ROTARY CLUB OF WINNIPEG NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2026

2025 - 2026

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".

The Rotary monthly theme for **March 2026** is **Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)**. During this month, Rotary clubs worldwide prioritize sustainable projects that provide safe water and improved sanitation to communities. Key initiatives typically include:

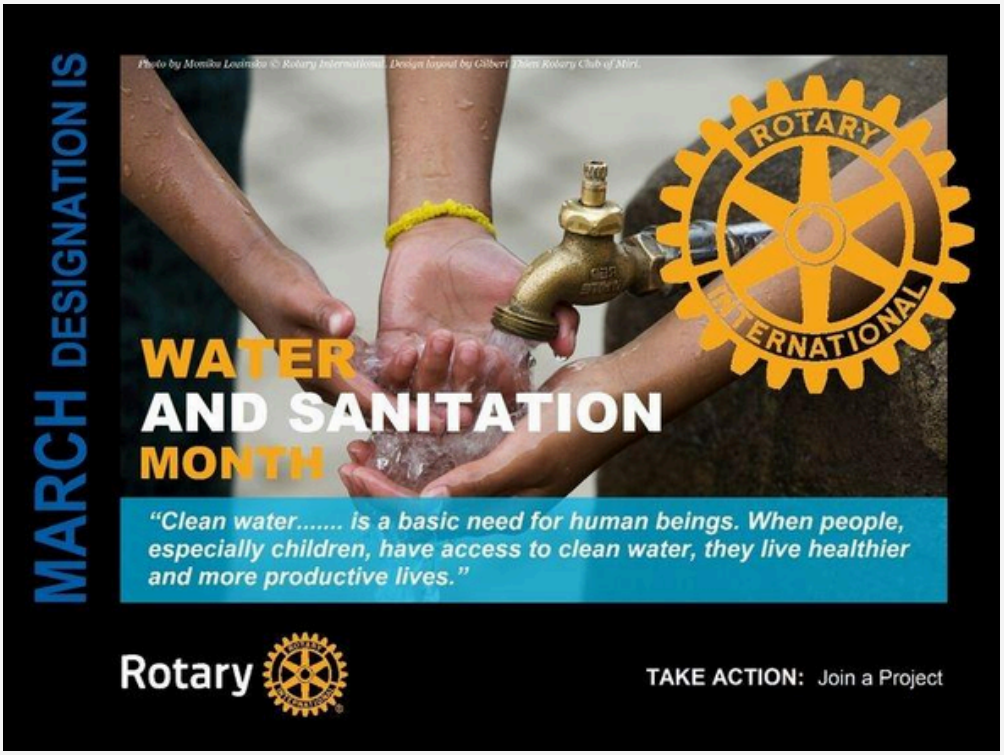
During this month, Rotary clubs worldwide prioritize sustainable projects that provide safe water and improved sanitation to communities. Key initiatives typically include:

Infrastructure: Installing wells, latrines, and solar-powered water treatment systems.

Education: Teaching vital hygiene practices, such as proper handwashing, in schools and community centers.

World Water Day: Clubs often hold special events or advocacy campaigns on March 22 to highlight the management of freshwater resources.

World Rotaract Week: Celebrated from March 9–15, 2026 (or similar dates mid-month), this week honors the founding of Rotaract and often involves younger leaders in WASH projects.



WASH is one of Rotary's seven areas of focus. By investing in clean water, Rotary aims to reduce waterborne diseases, improve school attendance (especially for girls), and strengthen local economies. Since 2013, The Rotary Foundation has invested over $230 million in WASH initiatives globally.

IN THIS ISSUE

- UPCOMING EVENTS
- HEALTH, WELLNESS AND CELEBRATION
- BEREN'S RIVER SCHOOL SUPPORT INITIATIVE
- NEW MEMBER
- CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY
- CLUB MATTERS AND SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS: March, 2026

Rotary Club of Winnipeg

March 11th - Zoom Meeting - Craft Talk with Rtn. Rebecca Deng, at 7:00 pm. She will be telling us about her life and work. Come and learn more about one of our members.

March 18th – Fun & Social Night with Pizza – being organized by Rotarian Juliana Romero. If you want to help, please contact Juliana at: Talk or Text 204-962-1481 or E-mail: jrfono@hotmail.com

March 27 – 29th. District Leadership Seminar in Russell, MB for future Club Leaders. Please contact me if you are interested in attending. The Club will pay for registration costs

April 1st – In-Person Meeting - Craig Wynands, Executive Director, of One Just City. FYI: Oak Table is part of One Just City. https://www.1justcity.ca/

April 18th, Walk With The Earth fundraiser at the Assiniboine Forest - organized by our Honouring Indigenous Peoples (HIP Committee) The funds will be used to support the HIP – Youth 2 Youth program (25 Indigenous youth & 25 Non-Indigenous Youth)

May 8th – 9th Rotary District 5550 Conference 2026 in Neepawa, MB. Check the D5550 website for conference registration details.
https://d5550conference26.weebly.com/

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS: March, 2026

Rotary Club of Winnipeg

March 31st – **Westminster Housing Society** – **small projects** – Volunteers needed This is an **Affordable Housing project**. This is a joint initiative of the Winnipeg Rotary Clubs. Opportunity to work along-side some of the tenants and staff. If you are interested, get in contact with Frank Cosway at 204-294-7079 or frankcosway@mts.net

April 15th – In-Person Meeting - **Winnipeg Goldeyes speaker**

May 2nd - **Building Beds for Kids in Winnipeg** – **Volunteers needed.** In 4 hours, 40 volunteers can build 40 – 50 beds. Contact Frank Cosway at: Talk or Text: 204-294-7079 or E-mail: frankcosway@mts.net

May 8th – 9th - **Rotary District 5550 Conference 2026 in Neepawa, MB.** Check the D5550 website for conference registration details.
https://d5550conference26.weebly.com/

Sunday, June 7th 1:00pm. - Attend the **Winnipeg Goldeyes Baseball Game**. There will be a Special Group price of $22 per seat. The event is being organized by Rotarian John Melnick of our Club and all Rotary Clubs are being invited to participate. Tickets will be purchased on-line. This is a great event to invite Exchange students, Rotaractors, Youth from some of our Community projects, and Friends & Family.

June 13 – 17, 2026 - The **2026 Rotary International Convention** in Taipei, Taiwan.
https://convention.rotary.org/en-us/

HEALTH, WELLNESS AND CELEBRATION:

New Member

Francis Hilaire Vieira

Francis Hilaire brings over twenty years of diverse experience across military service, community management, and entrepreneurship, complemented by an academic background in economics and management. His work across multiple continents has shaped his adaptability and strengthened his understanding of intercultural leadership.

Originally from Strasbourg in eastern France, where he met his wife over twenty-five years ago, Francis moved to Winnipeg three years ago with his wife, their three children, and their two dogs. Manitoba has become their haven of peace — a land of welcome, inclusion, and belonging. His family and he are deeply involved in the vitality of the Franco-Manitoban community, contributing to its culture, events, and initiatives.

He studied at the Inter-Armed Military School of Intelligence and Linguistic Studies, where he honed analytical and cross-cultural skills. His military experience taught him resilience, adaptability, and a solution-oriented mindset — qualities that continue to guide both his personal life and community work.

Francis currently serves as Deputy Director at Accueil francophone of Manitoba, dedicating his time to supporting the integration and settlement of French-speaking newcomers. Beyond his professional commitments, he is a passionate motorcyclist and avid traveler, seeing the road as both a symbol of freedom and a pathway to discovery, connection, and continuous learning.

A lifelong learner, he has recently been admitted to the Executive MBA (EMBA) program at the University of Ottawa to continue growing as a leader. Guided by core values of family, respect, and mutual support, Francis believes that every encounter is an opportunity to make a positive difference.

He has chosen to join the Rotary Club of Winnipeg because, in his experience, nothing matters more in this world than the light and support we can bring to others — helping, uplifting, and connecting with people to create a lasting, positive impact on our communities.

HEALTH, WELLNESS AND CELEBRATION:

Induction Message by Francis Hilaire Vieira

Dear Members of the Rotary,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Tonight, I stand before you with a heart full of gratitude. Being welcomed into this Rotary family is not just an honor, it is a meaningful moment in my life.

Thank you for your trust, and for opening this new chapter with me.

My commitment to service did not begin today.
As a young Scout in France, I learned early that leadership means helping others before helping yourself.

Later, during my time in national defense, I discovered the true weight of responsibility andthe strength that comes from standing together in difficult moments.

Years later, here in Manitoba, I have the privilege of serving within the community.
Every day, I witness resilience, hope, and the power of solidarity.
These experiences have shaped me.
They have taught me that service is not an obligation, it is a calling.

Life has taken me across different countries and cultures.
Each transition required adaptation, humility, and openness.
And through it all, one truth has remained constant:
We accomplish far more when we move forward together.

That is why Rotary resonates so deeply with me.
Here, I see people who do not wait for change, they create it. People who transform conviction into action.
People who believe that small efforts, when united, can create lasting impact.

Rotary represents something powerful:
a living chain of generosity, integrity, and fellowship.
And tonight, I am proud to become one link in that chain.
I would like to express my sincere appreciation to my friend and most faithful supporter. TCHEN KOFFI.
TCHEN, Your encouragement, your belief in me, and your quiet guidance made this step possible.

Thank you for walking this path with me.
I will admit something openly, this decision did not happen overnight.

It took nearly 20 years of reflection, growth, and life experience
before I felt ready to take this step.
But I stand here today with clarity and conviction.
I am here to contribute.
I am here to learn.
I am here to serve.

If I can bring energy, experience, and dedication to our shared mission, then I will consider my presence here meaningful.
With your guidance, your advice, and your team spirit,

I am confident that together we will continue to make a difference in the lives of those who need it most.

Thank you for your warm welcome.
Thank you for your confidence.
I am truly honored to serve alongside you.

Francis Hilaire VIEIRA.

HEALTH, WELLNESS AND CELEBRATION:

NEW CANADIANS

Please Welcome three New Canadians.

Below is a photo of Rotarian Tchen Koffi and his family attending the Canadian Citizenship Ceremony held at the Centre Cultural Franco Manitoba in February, 2026.

In the photo from left to right are: Rotarian Tchen Koffi, Ethan, Judge Suzanne, Elliot, Marie Gabriele, Yann and Erine. Ethan, Elliot & their mother Marie Gabriele received their Canadian Citizenship at the February Ceremony.

Erine will be getting her Citizenship soon. Yann has applied and is awaiting approval and test. Tchen Koffi will apply by June 2026.
Koffi has been very active during the past year, helping his son Yann create a new Rotaract Club at the Universite of Saint Boniface. Yann is the President of the new Rotaract Club. They held their Inaugural Meeting on March 1, 2026.

Celebrating International Women's Day on March 4th

Rotarian Tsungai Muvingi was our guest speaker on March 4th. This was an evening to recognize women.
Tsungai Muvingi is the Associate Provincial Coordinator with the Manitoba Association of Women's Shelters. She sits on the board of Women's Shelters Canada and is currently chair, also sits on the board of Elmwood Community Resource Centre, and a member of Conquer Academy, a performance coaching program. Her background includes a B.A. in Psychology, postgraduate work in International Management and coursework in Tableau Data Development.

Driven by lived experience, Tsungai is a dedicated advocate and champion for those experiencing gender-based violence, intimate partner violence and family violence.
Tsungai shared her insights. It was very moving and informative.
She has worked tirelessly to raise awareness, educate communities, and implement programs aimed at prevention and support. Her commitment to ending the cycle of abuse is unwavering, fueled by a deep-seated belief in the inherent dignity and worth of every individual.
With a profound passion for social justice, Tsungai has dedicated her life to empowering those in our communities impacted by trauma, poverty, and racism to reclaim their voices and rebuild their lives.

BEREN'S RIVER SCHOOL SUPPORT INITIATIVE

Following the destruction of the school in Beren's River, our club mobilized to support the affected students by collecting books and board games to help keep the children engaged during this challenging time.
Thanks to the generosity of several schools that donated books, a total of 240 boxes of books and six boxes of board games were collected. We also extend our sincere appreciation to the dedicated volunteers who helped sort and pack the materials.
All items were successfully packed and shipped to Beren's River at the end of February, bringing encouragement and learning resources to the students.

UNIVERSITE DE SAINT BONIFACE ROTARACT CLUB.

Their inaugural meeting was held on March 1, 2026. CONGRATULATIONS!

President Yann Tchen and Vice President/Secretary Fatim Samake. The Rotaract club advisor is Rotarion Tchen Koffi.

CLUB MATTERS AND LINKS:

Empathy Under Pressure by Rtn Tinuke - https://tinukebh.substack.com/p/empathy-under-pressure

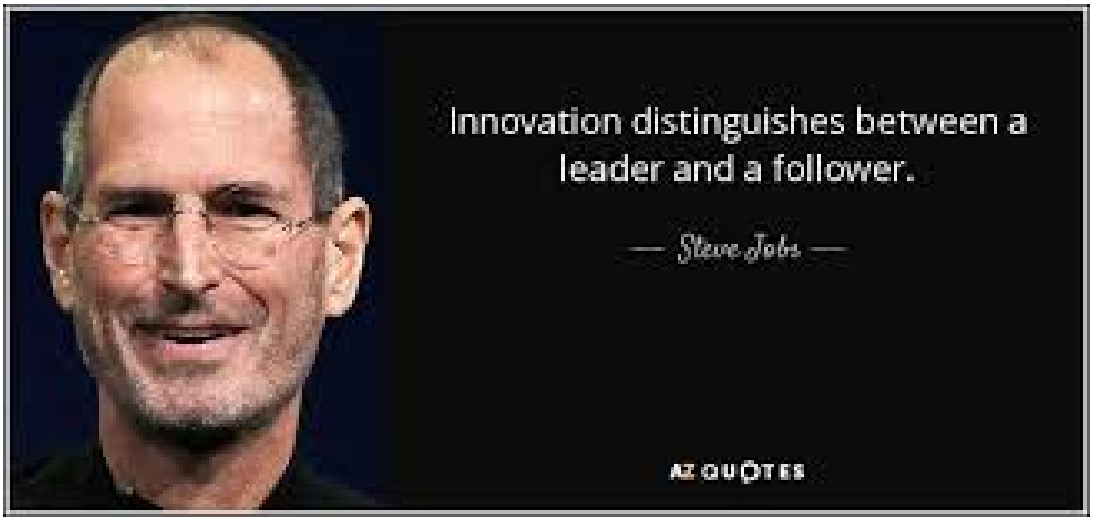
From Lost Girl to Global Advocate - by Rtn Rebecca

SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS:

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

The Club 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) for assistance.



Prepared by :

Oluwafemi (Femi) Adebayo, Editor
Talk & Text: 431-334-5111
femi_mat@yahoo.com