

Report to the District Governor

July 2014

from



THE ROTARY CLUB  
OF  
**Fonthill**  
ONTARIO, CANADA

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## **The Rotary Club of Fonthill**

### **2014-15 Board of Directors**

President - Tia Taylor

President Elect - Frank Adamson

Club Administration - Kevin Bolibruck

Presidential Nominee - Kevin Bolibruck

Past President - Michael Lewis

Secretary - Diane Watters / Jayne Watson

Treasurer - Randy Momot

International Service - Art Veldhuizen

Community Service - Roy Kirkup

Public Relations - Carolyn Mullin

Youth Services / New Generations - Michael Taylor

Club Counsellor - Andrew Larmand

## Club Structure

### Avenues of Service Committees

<b>CLUB SERVICE:</b>	Club programming	Frank A.
	Registration/attendance	Gail
<b>CHAIR:</b>	Banking	Gail
Kevin Bolibruck	Membership	Lance
	Media	Carolyn
	Club administration	Jayne/Diane
	E-Club	Annie
<b>COMMUNITY:</b>	Canada Day	Lance
	Golf	Hugh
<b>CHAIR:</b>	Summerfest	Roy
Roy Kirkup	Car Rally	Roy
	TV Auction	Hugh
	Pelham Cares	Carolyn
	Temperanceville Display	Randy
	Bandshell Service Night	Gail
	Community Clean-up	Randy
<b>VOCATIONAL:</b>	Mayoralty debate	Tia
<b>CHAIR:</b>	Vocational Presentations	Andrew
Carolyn Mullin	Friendship Exchanges	Carolyn
	Mentorships	Carolyn
<b>INTERNATIONAL:</b>	Foundation	Art
<b>CHAIR:</b> Art Veldhuizen	International Projects	Frank A
	Grants	Art
<b>NEW GENERATION:</b>	Interact Club	Pat
<b>CHAIR:</b> Mike Taylor	Youth Exchange	Mike
<b>CHAIR:</b>	RYLA	Pat
	Colouring Book	Pat
	Snapshot	Mike
	Early Act (Public School)	Mike



## Year-to-date selected highlights

Although the new Rotary year is young, we have been busy in the past few months, and have a VERY busy summer ahead! We started with participation in the Canada Day activities for the Town of Pelham. Our volunteers run Jump n Bounces, offer many active games, host crafts, and sell sno cones as part of our promise to provide family-friendly, free fun at the Canada Day venue.

Pictured below is our new club president, Tia Taylor, being driven by her husband Richard, in the Canada Day parade.

Below that are Rotarians Pat Duncan and Annie Holtby showing off their true colours - for Canada and for Rotary!



Continuing with July, our club has once again committed to sponsor one concert of the Fonthill Bandshell Summer Concert Series. We will also provide water to the concert-goers, who will number likely around 2,000 to see “Night Fever,” a musical tribute to the Bee Gees. Several of our Rotary members will be doing double-duty again, as they are also volunteer members of the Bandshell committee.

Just before the new Rotary year, the Rotary Club of Fonthill celebrated its own members, and members of the committee with a Paul Harris Fellows evening of recognition. The new board members were also inducted that night, and outgoing President Michael honoured two Rotary members with the Rotarian of the Year.

Pictured below are the 2014 Paul Harris Fellows as awarded by the club. All are community members, and include, (left-hand photo): Mel Groom, Peter Nazar, Jane Gilmour and Ron Kore.

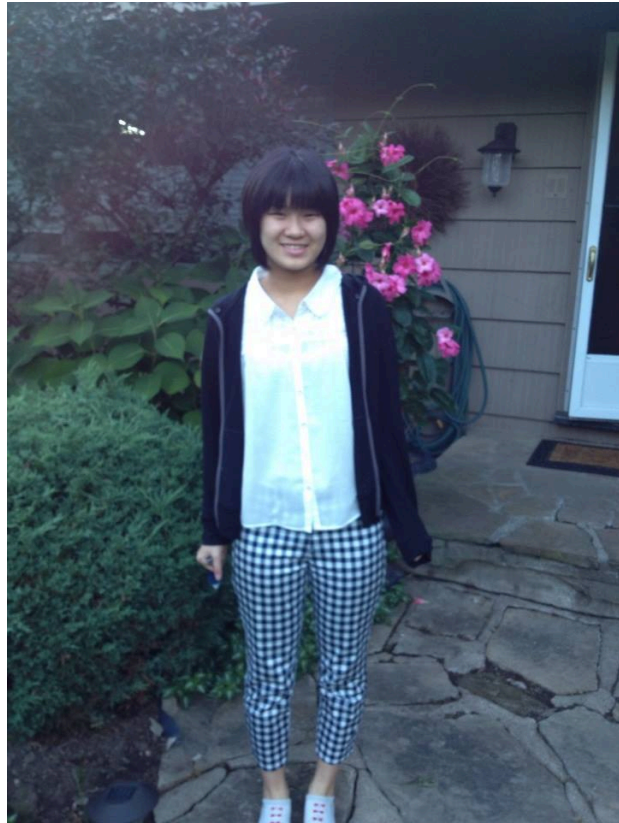


During the same evening, we also welcomed four new members (right-hand photo): Paul Allen, Jayne Watson, Diane Watters, and Craig Fife.



We find it hard to believe that we have had Rio Tanako with us for nearly a year now. From Nanao, Japan, Rio was able to stay with four different Rotary families, and has had many awesome Canadian experiences, including recently attending a prom, and “graduating” from E.L. Crossley Secondary School.

We will soon welcome another inbound student, while getting ready to send Zoe Lowes, a Fonthill resident, to France.



At the same time we welcome a new inbound student, we will also welcome hundreds of enthusiastic participants to the **Annual Pelham Mudfest Challenge**. This 5k mud-obstacle fun-run is a new major fundraiser for the club. A first attempt in May attracted 170 mudders through 12 obstacles on a cool day.



## Report from the President

It is an honour to be the President of the Rotary Club of Fonthill for the year 2014-15. This Rotary club has a proud history of community involvement and fundraising. With the recent work of Immediate Past-President Michael Lewis to solidify the internal framework of the club, we are moving forward with a view to increase our presence in the community and our long-term impact as well.

For our Light Up Rotary year, our goals include:

1. To identify the areas in which our club is strongest, to help us focus our efforts to best impact our community and the world.
2. To focus on the presence of Rotary in our community through social and print media, community functions and visible signage.
3. To increase our membership by 5 while retaining existing members through meaningful interaction.
4. To specifically engage the Pelham Youth Council to help us identify the need(s) of the community and potentially support a project.
5. Host a major community gala for the purpose of placing Rotary front and centre, while also raising significant funds to a community need.



Our club has several yearly commitments that are ongoing (eg., Canada Day celebration, Summerfest, golf tournament, Rotary TV auction) as well as a brand new event (Pelham Mudfest Challenge). These constitute our major fundraisers and flagship community events. This year the money raised from the golf tournament will be used as a donation to several initiatives of women's wellness in our region of Niagara, while the Mudfest proceeds are being donated to help our local social service agency purchase its own building.

We are also building stronger ties with our Early Act club at A.K. Wigg Elementary School. A partnership with E.L. Crossley Secondary School's Interact Club for the purpose of student mentorship is also in development to help foster a healthy transition between schools and clubs.

With mixed emotions, we honoured our Past-President Maureen Walker, who passed away in 2013 from complications from Multiple Sclerosis. Through memorial donations we have been able to award a graduating high school student who best exemplifies leadership qualities while overcoming adversity.

Submitted by Tia Taylor



## **Rotary Club of Fonthill Planned Involvement 2013-14**

The remainder of the 2014-15 Rotary Year will see the members of the club continue their involvement in community and Rotary events including:

- Keep Pelham Beautiful Community Clean Up
- Rotary District 7090 Conference
- Pelham's Volunteer Recognition Social
- Paul Harris Fellow Awards Night
- Remembrance Day Memorial Services
- Rotary Foundation Support (Every Rotarian Every Year commitment)
- Polio Eradication Campaign
- Rotary TV Mega Auction Multi Club Event
- Golf & Travel Lottery
- continue to be co-sponsors for SOWNY e-club
- engage in the fellowship of our Rotary exchange student

### **Rotary Interact Club - E.L. Crossley Secondary School**

The Interact Club of E.L Crossley looks forward to another great year. From the opening meeting in September, with approximately 32 students the club, to the final gathering in June, the students truly fulfill the Rotary motto of Service Above Self and the requirements of an Interact Club. The new Board is inducted in June and plans a busy year. The club has a very active Staff Advisor in Karen Chcoski and Rotary liaison, Patricia Duncan, is in regular contact with the club.

Typical events include: participation in the Rankin Run for Cancer; the We Scare Hunger food drive at Halloween in support of Pelham Cares; providing leadership in the school's Christmas Cheer event for 30 local families in Welland/Pelham area, provided by the Salvation Army; supporting the End Polio Now campaign with a BBQ and bake sale on Literacy Day; and collecting and donating clothing, toiletries and shoes to RAFT, a local youth shelter serving all of Niagara.

In addition, the Interact members participate in Rotary events such as Canada Day and the TV Auction and are frequently called upon at school to help as ambassadors and guides, with Grade 8 visitations, parents' nights and graduation ceremonies.

### **International Service Committee**

Plans for 2014-15 include the fulfilment of a grant program to buy new refrigeration units for Pelham Cares, the social service agency in the town which operates a food bank for weekly clients. Pelham Cares recently purchased its own building, after 30 years of operation.

Under President Tia's leadership, we are also investigating a significant project with an orphanage in Thailand which shelters HIV-positive children.

## **Report from the Secretary**

It is our main objective to provide meaningful information to all members to encourage participation, attendance at meetings and events and to acknowledge the contribution individual members make to the success of our club.

To accomplish this, we plan to:

1. Provide a supportive and positive service for and on behalf of the Rotary Club of Fonthill by being efficient/accurate in the role of secretary.
2. Update and maintain Rotary Club of Fonthill information on Club Runner - especially improving the info currently registered for individual members.
3. Maintain information in a current and accurate manner on the Club website ([www.rotarycluboffonthill.ca](http://www.rotarycluboffonthill.ca)) and on supporting websites such as the Town of Pelham.
4. Seek new fundraising activities for the community.
5. Help increase the profile and visibility of the club within our community and attract new members.
6. Create a biography of the Year in Rotary in pictures via a PowerPoint presentation.
7. Create and maintain an electronic filing system for bulletins, Board Meeting minutes etc., that can be readily accessed when information is required in the future.
8. Order supplies and make sure of availability at events such as Paul Harris Fellow celebrations or New Member Inaugurations.
9. Act as a recorder of discussions and decisions made at Board Meetings and publish the minutes for each meeting in a timely fashion.
10. Review pertinent correspondence from Rotary International or District, requests for donations, etc. provide input, if appropriate, and bring to the attention of the appropriate Board Member.
11. Strive to be a positive influence and make significant contributions to the club wherever possible.

Respectfully submitted

Diane Watters & Jayne Watson  
Secretaries

## **Report from Youth Services /New Generations**

New Generations programs and activities continued to flourish within the Club over the past year. Under the continued leadership of Ms. Pat Duncan, Interact at E.L. Crossley High School continued to provide outstanding ambassadors of youth leadership within the school, the Pelham community and beyond. The Fonthill Club expanded its offerings of scholarships at the local high school from two to three and those awarded these opportunities were indeed fine examples of character consistent with Rotary ambitions and values.

A.K. Wigg elementary school has endorsed the re-establishment of an Early Act Club in their school as well. History reflects that A.K. Wigg actually sponsored the inaugural Canadian Early Act Club. The public and high school clubs will be developed in tandem with an eye towards developing a peer mentorship (high school with elementary school students) and representative joint club activities.

We have supported two Slapshot participants, who had an absolutely thrilling experience, paralleled in excitement only by our RYLA representative, who was absolutely overwhelmed by the powerful impact and inspiration of the program.

Our Club continued its involvement with Youth Exchange on a number of levels. We sponsored an outbound student to Spain (in partnership with Grimsby Club) and we continue to host our inbound student Rio Tanaka from Japan. All indications are that Rio has had an absolutely thrilling experience this year and she is sad to be leaving us later this summer. We are poised to send our next outbound to France (Zoey Lowes), while receiving our upcoming inbound Charlotta Palm from Finland. It will actually be the case that we will have both Rio and Charlotta in town at the same time. We cannot express enough our appreciation to the local Rotary community who stepped up substantially in serving as host families and others supporting more specific needs and in lending their time and support helping to make Rio's experience so rewarding.

This year, I was invited to participate with the District Youth Exchange Committee and took part in the annual Algonquin Park winter wilderness adventure and the spring inbound New York City trip for inbound students. It is amazing experience to see first-hand the exceptionally engaging methodology (both for individuals and group) and the well-crafted program activity provided for both outgoing and incoming students. District 7090 is (and certainly ought to be) very proud of the success of its Youth Exchange ambitions. Students participating in our programs who have travelled to foreign places and also communicated with students around the world commonly reflect that 7090 is among the best in the world at ensuring the value and rewarding nature of their experiences.

We look forward to continued success in our New Generations efforts in the year ahead in support of Rotary's commitment to the engagement of people of all ages to assist in changing lives in our communities for the better.

Three primary commitments we are excited to achieve include:

- Finalizing of a Club 'New Generations Committee,' who will collaboratively work together in the facilitation and support of Early Act, Interact, and Youth Exchange. Through these programs (each managed by designated individuals with support of others), we expect to populate our designate participants to Slapshot, RYLA, Youth Exchange and for consideration of annual scholarships.
- Reintroduction of Early Act and the twinning of it with Interact at E.L Crossley in order to provide mentorship and stronger succession planning with this younger youth population. Logically we expect that these investments will bring their own unique rewards and benefits through results in the Interact Club as well.
- Our Club YEO has assumed the role of District Youth Exchange Chairman and is currently transitioning into the new role and responsibilities.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Taylor

Chair, New Generations

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## **Report from Membership Director**

### **District Governor's Goals/Light Up Rotary Presidential Citation:**

- Achieve a net gain in membership between July 1, 2014 and March 1, 2014
- Sponsor two new members (diversity from among demographic groups)
- Promote member engagement by ensuring that each club member is assigned a specific role in your club's leadership development goals for the year, either in a leadership position or as a member of a club committee, subcommittee, or project initiative
- Successfully recruit the spouse of a club member or successfully refer a spouse to another Rotary club for membership
- Successfully recruit a former Rotaractor or Rotary alumnus to join your club or successfully refer them to another Rotary club for membership.

Number of active members on July 1, 2014:	26
Number of active members on July 1, 2013:	20
New Members since July 1, 2013:	5
Member Resignations since July, 1, 2013:	1
Proposed members (in process):	0

### **Club Goals**

- Meet the Presidential Citation Goals with respect to Membership recruitment and retention.
- Continue Group Fireside Chats - host fireside chat by February 2015
- Continue participation in Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) - support 1 member in the RLI stream during 2014-2015

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Larmand

Membership director



## **Report from Public Relations**

This portfolio has been part of my regular volunteer work in the community for a number of years (at least 10), and as such, I have developed a close relationship with the local print media, and a newer online presence in town ([mypelham.com](http://mypelham.com)). For the most part, we have coverage of our events, either through news representatives providing the coverage, or through submissions made by our club.

We have set a goal of receiving local press coverage at a minimum of once a month, whether for special events, new member inductions, or to share information with our community regarding district, national or international initiatives.

Examples of recent coverage include several articles (in different media outlets) of our participation in Canada Day and our inaugural Pelham Mudfest Challenge, our sponsorship of the outgoing and incoming exchange students, and the Paul Harris Fellows Recognition Evening.

Plans for 2014-15 include keeping pace with this goal, and increasing it when possible, through both more coverage in the traditional outlets, and a concerted effort to use new and social media opportunities. We have permission to upload submissions to [mypelham.com](http://mypelham.com), which means we control the message, and the webmasters then deliver this message in a newsletter once a week to 3,000+ subscribers via email.

At the beginning of 2012, we started a Facebook page. While it has had a slow start, there are currently close to 400 “likes” and several people who redistribute the postings to their walls as well; that is the power of social media; the few share with the many, who share with many more.

I also plan to train/mentor another member of the club, or more than one member, so that we have more involvement from newer members, and so that we have continuity in this portfolio no matter who takes the lead.

Yours in Rotary

Carolyn Mullin

## **Report from Club Service and Administration**

### **CHAIR OF CLUB SERVICE:**

We are privileged to have such a dynamic and strong group of individuals who go above and beyond to promote goodwill in the community, each other and everyone around them. The Rotary Club of Fonthill is blessed to have them and they are instrumental to our club's strength and success.

### **ADMINISTRATION:**

As each New Year begins, so does forming the Pods, their leaders and responsibilities. Each pod leader is given a schedule of pod responsibilities and asked to finalize their guest speakers well in advance (for the benefit of the president & members) weekly responsibilities are to be delegated and forwarded to the President in advance.

We feel that fellowship within the club is extremely important as a happy supportive group of individuals that know one another, work very well together and thus strengthen the club.

A main goal for the year ahead will be to have at least one Rotary fellowship function in each of the four seasons. Here are some examples of promoting club fellowship:

- PELHAM MUDFEST CHALLENGE - SEPTEMBER
- NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION DISTRICT CONFERENCE - OCTOBER 2014
- CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE - DECEMBER 2014
- VALENTINE'S DINNER - FEBRUARY
- PAUL HARRIS DINNER- HERNDER ESTATES - SPRING 2015
- NEW BOARD INDUCTION BBQ - JUNE 2015

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin Bolibruck

## **Report from Past-President**

Michael Lewis, President of the Rotary Club of Fonthill - 2013-2014

The 2013-14 Rotary year was in many ways a very successful one for our club. As president (now past) I think it is appropriate to focus on the achievements of our club. Some of our great successes this year were to increase our visibility in the community through a variety of media (print, online sites/social media and word of mouth). I feel confident in saying that we have achieved this goal and not just maintained our presence but also increased it in our community. We have also made a commitment to maintaining structure and vision in our club. We currently have a three-year succession plan, pods for the weekly meetings, and we are refining our vision for the legacy our club wishes to build.

This year has taught me several valuable lessons and I will share some of these things I learned about our club with you. The first is that when a challenge was set before our club with many trials along the way, we pulled together, dug deep and succeeded. The second is that leadership becomes simple when you can let go of the details and let the people around you do their jobs. Encouragement and respect get far superior results to over-management.

In reading the other reports you will have seen the amazing projects and fundraisers that our club has led. I am very proud of our club. I will not re-tell the details of these events except to say that for each one a group of very dedicated Rotarians worked extremely diligently to make them happen.

Our Rotarians of the Year are fine examples of the calibre of people you will meet in our club. Carolyn Mullin has worked very hard to ensure that our club is well represented in the media (print and online) as well as serving on other boards of community groups (special mention of the Pelham Cares Home for Good Capital Campaign). She is a cornerstone of our club and has been someone who can be counted on to get the job done. Mike Taylor has diligently worked to improve and refine our youth programs. Mike has worked hard to make certain our youth programs flow well and have a positive impact on the youth involved. Mike is also involved in other community initiatives (special mention of the Pelham Cares Home for Good Capital Campaign).

Both of these individuals represent well the work ethic and caring attitude that is common in our Rotarians.

I believe that the greatest lesson I have learned this year is that each of the Rotarians in the Rotary Club of Fonthill is an amazing person with their own individual set of strengths and a common thread of care for others and a desire to make a difference.

It has been an honour to serve this club.

Michael Lewis, DC

## **Report from the Treasurer**

Our club's past year 2013,2014 was a year of significant community support.

We fulfilled a multi-year commitment to Pelham Cares, our local food and community aid organization to the extent of \$20,000.

Our regular contributions for other community support including Rotary Foundation amounted to approximately \$15,000 for total contributions of about \$35,000 for the past year.

We have set a budget of \$15,000 to \$20,000 for community support this year.

We have a surplus balance opening the year of about \$14,500.

The club has raised dues this year to cover the Rotary Foundation sustaining member requirement. We will collect enough in dues, above our direct cost, (RI and District assessment) to make the annual \$100 contribution to the Rotary Foundation. Previously, our Rotary Foundation contribution was not directly raised from members but was funded through our members contributions at meetings (happy dollars).

We are committed to fundraising primarily by:

- Joint Niagara Mega TV auction
- Rotary Golf Tournament
- Pelham Mudfest Challenge

These events will raise about \$20,000 for the club, and will allow us to meet our target.

We follow typical small club policies regarding finances, in that we offer smaller donations to community and provincial organizations, as requested, while allowing us to reserve funds for bigger community projects as needed.

We have a two-director cheque signing policy on all disbursements.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Momot, Treasurer



## **Report on Community Service**

The Rotary Year in Fonthill starts off with great fanfare on the very first day of July with four of our major community service events held in the month of July.

### **July 1 – Pelham’s Annual Canada Day Celebration**

Lead by Rotarian Lance Wiebe, the Organizing Committee’s year-long planning comes together with huge family fun from 10 in the morning until fireworks complete the night at 11 p.m. The Club’s contribution to this excellent celebration is well recognized in the community. Every year the event gets larger and busier.

### **July 17 – Fonthill Bandshell Service Club Night**

The Club sponsored and presented this evening with performing artists “Night Fever” a Bee Gees cover band. “Night Fever” - The Bee Gees Tribute is the largest production of the Bee Gees in the world. The group has been touring for the past 10 years, from Disneyland to Russia, recreating the look and sound of the Bee Gees. The Fonthill Rotary Club banner is showcased at the front of the stage. Club members distribute free water to crowd of more than 2,000 people. The event is the opening event for the four-day Pelham Summerfest celebration. <http://www.fonthillbandshell.com>

### **July 17 to 20 – Fourth Annual Pelham Summerfest**

The success of the original Summerfest in 2011 led to the event becoming an annual and expanded celebration. Fonthill Rotarians work alongside members of three other local service clubs throughout the celebration. Streets are closed to traffic in the downtown of Fonthill for the entire day on Saturday with street vendors and entertainment for all ages. Rotarians volunteer at the beer tent and sell 50/50 raffle tickets. Our portion of the proceeds is expected to be approximately \$1,500. <http://www.pelhamsummerfest.ca>

### **July 28 – 23rd Annual Golf Tournament – Lookout Point Country Club**

An inspiring day of golf at one of Niagara’s most prestigious and challenging private course for the Club’s largest solo fundraising effort. We anticipate registrations of nearly 100 golfers plus friends and family sitting down to dinner. Combined with proceeds from the silent auction table, the tournament is budgeted to raise net earnings of approximately \$7,500 with proceeds going to support Women’s Wellness initiatives in Niagara.

### **September 6<sup>th</sup> – Pelham Mudfest Challenge**

Pelham Mudfest Challenge is a mud-run obstacle course that is 5 km in length, all contained within the naturally hilly terrain of Bissell’s Hideaway, in the heart of the Short Hills of Niagara. Pelham Mudfest Challenge is organized by the Rotary Club of Fonthill, as a major fundraiser for the Pelham Cares Home for Good Capital Campaign. This is the second such event this year with the inaugural “Mudfest” held on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The May event was held as a test run to work out event logistics for the September event and had approximately 175 participants, netting \$3,500 in proceeds  
<http://pelhammudfest.ca>

## **Late November - Rotary TV Mega Auction**

The Rotary TV Mega Auction is being broadcast this year on November 20, 21 and 22, and combines the efforts of area clubs from St. Catharines, Niagara Falls, Welland and Fonthill to raise in excess of \$150,000 for Rotary projects across our region.

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## **Our Club's History**

The Rotary Club of Fonthill was chartered in 1991. It is one of several service groups operating in Pelham. The Club currently has a membership of 21 regular members and two honorary members. Although small in number, the Club has made an impact on the community.

The largest fundraising effort by the Club was the 2005 drive to raise \$100,000 for the provision of new uniforms and instruments for the E. L. Crossley S.S. Marching Band. Other past successes are the construction of the welcome sign for Fonthill and Club participation in the creation of the Steve Bauer Trail, a recreational trail for walking and cycling, which passes through the community and links to Welland. More recently, the Club was involved in securing a Trillium Grant for the sound system for the Fonthill Bandshell. In summer, free music performances of all types are offered on Thursday evenings for the whole community. Rotary also sponsors one of these very successful events. In fact, the Club chose to feature a representation of the bandshell on our Club banner, created in 2010.

The Club is very proud of the annual Canada Day Rotary Event in the Park which has grown since 2005 to be *the* place to bring young children for fun games, “bouncy castles,” and simple crafts, both before and after the Canada Day Parade. Since 2008, the Club has committed to providing funds to seek a permanent home and funding for Pelham Cares, a community service organization that includes a local food bank, transportation to medical appointments and subsidy programs for sports and camps for underprivileged children. Project Pelham Cares was spear-headed by the Rotary Club of Fonthill and quickly drew support from many others in the community. After several years without success, the process was kicked into high gear in 2013 with the recent purchase of a suitable building.

We continue to support literacy in the community by the donation of funds to the local library, to be used where library staff see the greatest need.



THE ROTARY CLUB  
OF  
**Fonthill**

**Web:** [www.rotarycluboffonthill.ca](http://www.rotarycluboffonthill.ca)

**Facebook:** Rotary Club of Fonthill

**Email:** [rotaryfonthillsecretary@outlook.com](mailto:rotaryfonthillsecretary@outlook.com)

ROTARIO, CANADA