

## 100 years of service

# Acton club will join in celebration Rotary's centenary

The Acton Rotary Club in conjunction with 31,606 Rotary Clubs around the world will be celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this well known international organization dedicated to serving their community.

Mac Sprowl, a member of the Acton Rotary Club for 50 years, has written a short history of the Club's founding, for *The New Tanner*. Later he will review the history of the Acton club and the many community

endeavours for which they have been responsible.

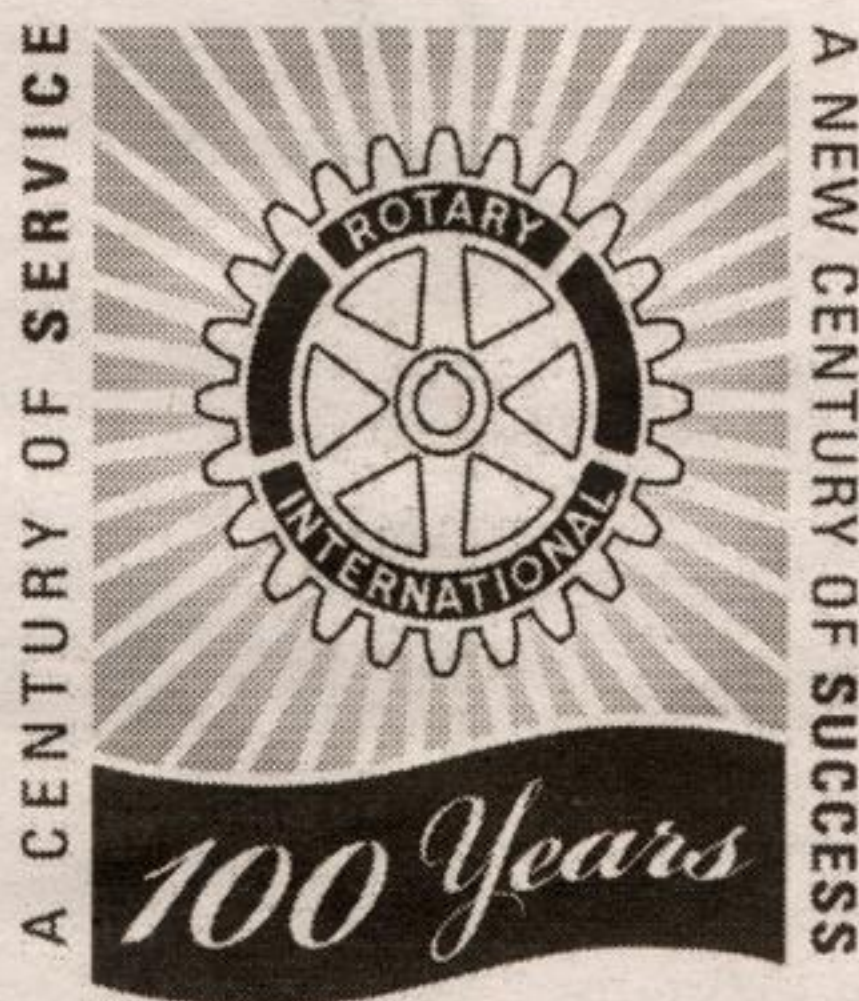
By Mac Sprowl

On February 23, 1905, four men met at Gustavus H. Loehr office room 711 of the Unity Building in Chicago to conduct what has come to be known as the first Rotary Club meeting. The four men were Paul Harris, a lawyer, Gustavus H. Loehr, a mining engineer, Silvester Schiele, a coal dealer, and Hiram Shorey, a merchant tailor.

At that time their purpose was not to found an international service organization but to build friendships among business men in Chicago reminding them of the small town camaraderie they enjoyed during their boyhood.

The second club meeting took place later in Harris's office. Harry Ruggles, often referred to as the fifth Rotarian, was in attendance as well as real estate dealer William Jensen and Albert White, a piano manufacturer. Ruggles, a printer, is credited with starting the practice of singing at Club meetings.

Contrary to popular assumption, Harris was not the first president of the club. That honour went to Schiele who was elected at



the third meeting held in his office. It was then that the fledging group named itself Rotary based on the three time practice of rotating meeting sites.

Gus Loehr is believed to have left Rotary after this meeting and not long after Hiram Shorey also relinquished his membership, though not his life long regard for the movement he helped to found.

Schiele and Harris remained loyal Rotarians and close friends until their deaths living next door to each other in Chicago and in adjacent vacation homes in Michigan. Soon after the club name was agreed upon, one of the new members suggested a wagon wheel design as the club emblem. It was the precursor of the familiar cogwheel emblem

now worn by Rotarians around the world.

By the end of 1905 the club had 30 members. The second Rotary Club was founded in San Francisco, the third in Oakland. Others followed in Seattle, Washington, Los Angeles and New York City.

Rotary became International when a Club was founded in Winnipeg in 1910. In 1910 the first Rotary Convention was held with 14 delegates. There were now 16 Clubs with a membership of 1,500 Rotarians. What is now the Rotary foundation of Rotary International grew from a small endowment fund started in 1917. It became the Rotary Foundation in 1928 but grew only modestly until 1947 when it rescinded a number of gifts in memory of Paul Harris upon his death on January 27, 1947.

Since 1917, contributors to the Foundation have totaled \$824.3 million including \$61.7 million in 1994-95. Among programs Rotary has undertaken in recent years, the largest has been Polio Plus, whose goal is the eradication of polio throughout the world. In 1949 Rotary had 7,000 clubs in the world in 86 countries, a membership of 330,000 members. In 1975 there were 24,400 Clubs in 166 countries.

In 2004, Rotary membership consisted of 31,606 Clubs with 1,211,723 members. Rotary is the leading private sector partner to eradicate polio, the largest public health initiative in history.

Rotary International and its Foundation have mobilized hundreds of thousands of volunteers in support of local clinics and their

communities and polio eradication activities.

By 2005, Rotary's contribution to the global polio eradication effort will be approximately \$500 million U.S. The number of polio cases world wide has declined by more than 99% to 483 cases in 2001 from 350,000 in 1988.

More than two billion children have received oral polio vaccine since 1988. Five million children who might have been polio victims are walking and playing normally. More than 500,000 polio cases are prevented each year. Polio grants have benefited 122 nations.

Rotary International headquarters at Evanston, Illinois, occupies the top four floors of a skyscraper. Daily business includes incoming mail of 5,000 pieces per day while head office puts out 2,500 pieces per day.

In the early years of Rotary to prevent competition it was agreed only one member could be admitted from each occupation. No restriction was imposed as to race, creed or colour.

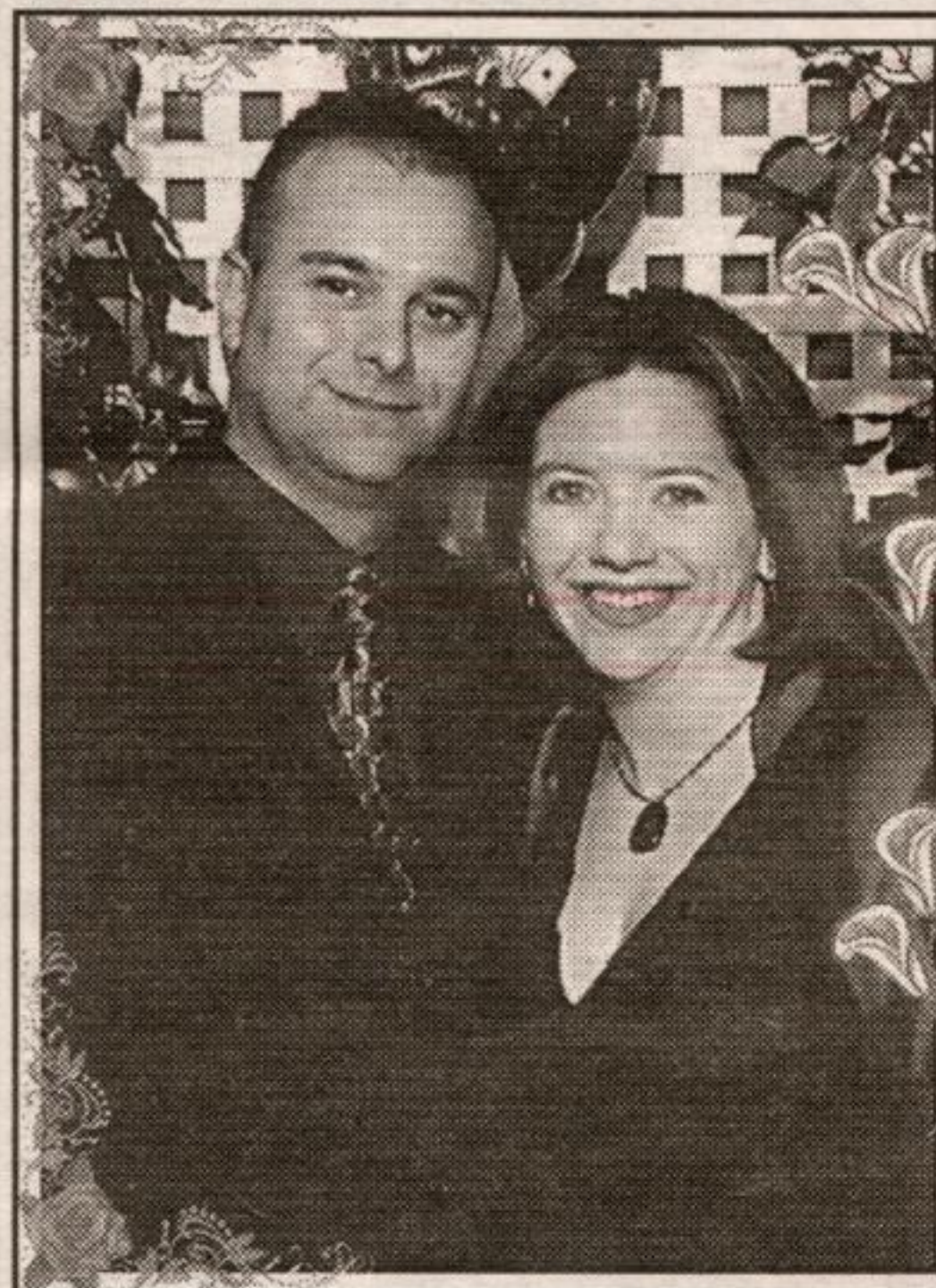
As a result of a United States Court ruling several years ago, women are now proposed and inducted into Rotary Clubs. The Rotary Magazine has a monthly world wide circulation of 750,000 and is distributed in 127 countries in 24 languages.

The 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary party in Chicago will be from June 18 to June 22, 2005. The new board of directors of Rotary International numbering 20 includes President Glenn E. Estess Sr. The Anniversary is expected to draw 60,000 Rotarians, spouses and guests.

## Celebrations



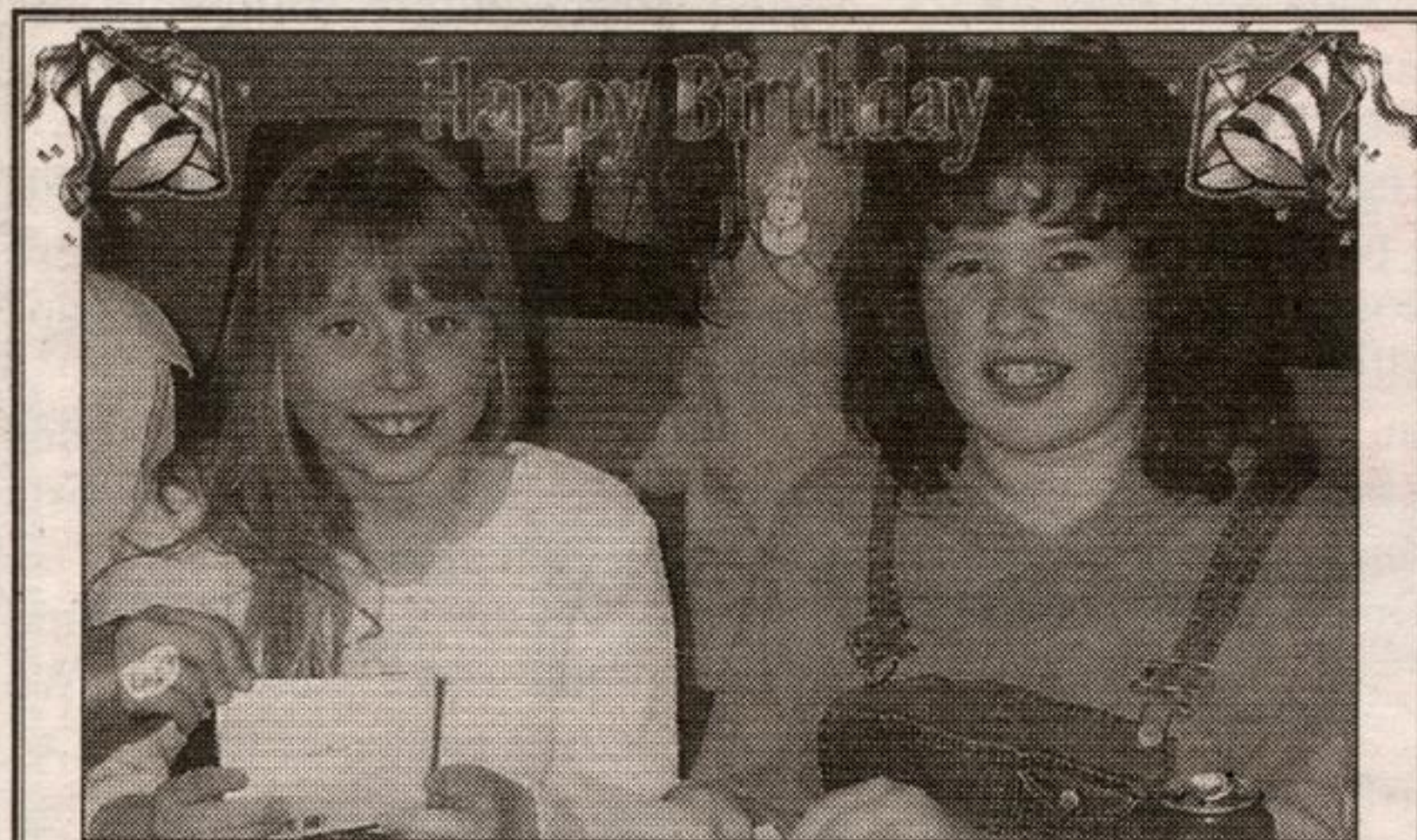
Steve and Nicola Toth (nee Tinker) are proud to announce the safe arrival of Cameron Steven, born Feb. 3rd, 2005 weighing 7lb 6oz at Guelph General Hospital. Proud grandparents are Dorinda and Stefan Tinker of Georgetown and Raymond and Christine Toth of Acton.



Frank and Heather O'Neill of Milton happily announce the engagement of their daughter, Amy, to the man who won her heart, Lonnie Patenaude, son of Jane and Terry Herriman of Guelph, and Raymond and Sue Patenaude of Perkasie. The couple has planned a casual wedding with friends and family in September of 2008.



Lordy, Lordy FRANK IS 40  
Love Paula, Melissa, Travis and Roy



Tayler Hunt (left) and Erika Stokes, both 11, decided to have a double birthday party and invite their entire grade 5 class from Robert Little to the Milton Leisure Centre. They decided to ask for donations to the Tsunami Relief Fund instead of gifts. With the generosity of their friends they raised \$405.00.

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