

## **Rotary – what other clubs/districts are doing with COVID-19**

As viewed on the web by PDG Lise Dutrisac on March 21, 2020

### The Rotary Club of Nelson, BC

Due to the need for COVID-19 Precautions and Social Isolation, The Rotary Club of Nelson has cancelled all club meetings until further notice. Board of Director meetings and Committee Meetings will take place using online GoToMeeting.

We hope that everyone will stay safe and healthy, practice social isolation and do frequent hand washing.

### Rotary Club of Simcoe

The health and safety of our Rotarian members and our families is of utmost importance and given the current COVID-19 pandemic necessitates cancellation of our meeting activities in the short term. We need to do our part to support social distancing and thereby the efforts of medical personnel to limit the spread of coronavirus.

After consulting with AG Bob Stevenson and given cancellations related to schools, county facilities (libraries, museums and arenas until April 5) and community activities as well as those of Rotary District 7090 (details copied for your information below), We are cancelling the Rotary Club of Simcoe club meetings until April 20th. This effectively cancels scheduled meetings on March 16, 23, and 30 as well as April 6.

As time evolves, we may need to make further decisions with regard to Club activities.

### COVID-19 Virus Update - March 16/20

To: All Rotary and Rotaract Club Presidents, Presidents' Elect, Club Secretaries

CC: D7080 Council, D7080 Committee Chairs, D7080 Assistant

March 16th, 2020

The COVID-19 situation is evolving hourly. Today, government and medical advisors are asking all Canadians to take stronger measures to contain the spread of the virus. We've been advised that we can flatten the curve of coronavirus by taking further disciplined steps to protect ourselves, our families and our communities by not only being more mindful of hand hygiene, but also through social distancing and voluntary isolation.

We are therefore asking all clubs to suspend all in-person meetings and events for at least 3 weeks from today, or until further notice. It's time to adopt alternative meeting options that will allow us to stay connected until this virus situation abates.

Darren Sweeney and Tom Mennill are currently obtaining annual Zoom licences for individual clusters that can be shared by clubs within each cluster. A reduced annual subscription will also be available to clubs who wish to purchase their own club subscription. The cost will be \$135 per licence per year. However, the registration and approval process for this discounted rate will take another 7-10 days. In the meantime, we encourage everyone to sign up for a free Zoom account [HERE](#). This will allow larger groups of up to 100 people to connect via Zoom for up 40 minutes. The time limit does not apply to smaller groups of 1 – 2 people. The annual licence will not have a time restriction and will allow for groups of up to 500.

We will provide you with information on how your cluster can administer the Zoom subscription and/or purchase your club's own subscription when we receive the licences.

Please do not cancel meetings; rather replace them with Zoom meetings. Encourage past members, friends and alumni to attend electronically. Provide updates to members on how your club and cluster are working together to support our communities and those who need our help during this challenging time. Changing our meeting format is not our biggest risk - our biggest risk is not taking action.

DG Lesley  
District 7080

### Rotary Club of Fonthill

All Meetings and Events Postponed Until Further Notice

Please note that all regular meetings and scheduled Rotary Club of Fonthill events are postponed until further notice. Please email [info@rotarycluboffonthill.ca](mailto:info@rotarycluboffonthill.ca) if you have questions.

Niagara Family Funfest 2020: We have consulted with Bissell's Hideaway about this and have established a new date on Saturday, September 12th

Thank you for your support, patience and understanding.

Please watch this space for further updates.

Back by Popular Demand - Rotary Club of Fonthill Purse Bingo

March 14, 2020 Update. Please Note that due to COVID-19 this event is being postponed until Fall 2020. All tickets and sponsorships will be refunded unless otherwise requested. If you would like to hold your tickets and/or sponsorship for the fall event, please email:

Niagara Family Funfest 2020 Tickets Now Available on Eventbrite!

*Please note that due to COVID-19 this event has been rescheduled to Saturday September 12, 2020.*

### Rotary Club of Kitchener

March 15, 2020

Meeting Cancelled - Monday, March 16, 2020 - Crowne Plaza

In light of the rapidly changing situation with COVID-19 the decision was made by our Board today to cancel our next meeting, tomorrow March 16th, 12:00 PM at the Crowne Plaza. The health and safety of our members, their families and our community is our first and foremost priority. We are listening closely/diligently monitoring messages and guidance from public health authorities and following/implementing as appropriate for our organization. As a result of this discussion, the decision was made to cancel the meeting tomorrow and to evaluate other upcoming dates.

As noted in my March 12th update, the COVID 19 situation has affected many events. Additional updates have been provided by Rotary International and by District 7080 indicating that clubs need to be cautious over the next few weeks in scheduling face to face events. We are aware that other local Rotary clubs are making similar decisions.

Our next scheduled meetings are on March 30th and April 6th. We will decide whether these meetings will proceed as we get closer to the dates.

Cancellations and Updates arising from COVID-19

Soupfest, Friday March 20th - As indicated in separate e-mail from Bill Proctor this event has been cancelled.

In Vino Caritas - This April 16th fundraiser has been cancelled. The committee will be meeting to consider ideas for a fall date and also to ensure all details are covered in cancelling the event.

District 7080 Conference - The May 30th District Conference at Bingemans has been postponed. District Governor Lesley Barmania and incoming District Governor Mike Lawrie will be looking at options for rescheduling this event in the early fall.

### **How Can Rotary Help?**

As outlined in the communication from RI, our clubs have the ability to make a difference and we can give thought to how we can assist our community during this time. In the absence of our meetings, we have formed a small working group to look at ideas where Rotary may be able to assist local groups and people vulnerable to COVID-19. Examples may be to help with local charitable groups or perhaps assist seniors, including club members (past and present) who are at most risk to help minimize their contact with others (potentially arranging to deliver supplies etc.).

The working group of Louise Gardiner, Cheryl Ewing, Hubert Singh and I will develop ideas to share with the club. Your suggestions are welcome.

### **Zoom Meetings**

In the absence of face to face meetings, we do have access to Zoom Meetings that can be arranged through the District. These are available for Committee Meetings and possibly we may consider this as an alternative to a regular meeting. For additional information on scheduling a Zoom Meeting please contact Rotarian Tom Mennill.

Your understanding of the need for these changes and your support for the work of Rotary is appreciated.

Paul Rostrup  
President 2019 - 2020

### COVID-19 related ban leads to District Conference cancellation

Our District's 2020 Vision Conference in Vancouver April 24 – 26 was expected to attract upwards of 350 registrations. With great regret District leaders have cancelled the District Conference in response to BC Health Minister Adrian Dix's announcement on March 12 that the provincial government has banned all events with more than 250 people to reduce the spread of COVID-19, including sporting events, upcoming concerts and all religious gatherings.

Our District's commitment to ensuring the health and safety of all conference attendees includes complying with any local health advisories as they arise and making firm decisions when and if necessary as we have now done.

We did not reach this decision lightly. Some of our fellow members have invested a tremendous amount of volunteer effort, led by Conference Chair Tom Smith, to make this year's conference a tremendous success as it was promising to be. We had an outstanding list of speakers lined up. Thank you very much to all of you for your contribution.

This conference cancellation joins those in two of nine Districts in the Rotary Pacific Northwest Zone which have cancelled their district conferences in response to advisories

from their local health authorities. Those, and other Districts, have also postponed local District events and cancelled the District's Friendship Exchange to Russia, postponed from last year, and RYLA North and South. The District has also issued advisories to all outbound Youth Exchange participants.

District 5040 clubs are encouraged to follow the provincial government's directive as they see fit for meeting groups under 250, and for other events bringing groups of members and community members together. The period for these cancellations should be determined in your best judgment. The BC Ministry of Health's advisory on the COVID-19 virus may be helpful.

Bala Naidoo  
Rotary District 5040 Governor

### Rotary District 5040 monitoring coronavirus outbreak

*This message is on behalf of District Governor Bala Naidoo.*

District 5040 is being vigilant and closely monitoring the global outbreak of the coronavirus (COVID-19) in conjunction with Rotary International, the World Health Organization, the BC Centre for Disease Control and the provincial health authorities.

At this time, District 5040 events and programs including RYLA South (Gibsons), the 2020 Vision District Conference (Vancouver), RYLA North (Prince George) and RYLA Lakelse (Terrace) are going ahead as scheduled until further notice. However, the trip by Kenya's Vocation Training Team that was scheduled to visit our district in April is in the process of being cancelled or postponed.

For those who are travelling, everyone has to examine their own insurance policy for what they do and do not have, and what their insurance provider is currently saying.

This past week, we received notice that the Coronavirus is now considered a "known risk" by insurance companies and as such is no longer included in coverage for policies issued after March 5, even if the Canadian government subsequently issues a Level 3 or 4 Travel Advisory.

We do recognize that things can change quickly. If they do, we will adapt accordingly and keep everyone informed if anything changes.

For more updates from Rotary International, you can check out this [link](#). The BC Centre For Disease Control [website](#) also has important information and updates.