



Official Bulletin of:  
**ROTARY CLUB OF SASKATOON MEEWASIN #22664**



8B -3110 8th St East, Box 425 S7H 0W2  
Founded: April 23, 1985  
Meetings: Monday 0700

**February 5, 2024**

**Peace and Conflict Prevention Month**

**Rotary: Making a Difference**

**District Governor (5550):** Sonja Susut, Moose Jaw

**President:** Luis Pagliarini

**Pres Elect:** Art Whetstone

**Secretary:** Garth Courtney

**Past President:** A. Postle, G. Courtney

**Treasurers:** Art Postle

**Sergeant:** Ron Loopkey

**Desk:** Garth Courtney

**Service Above Self**

**DUES AND OTHER PAYMENTS TO THE CLUB**

- E-mail Transfer from Bank Account
  - Send to Meewasin Rotary Club using the email: [meewasinrotary2020@gmail.com](mailto:meewasinrotary2020@gmail.com)

**DONATIONS TO THE FOUNDATION**

**E.G., Fines, Donations In Lieu Of Meeting Expense**

- E-mail Transfer from Bank Account
  - Send to Rowasin Foundation using the email: [rowasin2020@gmail.com](mailto:rowasin2020@gmail.com)

**Payment by Credit Card** (For either Meeting Expenses or Fines/Donations)

- For a credit card payment contact Art Postle ([postle@sasktel.net](mailto:postle@sasktel.net)).

**Rotary Meeting**

**Zoom – Meewasin Rotary Club**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83624852636?pwd=MjRlRTY2FQWIRmRW9Cd2NKRHISWHlvQT09>

**Zoom & Queen's House**

601 Taylor Street West

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87214323627>

Meeting ID: 872 1432 3627

One tap mobile

+16473744685,,87214323627# Canada

+16475580588,,87214323627# Canada

If you have problems getting on Zoom call Garth at 306 229-3965 or Art P at 306 227-3013

**Call to Order:** The Chair opened the meeting at 0700.

**Attendance:** There were 11 dedicated members who enjoyed a morning of fellowship with their fellow Rotarians and guests.

**Guests:** Gord and Deb LeMaistre, Carol Claypool



The Sargeant raised funds for the following: For Anne who did a great job as Sargeant last month; For not knowing the main story in the Rotary Magazine.



Happy and Sad Dollars. Ron for the Rush rebuilding and win last week; Nancy for 66<sup>th</sup> birthday and for experiencing 5 restaurants; Garth for our guests; Luis for everyone Jennifer for not falling this year yet; Art for falling and trip to Portugal; John for making it back from lake last night on icy highways.

## Announcements

### 1) EDADZ BACKPACK Drop Off



- a) You can Drop off items at John Benesh's Office.
- b) There is a Box in the reception area
- c) Any bag is OK, not just back packs.
- d) Your may bring the backpacks to the meeting to give to John B.

### 2) Meals on Wheels

- a) Contact Nancy Luross regarding signing up or the schedule for Meals on Wheels [--nancy.l@sasktel.net](mailto:nancy.l@sasktel.net) or 306 381-4342

### 3) St Michaels Reading Program

- a) Will be starting tomorrow
- b) Students being assessed for reading level.
- c) GET Police Check form from Art Postle
- d) Will be on Tuesdays – 2:30-3:10
- e) Two people each Tuesday

### 4) Pizza Night – WORKING ON IT

- a) People will buy the Coupons
- b) Use facility at condo – not cost

### 5) Social Media Group

- a) Tom (lead), Ron, Luis and John L met to form the Social Media Group.
- b) The goals are to (1) promote Rotary and Meewasin Rotary in particular and (2) promote club events.

- 6) Lobsterfest
- a) The poster is almost ready to go.
  - b) Peter is working Eventbrite.
  - c) Will be ready to go soon.
  - d) Tickets should be ready in next week or so.

## Club Business

## Program

# R. I. District 5550 Rotary Ripple Effect Program



Gord and Deb LeMaistre provided members with an overview of the Ripple Effect Program. . They have been the Co-Chairs of the Canadian Ripple Effect Committee since July 1, 2009.

Gord & Deb are both past Presidents and members of the Rotary Club of Kenora. Gord has been a member for over 20 years, Deb for more than 14 years

In 2024 they plan on building 5 schools. They received a \$100000 matching grant from a Rotary Club in Iowa.

The Las Pinos School that Meewasin funded. The Rotarians are vey active with the school. They assist in the school. In this image they



The



The school provided the wiring and the computer desks. They used pallets and put a panel on top of it.

The computers improved attendance. If not well behaved, they can't attend the computer class.



This is a later school. They converted a building into 5 classrooms. It had a sand base and good roof. They put in a concrete floor and stage. They added washrooms.



In some cases, they renovate an area.

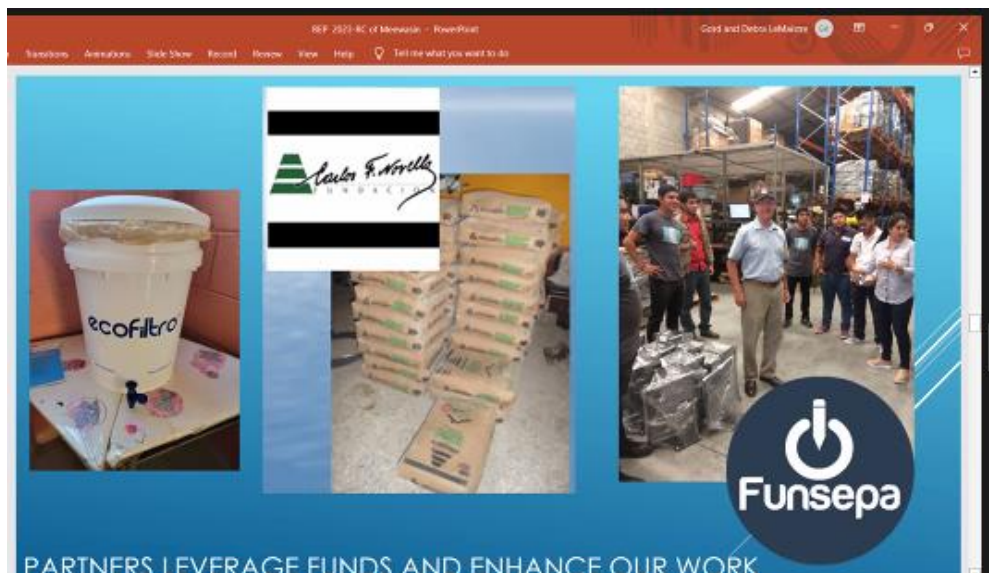


When they visit, they meet with many people. The Canadian Ambassador has met with them many times. They meet with the Minister of Education each year. A cement company has donated 200 bags of cement for each school.



They also run a Teacher Scholarship Program. The graduates return to teach in the schools. One of their students went on to a masters and PHD. She now runs a school teaching 300 teachers for special needs kids.

They offer Middle and High school scholarships. The graduates are accountants, teachers, and other professionals. In many cases, only one child from a family is able to go to school.



The largest global grant was for water and sanitation. It benefited 4000 students.

The upcoming grant is for computers by Regina Eastview.

## NEW PROJECTS

- ▶ A Global Grant for WASH in 7 Schools – Fully Funded
- ▶ A Global Grant -Goal for Guate 3- Computer Project in 20 schools – Fully Funded

\$200,000 US for five school construction projects.  
The REP needs your support to make this a reality!



They have an upcoming Global grant for 5 schools. Our club could get involved in this.

There is great gratitude for our work with the kids.

The Ripple Effect Program (REP) is committed to creating a rich learning environment, with sustainable schools and the hope for a brighter future for children in Guatemala. The purpose of the program is to provide an opportunity to children in challenging environments through promoting literacy and education.

The Ripple Effect Program started with the Kenora Rotary Club, but is now a project of District 5550.

A stated goal is to promote one community at a time until the country is free from poverty.

The Ripple Effect Program is a Basic Education and Literacy program in Guatemala, which includes building or renewing school infrastructure, including washrooms and kitchens, and providing furniture, supplies, computers and playgrounds, focusing on the primary grades. The Ripple Effect Scholarship Fund, encourages Guatemalan students to attend middle school and high school. A Teachers' Scholarship program was started in 2015, and four Guatemalan teachers graduated with a degree in 2017. Four scholarships were also awarded in 2018, enabling four young women to enter their first year of university.

Overall Goals of the Ripple Effect program are:

- The Scholarship Program is an adjunct to the Canadian Ripple Effect Program itself; the goals of which can be stated as follows:
- The eradication of poverty through the support of education in rural Guatemala has also been the fundamental reason for the Rotary's Ripple Effect Program (REP) in that country. Just as the UN has advocated, the REP has also focused on primary education and on the encouragement of girls to obtain an education to further the advancement of women.
- A key fundamental of the REP has been collaboration in an action-oriented way to adapt to the specific educational needs of individual communities in rural Guatemala.
- The UN has put forward that: "Sustainable development strategies of developing countries will continue to give priority to human development, with the eradication of poverty as its central goal."

Since it began in 1989, over 85 schools have been built in rural areas benefiting over 25,000 children. Another important aspect is the construction of bathrooms as the poverty is such that the children don't have sanitary bathrooms. The program also constructs playgrounds, kitchens and computer classrooms. As well, they are installing water filtration systems. Rotary supports teachers in Guatemala through the Ripple Effect Program and has handed out almost 500 scholarships.

Over the last number of years, our club has participated in building the schools in Tameja (2009-10), Los Caneles (2011-12), Chuchuda (2014-15) and Hernaldo Beltran Jr. school in Los Limones (2019-20).

**POWERFUL IMPACT:** We are often asked what impact the Ripple Effect Program is having on the children and on their communities. It is amazing how quickly positive change has happened. At the start of the program most teachers only had high school level education. However, our liaison with the Guatemalan Dept. of Education has resulted in a commitment to provide qualified teachers in each school we build. Now most teachers are university trained educators. Since 1999, the Canadian Ripple Effect Program has built or refurbished over 85 schools, awarded over 550 middle school and high school scholarships, directly benefitted over 25,000 students and invested over \$3,000,000.00 in education in Guatemala.

As a result of the enhanced quality of education, the number of students, particularly female students, has risen sharply. The high quality of education has also resulted in academic success as well as enhanced employment opportunities to graduating young people.

Gord thanked the Rotary Club of Saskatoon Meewasin for their support over the years. Meewasin was one of the first to receive a global grant. It has benefited 2500 students.

The second global grant was in 2018. It was a school with 3 classrooms and washrooms.



### Upcoming Meetings

February	Peace and Conflict Prevention Arthur Whetstone
5	Ripple Effect Program – Canadian Ripple Effect Committee
12	Verona Thibault, Chief Engagement Officer, Saskatchewan Economic Development Alliance
19	Family Day. No meeting
26	Earl Johnson. Children's soccer program, South Africa

### Events

Date	Event	Rotary Club	Information/Contact
April 28	Rotary Badge Shield and Star Dinner	RAP	
May 10 & 11	District 5550 Conference	Moose Jaw & Assiniboia	
May 23 & 24	Lobsterfest 2024	Meewasin	

### Welcome Song

We welcome you today  
Good fellowship 'twill be  
We're glad you chose to begin your day  
With Meewasin Rotary

We hope that you will return  
And join with us again  
Fellowship at breakfast time  
With Meewasin Rotary

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### 4-WAY TEST

Is it the Truth?  
Is it Fair to all concerned?  
Will it build Goodwill and Better Friendships?  
Will it be Beneficial to all concerned?

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### ROTARY GRACE

O Lord and giver of all good  
We thank you for our daily food  
May Rotary friends and Rotary ways  
Help us to serve Thee all our days

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## COMMITTEES FOR 2023-2024



**Administration/ Executive —Meeting administration (program, facilities, meals, supplies)**  
Pagliarini (President) Courtney ( Secretary), Postle (Club Treasurer), Whetstone (President-elect)

**Foundation—Foundation donations, member recognition**  
Fisher (Chair) McArthur, Bailey, Wilson, Muir

**Indigenous Relations—In support of a District 5550 initiative**  
Ferguson, Birkmeier

**Literacy—In support of a Rotary International initiative**  
Postle (Chair), Stefiuk, Berscheid

**Membership—Membership recruitment, engagement, and retention**  
Anne Luross (Chair) Lawrence, Klause

**Public Relations—Club and event promotion, communications, website management**  
John Luross (Chair and Website Administrator), Whetstone (Eyeopener Editor),  
Loopkey, Geenen

**Service—Club charitable giving, foundation grant applications**  
Benesh (Chair), Howland, Nancy Luross, Tenaski,

**Youth—Youth exchanges, adventure programs, school programs**  
Voldeng (Chair), Kessler, Nair, Paproski

### Officers and Directors – 2023-2024

**Board Executive/Officers:**

President:	Luis Pagliarini
Past President	Garth Courtney, Art Postle
President Elect	Arthur Whetstone
Treasurer	Art Postle
Secretary	Garth Courtney
Ass't Secretary	John Luross
Ass't Treasurer	Vacant

**Directors:**

John Benesh  
Peter Voldeng  
John Luross  
Anne Luross  
Robert Fisher

### Monthly Speaker / Program - Members in Charge

*"Rotary Connects the World"*

Listed below are the Theme months and the Committee Chair for each month.

September - Art Postle - Education and Literacy  
October - John Luross - Economic and Community Development  
November – Robert Fisher – Rotary Foundation  
December – John Benesh - Disease Prevention and Treatment  
January – Luis Pagliarini/ Peter Voldeng - Vocational Service  
February – Art Whetstone – Peace and Conflict Prevention  
March – John Benesh – Water and Sanitation

April – Anne Luross – Maternal and Child Care

May – Peter Voldeng – Youth

June – John Luross/ Garth Courtney – Rotary Fellowship