

Rotary Club of Palgrave's Weekly Rotary Minute

By Jim Firth,
outgoing Club President

As I reflect back on my year as President of the Rotary Club of Palgrave, I think of need; the need of families in our own community and afar.

I was first drawn to this club because I wanted to help out my community. I could not have imagined the depth of need that exists, as well as our club's ability to assuage that need. I have gained a profound respect and insight into the tireless work of staff and volunteers at some of the various organizations Rotary supports such as Peace Ranch for adults with mental health issues, Family Transition Place, and My Sister's Place (Alliston) for women in crisis.

Beyond this, my understanding of what service means was inspired by individual Palgrave-Caledon community heroes. Two in particular stand out: Carlos Summaria and Meaghan Zaremba. Carlos, inspired by his brother, Michael, provides engaging day programs to challenged young adults at the White Birch Special Needs Centre for Adults in Palgrave. Meaghan Zaremba, helps handicapped adults like herself with a music therapy program which she support through Tisho's Music Academy.

Rotary is a community. I joined this community because of a need to be of service. As a father, there is nothing more important than knowing that the needs of my family are met. My family and I have gained so much in the belief of the goodness of our neighbours and community. Thank you Palgrave Rotary for honouring me with one year as part of your 35 year tradition of service.

Please visit www.rotaryclubofpalgrave.com for more information on our Club and all the wonderful ways you could get involved.