

The Rotary Club of Qualicum Beach held its charter night meeting on May 1, 1947 at the Qualicum Beach Hotel. As stated in a news story of the time, "Well over 200 were present from Port Alberni, Campbell River, Courtenay, Nanaimo, Victoria, Duncan, Port Angeles, and Vancouver." As sponsors of our club the Courtenay Rotary Club made the arrangements and the charter was accepted by the first President of the Rotary Club of Qualicum Beach, Frank H. Parker.

This Rotary Club has made many contributions to our community and the surrounding area in the past 68 years. Major projects include the construction of the seawall and walkways in 1952, and the building of the Qualicum Beach Airport in 1954. In 1989 the new Qualicum Beach Civic Centre was officially opened after club members provided the major thrust and timely funds to get the project underway.

Significant Rotary investments have also been made in community playing fields including the Qualicum Beach skateboard park which opened in 1999. In recent years our club has given support to a local children's literacy venture, to a high school vocational program, to the purchase of a van for the Salvation Army SOS program, and to an annual secondary scholarship program. Our support has also gone to the QBCFD Youth Fire Camp, fine arts at KSS has received an annual contribution, and we sponsor a local student's attendance to the Rotary Adventures in Citizenship program in Ottawa.

International service has always been an important part of the work of our club. We play a highly significant part in the sponsorship of Rotary Youth Exchange students, and our club members commit funds each year to the Rotary Foundation. Many club members have travelled to work and provide assistance to people in developing countries, including a regular commitment to a variety of projects in Guatemala. We also participate in the Mid-Island World Community Service organization, which is composed of all the Rotary Clubs on Central Vancouver Island. In recent years club members have organized a special dinner in support of the Rotary Polio Eradication program.

Four members of our club have served as District Governor: Herbert Welch '57-'58, Craig Reid '69-'70, Norm Watts '07-'08 and Michael Procter '14-'15.