



# Newsletter

Summer 2021

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## From Your Newsletter Editor

By David Israelson



It's getting better. True, it doesn't always seem that way. Sometimes the news sounds absolutely terrible.

But we have the power to make things better. After all, that's what Rotarians do.

As you'll see in this newsletter, we're starting this new season with new activities, new ideas and most importantly, new hope.

We do make a difference — because of you!



# Can we start meeting like this?

Yes, if we do it safely

As our world opens up and more of us are vaccinated, more club membership activities are taking place in person, under careful health guidelines.

As a club we wish to be inclusive, and we have no desire to foreclose participation from anyone. As such, we would rather be on the side of caution in order to protect our most vulnerable.

We have therefore been moving back cautiously to in-person meetings. The summer weather makes this easier, because we can meet outside, where the risk of contact with COVID-19 is always lower.

On July 20 and 27<sup>th</sup>, we held outside noon meetings at the Lions Club Pavilion in St David's. As always, we are consulting the Health Canada Guidelines for gatherings both inside and outside to decrease the risk of exposure to COVID-19. These guidelines change frequently as conditions change and new information arises.

Right now, for those individuals attending IN PERSON Rotary functions we ask that anyone who is UNDER VACCINATED (has not received two vaccinations), or a person AT RISK, to

continue to wear a mask AND physically distance while attending BOTH outside and inside meetings.

To be considered "FULLY VACCINATED" — you have received the full series of a vaccine authorized in Canada at least 14 days ago.

To be considered "UNDER VACCINATED" — you are not vaccinated, or partially vaccinated.

Vaccines have prevented about 10 million deaths from disease since 1963,

researchers estimate. (Rotary magazine, April 2021) And

now, as COVID-19 vaccines are being distributed around the world, the experience and knowledge that Rotary and its partners in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative have gained are helping protect communities from the pandemic.

Rotary members are getting involved in supporting the COVID-19 vaccine rollout by raising the awareness for vaccination in our communities, supporting health care workers, combating misinformation and vaccine hesitancy, and advocating for fair and equal vaccine distribution in vulnerable communities.

The world needs Rotarians more than ever.

Let us do our part to protect one another and continue the good deeds of Rotary.



# Golf Happens ...



Niagara-on-the-Lake's Rotary Club has looked Fore-ward with a new event for these complicated times — its first annual golf tournament.

Scheduled for August 24 at the Beechwood Golf and Social Club, this is a healthy and user-friendly way to bolster our club's fundraising, says Howie Kudlats co-organizer of the tournament along with Penny Milligan.

"Our tournament is out in the fresh air, promotes a congenial atmosphere, and helps to raise money for our causes which have been hit hard by the pandemic over the last year and a half," Kudlats said.

For \$175, participants will enjoy a putting contest for delicious wines supplied by Strewn and Bella Terra (formerly Pondview) wineries,

a long-drive contest, plus, a superb prize for the first hole-in-one — a car!

A gorgeous BMW supplied by Performance Auto Group. Generous sponsors have helped with



additional wonderful prizes, including an enticing lunch snack box , a prime rib dinner and a Taste of Niagara gift bag for each and every participant.

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Nursery School expansion program will be the worthy local beneficiary.

Internationally, tournament proceeds will go to the Nia Project, a non-profit that creates 3D prosthetic limbs for children in Sri Lanka.

# A message from our President

By Patricia Murenbeeld



**Y**ou'll notice from the picture on the right that Rotary has been part of my life for, well, a lot of my life.

I have been a Rotarian for 18 years. I transferred from the Ottawa club to our Niagara-on-the-Lake club in 2017. But my positive experience with Rotary goes much further back.

In 1981, I was a Rotary Exchange Student, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Windsor. I haven't looked back yet.

After my year abroad, I became a nurse. I worked for more than 20 years in the Neonatal Intensive care unit, plus, I ran a Prenatal Education program for 15 years, before transitioning to become a Public Health Nurse with the Healthy Babies Healthy Children program.

In Ottawa, my three daughters grew up surrounded by Rotary experiences. They looked with anticipation for the arrival of the 'Adventures In Citizenship' students hosted at our home. They learned about the value of giving and volunteering. They learned to become confident, interacting with strangers and with people older and different than they were.

Rotary programs and initiatives influenced our whole family.

As President, I want to contribute to and spread that positive influence - and luckily, we can do this together.

Through Rotary I have learned that when you are passionate about something that is important to you, you can influence and guide others to accomplish goals.

Our common goals are straightforward. We have a strategic plan for the next three years, based on Rotary's Action Plan.

Together, let's increase our impact, expand participant engagement and expand our ability to adapt. Let's also work to grow professional networking opportunities and reach out to younger business professionals and other prospective new members.

My hope is for you to find your place within Rotary and within your Rotary Club, to be your true authentic self. Feel comfortable, and to feel valued. It's a journey we're taking together, and I can't wait to work with you!



# Polio Education Committee

By Barb Babij



With the world focused on containing COVID-19, it is still important to remember that Rotary continues to work tirelessly to end polio. International Polio Day is October 24<sup>th</sup>, and our Club is involved in a number of initiatives, one of which is education.

As we have recently seen substantial growth in our membership, we realized that many new members aren't familiar with our fight against Polio nor the realities of Post-Polio Syndrome (PPS). We have also realized there is a major lack of knowledge about these two issues within our community-at-large.

To this end, we have developed the Polio Education Committee. Its main focus is education and raising awareness. Our desire is to move beyond the one-day World Polio Day fundraising effort and develop a year-long program for education.

You can help by participating on our Club's Polio Education Committee.

So far we have discussed a wide range of avenues for education: the ongoing impact of polio and its on-going effects; the effects of PPS; polio's impact on society and on health care systems, and importantly, on the families of polio survivors; research; the imperative to keep vaccinations going; and, advocacy. Also important is the impact on care-givers who have parents with PPS.

We have just begun to plan and cannot do this alone. If you would like to contribute to this new initiative, please let me (Barb Babij) know and we will add you to the Committee.



Niagara-on-the-Lake  
**Rotary**  
Club



## RI FOUNDATION COMMITTEE

Invites you and your partner to  
join us for a garden party on  
the beautiful grounds of

*Strewn Winery*

Wednesday,  
September 15th  
from 6:30pm to 8:00pm

The venue and wine are graciously donated by Strewn Winery.  
We want this evening to be fun and informal so please bring your  
favourite appetizer (a potluck style) to share. Finger food is preferred.  
We also ask for a \$20 per person donation to the RI Foundation Canada.  
We will collect money at the event and deposit to RI Foundation in your  
name. Tax Receipts will be issued by RI.

RSVP at [nadjalepere6929@gmail.com](mailto:nadjalepere6929@gmail.com)

by September 9, 2021

# Message from our Past President

## Sooo Close is Cause to Celebrate

By Ken Schander



**J**une 30 was the last day the last day of my club presidency. On that day, I was struck by another number —14,287.

That's the number of US dollars that members of our Rotary club had given to Rotary's Annual Fund last year. We almost, but not quite, reached our goal of \$15,000.

The good news is that a few weeks later, in mid-July, we were closer. So close! We had given \$14,987. A lot closer, yes, but still, not quite there.

Only 13 bucks off (\$16.28 Canadian to be exact. We were less than 0.001 off.

The glass was more than half full.

That's cause to celebrate, I say.

Three months ago we were only at 42 per cent of our goal. Not close. How we got from there to "almost, but not quite," is a story in itself.

We were helped by the Cdn\$4,000 donation our club had budgeted. But, as they say on those TV ads, "Wait, there's more!"

There was the club member whose only contact with us this past year has been their email account. This member wrote to say, "I'm giving \$1,000." Another said they'd already given, wished they could give more, and then asked how much we still needed, and gave again.

That's why I think we can look at 99.9 per cent and say: we're close, and let's celebrate!