

RotaryCanada

*A new leaf
Un nouveau feuillet*

*January 2018
Janvier 2018*



A call to action

*Global grant project brings
clean water to Peruvian villages*

Fore fellowship

*Rotarians from around the
world travel to Victoria to golf*

**Des clubs Rotary de la
Belgique et du Québec s'unissent**

Rotary 



CHANGE – MANY PEOPLE SAY we need change in Rotary. Change to improve our organization, change to attract and engage people of action from our communities. Change to find new ways of expressing our Rotary passion, to perform service.

We say that, but do we mean it? Do we act on the statement?

This month our district governors-elect will travel to San Diego for the International Assembly. They will then come back and train the Rotary club presidents in their districts.

But unless we teach and encourage change, we will continue to struggle to build Rotary in our communities.

Recently I was told about a change formula: $D \times V \times F > R$. Dissatisfaction times vision times first steps must be greater than resistance. The formula includes multipliers because if any factor is zero, so is the outcome.

Need in our communities may generate dissatisfaction. Are we satisfied with people in our town having no food, no health care, or no shelter?

So I challenge you and your club to turn your dissatisfaction into action – to show that Canadian Rotarians can and will overcome resistance for a better Rotary and a better world.

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

PHOTO *of the* MONTH

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COURTESY OF GERRY KELLY

Robin Panches of Mississippi (center) won the International Golfing Fellowship of Rotarians' world championship in Victoria. Read about the event on page 4.



A call to action

by NIKKI KALLIO

An out-of-the-blue phone call connected a small Rotary club in southwestern Quebec with a global grant project to help improve the water quality in two remote Peruvian villages.

Christian Leblanc, a past president of the Rotary Club of Amos, was on the road for work when he received the call from a Rotarian who told him

he wanted to pitch the Amos club a new project, and that a foundation he had created would provide a good part of the funds. The Rotarian, Jean Gagnon, had never met Leblanc but said he had read an article about the Amos club and one of its previous projects.

“That’s the kind of phone call you dream to receive if

you’re a Rotarian,” Leblanc says.

Leblanc began to speak regularly with Gagnon, who, with Fatima Lahmami Langlois, created the Coup de Coeur Foundation. Langlois and Gagnon are members of the Rotary Club of Montreal.

Gagnon talked Leblanc into working with other clubs on a project funded in part by a US\$66,000 Rotary Foundation global grant project that brought water filtration systems, training, and hygiene classes to about 100 families in Sinar and Santa Rosa, Peru.

Sinar and Santa Rosa are tiny villages in the rural northeast near the city of Iquitos, where the Rotary Club of Iquitos Sur was a partner in the project. Without safe water, children in the two communities often missed school because of waterborne diseases, say Vivian Wong (pictured), 2016-17 president of the Rotary Club of Iquitos Sur, and Juan Simon, Iquitos Sur club member and country program director for the non-profit Water Mission Peru.

Marden Paredes, the mayor of Requena, approached the Rotary Club of Iquitos Sur and Water Mission Peru to see if they could help improve living conditions in these villages. Paredes had seen how safe water and sanitation projects completed by Rotary clubs in other villages had improved health and knew it could work here as well.

It did. Villagers say their children have more energy and aren’t suffering from diarrhea and stomach pain anymore.

One resident said the cost of the water in the community is low compared with travel to Requena – three hours from Sinar by boat – to visit a clinic if someone is sick. One child drew a picture of the community with the water system, saying he wanted to be a water system operator like his father.

Members of the Rotary Club of Iquitos Sur worked with families before the system was built to help them understand that it was the contaminated water that was making them sick and that clean water would be a solution. Through the project, which was completed in 2016, Rotarians also installed a latrine system and trained women to talk to villagers about proper water storage, sanitation, and hygiene.

The Iquitos Sur club members also trained people in the two communities to maintain the system and ensure its long-term management. A small, affordable fee levied on villagers for water use ensures that they can replace parts as they break or wear out on the autonomous system, Leblanc says. Both the fee and the local management provide a sense of ownership over the system, which already has had an impact on the villages.

“The improvement was huge on the health of the children,” says Leblanc of the project. “Education is the basis of everything – and you cannot have one without the other. You can’t go to school if you’re sick all the time, and you cannot improve your living if you don’t go to school.”



Victoria Rotarians swing into action to host golf tournament

by SUSIE MA

Lynn Lewis loves to golf, and she loves Rotary. Through the International Golfing Fellowship of Rotarians – one of 75 official Rotary social groups centred on a common passion – she gets to combine the two.

For 15 years, Lewis and her husband have treated the fellowship's world championship as their annual vacation. They've been privy to a cozy backyard dinner full of local flavors at a tournament in Rotterdam, Netherlands, and a cruise down the Seine River with a view of the Eiffel Tower lit up in Rotary gold and blue to welcome the players to a

tournament in Paris. "The things we get to experience are amazing, priceless," says Lewis, a member of the Rotary Club of Mississauga, Ont., who is on the golf fellowship's board.

This year the tournament brought Lewis to Victoria, where 148 golfers and guests gathered from 6 to 12 August.

Participants travelled from 21 countries, so hosting the event was no small task. Victoria Rotarians, led by Gerry Kelly of the Rotary Club of Victoria-Harbourside, embraced the opportunity to show off their city and help local businesses. Rotarian vol-

unteers ran the event entirely. Participants pay their own airfare, travel, and expenses.

For the first time in the 54-year history of the tournament, two players tied for the best overall score – Gianni Baratto of the Rotary Club of Belluno, Italy, and Robin Punches of the Rotary Club of Natchez, Miss. After a one-shot shootout, Punches took the world champion title. In

another exciting moment on the course, Erling Johnsen of the Rotary Club of Bergen, Norway, made a hole-in-one to win a \$10,000 prize from a sponsor.

While golf was the main draw, participants also had a range of cultural opportunities to enjoy, including whale watching, garden tours, historical walks, and a dinner hosted by the lieutenant governor of British Columbia, Judith Guichon. "It's unique, because it's planned and organized by Rotarians so you really get a flavor of the place you are going to," Lewis says.

The championship tournament traditionally raises funds for a local charity. This year, organizers collected \$160,000 from tournament sponsors, which includes an \$80,000 matching grant from the Victoria Foundation. Of this, \$8,000 will be donated to End Polio Now. The remaining \$152,000 is designated for the Food Rescue Project in Victoria, a collaboration with the Food Share Network to help those in need by redistributing food that would otherwise go to waste.

The 2018 world championship tournament will be in Tallinn, Estonia, and the 2019 tournament will be in Hamburg, Germany, before the Rotary International Convention at the same location.

The International Golfing Fellowship of Rotarians boasts some 1,000 members, and they're always looking for new folks to play. Learn more at igfr-international.com. See a list of all the Rotary social groups at rotary.org/fellowships.

COURTESY OF GERRY KELLY

MOBILIZING FOR MOBILITY

Christiana Flessner



While attending the Rotary International Convention in Brisbane, Australia, in 2003, Christiana Flessner accompanied a local Rotary club on a wheelchair delivery project to a rehab centre in Papua New Guinea. There, she met a man who hadn't returned to his home village to see his family in seven years because he couldn't move. With the freedom he gained from his new wheelchair, Flessner took him for a visit. "When we got back to the rehab centre, he said, 'Thank you, Christiana, for allowing me to feel like a man in front of my people,'" she says. "I keep his photograph on my desk."

A Rotarian since 2001, Flessner is the founding executive director of the Canadian Wheelchair Foundation/Fondation Chaise Roulante Canada (CWF), an organization that partners with local nongovernmental organizations and Rotary clubs to deliver new wheelchairs and mobility devices to disabled people throughout the world. Since it started in late 2002, CWF has shipped more than 42,000 wheelchairs to over 40 countries, from Afghanistan to Zambia.

"The provision of mobility for people who need and can't afford a wheelchair fulfills a basic need," says Flessner. "So many people are in the shadow, in the corner of a room, confined to spend their lives on a mattress or sofa. If someone can't carry them, they can't go anywhere. On a practical level, mobility


enables someone to get from Point A to Point B. That can mean going to church, visiting a friend or neighbour, or just sitting outside in the sun. But it goes much beyond that. A person can gain an education, earn an income, take part in the community. Mobility is a tool for a better and more independent life. It allows you to become who you are and fulfill your dreams."

The foundation got its start after Flessner's club, the Rotary Club of Semiahmoo (White Rock), B.C., provided financial support for a wheelchair project. Interest in delivering mobility devices became so keen that some club members established a charitable foundation with tax-exempt status that expanded the capacity to solicit contributions from people outside Rotary.

Originally from a small village in Germany, Flessner came to Canada in 1977 to study at the University of British Columbia and later became a Canadian citizen. She is fluent in four languages, an asset for the international communication involved in her work for the foundation.

"Christiana is amazingly motivated. She's always positive and gracious; I've never heard a mean word out of her," says Sandy Wightman, a longtime friend and fellow Rotarian who serves on the foundation's board. "Much of the strength of the organization has been the strength of her character. She's very diligent and organized. With many of these countries, you almost have to count on things going sideways. Her trips go off almost without a hitch."

Wightman has taken part in five wheelchair delivery missions to Mexico. On his first trip, to the town of Rosarito, he visited a seniors residence operated by nuns. "I picked up one elderly lady and put her in a wheelchair, and she said something in Spanish," he recalls. "When I asked what she said, someone translated: 'Now I know what God's eyes look like.' I just about collapsed with the emotion I felt at that moment. I've been hooked ever since. When we give wheelchairs to kids, I watch the parents and see their emotion. It tells me all I need to validate what I'm doing and what Christiana is doing."

Flessner says that participating in the delivery of a wheelchair is gratifying and often leads people to return to take part in another Rotary project. "When you're there in person, you connect on such a basic level," she says. "You can feel a change in that person right before your very eyes. It's like so many international projects of Rotary: We want to transform lives, and in the end we transform our own." — PAUL ENGLEMAN 

Des clubs Rotary de la Belgique et du Québec s'unissent pour réaliser le rêve de jeunes scouts

par HERMELINE JOURQUIN

Après un an de rêve et de préparatifs, les Pionniers (jeunes de 16 à 18 ans) de l'unité des scouts du Roc de Lessines, en Belgique ont pu vivre leur camp international outre-Atlantique en juillet et août dernier.

Soutenus par leurs animateurs motivés, les pionniers ont lancé un appel auprès des scouts canadiens. Également à la recherche d'un groupe scout européen pour leur camp pour découvrir le vieux continent, ce sont les Pionniers de la 43e St-Louis de Boucherville, au Québec, qui ont répondu à l'appel.

Très rapidement, grâce aux réseaux sociaux, Belges et Canadiens ont fait connaissance et étaient impatients de se rencontrer. Partageant les mêmes valeurs, celles du mouvement scout, ce camp entre deux continents a permis la rencontre entre deux visions du scoutisme et de créer ainsi un dialogue entre des jeunes vivant des réalités différentes.

L'objectif de leur camp était de vivre ensemble pendant trois semaines de camp itinérant au Québec et en Belgique. Ce voyage physique et sensoriel à la rencontre des

habitants et à la découverte de la faune et de la flore les a emmenés dans des lieux exceptionnels.

Au rythme de la nature et au fil de l'eau, ils se sont laissés guider. Leur périple les a emmené le long du Fleuve St Laurent. Après un premier arrêt par Montréal, leur première étape fut Trois-Rivières. Reçu par le club Rotary, ensemble ils ont pu apprécier la région de Trois-Rivières, par une escapade à la découverte des cascades du Parc de la Mauricie, avant de visiter le Shawinigan et la cité de l'énergie.

Ensuite, ils ont tracé leur route vers la Ville de Québec et Tadoussac. Logés chez les rotariens, les scouts ont pu vivre une immersion totale au plus proche de la réalité québécoise. Cette rencontre entre scouts belges et québécois était également

une opportunité unique de rencontre avec les Québécois.

Leur itinéraire s'est poursuivi vers Boucherville et le camp canot-camping au parc du Mont-Tremblant. Parmi les nombreuses techniques scoutées échangées, les pionniers retiennent aussi leur semaine de canot-camping au parc du Mont-Tremblant. Cette méthode de camping propre aux scouts québécois les a emmenés dans des lieux prestigieux où la nature immense sublime le paysage.

Dans un esprit de solidarité, les jeunes ont payagé, passé les rapides et bivouaqué en total connexion avec la nature. Désormais, les scouts portent fièrement le badge de canot-camping sur leur uniforme.

Au terme des deux semaines au Québec, à leur tour, les scouts belges ont accueilli

les scouts québécois pour une semaine de découverte de la Belgique à la mode scout en passant par Bruxelles, Ostende, Bruges, Lessines ...

Après avoir abordé et traité le sujet de l'environnement en Belgique, lors d'activités nature, les pionniers souhaitaient développer cette thématique en la confrontant avec une autre






réalité. Les jeunes ont pu ainsi mieux prendre conscience de leur mode de vie et l'enrichir de l'approche et des pratiques scouts de leurs partenaires québécois. Un tel projet permet de vivre les nombreuses valeurs scouts et de revenir grandi d'une expérience enrichissante tant sur le plan culturel qu'humain.

Pour concrétiser le voyage, les Pionniers se sont investis pour se constituer une cagnotte. Ils ont aussi pu compter sur un soutien du Bureau International Jeunesse (Bruxelles) et d'une aide logistique de la part des clubs Rotary belges et québécois.

En effet, se rendre au Québec sous forme de camp itinérant nécessitait également des contacts. Les Pionniers lessinois ont alors fait appel au club Rotary de Lessines où, feu Thierry Parfait, responsable de la commission jeunesse a pu les aider dans la mise en place des contacts avec les Rotariens québécois. Les jeunes ont pu voir leur projet se réaliser grâce aux contacts entre scouts et entre deux clubs Rotary canadiens (Trois-Rivières et Québec-Val-Bélair).

L'accueil chaleureux belge et canadien, ainsi que l'expérience réussie a créé et soudé des liens d'amitié forts entre belges et

québécois. Quant aux Rotariens qui ont accueilli et logé les scouts, ils ont aussi vécu une expérience importante dont ils gardent un excellent souvenir.

Finalement, les clubs Rotary du Québec qui ont accepté la proposition de Parfait sont fiers de l'implication sociale réussie. Ce projet démontre que de telles expériences humaines ont été vécues par des rotariens qui ne se connaissaient pas, mais qui ont osé offrir cette opportunité à 12 jeunes, pour qui le voyage restera une expérience dont ils se rappelleront longtemps. Depuis, les jeunes rêvent de se retrouver en Belgique, au Québec ou ailleurs. 

Inspiration AROUND EVERY CORNER



The spark of insight that changed everything

Brenda from the U.S. joined Rotary to do something for her community and connect with others, but it wasn't until her first Rotary Convention, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, that she felt like a true Rotarian.

While exploring the House of Friendship, she noticed something that everyone had in common: the smile of a joyful person. That was the moment a light flashed in Brenda's mind and made her realize the true spirit of Rotary, which motivated her to go back to her club and get more involved — locally and internationally.

**Find your inspiration at the Rotary Convention in Toronto.
Register today at riconvention.org.**



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