

# Rotary Club of Guelph



## President's Message Tracey Curtis 2020-2021



I will never forget my introduction to Rotary. I was in Lesotho with Bracelet of Hope, along with Jim Wadleigh and Noma Vales who were representing Rotary. I saw the impact of delivering computers to schools and of gardens planted in the foster homes and of chickens laying eggs for our foster children ... and I got it ... this was all because of Rotary! I saw for myself the power of being a Rotarian and serving those who need it most. Now I, too, am proud to call myself a Rotarian for life and am further honoured and so humbled to serve as your 2020/2021 President. Thank you for your confidence in me!

I never imagined becoming your President and certainly not in the middle of a world-wide pandemic. Regardless of what life has in store for us, some of it outside our control, I promise to make our Rotary year meaningful, both for members and for those we serve. For that, I humbly ask for your support ... because I will need it.

This year I want to focus on the health of our club, our members and our families. Each have different needs to be met which we must understand to be able to tackle them head-on. In this, we can each serve in whatever capacity we are able.

Here we are in 2020 and the world seems upside down. Who would have thought that the pressing issues that confront us at the writing of this introduction, including the fight for racial equality and the fight against the deadly Covid-19 pandemic across the world, would be our most significant challenges? Sadly, it is like a throw-back to fighting the polio epidemic or the AIDS crisis and fighting for equality in the 1950's and 60's. We may find that we are even better equipped to confront both.

Our world today needs Rotarians more than ever – strong, caring, empathetic, service-focused. We as Rotarians are uniquely positioned as a truly global organization, to elevate discussion and dialogue toward better understanding of each other. Our theme for the 2020 – 2021 Rotary year, ***Rotary Opens Opportunities***, is timely. It serves as our 2020 call to action. Our 1.2 million members around the world are a literal United Nations of ethnicities, working together for the greater good.

I am grateful to be your President on our journey together where we can individually and collectively commit to opening opportunities for all.

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