



MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT GOVERNOR

Click on the image of
District Governor Fred
Wright to watch his video

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 5 - Model United Nations
Assembly (MUNA)

May 9 - District Board Meeting

May 11-14 - District Conference

May 27 - Rotary International
Conference in Melbourne, Australia

FROM A FLASHLIGHT TO A FELLOWSHIP

by Earle Newton for the Rotary Clubs of
Saskatoon

This inspiring story begins in rural Uganda in 1994. Joy Kagira, a midwife, asked her daughter, Maureen, to hold the flashlight, without looking, during a birth. Maureen did as she was told and helping children became the focus of her life as a teenager, a mother and a business owner in Uganda.

After moving to Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada in 2004 she was desperate to raise funds for what had become Joy's Centre back in the village. During this time she met some members of the Rotary Club of Saskatoon who offered her support even before she joined the Club.

What follows is our journey to apply for Global Grants to improve water and sanitation and look after children in the community.



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SOME OF OUR NEWEST MEMBERS



The Rotary Club of Selkirk recently reached 30 members. The club took a time out from filming their latest Lobsterfest video to induct Donna Ross into their Club. They are looking forward to working with her to make their community brighter!

Shown here are Rotary Lobster Michele Polinuk and Chef David Thorne as they welcome Donna Ross into the Club.



The Rotary Club of Dauphin were pleased to welcome Carolyn Coulson-Clark to their club. In the picture above is her sponsor, Heather Agnew, club secretary Mel Wyshynski, Carolyn and club president Christine Harapiak.

See you in Saskatoon.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING SYMPOSIUM



David Newman, Jeanette Brigit and Fred Wright sign ante Human Trafficking declaration at the Beyond Net Zero - Human Trafficking Symposium held in Winnipeg on April 2-3.



A TALENTED ROTARIAN

A team representing the Keewatin Curling Club has won the Northern Ontario Senior Women’s Curling championship. Team Szajewski made up of (l to r) Sue Cain (lead), Donna Queen (second), Hailey Smith (third), and skip Rotarian Stacey Szajewski. The team now goes on to the National finals in Vernon BC this December.

Skip Stacey Szajewski is very much involved in Rotary Club of Kenora's Nutrition On Weekends program.

GRATITUDE IS A GREAT ATTITUDE by Fred Wright, District Governor

Thank you to all of the District 5550 volunteer chaperones who made it possible for the HIP Y2Y event to happen in Winnipeg and Selkirk.

Thank you Rotary Club of Selkirk for hosting the Y2Y event at your Club meeting and for all of the work your Club members contributed to making the Y2Y event a success.

Thank you Rotary District 7080 for organising the Forum on Human Trafficking at the Canadian Museum of Human Rights and all of the Rotary Club of Winnipeg volunteers who helped make it a success.

Thank you Gailmarie Anderson, Sonja Susut and Peter Tonge for giving up three days of your lives to facilitate an action planning session with the Rotary Club of Weyburn.

Thank you Rotary Club of Weyburn members for including members of our DG Team in your excellent action planning session and for grabbing the looking forward, can do ball and running with it.

Thank you Peter Tonge for being a great travel companion.

Thank you Bob Durston for your knowledge, efforts and determination to keep our Foundation processes working in our District.

Thank you Brenda Banbury, Ruth Marritt, Candace Odishaw, Gary Rusu, Rob McGuire, Asit Sarkar, Gailmarie Anderson, Bob Anderson, Ron Noseworthy, Stan Garchinski, Steven Wilson and Mark Gryba – ImaginAction Team – for your inspired creation of our first in-person District Conference in almost 4 years.

Thank you Jorrel Camuyong for RYLA.

Thank you to all of our Presidents who show up and share their ideas and Club experiences at our bi-monthly Presidents’ calls.

Thank you to all of you for: Reading the Newsletter, for engaging each other in Rotary and for your service in our local and global communities.

A turning point in my life was learning to be grateful for the learning experiences that were provided during some of the darkest and most challenging times in my life, rather than feeling badly for the darkness and challenges. Marion has taught me that it is ok to feel sorry for yourself, as long as it doesn’t last more than 6 minutes per day.

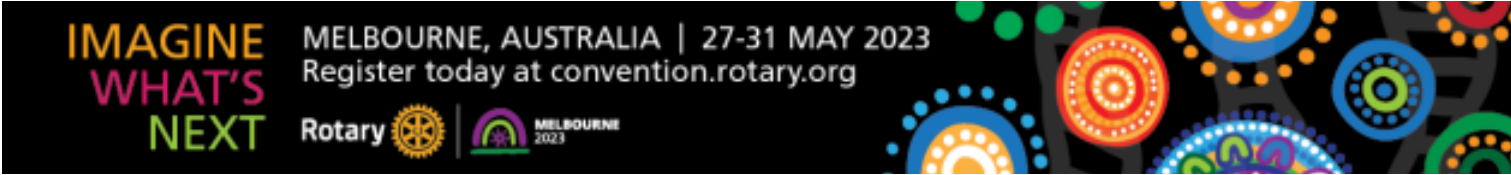
Have you checked out the District 5550 Video Resources Recently? Click on the video icon to find videos from the fall retreat , district talk shows, and more.



DISTRICT CONFERENCE LIMITED REGISTRATIONS AVAILABLE

ImaginAction District Conference 2023 registration is still open. Join us May 11-14th 2023 in Saskatoon at the Travelodge for the District’s most unique conference **EVER!**
[REGISTER HERE](#)

CLICK ON THE IMAGE FOR CONFERENCE DETAILS



PAUL HARRIS EVENING IN NEEPAWA



The Rotary Club of Neepawa recently held their annual Paul Harris evening. This year Paul Harris fellowships were awarded to (left to right) community member Colin McNairnay for his volunteer work with Men’s Shed, Rotarian Glen Cummings for his work with Rotary through the years, community member Mary-Ellen Clark for her volunteer work with palliative care, and community member Dr. George Ong for his tireless work securing a new hospital for Neepawa. Also pictured are MC Wayne Jacobsen and DG Fred Wright. Local musician Rob Waddell entertained to an appreciative crowd.

ROTARY ALUMNI by Elaine Thompson

Alumni are defined as people who have attended or graduated from a particular school, college, or university or who are former members, employees, contributors to or inmates of an organization¹. **Rotary alumni** are defined as people who participated in any of the following Rotary programs: [Interact](#), [Rotaract](#), [Rotary Youth Exchange](#), [New Generations Service Exchange](#), [Rotary Youth Leadership Awards](#) (RYLA), [Rotary Peace Fellowships](#), [Rotary Scholarships](#) (funded by global grants or district grants), [vocational training teams](#) (members and leaders), Ambassadorial Scholarships, Grants for University Teachers, Group Study Exchange (members and leaders), and Rotary Volunteers².

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ROTARY SPOTLIGHT ON RUTH MARRITT



Ruth (on the left) presenting a cheque to the community coordinator at Mount Royal Collegiate in support of their in-school nutrition program.

Ruth was born in Collingwood, Ontario, the youngest of 4 siblings, who grew up on a small 100 acre farm. Upon completion of high school she attended college in Kitchener, Ontario and immediately upon graduating from there married an Animal Science graduate which resulted in family moves to Edmonton, Saskatoon and eventually her husband on staff at the University of Illinois. During the 12 years in the US a sabbatical under a US Aid project took the family of 5 to Kenya. Then in 1992 they returned to Saskatoon where she now resides. The 3 children have been added to by 9 grandchildren and they plus Rotary provide meaning and activity in her life.

Along with raising 3 kids Ruth has taught both private and group piano lessons, been a licensed home daycare provider, organized after school programs for elementary school kids, and worked retail for several years.

Ruth's life as the spouse of a PHD professor has provided opportunity for her to visit most countries in Europe as well as Brazil and Kenya, and has consequently expanded her world view.

Ruth's first introduction to Rotary came from a parent of one of her daycare kids, who was a polio survivor confined to a wheelchair. Ruth says she remembers the mother telling her that she was so impressed and interested to know that a service organization called Rotary had taken on the task of eradicating polio from the world. At that time women were not allowed to join Rotary but Ruth made a mental note that someday.....she hoped she could be part of that organization.

Many years later, after her first marriage ended and another began, she became friends with June Cathcart who was about to become District Governor in District 5550. As Ruth learned more about Rotary from June, she remembered the conversation with her polio survivor friend and also remembered all the signs of Rotary she had seen in the countries she had visited.

At that point she knew “why” she wanted to join and with the friendship of PDG June she now had the “how” to join.

She became a member of the Rotary Club of Saskatoon North in 2005. Shortly after joining the club PDG Harold Empey was the speaker at one of the meetings and said **“every member needs to take an active part in their club and when they do they will discover that it will change their life”**

That statement has proven to be so true. Things that have enriched her life since joining include

- Interaction and friendships with exchange students
- Serving as treasurer for the club 2007 – 2012 and again 2022 – to date
- Serving as president in 2013-14 and again in 2020-21
- Friendships and connections to Rotarians within the city and district
- Attending District Conferences and an International Conference
- Assistant Governor since 2016
- Currently co-chair of District Conference Planning Committee 2023 (Hope to see you all there!)

In the summer she enjoys camping along with her husband and sometimes includes all the kids and grandkids. In the winter she has been known to spend extended periods of time in Mexico.

A graphic showing a group of stylized human figures in blue and yellow, with a spotlight effect on one figure.

ROTARY SPOTLIGHT

Each month we would love to spotlight one or more District Rotarians. Please submit suggestions with background information to newsletter editor, Ron Nordstrom via email. Email rnord@mymts.net