

Kinsmen & Kinette Clubs of Canada

WHAT IT IS:

Kinsmen & Kinette Clubs of Canada, Canada's largest all-Canadian service organization, made up of Canadian men and women gathered together in clubs for the purposes of bettering their communities by performing 'hands-on' service work, raising funds for important community projects and having fun.

MEMBERSHIP:

Approximately 10,000 members belong to more than 650 Kinsmen, Kinette and Kin clubs from coast to coast. Kinsmen clubs are made up of Kinsmen while Kinette clubs are made up of Kinettes. Kin clubs have a mixed membership of Kinsmen and Kinettes. Our association was founded in Canada and there are no clubs outside of Canada. There are a number of Kin Kids clubs for children in various areas of the country.

ASSOCIATION'S MISSION STATEMENT:

"Grow. Learn. Make friends. Have fun."

ASSOCIATION'S MOTTO:

"Serving the Community's Greatest Need"

HISTORY:

The association was founded February 20, 1920, in Hamilton, Ontario, by Harold A. Rogers O.C., O.B.E. (1899-1994). Rogers was 21 years old and had just returned from the trenches of the First World War when his father, a prominent Rotarian, encouraged him to get together a few young men his own age. As a result, a small group gathered for a dinner meeting and became the first Kinsmen club -- the Kinsmen Club of Hamilton (ON).

2002 - 2003 NATIONAL PRESIDENTS:

National Kinette President is Bonnie Joseph of Alberta, and National Kinsmen President is Dave Tidbury of Ontario. (Term expires August of 2003).

ASSOCIATION HEADQUARTERS:

The Hal Rogers Kin National Headquarters is located in Cambridge, ON, approximately 100 Kilometres west of Toronto on Highway 401. A full-time staff of 10 provide bilingual services to more than 650 Kinsmen, Kinette and Kin clubs. The chief administrative officer is Executive Director Rick MacDonald.

ACTIVITIES:

Our clubs undertake a wide variety of local fund-raising and service projects. Our motto "Serving the Community's Greatest Need" means that each club determines how it will raise funds and how those funds will be spent in the community. We encourage the autonomy of our clubs so that as many decisions as possible are made by our members at the club level. Kinsmen and Kinettes' national fund-raising project involves supporting the work of the Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation (CCFF). Our association was recently honored by the CCFF for having contributed more than \$30 million to CF research and treatment since 1964. We are also active coast to coast promoting a variety of national pride initiatives designed to give Canadians the opportunity to demonstrate that they are proud of their country. For example, Kinsmen and Kinettes annually spearhead Raise the Flag Day, a patriotic event encouraging Canadians everywhere to raise and fly the Canadian flag. This annual national event takes place in hundreds of communities the Saturday preceding the Victoria Day weekend.

RECENT SUCCESSES:

On average, our clubs annually contribute more than \$25 million to Canadian communities, to say nothing of the countless hours spent planning and carrying out their many fund-raising and service projects. None of the money raised in the community is used to fund our national association. The national headquarters and its programs and services are financed through our members' annual dues along with some revenue from such activities as our internal sales division. All the money raised in a community stays in that community. To the best of our knowledge, our members raise more money per member than any other service club in the world. Last year, our members donated more than \$1 million to the Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, making Kinsmen and Kinettes the largest single fund-raising organization for CF research in the world.