**ROTARY SPHERE**

By Billy Graham, Facilitator, May 2008

After much research and conversation with Andy Wangstad, one of our members, Jim White, then Mayor of the City of Kent, Ron Harmon former City Council and the board of both the AM and the Lunch clubs, it was decided to create a monument to be placed in the new Kent downtown "Kent Station” Project.

We contacted a renowned world artist who happens to live in Seattle "Stuart Kendell”. Kendell had built a water sculpture at the Green River College. We felt this would be a great tribute to the City of Kent and would last for the next 100 years. Little did we know what we were getting into !

While sphere material placed in the Green River Community College Commons had been acquired from the Ravensdale area, we could not find a piece of granite; without flaws; that would suit our purpose. After researching possibilities in China and other places in the World, we ended up in India to bring to Kent a 20 ton block of granite. With the base coming from China, this truly became an international gift. I would add at this time there are only four places in the world that carve these spheres – one of which is in the United States in our own backyard, Seattle.

After spending a great deal of time and energy, in 2008, we finally obtained a beautiful "Green Hue Sphere”. Weighing 13,000 pounds and measuring 63 inches in diameter, it floats on water and because of the water feature this Sphere can be rotated by viewers, it truly is an interactive piece.

The Rotary Club of Kent and the Rotary Club of Kent Sunrise see this as the perfect gift to the City of Kent and its citizens, a gift that will be enjoyed by many generations to come.