

Welcome Message from Marva Bailey-Wisdom

106th President (2025-2026), Rotary Club of Guelph

July 2025

It is my privilege to serve as the 106th President of the Rotary Club of Guelph with its longstanding legacy of service – locally and globally.

Whether you are a long-standing member, a new friend, a past member or someone curious about Rotary, I invite you to join us. Come to a Friday meeting. Volunteer alongside us. Bring your questions, your ideas. There is a place for you here. Let's discover what is possible when we "unite for good".



Our members embark on this 2025–2026 Rotary year with a commitment to build on current strengths while embracing the challenges and opportunities before us. During this rich 106-year history we have sponsored several clubs in our region with membership and community, exuding "Service Above Self." It is this strength, tenacity and collaborative effort that will shepherd us through the next 100 years.

This year's Rotary International theme "Unite For Good" references "...the power of human connection and unity in service". The clarion call of this theme is for us to activate, to act-up for collective good. Our common humanity, our connection to the land, to each other, to the future, depends on it.



With this, our work in 2025-2026 will be rooted in three core priorities:

1. Deepening Belonging and Connection

We will cultivate a club culture where every member feels seen, valued, and engaged. This includes thoughtful programming with moments of joy and connection that strengthen our sense of community. It means deeper engagement with community organizations and businesses, in the spirit of united action for good.

2. Reimagining Service for Today's Needs

Rotary's legacy is built on service. This year, we will continue to honour that tradition while also adapting to evolving needs – locally and globally. Whether its Polio Plus globally, environmental sustainability, youth empowerment and care, peace and reconciliation efforts, or health and well-being – we will lead with purpose and relevance.

3. Strengthening Leadership and Succession

We will support leadership across all levels of our club. By streamlining our committee structures, and creating space for new voices, we will ensure that our legacy continues with clarity and care.

Our work is not mine alone. It includes our district team, our board, and the work shared among an extraordinary group of members, committees, community partners and friends. We will listen and learn from one another, embrace innovation, and celebrate milestones along the way. I am especially grateful to the leaders who have paved the way before me and to those stepping forward to lead and support in the year ahead.

Yours in service,

Marva Bailey-Wisdom, O.Ont, Doctor of Laws honoris causa (U of G) Senior Fellow, Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy (U of T) 106th President (2025–2026) Rotary Club of Guelph