

# RotaryCanada

*A new leaf  
Un nouveau feuillet*

*April 2018  
Avril 2018*



## **Welcome guests**

*How to volunteer at the  
2018 convention in Toronto*

## **This Rotary life**

*Rural doctor Paul Dhillon  
on Rotary's early influence*

**Réussir un projet  
international est possible**

Rotary 



**ANNUAL CONVENTIONS ARE ONE WAY** we can experience the internationality of Rotary. Rotarians from around the globe converge to learn, celebrate success, and engage in the first object of Rotary: fellowship as an opportunity for service.

This year we have the chance to attend a convention right here in Canada.

In this issue you will see how you can become directly involved in the success of the 2018 Rotary International Convention from 23 to 27 June in Toronto. Let's all get together and support the Host Organization Committee to make the Toronto experience as fulfilling as possible for Canadian Rotarians and as welcoming as possible for visitors from around the world.

There is no question about the importance of converting enthusiastic young people from active Rotaractors into passionate Rotarians. They have already made a commitment to service and understand something of Rotary. If you ever doubted their value to the organization, other than the obvious membership increase, reading about Paul Dhillon's experience in Sierra Leone, and the connection to his medical practice in rural Saskatchewan, should convince you otherwise.

If your club or clubs in your area have not cultivated Rotaract and Interact clubs, they are truly missing an opportunity to change lives and help Rotary grow.

ROD THOMSON  
Chair, Rotary Canada Advisory Board  
Rotary Club of Semiahmoo (White Rock), B.C.

## PHOTO *of the* MONTH

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Paul Dhillon connected to the world through Rotaract. He's now a member of the Rotary Club of Regina Oskaya, Saskatchewan.

COURTESY OF PAUL DHILLON



## Lend a hand in Toronto

by PAUL ENGLEMAN

From 23 to 27 June, the Rotary International Convention returns to Toronto for the first time in 35 years. What's a Canadian Rotarian to do? Plenty!

For starters, you can roll up your sleeves and help.

Lorraine Lloyd and Dawn-Marie King, co-chairs of ambassadors and volunteers for the Host Organization Committee, hope to sign up 1,500 volunteers to greet thousands of Rotarians from around the world when they arrive in Toronto and to help make their stay in Canada a rewarding memory. No special skills are required, though flu-

ency in other languages is a valuable asset.

Rotarian ambassadors will be stationed at both airports, Union Station, the Union Pearson Express airport station, downtown hotels, and all convention venues and events. "We'll have designated volunteer leaders at every venue, so volunteers will have someone to give them task instructions prior to the start of their shift, and leaders will be the 'go to' people if there are any issues," Lloyd says. Volunteers can sign up at the host committee website, [rotary2018.org](http://rotary2018.org), which is also filled with information on local sites and attractions.

"I've been to quite a few RI conventions, and to have a Rotarian greeting you at the airport, giving information at your hotel, or helping you get to the right bus after an evening event is always a welcoming sight to me," says Lloyd. Adds King: "By volunteering we can show our visitors how friendly, polite, kind, and helpful Canadians are."

With shifts lasting only two to four hours, you'll still have plenty of time to take part in convention activities and explore the city. You'll want to make room in your luggage for the September 2017 issue of *The Rotarian*, which featured a

guide to Toronto, including suggestions from local Rotarians on places to savour the city's delicious and diverse dining offerings.

Even if you don't book a room at the legendary Fairmont Royal York Hotel, where the Rotary Club of Toronto holds its weekly meetings, you can still check out the Library Bar and sip spirits or afternoon tea. If your taste tilts towards Killarney, cap off your night at the Irish Embassy on Yonge Street, a converted bank where servers wear kilts and where you just might find Michele Guy, host committee co-chair, if her duties are done for the day. (Hint to whoever is buying: Guy likes Scotch.)

With convention events taking place at both the Metro Toronto Convention Centre and the Air Canada Centre, your footsteps will trace a familiar path between the venues. Be sure to take a good look at the Legends Row monument outside the Air Canada Centre. This glimmering bronze installation is the handiwork of celebrated sculptor Erik Blome, who learned the art of bronze casting at the Royal College of Art in the UK when he was a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar – yet another example of how Rotary's footprints, and sometimes even its fingerprints, seem to be everywhere.

Register for the convention and view programs, schedules, and related events at [riconvention.org](http://riconvention.org).





## Réussir un projet international est possible

*par Marie-Christine Bouchard, Club Rotary d'Alma, Quebec*

**R**otarienne depuis plus de 20 ans, j'ai toujours eu un intérêt particulier pour le volet international de notre organisation. J'admirais ces personnes qui faisaient des projets dans d'autres pays dans le but d'améliorer les conditions de vie de ceux et celles dans le besoin. J'aurais aimé les imiter mais je voyais cela comme inaccessible : trop compliqué et surtout trop cher !

C'est lors d'une formation sur la Fondation qu'un déclic s'est fait : j'ai compris la force de levier qui était mise à notre disposition. Un peu de dollars pouvaient devenir beaucoup de dollars !

Je me suis donc mise à la recherche d'un projet à réaliser. Pour cela, je me suis tournée vers Sœur Diane Fortier, maintenant membre du club Rotary de Lévis. J'étais allée la visiter 2 ans auparavant à Cojímies en Équateur et elle m'avait fait visiter les nombreux projets réalisés là-bas par d'autres clubs Rotary du Québec. Elle m'a proposé un projet d'eau dans des villages en montagne. Elle m'a aussi parlé de m'associer avec PDG Claude Martel qui désirait lui aussi travailler dans cette région. De cette manière, je profitais du soutien de ces deux personnes possédant une grande expérience des projets internationaux avec le Rotary. C'était très rassurant.

Autre étape importante : trouver de l'argent. Pour un projet total de 58 000\$ CAN, nous devons amasser 17 000\$. Les 5 clubs Rotary de notre région soit Alma, Dolbeau-Mistassini, Chicoutimi, Saguenay et Rive-Nord du Saguenay ont fourni 10 000\$ et la balance a été donnée par les clubs de Québec-Val-Bélair, Beauceville, et Lévis, et la Fondation Secours Tiers-Monde. Voilà, le projet pouvait démarrer.

Le club Rotary Bahía de Caráquez a été le club hôte de la subvention. Bill Stumbaugh, alors président-élu du club, aidé des membres de son club a pris les choses en main. Un premier puits a été creusé à Porto Nuevo pour le projet de district 7790 de PDG Claude et ensuite, un autre desservant les villages de Tropezón et Vaca de Monte. Finalement, 3 ans après mon idée initiale, une eau potable et de bonne qualité coule dans ces maisons équatoriennes.

Un autre objectif que j'avais en voulant faire un projet international était, une fois le projet terminé, de faire un voyage sur place avec d'autres rotariens québécois dans le but de devenir des témoins de comment vivent les gens ailleurs sur la Terre et comment nous réussissons à améliorer

leurs conditions de vie par nos efforts.

Le 5 octobre dernier, notre petit groupe de 5 personnes s'envolait pour Quito, la capitale de l'Équateur puis en direction Bahía de Caráquez afin de rencontrer nos collaborateurs rotariens, inaugurer le puits et surtout, connaître ces personnes qui bénéficient maintenant d'eau potable.

Nous avons reçu un accueil incroyablement chaleureux. Des moments émouvants qui resteront à jamais gravés dans nos mémoires. Nous avons été surpris d'apprendre que l'eau potable, en plus d'une meilleure santé, pouvait aussi améliorer la scolarisation des jeunes car ce sont les enfants qui allaient puiser l'eau à chaque jour ; une tâche qui leur demandait 4 heures de leur journée et un lever à 4h du matin. Cela les fatiguait tellement que certains étaient incapables d'étudier et abandonnaient l'école. Une répercussion inattendue et qui augmentait encore plus les chances de meilleures conditions de vie à long terme.

Cette première expérience a été très enrichissante. Elle ne sera sûrement pas ma dernière. Je vous encourage à oser vous aussi et à vivre pleinement ce que Rotary nous offre.

# A POSITIVE FORCE FOR MIGRANTS

## Meghan Casey



**A**s far back as junior high school, Meghan Casey was building connections with people from other cultures. Her family hosted two exchange students from Japan at their home in Whitecourt, Alberta, and in high school, she visited Japan herself. At the University of Victoria, she taught English as a Second Language and volunteered as a teacher's assistant at the Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria's immigrant welcome centre. "I became interested in how and why people come to Canada, and the role of host communities in welcoming them," she says.

Her experiences with immigrants led her to pursue a Master of Laws program at the University of Kent in Brussels, studying human rights law and international migration. But she soon realized that, despite having a student loan and working as a nanny and freelance editor, she couldn't afford to return for her second year. While researching scholarship options, she says, she "stumbled upon" The Rotary Foundation's global grant scholarship. From 7,000 km away, Casey contacted Nevis Prufer from the Whitecourt Rotary Club and set the application process in motion. During the spring, while home visiting Whitecourt, Casey made a presentation to club members and earned their sponsorship.

"When summer rolled around," she says, "I was doing an unpaid internship at the International Organization for Migration in Budapest, Hungary, preparing to postpone my studies and accept a job in Dublin. But I had an incredible Rotary team working on my behalf, and I was fortunate enough to return to Brussels in September 2016 for my final year of study."

Dean Wood, chair of the District 5370 Committee for Scholarships and Peace Fellowships, said Casey has a powerful message. "Our district Foundation committee really sees the global grant scholarship program as being the embodiment of the fourth object of Rotary in terms of advancing international understanding, goodwill, and peace," he says.

That fall, Casey volunteered at a refugee and migrant settlement camp in northern France that was known as the Calais Jungle and later described in a Human Rights Watch report titled *Like Living in Hell*. An estimated 6,000 to 10,000 people lived there, many of whom were unaccompanied minors, and people lived in flimsy tents pitched on an old asbestos dumping site, she says.

"That was an eye-opening experience," she says. "Despite absolutely horrendous conditions, the residents had managed to create pockets of community throughout the camp. In the Sudanese part where I worked, the men kept their tents and communal area tidy and were attentive to each other's well-being. Wherever I went, I was greeted with a smile and offered a cup of tea. It was incredible to experience that level of kindness and humanity in such a destitute environment."

Her experience in the Jungle, she says, was "incredibly valuable" when she began working as a trainee at the European Parliament while writing her master's thesis. "I was able to approach my work related to migration and refugees from a new angle," she says. "I saw the slow and bureaucratic process of policymaking while also seeing how it is applied on the ground and how it affects people. It was disheartening to learn the realities behind these policies, but also very important to understand so I could try to have a positive impact."

After completing her program in Brussels and her work at the European Parliament, Casey returned to Canada and began working in Ottawa as a freelance editor and researcher focusing on migration and border issues. She also started volunteering at the Refugee Hub (Le Carrefour des réfugiés) at UOttawa, which supports refugees and their sponsors in the area of immigration law and policy. She continues to learn French (after studying Spanish and Italian as an undergraduate) while looking ahead to her career path.

Rotary's support has allowed her to advocate for a more positive portrayal of migrants in politics and media, she says. "Migration is a reality. We can choose to foster negative sentiments towards newcomers and the cultures and languages they bring with them, or we can choose to embrace diversity and build stronger, more inclusive communities." — PAUL ENGLEMAN 🍁

# Rotaract showed Paul Dhillon the world. Now, Rotary always goes with him

by NIKKI KALLIO

**M**any children dream of being a doctor or astronaut, playing sports, or saving the world.

At age 36, Paul Dhillon has done nearly all of it.

Now a captain in the Canadian Army Reserve and a rural family physician, Dhillon started his exhaustive list of accomplishments at a young age with a focus on helping others – including an early entry into the world of Rotary.

“Paul is energetic, creative, and intelligent, and has high ethical principles,” says Graham Mallett, a member of the Rotary Club of Tsawwassen (Delta), British Columbia, and a neighbour when Dhillon was a child. “These are the character traits that have made him a successful Rotarian and have contributed to his success in his chosen field.”

Dhillon’s introduction to Rotary was in his hometown of Tsawwassen, where he applied for the Adventures in Citizenship program in Ottawa after seeing a tiny article in the local newspaper. In Ottawa, he met hundreds of other teenagers from around Canada, and “that was my first exposure of what Rotary is and the sort of people that are in it,” he says.

He heard about Rotaract in Ottawa and later joined a club himself. As a Rotaractor, he took a two-week trip to eastern Russia with two other students – a powerful introduction to another culture, global Rotarians, and even international politics.

“None of us had ever, I think, left Canada before,” he says. “It was an incredible experience. We ended up meeting Genady Zyuganov, the leader of the Russian Communist Party, just very randomly.”

A few years after returning, Dhillon started a Rotaract club in Delta, British Columbia. He later became a member of the Rotary Club of Delta 2000 before moving to Ireland for medical school, where he then joined the Rotary Club of Dublin Central.

In medical school, he decided to focus on rural medicine. “I always loved rural areas and the people there, and it allows

me to practise what a lot of people call full-scope family medicine, including hospital work, inpatients, small procedures, clinic work, emergency medicine, home visits, and care homes,” he says.

When he moved back to Canada, Dhillon became a member of the Rotary Club of Regina Oskaya, Saskatchewan. (His wife, Sarah, an independent midwife and lactation consultant, is also a member of the club.) His club partnered with the Rotary Club of Harare Dawn, Zimbabwe, and Bikes Without Borders on a Rotary Foundation grant project to bring bicycles to health care workers in rural Zimbabwe, and Dhillon led the project.

Previously, the health workers might have had to walk up to 15 km to see a patient, he says. The project, which was completed in 2014, included a plan to train maintenance workers to keep the

bikes in good repair to ensure project sustainability.

“Teamwork is essential at home and abroad, but a project in Zimbabwe with its potential pitfalls needs a coordinator, one who overcomes obstacles,” says Paul Thistle, a Canadian obstetrician/gynecologist at Karanda Mission Hospital in rural northeastern Zimbabwe,







**Opposite:** Paul Dhillon visits rural locations as a family physician. **This page,** clockwise from top left: Dhillon participates in evacuation training with the Canadian Army Reserve; he edited a book about life as a small-town doctor and sent the profits to Doctors Without Borders; volunteering during the Ebola crisis has changed his approach in his health practice at home; Dhillon talks about Ebola at a fundraiser for the Rotary Club of Regina Oskaya, Saskatchewan.

who helped facilitate the project. “Paul is that kind of person.”

Dhillon used his medical training again to help patients in Africa, when he volunteered through Save the Children UK in 2015 during the Ebola crisis.

In March 2014, western Africa had an outbreak that quickly became the deadliest Ebola epidemic in history, killing more than 11,000 people by January 2016.

Dhillon worked in the same centre in Sierra Leone where Scottish nurse Pauline Cafferkey had contracted the disease a few months prior. “That was always on everyone’s mind,” he says. “Every single patient who came in had Ebola. And it’s hot and you’re sweating, and if you get a rip or a tear in your gear, it’s pretty frightening.” Ebola spreads through direct contact with infected bodily fluids.

At the epidemic’s peak, the mortality rate was 70 per cent, but it had decreased to about 40 per cent by the time Dhillon arrived. “You still have 60 per cent of the people who go through the Ebola shower, wash off, and walk out of the centre alive,” he says. “Some of them are little kids, and you’re seeing them reunited with their families. It doesn’t negate the horrors of it, but it makes it a lot more bearable, because there were successes.”


The experience has helped him in his rural Saskatchewan practice to approach his work more methodically, and he’s less stressed out by routine work. He also knows he has the experience to deal with a large outbreak. “It’s a skill set I hope I never, ever have to use again.”

Dhillon has found the time to write and edit books (including a collection of essays

by rural physicians called *The Surprising Lives of Small-Town Doctors*, sending the profits to Doctors Without Borders), and to recruit a team of Canadian physicians to play in the World Medical Football Championships in Barcelona, Spain, in 2016.

As for dreams of becoming an astronaut, he’s closer than most: Every five years, the Canadian space program chooses two new astronauts. Of 3,772 applicants, Dhillon made it to the 161st-300th rank. He plans to try again.

Dhillon is the kind of guy who’s always on the move, but Rotary always goes with him.

“Rotary has been a nice kind of connection,” he says. “You can walk into a new country and a new city, and you’ll meet people who will have some of the basic human values that are the same as yours.” 

# Inspiration AROUND EVERY CORNER

## The service project that changed everything

Bilal, from Tripoli, Lebanon, and Greg, from Massachusetts, USA, formed an extraordinary connection at the 2012 Rotary International Convention while painting and fixing a school playground affected by flooding in Thailand. What began as two strangers having a conversation rapidly grew into a project that transformed the lives of Syrian refugees by providing over 1,500 ShelterBoxes in Lebanon and the Kurdistan region of Iraq.

**Find your inspiration at the Rotary Convention in Toronto.  
Register today at [riconvention.org](http://riconvention.org).**



**ROTARY CONVENTION  
23-27 JUNE 2018  
TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA**