

August 2026



Rotary 
Club of St. Catharines Lakeshore

The Lighthouse

newsletter of the Rotary Club of St. Catharines Lakeshore

This Month at Lakeshore

★ Meet a Rotarian

 Rotary Around the World

 Serving Our Community

 Guest Speakers

 July 17 Coming Up

Membership Matters

Every invitation has the power to change a life



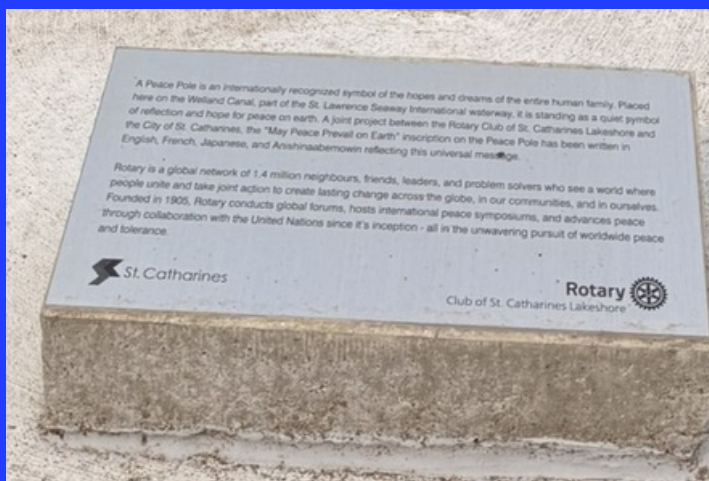
Peace and Sustainability Come Together at Charles Ansell Park

The Rotary Club of St. Catharines Lakeshore proudly unveiled two new community projects at Charles Ansell Park on July 24 — a Peace Pole and a water bottle filling station — following nearly two years of planning in partnership with the City of St. Catharines and Rotary District 7090.

The projects promote sustainability, peace, and community pride while creating lasting benefits for residents and visitors alike.

Mayor Mat Siscoe, District Governor Joanne Serkeyn, club members, and community guests joined together for the ceremony, celebrating Rotary's ongoing commitment to both our community and our world.

[Read the full story and view our photo gallery on our website and Facebook page](#)



From President Bryan's Desk



Bryan Pett
President

What an incredible season it has been for the Rotary Club of St. Catharines Lakeshore! From the proud unveiling of our Peace Pole and water bottle filling station at Charles Ansell Park to hearing inspiring presentations from community leaders like Chris Brown of EDify and Amanda Braett of Birchway Niagara, our members have shown time and again what it means to serve with purpose and passion.

We were also thrilled to celebrate Mary Howard's long-awaited Chase the Ace win — a reminder that persistence always pays off!

On the global stage, our club's US\$1,000 contribution has grown into a US\$39,212 Rotary Foundation Global Grant, bringing improved sanitation and hygiene education to 270 families in the Ruby Valley of Nepal — proof that even a single act of generosity can ripple far beyond our own community.

As we look ahead to the fall, I encourage every member to think about someone in their life who would make a great Rotarian. Our Discover Rotary open house on September 24 at CAA Niagara is a wonderful, no-pressure opportunity to introduce friends, neighbours, and colleagues to the fellowship and impact that make this club so special. Together, let's keep building on this momentum — because when Rotarians work side by side, there is truly no limit to the good we can do in our community and the world.

You're Invited to Discover Rotary!

Do you know someone who would make a great Rotarian?

On Thursday, September 24, the Rotary Club of St. Catharines Lakeshore is hosting Discover Rotary – Coffee • Conversation • Community, a relaxed open house designed for people who want to learn more about Rotary in a friendly, informal setting.

Guests will have the opportunity to:

- Meet some of our members
- Learn about our local and international projects
- Discover leadership and networking opportunities
- Hear how Rotary changes lives—both in our community and around the world
- Ask questions with absolutely no pressure to join

This is one of the easiest ways to introduce someone to Rotary. Think of a friend, neighbour, family member, co-worker, or community leader who shares our values of service and fellowship. A personal invitation from you could be the beginning of their Rotary journey.

Date: Thursday, September 24, 2026

Time: 6:30–8:00 p.m.

Location: CAA Niagara, 3271 Schmon Parkway, Thorold



Complimentary coffee, tea, and light refreshments will be served.

Please help us spread the word! Invite a guest and encourage them to register by emailing rotarylakeshorestcatharines@gmail.com.

Together, let's introduce more people to the fellowship, friendships, and opportunities that make Rotary so rewarding.

Meet Rotarian

MARC JOHNSTON

Proud Member Since March 1, 2002

Rotary 

Club of St. Catharines Lakeshore



“I love our club and what Rotary represents.”



AWAY FROM ROTARY



Insurance Broker & co-owner of our family business with my brother & sister



Cycling



Beer League Hockey



Golf



Gardening



Gym



Washing cars

Proud owner of Mr. Bill 



Meet Mr. Bill! 

Golden Labrador / Australian Kelpie mix



Came from the San Antonio, Texas area



Marc's faithful companion



Has four canine girlfriends in the neighbourhood



Everybody loves Mr. Bill 



WHY I JOINED



After moving home from Atlanta, I was looking for a way to reconnect with my community. A conversation with Dr. John Gleddie led me to our club. Dr. Al Scales became my sponsor.



FAVOURITE ROTARY PROJECT

“I'm a little biased, but it has to be the Golf Tournament.”



CURRENT ROTARY PASSION

I coordinate volunteers who maintain the Clarice West-Hobbs Contemplative Garden at Marotta Family Hospital.

LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS!

If you enjoy gardening and would like to help keep this beautiful garden thriving, I'd love to have you join us!



QUICK FACTS



University:
Mercyhurst University,
Erie, Pennsylvania



On My Bucket List:
Egypt • Petra (The Treasury)
Angkor Wat • Japan



Something You May
Not Know:
“I enjoy solitude and doing
my own thing.”



Best Friend:
Mr. Bill – Golden Lab/
Australian Kelpie mix

MY ADVICE

“

There is no
judging. Our club
is an open book,
and so are our
members.”

”



MARC'S ROTARY LEGACY



Marc chaired our annual
Rotary Golf Tournament for
many years, helping raise
funds for our club's Literacy
Program and Youth Programs.



TOGETHER, WE

Make a Difference

IN OUR COMMUNITY
AND BEYOND.



Speaker Spotlight

Amanda Braett – Birchway Niagara

Supporting Women. Strengthening Families.

Our club welcomed Amanda Braett from Birchway Niagara, who shared the organization's vital work supporting women and children affected by abuse. Amanda highlighted the reality that one in three women will experience abuse during their lifetime and explained how Birchway provides 24-hour emergency support, counselling, safe accommodation, court support, and programs that help families rebuild their lives.

→ [Read the full story and learn more about Birchway Niagara on our website.](#)



Amanda Braett



Chris Brown – EDify Mental Health

Building Stronger Futures for Children

Our club welcomed Chris Brown, founder of EDify, who shared how comprehensive psychological assessments can help children reach their full potential. Through real-life examples, Chris demonstrated how identifying a child's strengths and challenges allows families and schools to work together to create meaningful support plans that can change lives.

Chris invited members to EDify's open house on September 17



EDify

→ [Read the full story and learn more about EDify on our website.](#)



Chris Brown

Club News — Congratulations, Mary!

Congratulations to Mary Howard, who finally had her lucky day at our Chase the Ace draw!

After faithfully purchasing a 50/50 ticket at every club meeting, Mary's persistence paid off when she won the Chase the Ace jackpot of more than \$700. It was Mary's very first win, making the moment even more special.

Mary put her winnings to good use, using the money to help pay for a new fence after hers was blown down.

Congratulations, Mary! Your win is proof that sometimes persistence really does pay off. We hope you continue your winning streak



From a US\$1,000 Gift to a US\$39,212 Global Impact

Earlier this year, the Rotary Club of St. Catharines Lakeshore approved a US\$1,000 contribution to support a sanitation project in the remote Ruby Valley of Nepal. Today, we're delighted to share that the project has received official approval from The Rotary Foundation as a **Global Grant valued at US\$39,212**.

Sponsored by the **Rotary Club of Godawari, Nepal**, in partnership with the **Rotary Club of Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus**, the project will install **270 household toilets** while providing hygiene and sanitation education to local families.

For many of us, it's difficult to imagine life without something as basic as a toilet. Yet in these isolated mountain communities, many families still lack proper sanitation. Contaminated drinking water and poor hygiene contribute to preventable diseases that continue to affect children and families.

Our club's US\$1,000 gift became part of something much larger. Combined with contributions from other Rotary clubs and support from The Rotary Foundation, it is helping improve the health and quality of life for hundreds of families.

This is one of the reasons Rotary is so special.

Every day, Rotarians serve their own communities, but we also have the opportunity to help people in places we may never visit.

We will likely never walk the trails of Ruby Valley or meet the families who benefit from this project. Yet because of Rotary, our club is helping provide something many of us take for granted — a healthier future.

That is the power of Rotary.



When Rotarians around the world work together, small acts of generosity become life-changing projects. A contribution from the Rotary Club of St. Catharines Lakeshore joins with gifts from around the world to create opportunities no single club could accomplish alone.

As the project moves forward, 270 families will gain access to improved sanitation and hygiene education, creating healthier homes and stronger communities.

Thank you to every member who supports our fundraising efforts. Whether your generosity helps a family here in Niagara or halfway around the world, you are making a real and lasting difference

This is Rotary.

This is The Rotary Foundation.

And this is how, together, we do good in the world.

Schedules

Ronald McDonald Family Room (August)

6 Sandi
13 Marlene
20 Morelle
27 Bryan



Plasma Donation

Club donation dates are
August Thursday 20th and
September 24
Contact Beth at
bethfleeton@hotmail.com
to sign up



BINGO VOLUNTEERS IN August

Saturday August 1 -
9:30 p.m. to 11:30 pm. Judy & Amy

Thursday August 13 - 5:30p.m. to 7:30 pm
Marlene & Anne

Monday August 24 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm
Two Volunteers Needed



Reminder: you must come in your
blue rotary shirt and black pants.

Little Lending Library (August)

2 Ellen
9 Judy
16 Beth
23 Mary
30 Anne



UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Aug 12, 2026
Rotary Award Winner Night

Aug 26, 2026
Trip to Guatemala Rotary Schools
-Anne Lanthier

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

September 24
Discover Rotary -CAA Niagara

November 21 Trivia Night

December 9
Annual General Meeting
February 2027 Trivia Night

May 5, 2027 Wednesday
Paul Harris Night

Stay Connected

facebook



LinkedIn

DISCOVER ROTARY



Coffee • Conversation • Community



Curious About Rotary?

Join the **Rotary Club of St. Catharines Lakeshore** for a relaxed evening of refreshments and conversation.

Meet local people who are **making a difference** in Niagara and around the world.

What You'll Discover

- ✓ Opportunities to make a difference in Niagara
- ✓ Leadership and personal growth opportunities
- ✓ Meaningful friendships and connections
- ✓ Local and international projects changing lives
- ✓ Why Rotary members say they get far more from Rotary than they ever expected



THURSDAY
SEPTEMBER 24
6:30 PM – 8:00 PM



CAA Niagara
3271 Schmon Pkwy
Thorold, ON L2V 4Y6



**Complimentary
Refreshments**
Coffee, tea
and light bites

ROTARY CLUB OF ST. CATHARINES LAKESHORE

2026–2027 Leadership & Committees

CO-PRESIDENTS: Bryan Pett & Annette Marchionda

CO-PRESIDENTS ELECT: Trish Shouldice & Patricia Murenbeeld

SECRETARY: Ellen Wodchis | **TREASURER:** Janet Allan | **PAST PRESIDENT:** Bryan Pett

DIRECTORS: Beth Fleeton, Anne Lanthier, Patricia Murenbeeld, Coral Timms

ASSISTANT GOVERNOR: Julio Batres-Gavidia (non-voting)

CLUB ADMINISTRATION (Director/Chair: Annette Marchionda)

Attendance: Annette Marchionda

Dinner & Registration: Annette Marchionda (C), Sandi Chard, Patricia Murenbeeld, Amy Layton, Trish Shouldice, Anne Lanthier

Sergeant-at-Arms: Annette Marchionda (C), Gary Chard, Amy Layton, Patricia Boyko, Gary Snider

Technical: Bruce Timms (C) **ClubRunner:** Stew Shouldice (C)

Governance: Patricia Murenbeeld (C), Judy DeCosta, Bryan Pett, Annette Marchionda, Ellen Wodchis

Program: Phil Horner

Finance/Risk: Janet Allan(C) , Judy DeCosta, Coral Timms, Marlene Mader

MEMBERSHIP & FELLOWSHIP (Director/Chair: Beth Fleeton)

Membership Committee: Beth Fleeton, Sandi Chard, Trish Shouldice, Annette Marchionda, Bryan Pett

Fellowship: Gary Chard & Coral Timms (Co-C), Mary Howard, Shannon Cavanagh, Marc Johnston, Emilio Raimondo

FOUNDATION & PUBLIC RELATIONS (Director: Anne Lanthier)

Rotary Foundation: Sandi Chard (Chair), Amy Layton, Anne Lanthier

Public Relations Co-Chairs: Sandi Chard & Amy Layton

Communications: Amy Layton & Shannon Cavanagh (Social Media), Sandi Chard & Stew Shouldice (Web/Newsletter)

YOUTH SERVICES & LITERACY (Director: Patricia Murenbeeld)

Literacy & LLL: Anne Lanthier (C), Janet Allan, Bob Birrell, Ellen Wodchis

Youth Services: Al Scales (C)

Youth Exchange: Patricia Murenbeeld, Beth Fleeton

FUNDRAISING (Director: Coral Timms | Chair: Annette Marchionda)

Bingo: Mary Howard (C), Phil Horner, Janet Allan

Cobs Bread: Beth Fleeton (C)

Trivia Night: Anne Lanthier, Gary Chard, Sandi Chard, Shannon Cavanagh, Coral Timms, Janet Allan, Sylva Okpara, Patricia Boyko, Trish Shouldice

WORLD & COMMUNITY SERVICE (Director: Coral Timms)

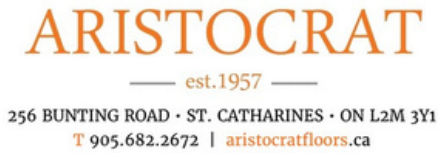
Food4Kids & RM Family Room: Marlene Mader (C), Amy Layton, Trish Shouldice

Blood Donation Drive: Beth Fleeton (C)

Rail Trail / Great Lakes Clean-Up: Bruce Timms (C), Coral Timms, Gary Snider

Garden Project: Marc Johnston (C), Ellen Wodchis

Our Community Partners
Click any logo below to visit our sponsor's website.



Moving & Storage Solutions



Natural Hair Care Specialist & Custom Hair Loss Solutions

