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Rotary sponsors show as part of 25th birthday

This year is the 75th anniversary of the founding of Rotary Clubs, and the 25th anniversary of the Georgetown Club.

The first Rotary Club was organized in Chicago in 1905, and became international with the establishment of the first Rotary Club in Canada five years later. Now 18,341 Rotary Clubs, with a membership of 853,000 cover 153 countries. Appropriately the name was derived from the first group meeting in rotation at their places of business.

On March 7, 1955 the Georgetown Club received its charter which was presented to John Gunn the Charter President. Twenty-five years later he is still a Rotarian as are charter members Bob Burns and Bud Bishop.

A project begun the first year, the annual Senior Citizens Dinner, honoring the older residents of the area, continues to this day, but now is being held at Thanksgiving rather than the original Christmas period.

From almost the beginning the local club, as a member of the Ontario Crippled Children's Society, has participated in the annual Easter Seals Campaign and has administered funds contributed so generously by



Rex Heslop and Bob Gougeon of Georgetown Rotary Club gear up for Industry '80.

the citizens of the community.

In keeping with RI aims, the club has also participated in international projects. It contributes to the Rotary Foundation which offers post graduate fellowships to students throughout the world for study in countries other than their own. It was been host to a student (Hal Porter) from Belgium in a Student Exchange Program and in turn sent a Georgetown High School

student for a year's study in Holland. Last January, (1979) Marilyn Thorne travelled to Brazil under the same program. The Club is presently interviewing local high school students to participate in yet another phase in the coming year.

The club has taken part in Group study exchange programs on several occasions. In this program, young business and professional men travel as a

six man team to another country to study its customs and operations. The club has been honored by having local men Paul Armstrong and John McDonald represent Georgetown on two of these projects, one to Australia and one to Israel.

Another international project was 'Heifers to Haiti'. The club participated in the District 707 scheme to provide purebred livestock to

help upgrade the Haitian agricultural programs.

Club members also act collectively as a foster parent to a Peruvian child.

Locally, the club has been involved in a number of projects. Its youth service program has included support of minor hockey, provision of high school scholarships, sending a high school student to the annual 'Adventure in Citizenship' project of the Rotary Club of Ottawa. Former Prime Minister Joe Clark's first visit to Ottawa was made as an 'Adventurer'. The club has helped to establish a business workweek scheme for students in the commercial department at GDHS. It has sponsored, a safety program in the public schools, in conjunction with the police department.

Through funds raised by its annual Skatathon, the Club contributed funds to help equip the new Gordon Alcott Arena. It led the way in the fund drive to renovate the older Memorial Arena building. Some projects not only raised cash but also contributed culturally. The Rotary shows which were produced annually for several years acted as showcases for local artists and talent. Before the advent of the Georgetown Choral Society, the Rotary shows provided an outlet for those who enjoyed choral singing apart from church work. Under the direction of the late Kenneth R. Harrison, and Rotarian Ralph Ursel the Rotary chorus reached a high standard of performance.

Georgetown Rotarians were largely responsible for spearheading a feasibility study for a cultural centre, which has been adopted by the town. An architect has been hired and the plans are now being examined by the Building Committee, with Rotarian Rex Heslop, who headed the study committee, also serving on the building committee.

This month the club is sponsoring Industry '80.

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