

## Donna Barrett BIO

Donna and her husband, Bruce Uditsky came to Alberta from Montreal in the late 70's and have made Edmonton their home. They have two married sons and two grandchildren who all live in Edmonton.

Donna and Bruce began their Rotary journeys in 2003 as charter members of the Rotary Club of Edmonton Sunrise. Donna initially focused her energies on vocational and community service.

Donna holds a doctorate in Education from the University of Alberta and her classification is Education Administration. In the summers of 2009 and 10, Donna participated in the Rotary Belize Literacy Project, working with a team of school administrators from Districts 5360 and 5360 to offer leadership development programs to school principals in 6 different communities in Belize. "I really enjoyed the opportunity to work with school leaders from other countries."

Donna became president of Edmonton Sunrise in 2018. The same year, she assumed the Chair of the District Learning and Development Committee. "It was rewarding to be able to use my experience as an educator to support the development of Rotary leaders across the district". Donna also sits on the District Peace Builder Committee and is excited about the development of Peace Builder Clubs.

Donna began her District Governor journey in 2019, as District 5370's District Governor nominee. Since then, she has been preparing for her current DG role by working closely with PDG's Ingrid, Tracey, and Jim.

Donna and Bruce are Paul Harris Fellows and sit on the steering committee of the Rotary Employment Partnership focused on increasing equity, diversity and inclusion by developing meaningful jobs for individuals with developmental disabilities. Through this partnership Rotarians have created over 600 jobs. Now that is impact!

Donna believes that clubs are the engine that drives Rotary and the role of the District is to provide services and facilitate connections to help clubs achieve their goals. Her focus this year as District Governor is to celebrate the contributions of the Rotary and Rotaract clubs to their local and global communities. She also wants to engage in meaningful conversations to consider how we might take action today to sustain and grow Rotary for the future.