



Rotary Club of Fonthill

2003 – 2004

President: Hugh Graham

Past-President: James Richardson

President-Elect: Craig Foster

Goals for the year:

1. grow club membership from 18 to 25 members
2. bring meetings back to more formal "Rotary" structure
3. increase awareness in community – appear in the news at least once per month

In May of 2003, the club unveiled the gateway sign at the corner of Hurricane Road and Highway 20. This was a project that had been in the works for many years and finally came to conclusion. With the unveiling of the sign came responsibility for the garden around it. A "water and weed" schedule was set up and each of the club members had an opportunity to do some gardening.

Annual projects included the golf tournament at Lookout Point in July, setting up Temperanceville display in Peace Park in November, and the annual TV Auction with our friends in Welland & Fort Erie in December.

Susan Hall hosted a child from Belarus for the second year. Natasha was part of the Children of Chernobyl project run by Pamela Ellens of the West Lincoln Rotary Club. The project brought a number of children from Belarus to the area for summer health respite. This led to others getting involved and hosting children as well. We all remember Piotr Sukarovich staying with Sandy & Hugh Graham.

We had a summer social "pot luck" at the home of Sharon Cook and Husband Don. Our Christmas social was hosted by Rotarian Doug Burr and his wife, Susan. Our Paul Harris night was held in November.

A new project was the first "Mayoral Debate" where we offered the 6 candidates for mayor an opportunity to meet the community in an open debate. The setting was at the Fonthill Legion and the questions were moderated by Rotarian Sandra Wallace.

Some of the ladies in our club assisted with "Ladies Night Out", a United Way fund raiser in October.

We advertised in the local newspaper for project ideas for the Rotary Centennial. These projects were to be larger, community oriented, and geared to completion in February of 2005, the centennial anniversary of Rotary. On April 21 of 2004 we decide that our project would be "Bucks for the Band". Our goal was to raise \$50,000 for new uniforms and instruments for the E.L. Crossley marching band.

We had our last meeting at The Lazy Loon Restaurant in December of 2003 and moved to The Vintage Martini and Wine Bar in January. Our first speaker of the new year at our new location was mayor Ron Leavens.

Our final event of the year (although technically held in President Craig's year, on July 1) was a huge garage sale. Planned and implemented at the end of my year, this event was an underwhelming success. After all was said and done, we took a cube van full (1500 kg), plus two pick-up trucks the next day, to the land fill. This was in addition to the industrial dumpster that we had rented for the duration of the collection of items. Total cost of dumping was in the area of \$1,000. Net proceeds to Rotary was printed in red.

Completion of goals for the year:

1. At the last meeting of the 2003-2004 year we inducted 2 new members into the club. This brought the total new members for the year to 11. We accepted resignations from 4 members during the year, so we ended up with the 25 members for our first goal.
2. Our meetings had become more structured and in a new location.
3. We had lots of news articles, pictures and other coverage during the year.

Well done, Rotary Club of Fonthill.

P.S. prior to agreeing to be president of the club, I had a meeting with fellow member Randy Clare.

His advice was that it would be a busy year, but it would be the best year of my Rotary life. He was right.

Thank you Randy. And thank you to the Rotary Club of Fonthill.