

THE KIN STORY • FOUNDER HAL



The Kin Story

The 20's & 30's

- February 20, 1920, The Kinsmen Club was born in Hamilton Ontario, by founder Hal A. Rogers.
- Based on the foundation of fellowship, Kin expanded its mandate to include Service, Personal Development, Family Values and National Pride.
- By the end of 1926, 9 cities had Kinsmen Clubs and the National Convention in Winnipeg saw the organization adopt a constitution and by-laws and fixed the maximum age for active membership at 40.
- By 1928 there were 24 clubs from coast to coast and in 1929 the club were formed into 5 districts under Governors and District Officers.
- Around 1935 the first K-40 clubs were formed, giving older Kinsmen a chance to stay involved in Kin with their peers. K-ette clubs soon followed for the women, they also followed the same mandate as the K-40s.
- Within a 3 week period of the onset of war in 1939, Kinsmen mobilized in two ways. First as soldiers fighting for Canada. And second, at home, becoming a war service club, assisting in the total war effort. It was during the Second World War that one of the largest Kin projects of all time, Milk for Britain, took place.
- Responding to a radio appeal for milk for British children, Rogers began to rally Kin troops across Canada to raise funds for the purchase of powdered milk. The goal for the first year was to raise enough money to purchase one million quarts. Within nine months, Kinsmen and Kinettes had supplied more than three million quarts. By the end of the Milk for Britain campaign, the Kin family had raised close to \$3 million and sent 50 million quarts of milk to Britain.
- The wartime effort saw the emergence of 41 new Kinsmen clubs and the formation of a new part of the organization, Kinettes. Kinsmen wives had begun to create their own clubs on an informal basis.

The 40's & 50's

- The Kinette movement began to grow and at the association's 1942 national convention, Kinettes were given official recognition in the national bylaws and duly certified as an auxiliary organization.
- The association's motto, "*Serving the Community's Greatest Need*," took on a more global perspective as the association helped to found the World Council of Young Men's Service Club (WoCo) in 1945.
- By 1945, Kinsmen had grown to 150 clubs across Canada.
- In the 50's, club expansion was foremost in everyone's minds, yet so was member retention. To assist in keeping Kin interesting, many national award programs were developed, giving Kinsmen goals to attain and excellence to strive for.
- By 1956, Kinsmen had grown to 300 clubs

The 60's & 70's

- In 1964, the Kinsmen Club of North York began working with a relatively unknown disease that struck down children by the age of four. From this one service project, support grew for the Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation so that it is now the association's major project.
- The association celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1970 in grand style as the entire country supported a national project of raising \$400,000 to assist in the construction of the Kinsmen National Institute on Mental

Retardation, built at Toronto's York University and opened on February 20, 1970.

- In 1975, the Association had grown to 500 clubs which was made up of 16,000 members.
- Late 70s gave the Kinsmen a heightened profile through their involvement in the Particip-action Movement, particularly with the construction of Participarks. Kinsmen led the way in building these fitness-oriented parks and opened more than 100 by early 1980s.

The 80's & 90's

- Sixty years of Kin culminated with the opening of the Hal Rogers Kinsmen National Headquarters, a three-storey, 14,000 square foot building in Cambridge, Ont.
- The 1980s brought many changes within the Kin family, most notably, the raising of the maximum age limit to 45, the equalization of Kinettes as full partners in the association in 1983
- In 1985, over \$1 million was raised for Cystic Fibrosis research and in 1987 C.F. was adopted as a National Service Project.
- 1986 saw Kin assist wheelchair athlete Rick Hansen on the final stretch of his world journey.
- In 1991, the Association's name became the Kinsmen and Kinette Clubs of Canada with an upper age limit of 45.
- In 1992 the "Proud to Be Canadian Tour" showed our National Pride and over 3 million Canadian children signed specially designed Canadian flags.
- Since 1993 the annual "Raise the Flag!" Day has shown Kin's National Pride while encouraging Canadian to show their love for Canada by raising and flying flags.
- 1994 "Kin" or "Kinsmen & Kinette" clubs were deemed to be an option for new or existing clubs.
- 1999 saw Kinsmen, Kinette and Kin Clubs raise more than \$25 million in service projects. Also the upper age limit of 45 years was eliminated as a qualification for active membership.

The New Millennium

- 2002 saw Kinsmen raise over \$73,000 to the Hay West project. It brought hay from Eastern Canada to the drought stricken fields of Saskatchewan and Alberta.
- 2003 saw devastating fires rip through British Columbia leaving many homeless or living in shelters, Kin Canada pledged more than \$50,000 and 30,000 pounds of beef to help with the needs of the area. Also in September of 2003, BBQ Canada, an initiative of Kinsmen and Kinettes, supported the ailing beef industry in Canada. On Labor Day, Kin clubs and groups across the country, hosted free barbecues to show the world that Canadian beef is safe and that they support the Canadian Beef Industry. This one day event set a Guinness Book of World Records by serving more than 280,000 individuals a beef product.
- 2004, Kin raised over \$15 million for community projects. Also Kin and CF celebrated a 40 year partnership which Kin has raised more than \$33 million for research.
- 2005, Kin made a \$48,000 donation to the Canadian Red Cross for the Tsunami Relief in Southeast Asia. We have over 8500 members and 592 clubs from coast to coast and we continue to write the KIN STORY of "*Serving the Community's Greatest Needs*".

FOUNDER HAL (1899 - 1994)



H.A. (Hal) Rogers, O.C., O.B.E., founded the Association of Kinsmen Clubs on February 20th, 1920 in Hamilton, Ontario. His contributions to Kin have been an example to all members.

Founder Hal was born in London, Ontario in 1899. In 1916, at the age of 17, he left his father's business to enlist with the Argyle and Sutherland Battalion and was soon sent overseas, where he had a distinguished military career. Hal was gassed at Paschendaele and was later wounded by shrapnel in action at Amlens.

When Hal returned to Canada in 1919 he rejoined his father's business and applied for membership in the local Rotary Club. Since his father was already a Rotarian, and a plumbing salesman, the vocational category was filled and so Hal's application was not accepted.

Rotary's loss was Kin's gain. Hal decided to found his own service club, meeting with 11 other young men at the Nanking Café in Hamilton. Hal served as the first Kinsmen president from 1920 to 1923 and remained active in the Association ever after. His aim was to foster the development of a club that would combine opportunities for service and fellowship for young men. His own experiences with the camaraderie of wartime proved an effective model.

Hal was married to Elspeth on September 12, 1925. They had a son Harold and a daughter Diane. During the 1930s, Founder Hal worked with Age Publication in Toronto, established his own publishing company and then moved on to government service as chairman of the Ontario Telephone Authority and the Ontario Telephone Development Corp.

With the coming of World War II, he shifted over to the Department of National War Services in Ottawa. At that time, he also served as chairman of the Kin War Services Committee and as Chairman of the Kin Milk for Britain Fund. After the war he was made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire in recognition of his leadership and the war efforts of Kinsmen and Kinettes.



In 1950, Founder Hal was honoured with the prestigious Lamp of Learning Award for his dedication to public education. Other awards Hal received include the Order of Canada in 1978, the Centennial Medal and Rotary's highest award, a Paul Harris Fellowship. Founder Hal was made a life member of the Association in 1959.

After World War II, Hal established a new company, Telephone Rentals of Canada, with his son, to operate alongside his publishing firm. He retired in 1969 at age 70.

Founder Hal Rogers passed away on September 15, 1994. Over 600 Kinsmen and Kinettes attended a "Celebration and Remembrance" for Hal, held on September 21, 1994.