



Rotary

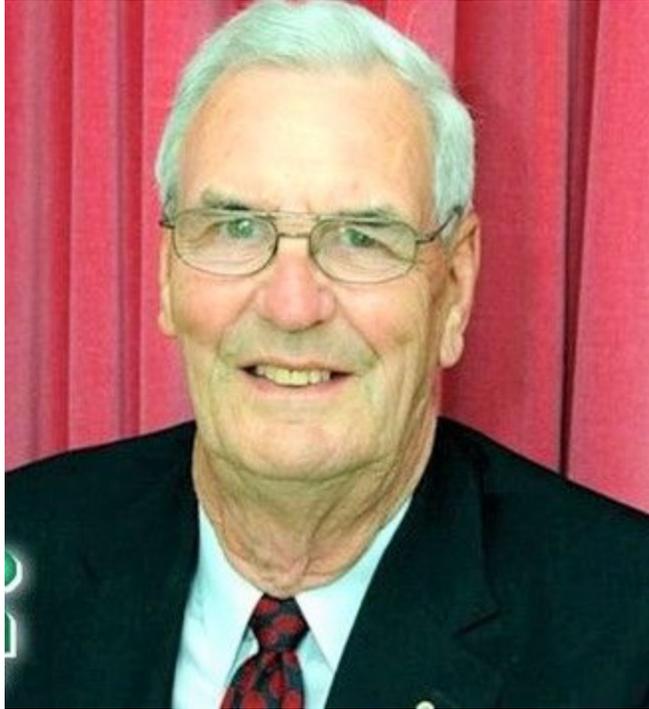


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## Dr. Bob Scott



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For four decades, Dr. Robert Scott has been a Rotarian and advocate for worldwide polio eradication.

Born and raised in Edinburgh, Scotland, Dr. Scott immigrated with his wife, Ann and four children to Cobourg in 1966. A general practitioner, he joined a local practice and happily settled into rural Canadian life.

In 1971, Dr. Scott was invited to join the Cobourg Rotary Club. He continued to practice medicine until 1996 when he retired. Gradually over the years, said Dr. Scott, his Rotary work began to take over more and more of his time.

From July 1987 to June 1988, Dr. Scott was the District Governor. From 1996 to 1998, he became one of 19 elected directors for Rotary International. In 1997, he was appointed Rotary International Board of Directors Vice-president and if that wasn't enough, in 2004 Dr. Scott was appointed a trustee on The Rotary Foundation Charity Board by Rotary International.



Rotary



The foundation board is made up of 15 trustees appointed by Rotary International for a four-year term. After three years on the board as a trustee, Dr. Scott was elected by his fellow trustees to be vice-chairman of the board. Due to unforeseen circumstances, he became the chairman from 2007 to 2008.

Through his work and association with Rotary, Dr. Scott has been working tirelessly toward the global eradication of polio since 1979.

In September 1979 for the first time ever, Rotary International sponsored a day in the Philippines where all the children under the age of 15 were immunized against Polio, said Dr. Scott. Clinics were set up across the country to administer the vaccinations.

"That was how we started," said Dr. Scott. "As compared to today, it wasn't very well organized but we did it. By 1985, it was decided by the board, that we would supply polio vaccine to any country that requested it but didn't have money to do it."

Rotary International as a whole began raising money for the new initiative. In 1988, they raised \$247 million, with over \$1 million coming from Rotary District 7070, right here in south central Ontario, Canada (of which Dr. Scott was the District Governor). Since then, a spearheading cooperative of organizations has formed between Rotary International, UNICEF, World Health Organization (WHO) and Centre for Disease Control (CDC) Atlanta to follow through on the global polio eradication initiative.

Most recently, the Bill Gates Foundation has been increasingly generous and interested in assisting with the initiative, publicly stating it's the number one objective of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

"After our first fundraising campaign (in 1988) we all thought polio will quickly disappear," said Dr. Scott. "We started with 125 countries with 1,000 cases a day, this year we're down to 1,000 cases a year. So we're 99.9 per cent there, we're now down to four countries that have never yet eradicated polio, that's India, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nigeria."

Now the Past Chair of the International PolioPlus Committee (a sub-committee of the foundation) for the past four years, Dr. Scott continues to work toward a polio-free world. Next up, Dr. Scott will be travelling to Chad and Namibia as well as India to continue the fight to eradicate polio.