giving Rotarians by The Rotary Foundation. We have 6 Rotarians who contribute to the Every Rotarian Every Year campaign, 6 members of the Paul Harris Society, 5 Sustaining Members, 5 members for the Bequest Society, and 4 Major Donors.

The Rotary Foundation is a significant part of Rotary. We can be proud of our role in the Foundation.

Youth Exchange

The Midland Rotary Club has been involved with the Youth Exchange Program for more than 50 years. The program sends local students to a foreign land for a year and brings a student from another country to Midland for a year. Students are 15 to 19 years of age. More than 100 countries participate.

The involvement of the Midland Rotary Club began in 1975.

Since that time, the Midland Rotary Club has hosted students from around the globe: from Japan and Thailand in the east, from Australia and South Africa in the south, from 11 different countries in Europe, from 4 countries in South America, and from Mexico in North America. What do you think the country was that sent us the most incoming students? The answer is Denmark!

We have sponsored outbound students to equally far-flung destinations: to the Philippines, Thailand, and Taiwan; to 7 countries in Europe, to Argentina and Brazil, and to Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. Most popular? Belgium and Denmark.

There are benefits for both the student and the host families. Exchange students develop leadership skills, self-reliance, and an openness to new ideas and different cultures. They also develop friendships with students from around the world.

Host families learn about other cultures and languages and see the world through different eyes. Children in host families have their horizons expanded.

While this was one of the programs adversely affected by COVID, our Club has now restarted the program and our next outgoing YEX student is Nate Babcock for 2026-2027.

Past Presidents

1951-52	Elmer Shaw
1952-53	George Mason
1953-54	Les Taylor
1954-55	Larry Curran
1955-56	Frank Doherty
1956-57	Vern Beatty
1957-58	Les Barber
1958-59	Clive Park
1959-60	Jack Duggan
1960-61	Al Farewell
1961-62	Jim Henry
1962-63	Joe Faragher
1963-64	Clint Truax
1964-65	Clare Armstrong
1965-66	Murry Lye
1966-67	Joe Faragher
1967-68	Guy Johnstone
1968-69	Jim Shaw
1969-70	Ted Brennan
1970-71	Alec Gilmore/Bob Paulin
1971-72	John Bourgeois
1972-73	Harry Cox
1973-74	Bob Paulin
1974-75	Gerry Van Klink
1975-76	Ross Jones
1976-77	Bob Brown
1977-78	Don Sherk
1978-79	Ken Walker
1979-80	Howard Markham
1980-81	Don McNee
1981-82	Herb Henderson
1982-83	Nelson Cote
1983-84	Fred Hacker
1984-85	Thom Lackie
1985-86	Rod Ferguson
1986-87	Dean Nicholls
1987-88	Des Carpenter
1988-89	Ernie Cowden
1989-90	David Chambers
1990-91	Ken MacDonald
1991-92	Ed Hartley
1992-93	Duncan McLaren
1993-94	Gerry Lees
1994-95	Wayne Cowdery
1995-96	Michael Scherloski
1996-97	John Shewfelt
1997-98	Anne Maher
1998-99	Rob Thompson
1999-00	Jamie Hunter
2000-01	Terri Brophy
2001-02	Jamie Tripp
2002-03	Barry Bergey
2003-04	Kevin Denis
2004-05	James Feheley
2005-06	Michael Thor
2006-07	Joyce Campbell
2007-08	Alison Durtnall
2008-09	Steve Rastin
2009-10	Ralph Befort
2010-11	Phil Edmunds
2011-12	Susan Hrickovian
2012-13	Ron Crane
2013-14	Britt McKerrow
2014-15	Maureen Reid
2015-16	John Lister
2016-17	Aaron Ledlie
2017-18	Bill Richardson
2018-19	Mora Austin
2019-20	John DeCarli
2020-21	Amanda Woodman
2021-22	Wanda Arreola
2022-23	Christine Baguley
2023-24	Jason Wilson
2024-25	Cathy Tait
2025-26	Shawn Nielsen

Vocational Service Award Recipients

1979	Mary Gibson
1979	Frances St. Amant
1979	Jack Hunter
1980	Austin Matthews
1981	Dr. Elliott Barker
1982	Robbert Hartog
1983	Bill Barnett
1983	John Leitch
1983	Joyce Hamelin
1984	Reinhart Weber
1985	Gus Brunelle
1985	Dr. Merlyn McTavish
1986	Rev. Paul Schult
1987	Shirley Whittington
1987	Val MacMenemy
1988	Waltec Sinkware
1989	Dr. Josef Dolezel
1990	Jim & Carol Ashworth
1991	Paul Delaney
1992	Joan Lavin
1992	Yvon Gagne
1993	Father James Farrell
1993	Sharon Armstrong
1994	Jim Blackwell
1995	Ken Woods
1995	Douglas Lewis
1996	Ted Symons
1996	Mary Stinson
1997	Frank Woodley
1998	Bruce Tinney
1998	Michael Tinney
1999	Pat & Wally Hook
2000	Catherine Richardson
2001	John Gignac
2002	Shirley Bridgeman
2003	Michelle Mink
2004	Dr. John Gibson
2005	Kathy Stewart
2006	Dr. Rick Coutts
2007	Jim Nicholson
2008	Carol & Mark Cruden
2009	Harry Campbell
2010	Paul Hamelin
2011	Dr. Peter Cameron
2012	Loriann Clancey
2013	Tony Vipond
2013	Kathy Eldson-Befort
2014	Betty Valentine
2015	Catherine Bayles
2016	Nancy Spiker
2017	Lorna Tomlinson
2018	Mike Osborne
2019	Dr. Don Farquhar
2020	Tracy Nelier
2021	John Hartman
2022	John French
2023	Keith Rose
2024	Richard Dillon
2025	Sarah Kitchen
2026	John & Margaret Leonardo

Living Honourary Members

Marg Bourgeois
Pat Cowden
Fran Ferguson
Kathy Johnstone
Marja Kuerzdoerfer
Anne Maher
Janice Mooney
Elaine Nicholls
Michael Proulx
Vivian Shaw
Rob Thompson
Reinhart Weber

Outbound Exchange Students

1975-76	Pat Truax	Philipines
1976-77	Donna Jones	Australia
1977-78	Frank Ehmke	West Germany
1979-80	Linda Cox	South Africa
1981-82	Inge Schwauss	South Africa
1983-84	Angela Burgess	Belgium
1984-85	Russell Clarke	Thailand
1985-86	Patrick Bowers	Denmark
1990-91	Heidi Marr	Australia
1991-92	Cindy French	South Africa
1994-95	Amanda Antaya	Belgium
1996-97	Michelle Atwood	New Zealand
1998-99	Sephanie Scott	Belgium
1999-00	Erin White	Germany
2000-01	Kaeley Wiseman	Philipines
2001-02	Amanda Thorpe	Denmark
2002-03	Matthew Parker	France
2003-04	Sara Smallwood	Germany
2004-05	Marissa Leadbeater	Argentia
2005-06	Ferenc Stenton	Brazil
2006-07	Michael St. Amant	Denmark
2007-08	Cassandra Rastin	Denmark
2008-09	Michelle Campbell	Taiwan
2009-10	Anna Marie Obermeier	Brazil
2010-11	Sarah Gilmore	France
2011-12	Stephanie Edmunds	Switzerland
2012-13	Jacob Kanerva	Germany
2013-14	Colin Best	Belgium
2014-15	Ashley Frandsen	Finland
2015-16	Sarah Douglas	Italy
2015-16	Fiona Murton	Denmark
2019-20	Megan Branham	Italy
2026-27	Nate Babcock	Argentina

Inbound Exchange Students

1975-76	Sally Ann Middleton	Australia
1976-77	Jakomine Goudswaard	Netherlands
1977-78	Fernanda Majorga	Argentina
1978-79	Ulrich Geidel	West Germany
1980-81	Ian Nicholls	South Africa
1981-82	Gaye Cudmore	Australia
1982-83	Christine Michaux	Belgium
1983-84	Alexandre (Lee) Aceto	Brazil
1987-88	Tatia Nieuwenhuisen	Australia
1988-89	Laurent Quittre	Belgium
1989-90	Julia Barta	Hungary
1992-93	Rafael Ibanex	Spain
1994-95	Pascal Hennen	Belgium
1997-98	Claudia Ohly	Germany
1998-99	Amelie Meurens	Belgium
1999-00	Cleo Lugtheild	Netherlands
2000-01	Sergio Fonseca	Brazil
2001-02	Hiroko Horibe	Japan
2002-03	Francois Mazet	France
2003-04	Vicky Ares Sirera	Argentina
2006-07	Charlotte Plaquin	France
2007-08	Cornelius Moehring	Germany
2008-09	Michelle Ramos Sabido	Mexico
2009-10	Anne Nissen	Denmark
2010-11	Julie Maddalin	France
2011-12	Juliette Barbosa	Brazil
2012-13	Ploy Hotrawaisaya	Thailand
2013-14	Atte Raiha	Finland
2014-15	Jose Villacreses	Ecuador
2015-16	Luna Aravena	Chile
2016-17	Biel Pujol	Spain
2017-18	Rhoda Kortsako	Austria
2018-19	Nico Jenni	Switzerland
2019-20	Clemence Dalcq	Belgium
2024-25	Katerina Botkova	Czechia
2026-27	Sarah Kramer	Norway

Current Members

Jim Anderson
Ralph Befort
George Boucher
Sue-Ellen Boyes
Terri Brophy
Ron Crane
Roma Czech
Hank de Jong
John DeCarli
Arnold DeCarli
Christine Edwards
Roger Gignac
Fred Hacker
Kim Hacker
Alex Hamelin
Jamie Hunter
Mike Knell
Darryl Lalonde
Alison MacCallum
Kaitlin McGoran
David Mink
Kelly Moss
Naomi Murray
Shawn Nielsen
Helga Noyes
Randy Post
Maureen Reid
Rebecca Searles
Cathy Tait
Jamie Tripp
Jerry Van Dyk
Kathy Watson
James Weimer
Jessica Wicks
Bruce Wilcox
Jason Wilson
Kevin York

Club Executive

President
Shawn Nielsen

President Elect
Helga Noyes

Secretary
Jason Wilson / Sue Ellen Boyes

Treasurer
Jerry Van Dyk

Past President
Cathy Tait

Community Service
Kelly Moss

Vocational Service
Darryl Lalonde

Club Service
Roma Czech

International Service
Terri Brophy

Rotary Foundation
Helga Noyes

Membership
Maureen Reid

Public Image
Alex Hamelin

Youth Service
Alison MacCallum

Rotary Club of Midland

1951-2026

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