



— MONTHLY BULLETIN · ROTARY DISTRICT 7790

The District 7790 Journal

September 2026 · Rotary year 2026-2027 · Create Lasting Impact



SEPTEMBER · BASIC EDUCATION AND LITERACY MONTH

Our clubs in action: a record \$330,000 at Les 24h du Lac

FROM THE EDITOR

An edition bringing together texts originally scheduled for August, under the monthly theme of membership, along with an article on September's theme. Please take the time to read it and be part of the District 7790 Rotary family.

IN THIS ISSUE

GOVERNOR	A word from Governor Dino Marzaro	2
COMMUNICATIONS	Continuing Serge Poulin's legacy	3
REFLECTION	Create Lasting Impact: carrying on through adversity	4
THEME OF THE MONTH	Basic Education and Literacy	5
MEMBERSHIP	Member Spotlight: Joe Cyr	7
MEMBERSHIP	Marco Lemieux: 28 years of dedication	8
OUR CLUBS	News from our clubs	10
CALENDAR	Upcoming events	11

A WORD FROM THE GOVERNOR

Together, let us continue Serge Poulin's lasting impact

By **Dino Marzaro**, Governor of District 7790

As you know, following the tragic passing of our District Governor Serge Poulin, and in accordance with the code of policies, it is the Vice-Governor who may accept the position of Governor. To honour my friend Serge, and above all to show my respect and friendship toward him, I accepted to serve as Governor for the year 2026-2027.

This year's Rotary message, Create Lasting Impact, applies fully to Serge Poulin. Beyond his energetic involvement in every committee and initiative, Serge leaves a visible lasting impact through his immense achievements tied to humanitarian medical missions, suicide prevention training, and Zippy's Friends.

Indeed, hundreds of people have recovered and/or preserved their sight, others decided to keep living despite their challenges, and hundreds of individuals know about Rotary thanks to Serge Poulin. And you surely know of other results that Serge created with a lasting impact.

I invite you to continue your commitment in order to honour Serge's memory, and above all to get involved in a strategic area connected to your own memories of him.

Thank you for joining me. Over the coming year, together, we will pursue the goals Serge Poulin set out in order to create lasting impact.

Thank you, Serge Poulin, for creating a lasting impact and for being an inspiring role model.

**Your friend and fellow Rotarian,
Dino Marzaro**

Governor of District 7790



Dino Marzaro, Governor of District 7790 for 2026-2027.



Serge Poulin
1959 -2026

**Gouverneur
de District
2026-2027**



Dino
Marzaro

**CRÉER UN
IMPACT
DURABLE**



2 pays, 2 cultures, 2 langues, 1 district rotarien

Rotary
District 7790

De Rockland, ME, USA à Sept-Îles, QC, Canada

COMMUNICATIONS

Continuing Serge Poulin's legacy

By **Sylvie Dompierre**, Chair of the Communications Committee

I remember the long conversations with Serge Poulin! Bursting with ideas and infectious energy, he wanted to make communications his top priority for the year. Sharing, discussing, exchanging, and promoting were central to his message. He wanted clubs to talk to one another, learn from each other, and help one another. He hoped to see even stronger bonds forged among Rotarians across the entire district.

The communications team has stepped up to carry on his work. Will you join us?

I invite you to share:

- short texts describing your achievements, accompanied by photos;
- reflective articles on the monthly theme or any other topic;
- your upcoming activities;
- your Rotary experiences;
- your projects, ideas, and dreams.

This magazine is important. Dino Marzaro, who courageously took the helm, also wants publication to continue. So, let's get to work!

Here is an edition bringing together texts originally scheduled for August, under the monthly theme of **membership**. We have also included an article on September's theme: **literacy and basic education**. Please take the time to read it and be part of the District 7790 Rotary family.

Sylvie Dompierre

Chair, Communications Committee · District 7790



Sylvie Dompierre, Chair of the District 7790 Communications Committee.

THANKS TO THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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

AND THANKS TO OUR PROOFREADERS

Marie Roberge
Doug Ibarguen

REFLECTION

Create Lasting Impact: carrying on through adversity

By **Patrick Hervé Goma Maniongui**

After the pain, carry on.

The death and funeral of our District Governor still leave a bitter taste for each of us.

After the disbelief and the pain comes the inevitable question: "What do we do now?"

To answer it, and since this is my job, I would like to invite all of us to reflect on the theme of our year: Create Lasting Impact.

As I reflected on it while writing this column, one thing became clear to me: creating lasting impact means ensuring that what we do can continue beyond ourselves.

Nothing in this world is easy, especially when it comes to service. In the face of adversity, a Rotarian who wants to create lasting impact must therefore persevere. In English, we would say: carry on.

One definition of this expression that I found in an online dictionary particularly caught my attention: "*To persist: keep going through hard times.*" In other words: to persevere, to keep moving forward despite difficult times.

The death of our Governor at the beginning of his term, together with the heartfelt tributes paid to him by Rotary communities, reminds us of two things.

First, that our service helps create today the conditions for lasting impact tomorrow.

Second (and perhaps most importantly), creating lasting impact also means preparing others to continue when we are no longer here.

For District 7790, after the loss of its Governor, continuing to move forward therefore becomes a way of honoring his service, his commitment, and what he had begun to build with us.

So...

Let's carry on.

Patrick Hervé Goma Maniongui

Basic Education and Literacy: why it matters

By **Dani Desjardins**



Being able to read gives a child the confidence to learn.

September is **Basic Education and Literacy Month**, and it's a good time to think about something many of us may take for granted: the ability to read, learn, and understand the world around us.

For a child, learning to read can change everything.

A book can become a favorite story, a new adventure, or a place to escape for a little while. But more importantly, being able to read gives a child the confidence to learn. It helps them keep up in the classroom, understand their homework, discover things that interest them, and begin to imagine what they might want to do someday.

Not every child has the same start in life. Some grow up surrounded by books, with parents who have time to read with them and easy access to educational resources. Others don't. That difference can have a lasting impact.

This is where Rotary can make a real difference.

Across District 7790, our clubs are finding ways to support children, families, schools, and communities. Sometimes that means partnering with a school or library. Sometimes it's providing books or school supplies, volunteering with students, supporting early childhood programs, or simply finding a need in our community and figuring out how we can help.

It doesn't always take a big project to make a big impression.

Think about the excitement on a child's face when they get to choose a book of their own. Think about the adult who gains the confidence to fill out a job application, help their child with homework, or read something they've struggled with for years. Those moments may seem small, but to the person experiencing them, they can be life-changing.

And that's really what education and literacy are about: opportunity.

Education gives us a foundation. Literacy gives us the tools to keep learning long after we leave a classroom. Together, they can open doors that might otherwise remain closed.

As Rotarians, we have an opportunity to help open those doors.

This September, I hope we take a moment to look around our own communities and ask a simple question:

Who could use a little help getting started on their educational journey?

Maybe it's a child who needs a book. A student who needs encouragement. A family that needs resources. Or an adult who simply needs someone to believe they can learn something new.

We may never know how far one small act of service will reach.

That's the beauty of Rotary. We don't have to change the whole world at once. Sometimes, we just have to help **one person see a little more possibility in their own future.**

Dani Desjardins

MEMBERSHIP · MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Joe Cyr: 47 years of Rotary service

By **Dani Desjardins** · Rotary Club of Old Town

We want to take a moment to highlight Joe Cyr as our Member Spotlight and recognize his incredible 47 years of Rotary membership – nearly five decades dedicated to service, friendship, and community.

Many people in our area know Joe as the face of Cyr Bus Line, a name that's been part of Maine's landscape for generations. But here are a few things you may not know about Joe – his Rotary journey, his heart for community, and the personal moments that define who he is beyond the driver's seat.

Joe became a Rotarian on July 27, 1978, inspired by Rotary's commitment to giving back. "I chose Rotary because they were the club that gave the most funds to help build the Old Town community swimming pool," Joe recalls. "I also joined for professional contacts."

Over the decades, Joe has been an integral part of many meaningful projects, but a few stand out in his heart. "The most memorable projects I'm proud of would be The Barkley House, where many special personal moments happened to me, and Sarah's House, which I helped work on with many other Rotarians and volunteers."

When asked what keeps him inspired after so many years, Joe doesn't hesitate: "The best part of Rotary, other than the members, would be the projects and the contacts." His enthusiasm and humor have also made him a familiar favorite among club members – as Joe puts it:

"I usually have a story to tell."

Joe lives in Old Town with his wife, Sue, and if you ever have the chance to chat with him, he can tell you the exact moment when they met – and even what she was wearing that day. If that's not true love, we don't know what is. ❤️

Joe lives by a simple but powerful motto: "Always be ready to help others." His advice to future Rotarians reflects his lifelong example of service: "Attend meetings and always be ready to participate."

Thank you, Joe, for your 47 years of dedication, leadership, and service above self. Your commitment, storytelling, and heart for helping others continue to inspire us all at the Rotary Club of Old Town.



Joe Cyr, a Rotarian since July 27, 1978.

MEMBERSHIP · MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Marco Lemieux: 28 years of dedication at the heart of Rotary Québec-Val-Bélair

By **Sylvie Dompierre** · Rotary Club of Québec-Val-Bélair

As the Rotary Club of Québec-Val-Bélair celebrates its 30th anniversary, there are pillars whose stories are inextricably linked to that of our organization. Marco Lemieux is one of them. A Rotarian for 28 years, Marco embodies the very essence of service and continuity.

The architect of the club's foundations

If the club rests on such solid foundations today, we owe it in large part to Marco's rigor and vision. From the very beginning, he poured his heart and soul into structuring our organization in full alignment with district guidelines. Whether through drafting policies and bylaws, launching the newsletter, establishing our weekly communications, or ensuring sound financial management, his mark is indelibly woven into the club's DNA.

A man of duty and passion, he has held every role within the club. His expertise also extended far beyond our local boundaries; he was actively involved at the district level – particularly in finance, training, nominating committees, and membership management – and served as an Assistant Governor.

Friendship and pushing one's limits as driving forces

What drives a man to remain so committed after nearly three decades? For Marco, the answer is simple: the people.

"What I love above all is the group. Over time, I've built lasting friendships there that foster genuine mutual support."

Rotary has also provided a fantastic arena for him to showcase his professional and personal skills, while putting them to work for the community.

A source of pride that endures through time

Today, Marco's greatest source of pride is looking back at the journey so far: having helped build a strong club and seeing the next generation carry on in the exact same spirit. What he patiently built years ago still stands strong today, upheld by current Rotarians.



Marco Lemieux, a Rotarian for 28 years with the Rotary Club of Québec-Val-Bélair.

More than just an exceptional member, Marco Lemieux is the guardian of our history – the club's living memory.

Thank you, Marco, for 28 years of dedication, leadership, and friendship. He embodies the meaning of membership growth and the Rotary motto: **Service Above Self**.

OUR CLUBS

News from our clubs

Achievements of the clubs of District 7790

New Richmond Rotary Club

Every year, on the first Sunday in August, the New Richmond Rotary Club hosts a salmon dinner for the community's seniors. This year, more than **240 meals** were served. The event helps many people break out of their isolation.



Serving the salmon dinner for community seniors.

Québec-Charlesbourg Club



Rotarian volunteers on site at Les 24h du Lac.



Participants in the 20th edition of Les 24h du Lac.

An incredible **\$330,000** was raised during the 20th edition of "Les 24h du Lac" – a record! Once again, in addition to the Québec-Charlesbourg Rotary Club volunteers, members from the Québec-Val-Bélair, Québec-Sainte-Foy, and Québec La Cité Rotary Clubs lent a hand. Proceeds from this event will support three organizations: the Québec-Charlesbourg Rotary Club, the Quebec Cancer Foundation, and Cité Joie.



Lévis Club

The 34th Gaétan Duchesne Classic, organized by the Lévis Rotary Club, reached a historic milestone: **\$70,000** raised thanks to the generosity of all participants, volunteers, and partners. It is more than just a golf tournament; it is a community coming together to help one another.

Upcoming events

Tell us about your upcoming activities and we will be glad to share the information with every Rotarian across District 7790.



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2026

Car rally • Rotary Club of L'Ancienne-Lorette

The Rotary Club of L'Ancienne-Lorette, in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Québec-Sainte-Foy, invites you to its car rally on Saturday, October 3, 2026.

Arrival: 1:30 PM • Start: 2:00 PM

Cost: \$50 per person • \$20 for children aged 16 and under

Dinner included and door prizes awarded

Registration required: www.rotary-al.org

REGISTER FOR THE RALLY



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2026

Huîtres et Merveilles • Rotary Club of Québec Foundation

The Rotary Club of Québec Foundation invites you to the 35th edition of its benefit dinner supporting **Grand Village: Camps, Répits, Événements**, under the honorary chairmanship of Stéphanie and Stéphane Leblond of Leblond et Associés Inc. – Licensed Insolvency Trustees.

To join us on Friday, November 20, book your tickets online:

BOOK ON ZEFFY