

ROTARY DISTRICT 5550 NEWSLETTER

Issue #9 March 31st , 2026

Environmental Month

With the month of April upon us, happy spring! April is environmental month in Rotary. As our newest area of focus, it is exciting to learn about the projects of our clubs and districts including tree plantings, micro-forest programs, watershed clean-up and pollinator programs.

District Conference

Speaking of spring, May is also just around the corner, and that means the district conference. Registration closes on April 7th, so if you haven't already done so, please register this week. Full conference information is available through coming events on the district website: www.rotary5550.org.

Time is also running out on submitting your club video. Share your club's best moments with a maximum 3-minute video and it will be shared at the conference. Email jeanlouisguillas@gmail.com and let us know that you have an entry. Three clubs will win \$500.00 each for their submission.

World Immunization Week – April 24-30, 2026

April is also world immunization week. As an organization that is committed to eradicating polio, as well as fighting disease, improving maternal and child health. Rotary recognizes World Immunization Week as an ideal time to educate people about Rotary's work towards eradicating polio. Perhaps your club could invite a local health care worker to speak at your club about the importance of vaccinations, or partner with your local school on a campaign to raise awareness about polio and other vaccine-preventable diseases. Did you know that over the past five years, District 5550 has donated more than \$376,000.00 dollars towards the Polio Plus campaign.

Join the Walk

April 18th, 2026

Rotary has long been a supporter of Honouring Indigenous Peoples and the Y2Y (Youth to Youth) program. If possible, plan on joining in on the 5k or 2.5 k accessibility walk in the Assiniboine Forest. The Y2Y program is a weeklong camp that brings 25 indigenous and 25 non-indigenous youth together for a week of learning and fellowship. For more information, please visit honouringindigenouspeoples.com

Congratulations!

Congratulations to the District 5550 Youth Exchange Committee. Committee members attended the North American Youth Exchange Network conference in Houston, TX and were recognized with a bronze medal, a testament of the quality and commitment of our youth exchange program and the Rotarians involved....Thank you!



Wayne Jacobsen
District Governor

Contact

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Listen Now

<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

Gwen and I continued our travels throughout the month of March. Mid-month we visited with the South Eastman, Transcona, and the Winnipeg 6:00 p.m. satellite clubs. Such great fellowship and exciting to hear what each club is busy planning and delivering!

March 24th, took us to Dauphin, Manitoba where we saw the largest greenhouse I've ever seen, and we learned how the Dauphin club has gotten the Provincial and Federal governments to play nice.....the multi-purpose year round trails that the club was instrumental in starting, are being extended into Riding Mountain National park.



RYLA

Registration for the 2026 RYLA Junior and senior camps opens on April 8th. I encourage every club to sponsor students to attend either the Jr. camp (ages 12-14) or the Sr. camp (ages 15-17). This experience is truly life changing for our campers!

Membership

According to RI, as of this date, district 5550 has 1129 Rotarians and 40 Rotaractors. We have come a long way from 987, however we still have a way to go in order to get to 1200 by July 1st, 2026. Remember – invite someone to join Rotary!

DLS

District Leadership Seminar at Russell, MB was a huge success! Thank you to all Rotarians who joined us in person or via zoom. Not only did we learn and share ideas about leading and growing our clubs.....but we had a whole lot of fun doing it. A great big thank you to the entire Learning and Development committee for all of your hard work making this happen!!



To finish up the month, we joined in with the Neepawa club to get the update from our satellite club: The New Wave Neepawa club. Club president Kristin Tibbett shared details of their fundraising efforts and the goal of upgrading the play structure at Rotary park and adding in a zipline. Between colour runs, 3-on-3 hockey tournaments, and a "Masters" golf lotto, they are more than 20% towards their fundraising goal.