

West Kelowna Rotary Club - Community Services Director's Report

Melissa Hunt-Anderson

Reporting Period: January–February 2026

1. STUDENT OF THE MONTH / SASS AWARD PROGRAM

The Student of the Month (SASS) Award Program continues to gain positive momentum within our local schools.

- February recipients **Ara Sanders and Maddie Brown** were recognized at CNB in Feb.
 - Social media promotion is being coordinated to increase program visibility.
 - Jane is working with Glenrosa Middle School to identify the March recipient.
 - A media release is being prepared (4 recipients at CNB, 2 at GMS), pending approval from principals and parents.
 - Outreach to CBC Radio and other local media will follow to elevate awareness of Rotary's youth recognition efforts.
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2. FIELD OF CROSSES – NOVEMBER 11, 2026 PLANNING

Planning is underway for the 2026 Field of Crosses display.

- The **Westbank Museum** has offered to provide names, dates, and background information on fallen soldiers to enhance the educational and commemorative impact.
 - Potential locations are being explored with the **City of West Kelowna and/or Westbank First Nation (WFN)**.
 - Further engagement with City staff will occur to confirm site availability and requirements.
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3. MBSS SOCIAL JUSTICE CLUB – HYGIENE SUPPLIES DRIVE (MARCH 5 – APRIL 6, 2026)

Rotary has been requested by the **Mount Boucherie Secondary School (MBSS) Social Justice Club** to support with their student-led Hygiene Supplies Project.

Background

- The Social Justice Club (Grades 9–12), led in part by **Roey (Grade 12)** and supported by teacher **Ashley Williams**, independently developed this initiative.
- Students identified increased financial strain in the community and the ripple effects of economic challenges as motivation for the project.

Project Overview

The Hygiene Drive will collect essential personal care items for individuals experiencing homelessness and low-income residents accessing:

- Salvation Army services
- Westside Food Bank
- Outreach workers serving the unhoused community

High-Need Items Include:

- Toothpaste and toothbrushes
- Shampoo and conditioner
- Soap and body wash
- Deodorant
- Menstrual products
- Adult diapers (identified as a particularly high-need item, especially for seniors)

Rotary & City Support

- Roey will prepare promotional posters to support awareness.
- Rotary will invite Roey to present to the Club and request member support through donations.
- Melissa will:

- Connect Roey with Central Okanagan Food Bank, Salvation Army, and outreach staff when donations are ready for distribution.
- Coordinate donation boxes at **City Hall and the Operations Centre** throughout March.
- Assist with messaging to Rotary members and City staff to encourage participation.

This initiative represents meaningful youth leadership and aligns strongly with Rotary's commitment to dignity, health, and community care.

4. WORLD-WIDE DAY OF SERVICE – MAY 2, 2026

Discussions with the City of West Kelowna Parks Department have progressed positively.

- **Rotary Trails** has been proposed as the clean-up site.
- Potential volunteer activities:
 - Leaf and litter removal
 - Removal of prunings (prepared in advance by City staff)
 - Light re-staining of the bridge and viewing platform (materials provided by the City)
- The City will provide:
 - Event booking support
 - Volunteer consent forms
 - Required safety briefing
 - Supplies (stain and brushes)

The proposal will be presented to Club members for approval before confirming the booking and volunteer numbers with Parks.

5. MBSS WALK FOR MENTAL HEALTH – JUNE 2026

- \$25 candy budget confirmed.
 - Event status confirmation pending.
 - Follow-up with MBSS leadership scheduled for February.
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6. CENTRAL OKANAGAN ROTARY DAY – JUNE 20, 2026

Website: <https://www.rotaryday.ca/>

- Request from our WK Club that the branding be changed to **Central Okanagan Rotary Clubs**

Melissa will serve as WK Rotary Club liaison, supporting:

- Recruitment and coordination of nonprofit vendors
- Event planning and community engagement

Request from Planning Committee:

- Each Club to donate or fundraise \$1,500 for the event (**Board motion needed**)
- Request that each Club finds a major sponsor for the event (City Furniture?)

Recommendation under consideration: Melissa brought up the idea to review food ticket pricing (\$5) and increase it to \$7.50 to better support cost recovery and fundraising goals

7. CANADA DAY / WESTSIDE DAZE

Planning continues under Peggy's leadership in collaboration with Debbie and the Celebration Society.

8. JJ'S 3RD ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION (AUGUST 2026 – DATE TBD)

Early coordination with community service partners will begin in May.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING: Monday, March 2, 2026 at 4:00 PM (Microsoft Teams)