

Inaugural Address by incoming President Brian Martin



July 2024

Fellow Rotarians and honoured guests.

I am both thrilled and humbled to serve as the 105th President of this club for 2024-2025 celebrating **"The Magic of Rotary"** with our community of volunteers committed to Rotary's international motto of **"Service Above Self"**.

Our club has 6 goals for this Rotary year that we will work on together. In 2024-2025, we aim to:

1. **Develop a fresh 5-year vision for the club**
2. **Build the brand of Rotary within Guelph, across all clubs**
3. **Strengthen and streamline governance within the club**
4. **Continue to strengthen our grants process**
5. **Revive our international service**
6. **Grow the membership of this club back over 100 in the next three years**

One of my favourite leadership thinkers, Simon Sinek, encourages us to “Start With Why”. My own Rotary Why shapes how I view my role in the coming year and the club in general.

As many of you know, I am a practising martial artist. I have trained in the Japanese Goju Ryu style of Karate for over 21 years. My martial arts background deeply influences how I think about the world around me and it has profoundly influenced my desire to serve. In fact, the Japanese karate styles all trace their philosophical underpinnings back to the Samurai, and the Japanese word Saburau, meaning **to serve**.

My desire to serve brought me to Rotary in 2015. Our Rotary motto of **“Service Above Self”** is what motivates me every day, and it is what will guide my actions as your President.

By nature, I am a trouble shooter and problem solver. I have spent more than 30 years running large technology platforms, figuring out how systems work and how to fix them when they break. In part, it has led me to a career in cybersecurity.

This year's theme of "**The Magic of Rotary**" invites us to

- Innovate and Adapt;
- Foster Inclusivity and Diversity;
- Strengthen Community Connections;
- Engage and Inspire Members; and
- Lead with Compassion and Integrity.

These areas fit beautifully with our club goals for this year.

I thank our outgoing President Nanita Mohan for her dedicated stewardship of the club this past year, as well as all of the directors, committee chairs and club members for their hard work. I welcome all those continuing with or taking on new roles to help deliver "Service Above Self" this year.

I am grateful and fortunate to have Marva Wisdom already confirmed as our President Elect for our club's 106th Rotary year, and Crista Renner lining up to lead our 107th year. We will be working together as a leadership team, and we greatly look forward to engaging our membership and the community every step of the way.

I look forward to a magical year.