

## Biography – Ron Ross

Ron joined the Castlegar Rotary Club in 1977, serving as Club President in 1979/80 and 1986/87. He joined the District Youth Exchange Program in 1984, becoming Co-Chair in 1989, and Chair in 1995.

Ron served as District Governor for District 5080, in 1997/98, and has been District Foundation Chair, Membership Chair GSE Chair and is currently the WCS Chair. Ron led a Group Study Exchange Team to Bolivia in 2006.

Ron and his wife Elaine were instrumental in starting the Castlegar Sunrise 2000 Rotary Club in 1999. Elaine joined Rotary in 1999, and became the Club President in 2001/02. Ron has been the District 5080 representative to CRCID since 2002, serving as Director for Area 1, for two years.

Ron and Elaine started a Literacy and Education Program in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, in 2001, and this has grown into the HELP Honduras Program, of CRCID. The program builds schools, provides mobile library facilities, and builds school desks, but the largest component is the Market Children Program which supplies uniforms, shoes, books and school supplies that enable over 3000 children of the working poor to attend school. A recent component trains mothers to enhance their businesses, to generate more income, to improve the sustainability of the program.

Ron and Elaine have hosted 21 Rotary Exchange Students. They have 4 children, 11 grandchildren, and 2 great-grandchildren. Ron skis 50 days a year, swims, and rides his mountain bike in his spare time. He is also on the Board of Community Futures of Central Kootenay.