

# A Brief History of the *Comely Bank* Project

In 1998 the Rotary Heritage & History International Fellowship established an ad hoc committee composed of Illinois, Indiana and Michigan Past District Governors who worked with past and current RI directors to acquire the former home of Paul and Jean Harris located in Morgan Park, a neighborhood on the south side of Chicago.

Rotary International approved the use of the name "Paul and Jean Harris Home Foundation" for a non-profit foundation with the mission of acquiring, maintaining and operating the house as a museum at no cost to Rotary International.

Paul and Jean moved into the house in 1912. The house was selected because it was very near the location where Paul met Jean in 1910 with a hiking group. Paul and Jean lived in the house until Paul's death in 1947.

In the early years (1912-1922) of Rotary the house was the meeting place for interested persons from around the world who wanted to start a Rotary club in their country. Of course many members of Rotary Clubs were also invited to Paul's house when they visited Chicago.

Paul often planted trees in memory of those who visited his home. It was considered a great honor in Rotary to have been to ***Comely Bank***. The house was named ***Comely Bank*** after the street that Jean lived on in Edinburgh, Scotland.

With a mortgage from the Naperville Rotary Club Charities, the Paul and Jean Harris's Home Foundation acquired ***Comely Bank*** on May 16, 2005.

Your contribution will help retire the mortgage, make necessary repairs, and restore "Comely Bank" to look as it did when Paul and Jean Harris hosted Rotary functions. Renovations will comply with ADA (Americans with Disabilities) code, and establish a contingency fund for future maintenance.

---

## **Here is my donation to help restore and maintain the home of Paul Harris.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Rotary Club \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_

The ***Rotary Heritage & History International Fellowship of Rotarians*** intends to recognize individuals who donate \$250, \$500, \$1000 or more by entering their name on suitable plaques in the home of Rotary Founder Paul Harris.

My donation check of \$\_\_\_\_\_ is payable to ***Rotary District 6360 Foundation***

Mail check to: Mr. Lee Seguin Treasurer, Rotary District 6360 Foundation (Attn: Paul & Jean Harris Home Foundation), 12248 Southgate Drive, Plainwell MI 49080-9052.