



Conferred upon Baxter Willis on June 17, 2025

It is my great honor and privilege to recognize an extraordinary individual who perfectly exemplifies the spirit and values of Rotary—Dr. Baxter Willis.

Born and raised in London, Ontario, Dr. Willis pursued excellence from an early age. He completed his undergraduate and medical studies at Western University, undertook an internship at St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver, and returned to London to complete his orthopaedic residency training in 1976,

Today, we celebrate Baxter's remarkable contributions to Rotary through three key lenses:

Firstly, Baxter Willis has performed noteworthy volunteer service within Rotary by serving as our District Advisor for Covid during the pandemic from 2020 to 2022. He also contributed to our community through his service on the board of directors of our Rotary Home. As one of thirteen committed volunteers representing Rotary Clubs across the Ottawa area, he demonstrated unwavering dedication to this vital cause. In addition, he has been the chair or co-chair of the very active Community Services Committee for the past several years. His role exemplifies the spirit of Rotary, contributing meaningfully to the wellbeing of the broader community.

Secondly, he has enhanced our club's reputation through his professional achievements, most notably, the recognition by his professional colleagues of his remarkable contributions to their profession, accompanied by his induction into their Hall of Fame. This recognition has brought much pride to our club and community.

Thirdly, Baxter has performed outstanding volunteer service for the community, external to Rotary, through his role as a teacher. His impact extends into the global orthopaedic surgery community. He has been a visiting professor and guest lecturer at many institutions and dedicated his time to mentoring residents, fellows, and young surgeons around the world. From developing the pediatric program in London, Ontario, to influencing countless lives during his tenure at Louisiana State University and here in Ottawa at CHEO, his contributions are immeasurable. His philosophy of "paying it forward" through mentoring, coaching, and teaching has inspired generations of orthopaedic surgeons who continue to carry his legacy forward.

Baxter, please come forward to accept your Paul Harris Fellow Award.

Paul Harris Fellow Award:

At the Club's request Rotary International issues a certificate in the awardee's name and a PHF pin. Paul Harris was the founder of Rotary.

Awardees should meet at least three of the following criteria:

- a. Served a minimum of two years on the Club's Board of Directors;
- b. Chaired two or more of the Club's standing committees;
- c. Performed noteworthy volunteer service in the Club over the years;
- d. Provided extraordinary support or leadership in Club fundraising;
- e. Performed a unique role, or provided a special service, for the Club over a period of years;
- f. Enhanced the Club's reputation or public profile;
- g. Been active on a Rotary district committee;
- h. Performed outstanding volunteer service for the community, external to Rotary.