

Merle Zoerb gets Rotarian award

Paul Harris Fellowship reward for commitment



Staff photo by Fred Loek

Merle Zoerb (right) receives the Paul Harris Fellowship from Rotarian Carl Baker. The Paul Harris Fellowship is the highest award in the Rotary organization.

Merle Zoerb can sit among some of the great humanitarians and leaders of the world and feel he belongs.

The Mississauga resident has been awarded the Paul Harris Fellowship, the highest award in Rotary in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the Rotary's annual TV Auction.

Zoerb can now stand beside Mother Teresa, Prince Philip, Pope John Paul II, ex-President Gerald Ford and Mississauga's own Mayor Hazel McCallion — all winners of the Paul Harris Fellowship.

Rotarian Zoerb has been a member of the Mississauga club since 1975, and is one of the original founders of the auction, which was started 11 years ago. During these years he has seen the auction grow annually as a major fundraiser for the club's support of local charities. He has also been instrumental in launching similar TV auctions in

other Ontario cities.

The Paul Harris Fellowship was created to commemorate the death of its founder in 1957. Each year, these awards generate more than \$16 million U.S. for the Rotary Foundation which sends hundreds of scholars abroad each year for nine months to study in various countries other than their own.

Other foundation programs enable teams of young business and professional persons in various countries to exchange visits of several weeks' duration to develop international friendships, and to learn differing ideas, ways of life, and business and professional practices.

To celebrate Rotary's 75th Anniversary in 1980 the foundation began its newest activity, the 3H Program which consists of grants to improve the health, alleviate hunger and enhance human and social development worldwide.