

September 2026

The Lighthouse

newsletter of the Rotary Club of St. Catharines Lakeshore

INSIDE THIS MONTH

- ★ Meet Bruce Timms — 40 Years of Rotary
- ✍️ Where Are They Now? — Olivia's Story
- 🎓 Celebrating Our Youth
- ♥️ From Fundraising to Impact
- 🌍 Rotary Around the World
- 🧠 Trivia is Back!
- 👋 September Volunteer Opportunities



EDUCATION OPENS DOORS

Around the world — and right here at home —
Rotary helps create opportunities through education.

171 MILLION

people could be lifted out of poverty if all students in low-income countries left
school with basic reading skills.

AND RIGHT HERE IN NIAGARA...

Sometimes impact begins with just \$150.

See how a small Rotary investment helped one Niagara learner overcome two practical
barriers and achieve an important milestone.

➡️ [Read Janos's story on page 7](#)

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

OUR IMPACT IN ACTION



**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

For an invitation or to know more,
REGISTER ONLY
rotarylakeshorestcatharines@gmail.com



Club of
St. Catharines Lakeshore

People of Action. Friends. Leaders. Neighbours.



From President Bryan's Desk

Rotary on Your Travels 🌍



Bryan Pett
President

While visiting New Brunswick, President Bryan and his wife Petra came across this Peace Pole bearing the familiar message, “May Peace Prevail on Earth.” It was especially meaningful this summer, as our own Rotary Club of St. Catharines Lakeshore recently celebrated the installation of a Peace Pole here in our community.

From St. Catharines to New Brunswick — and in communities around the world — Peace Poles are a wonderful reminder that the hope for peace is something we all share.

Where have you spotted Rotary on your travels? Send us a photo and a few words about where you found it. You may be featured in a future edition of The Lighthouse!



Fun, Friendship & a Little Lawn Bowling!

One of the best parts of Rotary is the friendships we make — not only within our own club, but with Rotarians throughout our community.

Our Fellowship Committee recently brought members, family and friends together for a fun evening at the Glenridge Lawn Bowling Club, where many of us tried lawn bowling for the first time. We were delighted to be joined by friends from the Rotary Club of St. Catharines South and Rotary Club of St. Catharines.

There was plenty of laughter, a little friendly competition and perhaps a few questionable lawn-bowling techniques! Afterwards, the fun continued over dinner and drinks at Cat's Caboose.

It was a great reminder of one of the perks of being a Rotarian — instant friendships, fun social experiences and the chance to try things you might never have attempted on your own.

Thanks to our Fellowship Committee for bringing everyone together for such an enjoyable evening!



Meet Rotarian BRUCE TIMMS

Proud Charter Member for 40 Years!



“ Friendships and service are what keep me involved. ”



AWAY FROM ROTARY



● Family time with Coral and our grandchildren



● Interest in public policy and local government



● Working to rebuild my Christian faith through the Anglican Church



● Cycling



● Gym and staying active



● Once operated dump truck, backhoe and boom truck for R. Timms Construction & Engineering in the 1970s



● Enjoyed squash



● Travel and exploring new places



HE PASSED ON THE ROTARY BUG!

After decades in Rotary, Bruce's enthusiasm proved contagious!

Coral joined the Rotary Club of St. Catharines Lakeshore on October 27, 2020.

Today, they share Rotary service together.



WHY I JOINED

I joined Rotary as an opportunity to expand my business contacts in St. Catharines. My friend Ed James, whom I knew through the PC Party, encouraged me to get involved.



FAVOURITE ROTARY PROJECT / MEMORY

Charles Ansell Park.

It's a project close to my heart and a lasting legacy for our club and our community.



WHAT KEEPS ME INVOLVED

The friendships we build and the opportunity to give back through meaningful community service projects.



PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Registered Professional Engineer (Ontario), restoration contractor, home inspections and local politics.



PERSONAL INTERESTS

Spending time with Coral and our grandchildren, public policy, travel, history and gardening. Working to rebuild my Christian faith through the Anglican Church.

THEN & NOW – 40 YEARS OF ROTARY

1986



A young professional engineer, restoration contractor, Regional Councillor and former Jaycee becomes a Charter Member of the Rotary Club of St. Catharines Lakeshore.

2026



Forty years later, Bruce is still here – serving our community, enjoying the friendships he's made through Rotary and sharing the Rotary experience with Coral.

QUICK FACTS



Education: University of Waterloo, B.A.Sc.



Professional: Registered Professional Engineer (Ontario)



Classification: Restoration Contractor



Community Service: Councillor for St. Catharines – Niagara Region



Former Jaycee



Interests: Government & process, squash, cycling, history, gardening, travel and staying active

MY ADVICE

“ Combine career networking and new friendships with Rotary service – in equal parts. ”



TOGETHER, WE

Make a Difference

IN OUR COMMUNITY
AND BEYOND.

From Youth Exchange to a Life of Adventure

Exchange student Olivia from Saumur, France during school year 2007-2008 in St. Catharines, Ontario.

Ever since I was little, I knew I always wanted to travel. Discovering new places, embracing new cultures, learning new languages, and meeting new people was something I wanted to make my life about.

I discovered the Rotary Club Youth Exchange programme and that made my dream come true: I could finally call somewhere else home.

I had an amazing 12 months staying with 3 great families, had a brilliant time in school, was given the chance to travel to different cities while I was there, improved my English greatly, learnt a whole lot, and made a few friends along the way.

Before moving to Canada, I wasn't sure what I wanted to become. I knew I wanted to teach, and my studies were all planned out. After coming back, the first thing on my mind was, "How can I do this again"? So I changed paths and studied languages and translation at university, knowing it would involve a semester abroad. Fast forward 2 years, I got into the school of my choice, North Central College near Chicago, Illinois. I had a blast, but it was never enough.

I also chose my Master's program based on the possibility of doing an internship abroad, studying international commerce. I landed an internship during my first year as a data analyst for the fast-fashion giant Zara in London, UK. I went back to France just long enough to present my thesis, and then jumped straight back on a plane. This wasn't strictly planned, but I couldn't bring myself to stay in a classroom. I knew I might not easily find a job outside of France if I waited, so I made the bold choice (my parents called it something rudder!) of staying in London. Fast forward 15 years, I am still in London, and the question on my mind each year is still, "Where to next"? I am very lucky to have met my Franco-Peruvian husband, Olivier (I know... Olivia & Olivier...), who shares my passion for travelling and isn't fussed about moving back to France quite yet. We're currently applying for roles abroad in the hopes of calling somewhere else home again. Where will life take us next? Singapore, Hong Kong, Tokyo, New York, Doha? Only time will tell.



Temagami Trip - Rotary Class of 2007/2008)

A Year That Changed a Life

Olivia's Rotary Youth Exchange story continued...

But enough about me. A long story to say that a year can make such a difference, especially during such formative years in the life of a teen. **I was only 17 when I first left home, and it shaped my life in ways I didn't know possible.** It opened a whole world of opportunities. Living with other families showed me that there isn't just one way to live; it helped me become more mature, patient, understanding, forgiving, and appreciative (oh, and a whole lot less entitled!). Rotary host families give their time, energy, and love, open the doors to their homes, share their values, and expect nothing in return. This is probably the most selfless thing anyone has ever done for me, and I will forever be grateful for the chance to share their lives.

Since leaving, I've gone back to Canada 3 times to see them, twice during my exchange year in Chicago, and once for Danielle's wedding (one of my host sisters). I met up with Joy (host mom #2) in Chicago during my exchange, and Joy & Danielle came to stay with my parents in France in 2009, and again for my wedding in May 2026 (along with Erin, Danielle's sister). Joy and her daughters have come to stay with my husband and me in London a couple of times over the years, too. I have seen Meredith & Terry (host parents #3) and their sons countless times in London as well. They, alongside many other Rotarians, have had a profound impact on my life, and I hope we will continue keeping in touch.

Another way this exchange had a ripple effect is that my parents joined the Rotary club in my hometown the year after my exchange. They became a host family to a New Zealander, a Canadian, and an Estonian. They had a fantastic time and have kept in touch over the years. The girls have come back a few times and even brought their kids over to meet my parents.

What's next? I hope someday I will be able to give back and have a positive impact on someone's life in just as meaningful a way.

If you're a young student on the fence about applying, take the leap: it will change your world. And if you're a family wondering whether to host, just do it! Opening your home brings an incredible richness not just to the exchange student, but to your own family and children, too. Who knows, maybe they'll catch the travelling bug too!



Joy, Erin & Danielle - Spring of 2026



Meredith & Terry in London - Winter of 2023

Rotary Youth Dinner

Celebrating our young leaders



Celebrating Our Youth

Our club was proud to welcome six outstanding young people to our annual Youth Dinner, celebrating their leadership, accomplishments and commitment to service.

This year we recognized Jack Chapman, our Adventures in Citizenship participant; Luca Staszko and Kayla Amaefule, who attended Junior RYLA; and Tori Holman, Gabrielle Bilodeau and Juan David Lozano, recipients of our Service Above Self Scholarships.

It was wonderful to hear about their experiences and see the enthusiasm and potential of these young leaders. Congratulations to all six — you reminded us that Service Above Self can start at any age!

Anne Lanthier, a former educator, lifelong learner, traveller and proud Rotarian was a recent speaker. Anne has found in Rotary a meaningful way to combine her love of leadership, literacy, service and community.

For the past 3½ years, Rotary has given Anne opportunities to lead, connect, travel and make a difference both locally and around the world.

Most recently, Anne travelled to Guatemala to visit schools as part of a Rotary literacy initiative. She shared more about her experience, the people she met and the impact Rotary is making there at our recent meeting.





From Fundraising to Impact

A Small Investment. A Big Achievement

Sometimes it doesn't take a large amount of money to make a meaningful difference in someone's life.

The Rotary Club of St. Catharines Lakeshore recently received a wonderful update from the Niagara Regional Learning Centre about Janos, one of its learners.

Janos became the Centre's first learner to successfully complete his CAEC exams — and he passed with flying colours!

Thanks to funding provided by our Rotary Club, the Centre was able to cover \$100 for his exam fees and \$50 for transportation, removing two practical barriers standing between Janos and this important achievement.

The best part came afterward.

Janos was so proud of his accomplishment that he brought his certificate back to the Centre to show the staff.

For our club, this is a wonderful reminder that community impact isn't always measured by the size of a cheque. Sometimes \$150, the right opportunity and someone's determination can help open the door to a brighter future.

This Is Where Your Support Goes

When you support Rotary fundraisers such as our Trivia Night, you help make stories like Janos's possible. The money we raise comes back into our community — supporting organizations, creating opportunities and helping individuals take their next step forward.

Congratulations, Janos. We're proud to have played a small part in your very big achievement!

Looking to Get More Involved?

We could use a few more helping hands on several of our club committees. Whether you have lots of time or just a little, there are opportunities to get involved in an area that interests you.

We are currently looking for members to help with:

Public Relations – especially helping gather stories and material for The Lighthouse
Sponsorship

Membership – with a particular focus on member engagement

Community Donations

Youth Services

Clarice West Hobbs Garden

Joining a committee is a great way to get to know other members, learn more about what our club does and help shape what we do next.

Interested? Please get in touch with **Annette** or contact the appropriate committee chair directly. We'd love to have you involved!

Trivia Night is Back!



Trivia-November 21, 2026

🏆 Annual Fall Fun Trivia Night

Join us for another evening of laughter, friendly competition, and community fun!

📅 Saturday, November 21, 2026

💰 Early Bird: \$224 per table (up to 8 players) through October 9

★ **New this year! Add your DUH! Answer Pack when you register online.**

Enjoy:

🏆 Cash Prizes for top 3

🌭 Complimentary Hot Dogs all evening

🍿 Popcorn

☕ Coffee & Tea

🎉 Great Company & Lots of Laughs

How to Reserve Your Trivia Table

Booking your table is easy!

Option 1 – Register Online (easy and secure)

Reserve your table securely through Zeffy

Option 2 – Pay by e-Transfer

treasurer.rotarylakeshore@gmail.com

E-transfer is still available.

Please include:

Trivia Night in the message

Your table contact person's name

Your email address

This helps us match your payment with your registration.

Buy Today
with Zeffy

Questions?

✉️ rotarylakeshorestcatharines@gmail.com

Questions? contact co-chairs: Gary and Anne

☎️ Call or text: 905-646-9380

Gather your team and reserve your table today!

Schedules



Looking to Volunteer?

Our volunteer schedules are now online!

VIEW SCHEDULES →

Ronald McDonald Family Room September

Sept 3 Marlene
10 Coral
17 Patricia M
24 Anne



Little Lending Library (Sept)

Sept 7 Judy D
Sept 14 Patricia M
Sept 21 Ellen W
Sept 28 Anne L



BINGO VOLUNTEERS IN September

Thursday September 10 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm
Marlene and Patricia M
Monday September 21 from
5:30 to 7:30 pm. Bob Bland Gary S
Tuesday September 29 from 7:30 to 9:30pm
. Bryan P and Anne



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

Plasma Donation

Club donation dates are
September 24
Contact Beth at
bethfleton@hotmail.com
to sign up



UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Sep 09, 2026 6:00 PM-Dan Pilon.
CEO Niagara District Airport -
expansion plans.

September 23-Rebecca Balyk –
President of 7090 E-Club.

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

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2019

ROTARY CLUB OF ST. CATHARINES LAKESHORE

2026–2027 Leadership & Committees

CO-PRESIDENTS: Bryan Pett & Annette Marchionda

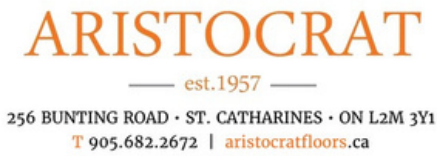
CO-PRESIDENTS ELECT: Trish Shouldice & Patricia Murenbeeld

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

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

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

Our Community Partners
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Natural Hair Care Specialist & Custom Hair Loss Solutions

