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Rotarian takes service to new heights



Hearts of the Community lifetime service award recipient Jack MacAuley relaxes at home in North Saanich.

Christine van Reeuyk/News staff

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By [Christine van Reeuyk - Peninsula News Review](#)

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Jack MacAuley takes the Service Above Self motto to heart.

He's found ways throughout his lifetime to give through blood, building and beef.

The North Saanich senior spent more than four decades with the Rotary Club of Sidney proving the point and earned the 2011 Hearts of the Community lifetime service award to boot.

Through 43-plus years with the service club (he's still an active member), he worked on multiple community projects.

"Starting with the hospital out on Resthaven, on the island," MacAuley said. "Our club did a lot of work for it

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and provided a lot of equipment there.”

Then they supported the new hospital, our Saanich Peninsula Hospital. Alongside the many Rotary ventures there, he and others took on the individual challenge of purchasing and planting trees 25-30 years ago along the perimeter of the property.

“We were the instigators of the palliative care unit doing the work we did there,” he added, that work was alongside the other two Peninsula Rotary clubs.

The Rotary Field of Dreams ball park and Wakefield Manor are two major achievements for the Sidney Rotarian however.

“That was one of our major projects I think. One I’m most proud of,” he said of Wakefield.

The name of the subsidized housing project came from a former Rotarian, and newspaper man; Jimmy Wakefield was the owner of the newspaper, MacAulay explained, and a founding member of the Rotary club.

“When he passed away they bought his property and built the Wakefield Manor,” MacAulay said.

Once, as a volunteer through Rotary, MacAulay offered time to the Red Cross.

He stayed on for 30 years.

“When the Red Cross ran the donor clinics they would come with nurses that would actually take the blood but they needed volunteers to run the clinic ... We did the grunt work,” MacAulay said.

All along the way he found time to raise a family, which ironically got him involved in another volunteering venture. MacAulay spent 12 years as a 4H assistant leader with 3S (Sidney, Saanich and Sooke) Beef Club.

“Family gets you going in a lot of these things. I had kids that got involved in it,” MacAulay said. “4H is a great organization. It teaches kids a lot of skills growing up.”

Through his love of flowers, another volunteer position grew. MacAulay could be found two places at the Saanich Fair each year — calling bingo at the Rotary games, and judging the flowers. And that’s just on the Peninsula, he also worked with Goodwill Enterprises and Victoria Foundation.

“It gives you a good feeling to say I was there and I did this,” MacAulay said. “If we didn’t have volunteers we wouldn’t have the little extras ... In everything we do in our communities there’s always that little extra that finishes it, or makes it better.”

His experiences earned through Rotary International have added to the awareness of where he lives, and the notion of wanting to give back.

“It’s a special place to live here in the community, on the Peninsula,” he said. “This is a wonderful place to work, to live and to raise a family. We’re blessed.”

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