



ROTARY CLUB OF WINNIPEG NEWSLETTER MARCH 2024

Theme 2023-2024



The mission of Rotary is to "provide service to others, promote integrity, and advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through [the] fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders".

MARCH

“Life is a perspective and for me, if a human being has access to school, clean water, food, proper health care, that is the basis of human rights.”
Gelila Bekele

Rotary 

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE MONTH

The Rotary theme for March, Water and Sanitation, asks us to focus on the life changing improvements that we can make through these international projects to provide a more readily available and healthy supply of water to all people.

ROTARY MEETINGS | WEEKLY

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UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS:

March 8, 2024, International Women's Day

March 13, 2024, In-person Meeting with Rotarian **Ope Allen** speaking on **Cyber Security & How to Keep Yourself Safe Online**, at the Winnipeg Winter Club, starting at 6:00 PM with Dinner at 6:30 PM.

March 14, 2024, District Talk Show, (a Zoom Meeting) with **Dan Doherty**, from the **Zone 28 Leadership Team**, speaking on **"Bringing Our Action Plan to Life: Lessons from the 2023 North America Growing Club Study"** Advance registration is required. Check your in-box for March 3, 2024 for further details.

March 20, 2024, A Zoom Meeting at 12:15 PM. with speaker **Marion Willis, Founder & Executive Director of St. Boniface Street Links**, speaking on Housing and the Homeless

March 24-30, 2024. HIP (Honouring Indigenous Peoples) Youth 2 Youth, Truth and Reconciliation Experience, Mission, BC. Bringing together indigenous and non-indigenous youth ages 15-17 to foster Reconciliation. Registration is now closed.

March 27, 2024, A Social Evening at the **Old Spaghetti Factory** at the Forks at 6:00 PM., Dinner 6:30 PM. Price: \$28.80 includes taxes & gratuity. Set menu with 6 choices.

April 12-14, 2024, District Leadership Seminar, in Russell, MB.,

May 10-11, 2024, District Conference - Hope & Mental Wellness, Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. Registration is now open. <http://tinyurl.com/5550-Conference>

May 25-29, 2024, Rotary International Convention, in Singapore For more information, click on the link below. <https://convention.rotary.org/en-us/registration>

August 12-16, 2024, Rotary Adventures in Human Rights. A week of transformational and experiential learning for high school students interested in human rights leadership. Registration Now Open. If you are a high school student entering grade 11 or 12 in the fall of September 2024, you are eligible to apply. For Registration & Updates click on: <http://rahr5550.ca>

RECENT EVENTS:

Check out the Rotary Club of Winnipeg Facebook Page and What's App Page for Photos.

- A night of **Bowling**
- A visit to the **Pitikwe Skate Board Park**
- Meeting with the **Rotaractors at the University of Winnipeg**
- Attending **ECCO Singers** concert, **"The HERO'S JOURNEY"** Directed by **Rotarian Jorrel Camuyong** on February 25th.
- Attended **Unbounded Stories - Dialogue through the Power of Storytelling** with Izzy Hawamda, Nalini Reddy, Clayton Sandy & Karin Ridd - February 29th.
- **Bagula Namakobwa** attended & spoke at UN - ECOSOC meeting in New York on January 29th.

NEW MEMBERS:

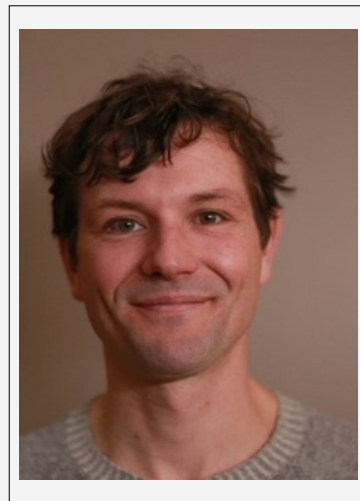
Dwayne K. Till

Dwayne is President and CEO of Tillwell, is driven by a commitment to compassionate care and environmental sustainability in the funeral industry. Before entering the world of eco-friendly funeral services, I devoted over a decade to social work, engaging with various sectors including addiction recovery, economic welfare, and child welfare. This background instilled in me a deep understanding of the support individuals need during life's most challenging moments.

I am also an active member of the community with a passion for yoga, which I have practiced both locally and abroad for over 20 years. My love for cycling takes me on many adventures, allowing me to connect with nature and maintain a clear mind and healthy lifestyle. This hobby aligns with my dedication to environmental responsibility, a value that is at the core of Tillwell's philosophy.

On a personal note, I am a father and a dog owner, roles that enrich my life with joy and responsibility. My academic pursuits in philosophy and the fine arts have given me a creative and analytical approach to my work and hobbies.

I am excited to bring my diverse experiences and passion for social impact to the Rotary Club, contributing to our shared goals of community service and making a positive difference in the world.



David Newman

David was born and raised in Winnipeg. He graduated from Dalhousie Law School in Halifax 1968 after living 3 years in Halifax.

David was a lawyer in private practice in Winnipeg from 1968 (retired in 2023). He was elected MLA for Riel in 1995 and Chaired Review of Civil Justice System of Manitoba - published report in October 1996.

He was active in the Winnipeg and Manitoba Chambers of Commerce for many decades and served on various boards.

David was a member of the Rotary Club of Winnipeg for 40 years and Club President in 1994/95. He served as Honorary Legal Counsel for District 5550 and was a co-founder of Rotary District 5550 World Peace Partners. He has served on various Rotary committee boards and is a current member of Mediators Beyond Borders International and its international working group of Rotarians and friends of Rotary. He is a current and founding member of Rotarians for a Nuclear Weapon Free World; co-founder of Peace Days in 2010 and Winnipeg Honoring Indigenous Peoples and Club Peace Builder Committee.

David has attended many Rotary District Conferences over 40 years; is a member of the Club's Permanent Endowment Fund and a multiple Paul Harris recipient. He and his wife, Brenda, created a Rotary Peace Center Endowment Fund with a gift of \$25,000 US with the income dedicated to fund Rotary Peace Fellowships.



Welcome back to the Club, David!

ROTARY YOUTH PROGRAMS:

Pitikwe Skateboard Park is a new Youth Project located in the old Staples location on North Portage. Pitikwe is a safe place for youth to learn how to skateboard and make friends from 4 PM – 10 PM each day.



Our Club provided a \$5,000 grant for the construction of a couple of new ramps, speakers for music and bands, and to assist with admission fees for Youth who are unable to pay the admission fees.



Philip Rosario, Park Manager and Rotarian
Nancy Cosway



Skate Boards, Helmets and Pads are available

This is an opportunity for Rotarians and their children to attend and learn how to skateboard in a safe indoor all season location. Rotarians can also volunteer at the skateboard park, and there are several donation and sponsorship opportunities listed on their website. <https://pitikweskatepark.com/>

Spring Break Skate Camp Registration Is Open!
The Ultimate Skate Park Experience for Kids



March 25-29 - 9am-5pm

Ages 7-14

LOCAL COMMUNITY PROJECTS:

Sleep in Heavenly Peace – SHP (Beds for Kids) is a NEW project Partnership that is in the process of being developed and implemented. This project appears to be an excellent fit for our Rotary Club.

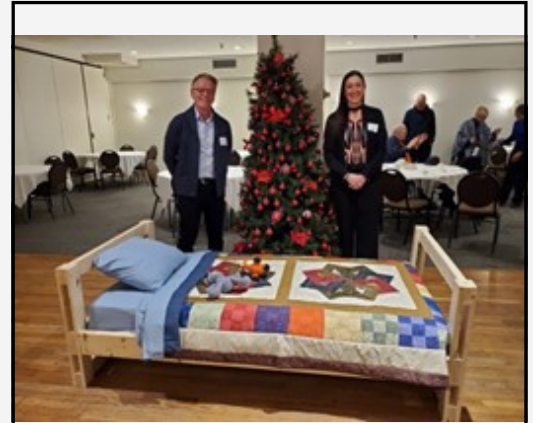
- It is a local project
- Focused on beds for youths (Currently 400 names on a wait list)
- It's a hands-on project. A Build requires 40 volunteers for 4 hours to build 50 beds
- You can volunteer or donate
- It's an on-going project
- And best of all, volunteers can help deliver the beds and see the smiles of joy on the children's faces as they get their own bed.

We are currently waiting for SHP to find an in-door space so that they can do Builds during the winter months. In the past, most Builds were held outdoors during the warmer months of the year.

For additional information, check out their Facebook page & Website.

<https://www.facebook.com/SHPWinnipeg/>
<https://shpbeds.ca/chapter/mb-winnipeg/>

For further information, please contact Frank Cosway at frankcosway@mts.net



Co-Presidents of SHP
Jim Thiessen & Bonnie Emerson

INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS

How do we turn USD\$30,000 into USD\$100,000 for Global Grants for our International Projects?

When our Club contributes a minimum of USD\$50 per member to the Annual Fund, our Club is qualified to apply for a Global Grant. When our Club submits a Global Grant application, we commit at least USD\$10,000 which is then matched by contributions from Rotary International and District Grants for an additional USD\$20,000 totalling USD\$30,000. (These figures are approximate)

Please contribute what you can to help us qualify for Global Grants for our International Projects

To **DONATE to the ANNUAL FUND**, please log-in to **Rotary.org** and DONATE on-line.
If you need assistance to donate, contact Eva Vida eva.vida@icloud.com or 204-792-2156.

Report on our last three Global Grant projects by Strini Reddy

Over the past couple of years our club has been the international partner and major financial contributor to three Global Grant projects as follows :

Female Adolescent Non-Formal Education for Rohingya refugees in one of the refugee camps in Bangladesh. Rtn Kawser Ahmed was our main contact with the project and our in-country Rotary partners.

Literacy Education for 900 women and girls in South Kivu Province in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Rtn Bagula Rubasha was our main contact with the project and our in-country partners.



Making an ample supply of clean water more easily accessible to the residents of the remote village of Taweni in the Eastern Cape Province, South Africa. I was our club's main contact with our South African partner club and the Village Council.

The total value of these three projects was in excess of USD\$100,000. Our club contribution was USD 30,000 which was matched by our District. The District contribution was matched at 80% by The Rotary Foundation.

We are currently engaged with another Global Grant project in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, to enhance the ability of women in remote rural villages to grow their own crops for local consumption as well as sale of the excess produce.

FINANCIAL MATTERS & FUNDRAISING PROJECTS

Our Biggest Fundraiser: Permanent Endowment Fund Report Oct 23, 2023

The 42nd Annual Meeting of the PEF was held on the 23rd of October. However, this is actually the 56th anniversary of the Fund started by Rotarian Tommy Sill in 1967 with a contribution of \$5000. Lest you think that was a small amount, \$5,000.00 back in 1967 would buy you a pretty nice car!

Highlights of the Meeting:

- 1) Assets of about 1.5 million dollars,
- 2) Income from our GIC ladder is growing,
- 3) Income for the current year was \$50,000 dollar
- 4) Income expected next year is to be 55 to 60,000 dollars.
- 5) The PEF contributed **\$45,000** to the Community Service Fund Inc., our Charity.

We need more Rotarians to join us in supporting and managing the Permanent Endowment Fund. For more information speak to any of the Executive about the fund and its operation.

Glen Torgerson, Chairman
David Ross, Treasurer
Ernie Shewchuk, Board Member
Ron Reider, Board Member
Elly Hoogterp, Board Member
Brent Joworski, Board Member



Happy Bucks – Where do your HAPPY BUCKS go?

Happy Buck donations of \$20.00 and over are deposited into the **Permanent Endowment Fund** and are given a charitable tax receipt.

Happy Buck donations of \$20.00 and over that are notated to go to a **specific Club supported project** would receive a charitable tax receipt from the Community Service Fund.

Happy Buck donations **under \$20.00** are deposited into the General Bank Account, with no tax receipt.

Music to Warm our Hearts, organized by our Rotary Satellite Club, in support of Oak Table raised **\$4,600** plus a grant of \$1,000 on January 26, 2024.



Our Concert Musical to raise funds for the Oak Table Project has raised \$4,600.00 which will be converted into new clothing and personal hygiene items among other items. Oak Table is a space underneath the Church of St. Augustine in Winnipeg that offers complete meals and rest, as well as personal hygiene and internet for those on the street seeking help with their personal issues. With that, the Rotary Club of Winnipeg's Rotary Satellite Club has been awarded a \$1,000.00 Grant to use for upcoming projects. Long live Charity Long Live the Music!

For further information, contact Humberto Dantes: Humbertomdantas@gmail.com

HumanKind International Fundraising Dinner will be held on May 30, 2024.

Funds raised at these fundraising dinners are used to support the Early Childhood Education Centre in the Dadaab Refugee Camp in Kenya. Dadaab is one of the largest Refugee Camps in the world.

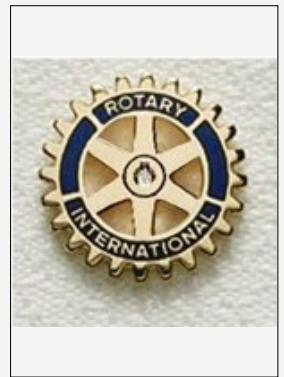
Our Club has supported past HKI fundraisers by having at least 2-3 tables of Rotarians attending the dinner, plus our Club usually presents a cash donation of several hundred dollars. Last year's fundraising dinner on May 25, 2023 raised \$13,593.(net).



For tickets for the up-coming Dinner, please contact Strini Reddy sereddy@shaw.ca
<https://www.facebook.com/HumankindInternational/>

CLUB MATTERS:

Wearing your Rotary Pin is a great way to engage people in conversation as someone asks, "What is that Pin for?" Let's be proud Rotarians and wear our signature Rotary pin. It is a great conversation starter.



SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS:

Please check out the following Social Media platforms for the Rotary Club of Winnipeg on **Facebook**, **YouTube**, **Linkedin**, **Instagram**.

Rotarian Ope Allen has set up a **What's App** platform for the **Rotary Club of Winnipeg Group**. This is a great way to share information, network and keep informed on our club activities. Some of you have been added to the group.

Others need to set-up their **What's app account** and then you can join the Rotary Club of Winnipeg What's App group. Contact Nancy Cosway (ncosway@mts.net) to get the link.

facebook



DID YOU KNOW:

Rotary in Cuba: Nancy and Frank Cosway visited Cuba in early February for seven days. When travelling, Frank likes to attend local Rotary Clubs. Why are there no Rotary Clubs in Cuba?

At our hotel, we met two Rotarians from the Rotary Club of Calgary Downtown. They mentioned that a Calgary Rotarian had informed them that a Cuban had joined a Rotary e-Club. Frank decided to do a little research.



Rotary was present in Cuba from 1916 to 1979. The Rotary Club of Havana was the first non-English speaking Rotary Club in the world in 1916. Cuba was the host Country for the 1940 Rotary International Convention. In 1957, Cuba had 58 Rotary Clubs with 1,800 members.

Frank discovered that the Cuban government never had a problem with Rotary. In 1979, Rotary International decided that it could no longer maintain active clubs in several places, including Cuba, which faced United States sanctions. (So much for being non-political.) In 1979, Rotary International revoked all Cuban club charters. Rotary International stated that all and any country that restricted freedom of speech and assembly could not have Rotary Clubs.

Frank consulted Rotarian Larry Buhler from the Kenora Club for his insights. See his comments below.

Hello Frank

It is good to hear from you. I have been to Cuba at least 25 times starting back 35 years. I have travelled extensively throughout the country by rental car. I attended the trade show ExpoCuba held every November numerous times and built many relationships which I hold dear to this day. We adopted a Cuban family 25 years ago and have 2 Godchildren which are in contact every week. Eva the mother works for ICAP for many years as the Canadian contact. She gathered many engineers, planners and other bureaucrats, with the interest of starting a Rotary club in Havana. I had a friend, the late Joe Froese from Winnipeg who married Esperanza Gonzalus who was a bit of a socialite. Through his connection I was offered the opportunity to meet Fidel's sister who was living in Florida at the time. Unfortunately she died a year later and the connection died.

International President Frank Devlyn 2000-2001 had his convention in San Antonio where my wife and I rode on a motorcycle and were in the parade with Devlyn. I approached him about bringing Rotary back to Cuba and he was pushing very hard to accomplish this goal. A committee was struck with a Columbian lawyer being the chair. I was invited to address the committee and I presented my connections and willingness to be involved. During the meeting an American loudly protested that "if Cuba was allowed into Rotary the White House would stop all funding for Polio Plus".

The response from the chair came loud and swift. He stated "some people in this room think Rotary is American, it is not"!!!!!! "It is International"!!! A very interesting Rotary moment I will never forget.

I have since learned that there is an online underground club in Cuba which is conducted in Spanish, hence I could not be part of it.

*Cheers
Larry Buhler*

LINKS:

Share the Magic Book Program partners with Indigenous author Michael Hutchinson to promote literacy in remote Manitoba communities.

Click on the link below and search for the full Press Release on February 14, 2024

<https://www.facebook.com/p/Share-The-Magic-Book-Program-100064510157409/>



Ken Ploen was a former member of our Rotary Club. Ken Ploen, who led Winnipeg Blue Bombers to 4 Grey Cups, dead at 88

<https://www.cbc.ca/lite/story/1.7114492>

Rotary Peace Centers 2024 Report – Making Peace a Reality ,An excellent 6 page report on the seven Rotary Peace Centers.

https://msgfocus.rotary.org/files/amf_highroad_solution/user_2553/RPC/Feb_2024/2023-24_RPC_General_Support_FINAL--EN.pdf

“Corydon Hardware is Closing” Says owner Rob Benson. Rob’s father the late Michael Benson was a long-time member of our Rotary Club.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/corydon-hardware-closing-winnipeg-1.7126786>

ESRAG Newsletter (Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group)

The March, 2024 Newsletter can be located on the link below.

<https://esrag.org/newsletters/>

Homelessness – Pillows on Concrete – Voices for Change – 2024

A Spoken Word presentation:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8VzizqTIDwms>

“Volunteerism is the voice of the people put into action. These actions shape and mold the present into a future of which we can all be proud.” –

Helen Dyer

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