



ROTARY CLUB OF WALKERTON

1939 - 2019

80 years of service



Our Beginnings - Charter Night, August 3, 1939

The Walkerton Rotary Club was chartered in August, 1939. This came about as a result of the untiring efforts from members of the Owen Sound Club and more particularly, the Hanover Rotary Club. The Hanover Club became our sponsor and we are grateful to these good neighbours. We shall ever extend to them our thanks and appreciation for their sponsorship, advice, cooperation and continued interest in our welfare throughout the years. By May 1939, twenty of Walkerton's leading citizens had agreed to take up the duties of forming a new club and the charter was applied for the Rotary Club of Walkerton.

The first recorded meeting of our Club was May 4, 1939. Two weeks later, our fledgling Club was host in our Town Hall to a group of 50 Rotarians from Tara, Owen Sound, Hanover and Warton. Speakers from these clubs extended their best wishes for our success. The late Dr. Pilkey from Hanover, presented us with a Rotary Wheel. On August 3, 1939, Past District Governor Dr. Thomas J. Carney of Alma, Michigan presented our new Club with its charter. The ceremony was held at the Walkerton Town Hall. Wes Freeborne became the first President of Walkerton's Rotary Club. The President for the 2019 - 2020 Rotary year is Doug Schaab.

Rotary's motto is "**Service above Self**" and over the years the Club has been involved with projects which have assisted all sectors of the community. Eighty (80) years later the Rotary Club of Walkerton is a very active, energetic and hands-on organization of volunteers with more than 65 International, National and Local projects. Through the endless efforts of its' members, the Rotary Club of Walkerton annually supports the four main goals of Rotary International — Health, Hunger, Literacy and Water. The eradication of polio is a major goal of Rotary International. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has been a major contributor to Rotary International in their efforts to eradicate polio. The Rotary Club of Walkerton financially supports this goal annually.

Some local projects supported by the Rotary Club of Walkerton are: Hospice, The Rotary Trail, CT Scanner, Music Festival, County Town Players, Wightman TV Bingo, International Youth Exchange Program and Wes For Youth.

Each year Rotary International adopts a theme to set the stage for clubs throughout the world to plan their year of service to others. The **2019 - 2020 theme is "Rotary Connects the World"** and through the efforts of our **43 active and dedicated Walkerton Rotarians** they are successfully endeavouring to fulfill this mandate.

Rotary seeks what binds mankind together and avoids that which separates. The men and women of the Rotary Club of Walkerton have always distinguished themselves in placing "**Service Above Self**" — all the while seeking nothing in return, except the opportunity to enjoy the fellowship and family of Rotary. Look for Rotary's International symbol "**The Rotary Wheel**" on the large entrance signs as you enter our town.