

ROTARY DISTRICT 5550 NEWSLETTER

Issue #8 February 28th , 2026

The Time is Now!

Final touches are being made to The District Leadership Seminar in Russell, Manitoba, March 27th – 29th. If you have not registered for this event, please do so as soon as possible. You are guaranteed to see and hear ideas, enthusiasm, and plans that will help you grow your club. To register, go to the district website, click on Upcoming Events and the link to the registration is in the DLS link. **We will see you in Russell !!**

District Conference

While you are registering for DLS, please take the time to register for the District Conference in Neepawa, Manitoba May 8th & 9th, 2026. We are going to have a silent auction again this year, so please bring along a gift from your club that can be added into the auction...proceeds will be going to Polio Plus. Like many of us, if you have one or two or six old winter jackets in the closet, we are accepting jackets for the New Comers Coat project in Neepawa. Full registration details can also be found on the district website. **Come join us in Neepawa!!**

Rotary Award for Excellence in Service to Humanity

At Rotary, we seek to build a culture of service. We celebrate all the people in our communities who apply their passion, energy, and commitment to serving alongside our clubs. Each year, the Rotary Award for Excellence in Service to Humanity recognizes up to 150 non-rotarians or non-rotaractors who have demonstrated exemplary humanitarian service through Rotary. Our district can nominate one such person, so if you or your club wish to nominate someone from your community, please submit full details of the individual and details of their commitment to service. All nominations may be submitted to myself at gwjacobsen99@gmail.com no later than March 24th. The DG team (Warren Thompson, Cathy Skene, Jude Chigbo, and Peter Tonge) will review those nominations submitted and forward the winning one to RI.

World Rotaract Week

March 9th-15th, 2026

Whether your club has sponsored a Rotaract club, or is working towards creating a new club, I encourage all clubs to recognize World Rotaract Week and invite a Rotaractor to one of your club meetings. We want to ensure that Rotary is part of their life journey!

March is also Water and Sanitation month. If your club is not already involved in a global grant project working towards clean water and proper sanitation facilities somewhere in the world (like the Ripple Effect) please give such a project consideration.....so that we may Create Lasting Impact.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to the Portage Rotary Club on their 75th anniversary. The club will be holding a celebration dinner on the evening of May 8th, 2026



Wayne Jacobsen
District Governor

Contact

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<https://talkingrotary.buzzsprout.com/>

District Meetings

Check out the calendar at www.rotary5550.org for all district meetings and events.

District 5550

District 5550 of Rotary International covers an area from Northwestern Ontario, through Manitoba, and most of Saskatchewan.

Club Visits



February started off with a bang...Gwen and I visited with the Saskatoon clubs, downtown, Nutana, North, and Meewasin. Unfortunately, by the time I remembered to take a picture, Will Arscott, Art Whetstone, and Kim Horan had already slipped away. Thank you Jim Coulter for being the poster boy for all the Saskatoon clubs!!



We also travelled to Melfort and joined in with the international students on their winter sports events.....great time had by all. Our February visits also included the Downtown and Winnipeg West clubs, along with joining in with Kenora at it's Paul Harris awards night.

Last but not least, Gwen and I joined in with members of the Neepawa club to celebrate Paul Harris awards and present a cheque for \$60,000.00 towards the new hospital in Neepawa. The funds will go towards furnishing a family room and the construction of the healing gardens.



Sun Never Sets in Rotary

Our district was asked to participate in a video presentation of Rotary around the world. Thank you to all our Rotarians who were able to pull it all together and add our district to the video. To watch the video – follow this link:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1EBLcjR8Y9cPnC>

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[qclPNiNULptGc2ITF/view?usp=drive_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1EBLcjR8Y9cPnC)

Reminder From RI

By now all clubs should have received notice of the second half RI dues that are due. If you have not yet made that second payment, please follow up with payment asap.

Foundation

A big congratulations and thank you to two more Major Donation members from our district. It is so great to see the support of our foundation as it continues to Create the Magic of Rotary!