



FROM THE GOVERNOR

A Message from Governor Dino Marzaro

Autumn is here, bringing changing colors and the time change.

Rotary International President Yinka reminds us that change is merely the beginning, while the impact itself is lasting.

I commend every member of Rotary, Rotaract, Interact, and EarlyAct clubs for your involvement, adaptability, expanding reach, and—above all—your ever-growing impact.

Thanks to your posts on social media and the District 7790 Facebook page, many people—including fellow District 7790 members—can discover the events and actions you are undertaking to create lasting impact.

Please remember to send this information to Sylvie Dompierre (sdompierre1@gmail.com), our District 7790 Communications Committee Chair, so it can be featured in this magazine.

Membership was a key focus in August; as of September 30, we had welcomed 47 new members, though 13 members with less than two years of tenure had left their clubs. This underscores the importance of completing your Club Health Report.

In September, many clubs embraced the theme of basic education by collecting books and distributing school supplies and backpacks.

As October begins, clubs are preparing for events marking World Polio Day on October 24. Has your club planned a media event or a fundraiser? If so, please register your activity on endpolio.org and send the details to Sylvie Dompierre (sdompierre1@gmail.com).

In closing, I have begun my visits to the clubs in Quebec. However, as I am recovering from pneumonia and a respiratory virus, I cannot be outside Quebec until 2027. Naturally, thanks to hybrid club meetings, I can speak with members from all the clubs in Maine and Quebec. Does your club use the tools for hybrid meetings?

Thank you to the district's assistant governors and past governors who conduct club visits in the Maine region. Together, let us continue to create a lasting impact.

Dino Marzaro





MESSAGE FROM MARIE-CHRISTINE

Message from Marie-Christine Bouchard, partner of Serge Poulin



To my wonderful Rotary family,

I can never find words strong enough to thank you for all the support you have given me following the passing of my beloved Serge. My grief and the void left in my life are immense, but please know that every gesture, kind word, and thoughtful act has brought me courage and comfort. Despite some still-difficult moments, I am moving forward and feel well supported. The projects Serge initiated are continuing, and that warms my heart.

It will be a great pleasure to see you again at our upcoming activities—including the district conference Serge was so looking forward to attending—for moments that will be moving, of course, but also for laughter and fun, just as he loved to do!

In Rotary friendship,

Marie-Christine Bouchard

Rotary Club of Alma



IN MEMORY OF LOUISE

LOUISE de POKOMANDY

ROTARY CLUB OF SEPT-ÎLES

District Governor 1998-1999, District 7790

Born Sirois in 1938

Passed away on October 12, 2026

Louise was one of the founding members of our Rotary Club of Sept-Îles in 1989.

Her active involvement quickly led her to the club presidency in 1991. Under her leadership, Rotary Park was established in Sept-Îles. This park—where each district governor has a dedicated tree—has been well-maintained for 35 years. She was also one of the driving forces behind our famous lobster dinner, as well as numerous other fundraising initiatives benefiting both local and international organizations.

Louise soon became involved in the leadership of District 7790, and in 1998, she became the first woman in the district to serve as District Governor.

As a Past District Governor—always supported by her steadfast partner and spouse, Gabriel—she remained actively engaged. From 2000-2001, she served on the "Children at Risk Task Force," and from 2001 to 2003, she acted as the regional coordinator for membership within her zone.

In 2004-2005, she served on the World Affairs Committee for North America.

From 2006 to 2008, she was responsible for membership coordination for Zone 2 (if I recall correctly, that was the designation at the time!).

Furthermore, she was appointed as the representative of the Rotary International President to the District 1760 conference for the 2007-2008 year. For our District 7790, Louise chaired the PolioPlus subcommittee from 2003 to 2005, as well as the Membership Attraction and Engagement Committee from 2003 to 2007.

Louise De Pokomandy has left an indelible mark on our club. An honorary member since 2015—following her departure from Sept-Îles—she remains unforgettable for the impact she had on both our club and the region.

THANK YOU, Louise.

[View funeral details for Louise de Pokomandy](#)





COMMUNICATIONS

A word from the communications team

Hello, fellow Rotarians of District 7790.

Our magazine is becoming increasingly popular, and we are delighted! The team works hard to share reflections on the monthly theme and articles about various projects, as well as to showcase the great work happening across our clubs.

I invite you once again to send me:

- Your achievements: a short text with a photo.
- Your upcoming activities: details on the event, date, and location. Include a link for information and registration if applicable.

Feel free to submit a piece showcasing a special project, a reflection, or any other topic.

And why not introduce us to your longest-serving member?

- Who are they?
- How long have they been a Rotarian?
- What are their greatest achievements?
- What motivates them?
- And a nice photo...

We look forward to hearing from you... because you matter!

Sylvie Dompierre

Communications Committee Chair

District 7790



Thank you to the members of the communications committee:

- Dani Desjardins
- Elie Catafago
- Patrick Hervé Goma Maniongui
- Randy Phair
- Sylvain Cloutier

And thank you to our proofreaders:

Marie Roberge · Doug Ibarguen



MONTHLY THEME

October: Community Economic Development Month, by Dani Desjardins.



October is Community Economic Development Month in Rotary, giving us an opportunity to consider what makes a community not only successful today, but stronger for the future.

Community economic development is about people. It is about creating opportunities for individuals and families to build better lives, while strengthening the communities they call home. This can include supporting local businesses, encouraging entrepreneurship, developing job skills, improving access to education and financial resources, and creating opportunities for meaningful employment.

A healthy local economy is about much more than dollars and business growth. When local businesses succeed, they create jobs, support families, contribute to community organizations,



and keep money circulating within the community. When people have the skills, resources, and opportunities they need to succeed, the entire community benefits.

This is where Rotary can make a meaningful difference.

Rotary clubs are uniquely positioned to bring people together. We have relationships with local businesses, schools, nonprofits, community leaders, and other organizations. Those connections allow us to identify needs, share resources, and create partnerships that can lead to lasting change.

Community economic development can take many forms. A Rotary club might provide scholarships, support workforce development, offer financial literacy programs, mentor young entrepreneurs, help connect people with employment resources, or partner with a local organization working to address economic challenges. Even smaller efforts can have a lasting impact when they are focused on the needs of the community.

There are also things each of us can do. Supporting local businesses, attending community events, recommending a local business, volunteering, mentoring, and encouraging young people to explore education and career opportunities are all ways to invest in our communities.

Perhaps most importantly, economic development reminds us that strong communities are built through relationships. When businesses, organizations, schools, volunteers, and residents work together, new possibilities emerge.

A Rotary Fact: Community Economic Development is one of Rotary's seven Areas of Focus. Rotary supports communities by helping people develop skills, pursue economic opportunities, strengthen local businesses, and build sustainable livelihoods.

This October, let's look at our own communities with fresh eyes. What opportunities exist? Where are the needs? Who could benefit from a connection, a conversation, or a helping hand?

As Rotarians, we have an opportunity to be part of those answers. When we invest in people and support the communities around us, we help create a stronger future for everyone.



YOUTH EXCHANGE · PARTICIPANTS

2026-2027 Youth Exchange



We are pleased to introduce the young participants in the Youth Exchange program who have come to enjoy an unforgettable experience in our district. We extend our thanks to the various clubs and counselors who make this stay possible.

We wish them positive experiences that will have a lasting impact on their lives.

In the photo, from left to right: Nela, Anna, Julia, Nina, Joachin, Montserrat, and Hugo.

Emilia and Estanislao have not yet arrived.



YOUTH EXCHANGE · REGISTRATION

2028-2029 Youth Exchange Program Registration



It's time! The registration form is now online for anyone wishing to sign up for the Youth Exchange Program for the 2028-2029 year.

<https://docs.google.com/.../1FAIpQLSdeHdkaUvM.../viewform...>

The Youth Exchange Committee will be holding an online information session on November 11. Stay tuned this week for more details about this upcoming event.

Have questions in the meantime? Feel free to contact us via email at info@rye7790.org or through Facebook or Instagram messaging.



DISTRICT LIFE

News from clubs

Alma Rotary Club



"Yellow Tulip" Project - Breaking down stigma. Sowing hope.

The Alma Club participated in District 7790's "Yellow Tulip" project, a mental health awareness initiative symbolizing hope, resilience, and recovery.

One shared message: Speak openly about mental health and break down stigma.

This initiative also honors the memory of our District Governor, Serge Poulin, in recognition of his leadership, kindness, and commitment to mental well-being.

Together, we are planting a symbol of hope today—one that will bloom again each spring—in front of the Friendship Tree, which stands as a testament to our twinning partnership with the Rockland Club in Maine.

Furthermore, a huge thank you to the EarlyAct students for helping the Gardiner club create the display for the "Yellow Tulip Project," which is dedicated to raising awareness about mental health.



L'Ancienne-Lorette Rotary Club



The 19th Car Rally, held on October 3rd, was a great success. Around twenty teams took part in the event—a wonderful day filled with discovery, challenges, and good spirits!

Thanks to the generosity of participants and sponsors, the event raised \$12,000, which will be distributed to community organizations, notably Autisme Québec and Rayon de Soleil.

Congratulations to the winning teams, and a huge thank you to all the participants, sponsors, and volunteers! A special thank you to the Rotary Club of Québec-Sainte-Foy for their invaluable collaboration in organizing the day.

Photo of the winners, from left to right:

The Autisme Québec team, consisting of Bineta Bah and Julie Dussault, who finished in second place;

Luc Godefroy and Marie-Claude Beaulieu, the first-place winners;

Frédéric Godefroy and Zachary Michaud, who finished in third place.

Together, we are making a difference in our community.



St-Georges de Beauce Rotary Club



The traditional apple sale—held to raise funds—was once again a huge success this year, thanks to everyone who got involved. Thank you all!

The proceeds will be donated to various community organizations throughout the year!

And a big THANK YOU to Les Roy de la Pomme for their EXCELLENT apples! Locally grown apples from a family-run business right here in Beauce!



Ellsworth Rotary Club



The Ellsworth club members hosted a unique event! The community was invited to enjoy blueberry pancakes while supporting a worthy cause. Proceeds will fund scholarships and local charitable initiatives supported by Rotary.

A big thank you to the partner and lead sponsor, Bar Harbor Bank & Trust, for supporting this event!



Presque Isle Rotary Club



They made the first delivery of sand and salt buckets in October through the Safe Steps program! A total of 18 Rotarians and five non-Rotarian volunteers delivered buckets to 81 individuals aged 55 and older from Presque Isle, Easton, Mapleton, Chapman, and Castle Hill who registered for this free program. This activity was fun and rewarding for the volunteers, and the folks who received the buckets were so grateful and kind.

If you would like to benefit from the Safe Steps program, it's not too late! Registrations will be accepted through December 9 for those who are eligible. Register online at www.presqueislerotary.org/safesteps or call the Aroostook Agency on Aging at 207-764-3396.



Montmagny Rotary Club



What a magnificent evening the *Bal en blanc* (White Ball) was! Montmagny's very first *Bal en blanc*, organized by the Rotary Club of Montmagny, was a resounding success—and, above all, a magical event for a worthy cause!

The ballroom at Hôtel L'Oiselière Montmagny was beautifully decorated in a white theme. The Alegria and YDC troupes from Montreal transported us to the festive atmosphere of Rio! And to get everyone dancing, DJ Benoît Rodrigue created an incredible vibe! A delicious dinner, an amazing team, music, smiles, and—most importantly—a community united for a wonderful cause.

Kudos to all the organizers and volunteers, the artists, DJ Benoît Rodrigue, and to you—the wonderful audience!

See you at the next edition!



Sept-Îles Rotary Club



Volunteers from the Sept-Îles Rotary Club got their hands dirty planting 20 new apple trees on the grounds of the Sept-Îles Food Bank. A wonderful gesture that will have a lasting impact.



Dolbeau-Mistassini Rotary Club



A Rotary project turned reality: the official inauguration of the Dolbeau-Mistassini Rotary Music Park!

Conceived nearly five years ago to mark the Club's 25th anniversary, the project had a simple goal: to leave a lasting legacy that would bring the entire community together and be accessible to all.

Over the years, the Dolbeau-Mistassini Rotary Club has invested more than \$26,000 in acquiring outdoor musical instruments. People of all ages can now discover, play, and experiment with them—and simply enjoy themselves together!

As the Club prepares to mark 30 years of community service, it is a source of great pride to see this project come to fruition and—hopefully—let the music play on for many years to come.



Saint-Hyacinthe Rotary Club



The historic grounds of Casimir-Dessaulles Park buzzed with energy, smiles, and passion as over 1,000 participants took to the course for the 54th edition of the Saint-Hyacinthe 2-Hour Relay. Seeing so many young people, families, teams, and running enthusiasts sharing the same track was truly magical.

The Rotary Club of Saint-Hyacinthe was on hand to share an inspiring initiative led by the Fondation du Centre Jeunesse de la Montérégie. The "Bâtir l'espoir" (Building Hope) project aims to revitalize facilities at the Saint-Hyacinthe campus, creating calming spaces for young people to use when facing emotional challenges.



Thetford Mines Rotary Club



The Thetford Rotary Club is proud to have contributed to the creation of the new Sainte-Marguerite Park in Robertsonville—a wonderful play area designed for toddlers and their families.

This project came to life thanks to the initiative of Michèle Labbé and her team; their community mobilization efforts turned a neighborhood need into a tangible reality. A special thank you goes to Rotarian Éric Bujold, who championed this project alongside Michèle, as well as to Desjardins and the City of Thetford for their collaboration.

Together, we foster projects that improve our community's quality of life.



Old Town Rotary Club



While Community Economic Development Month gives us a chance to look at the bigger picture, the Rotary Club of Old Town continues to put service into action right here in our community.

The club recently held his annual Charity Golf Tournament at Hidden Meadows Golf Club on October 3rd and it was a great success. A huge thank you to the generous sponsors, participating teams, Rotarians, volunteers, and the wonderful staff at Hidden Meadows for helping make the day such a success. The tournament helps support the club's ongoing service efforts and gives another opportunity to bring people together for a good cause.

On October 28th, they will celebrate World Polio Day with a Purple Pinky Project at Orono Brewing Company in Orono. This local event supports Rotary's global effort to eradicate polio and gives our community an opportunity to learn more about a cause that has been at the heart of Rotary for decades.

And as fall arrives, they are preparing for a special Old Town tradition: the 76th Annual Hunters Breakfast!! This will be held on October 31st. For more than seven decades, this event has brought people together and become an important part of the club's connection with the community.

These are just a few examples of how the Rotary Club of Old Town continues to Connect, Serve, and Make a Difference—locally and around the world.