

RotaryCanada

*A new leaf
Un nouveau feuillet*

*October 2017
Octobre 2017*

The power of Rotary

*Behind Canada's pledge
to fight polio*

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*Ontario club makes a
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La France aux portes du Canada

Rotary





VOCATIONAL SERVICE IS AN AREA unique to Rotary and yet difficult to explain.

Rick Lucy retired from the Abbotsford (B.C.) Police Department to employ his professional skills in a different way. He has applied policing to serving Africa.

After reading his story, perhaps you can think of others in your Rotary club or district who have served or could serve in a similar way.

What unique skills exist in your club that could provide the basis for a vocational training team? Perhaps more important, think about what skills exist in your community that could be of vocational benefit elsewhere and attract new Rotarians.

Rotary is changing to meet the needs of an evolving constituency. That does not mean we should abandon the very component of our organization that sets us apart from other service groups.

Vocational service is an opportunity to bring our skills to bear in a direct and useful manner, and a way to celebrate our vocation as we pursue our avocation.

ROD THOMSON
Chair, *Rotary Canada* Advisory Board
Rotary Club of Semiahmoo (White Rock), B.C.

PHOTO *of the* MONTH

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Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon est le dernier bastion de la France en Amérique du Nord.

COURTOISIE DE CLUB ROTARY DE SAINT-PIERRE & MIQUELON



Multipronged effort ends in \$100,000 pledge to fight polio

by PAUL ENGLEMAN

In June, nearly 24,000 Rotarians applauded when Marie-Claude Bibeau (above), Canada's minister of international development and La Francophonie, pledged CA\$100 million to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative at the Rotary International Convention in Atlanta. The pledge marked the culmination of a multifaceted advocacy effort to gain government approval for the appropriation.

Canada had pledged CA\$250 million to the initiative in 2013, two years before

the Trudeau administration took office, and fast-tracked that funding, fulfilling its pledge two years early. GPEI used the money in Pakistan and Nigeria to improve the detection and monitoring of poliovirus and increase acceptance of polio vaccination team workers. In the year leading up to the convention, representatives of Rotary intensified their advocacy efforts to ensure that Bibeau, the key decision-maker, understood the urgency of the need for a new round of funding.

One part of that task involved an online communications effort in which Wilf Wilkinson, national advocacy adviser and Rotary past president, called on the 25,000 Rotarians in all 700 Canadian clubs to sign a petition supporting polio eradication that one of GPEI's partners arranged to have posted on the Canadian Parliament website. Another strategy involved efforts by individual Rotarians to directly engage their local members of parliament and government contacts – some by renewing relationships, others by establishing new ones. In an op-ed in the *Globe and Mail* urging support for polio eradication funding, former Prime Minister Paul Martin, himself a polio survivor, noted Rotary's role in the campaign.

2017-18 Vice President Hendreen Dean Rohrs, of the Rotary Club of Langley Central, B.C., cultivated a crucial new source of support at a luncheon where she met John Aldag, the recently elected MP from her district and a member of the Rotary Club of Langley, B.C. Aldag set up a meeting at which he briefed Bibeau on polio eradication, and he arranged a follow-up meeting with Bibeau attended by Rohrs, Wilkinson, and Rotary Advocacy Specialist Kris Tsau. That coincided with Bibeau's acceptance of Rotary's invitation to address the annual convention.

"At that meeting, as we chatted about the whole of the polio issue and the role and impact of Rotary and Canada,

it was really interesting to see Minister Bibeau and some of her senior staff come to terms with the might and power of Rotary," Rohrs says. "I could tell she was surprised when she realized that she would be addressing a group of 20,000 people at our convention and would be onstage with Bill Gates and so many leaders of other countries."

In announcing the government's support, Bibeau said, "Canada has been a leader in the fight against polio from the very beginning, and we are committed to seeing it through to the end." She noted that it was a Canadian scientist, Dr. Leone Farrell, who determined a way to mass-produce the polio vaccine in the 1950s, and she praised Rotarians for their efforts through the years.

"While sitting through that polio session, listening to Minister Bibeau deliver her speech, I could feel a swell of empathy from the people around me," says Rohrs. "I was so proud to be a Canadian and a Rotarian at that moment, my heart nearly burst."

Canada's latest pledge brings the country's total contribution to polio eradication to nearly US\$650 million. The recent pledge helps address the \$1.5 billion still needed to ensure that the initiative can stop transmission in the final endemic countries, react to new challenges, and make sure the polio infrastructure benefits other health programs. Canada's contributions will be used where they are needed most.



La France aux portes du Canada

par Rodney Coady-Bouillié, président 2016-17 du club Rotary de Saint-Pierre & Miquelon

Le District 7820 est très particulier puisqu'il comprend un club qui n'est pas seulement francophone, mais bel et bien français. Ce District englobe les provinces canadiennes de Nouvelle-Ecosse, Île-du-Prince-Édouard, Terre-Neuve-et-Labrador, mais aussi le petit Archipel français de Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon.

Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon est le dernier bastion de la France en Amérique du Nord, un territoire de 242km² qui compte une population de quelque 6000 âmes, majoritairement composée de descendants des marins basques, bretons et normands.

Cet archipel a un Rotary Club depuis 1989 et compte une quinzaine de membres. Malgré la petite taille du club, il est reconnu par son District comme étant l'un des plus vaillants et enthousiastes dans l'esprit du Rotary.

Ici, au Rotary, nous nous préoccupons beaucoup des besoins de nos deux communes par l'assistance

lors de différentes nécessités en matériel médicalisé et soutien lors de déplacements pour soins, que ce soit sur le Canada ou la France. Nous avons depuis quelques années un programme d'aide pour l'Association des Nouveaux Résidents Canadiens par le don de centaines de cartons de vêtements chaque trimestre. Nous contribuons également aux efforts internationaux par notre participation aux diverses bourses proposées par notre District. Notre club prépare en ce moment une bourse internationale afin de permettre l'organisation d'une mission humanitaire en Côte d'Ivoire dans le cadre des Journées Rotariennes pour la Santé Familiale et nous en sommes très fiers.

Nous participons aussi aux Échanges amicaux et notre club a eu le grand plaisir d'organiser la visite de son archipel pour des centaines de Rotariens venant de proche comme le Canada et de loin comme de la

Nouvelle-Zélande. Nous préparons pour cet automne un échange avec la Floride et les Bahamas. Il nous fait chaud au cœur de pouvoir partager notre petit bout de France en Amérique du Nord avec nos amis du monde entier.

Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon, c'est la France aux portes du Canada. Notre mode de vie y est particulier, et la touche française est présente dans tout ce que nous faisons et ceci est très agréablement ressenti par nos voisins en Rotary à chaque fois qu'ils nous visitent ou que nous leur rendons visite. Notre parler et manière d'être tellement français sont un souffle de bonheur pour notre District anglo-saxon et de ça aussi, nous en tirons une grande satisfaction.

Le Rotary Club de Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon lance une invitation ouverte à tout Rotarien et Partenaire pour que l'on vienne nous voir et découvrir notre charme et notre hospitalité légendaire.

FORCE FOR GOOD

Richard Lucy



Richard Lucy (right) has been advising police in Namibia for nearly a decade. Here, he's pictured with Windhoek Police Chief Abraham Kotokeni Kanime and Sam Nujoma, the founding president of Namibia.

It's more than 15,000 kilometres between Abbotsford, B.C., and Windhoek, Namibia. But Richard "Rick" Lucy has a way of making that distance seem awfully short.

Over the last decade, Lucy – a retired Abbotsford deputy police chief and a member of the Abbotsford Rotary Club – has travelled to Windhoek roughly a dozen times to advise the Namibian capital's first police force. Their mutual goal? To make Windhoek the safest city on the continent.

Lucy knows a bit about policing. It's a family tradition: His grandfather and uncle served in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, his father was a police officer in Vancouver, and his son became a police officer in Calgary. As a teenager, Lucy went on ride-alongs with his dad, soaking up everything he saw and heard. He went on to spend 34 years on the Abbotsford police force, rising through the ranks before his retirement in 2015.

What Lucy recalls most from his decades on the force are the times when people came up to him and said, "You won't necessarily remember, but you were involved in an incident I was part of," such as a car accident. "They tell you years later about what a difference the actions you took made for them," he says. "I still have that happen, even now."


It was the chance to help on an even larger scale that drew him to Namibia. In 2007, the new Windhoek City Police Service contacted the Abbotsford Police Department and asked for its assistance. (Why look to Canada? Years before, the RCMP had provided training and advice to Namibia's national police force.) "They needed help in virtually every area," Lucy says. "It was the first time anyone in the region had created a city police force."

Starting in 2008, Lucy and other Abbotsford police officers visited Windhoek, Namibia's largest city, about once every year and a half to provide training in such areas as crime analysis, operational insight, and strategic planning. Lucy accepted a contract as an adviser on policing and public safety for Windhoek in 2015; he now visits twice a year for a few months at a time.

One of the first things Lucy did when he began going to Namibia was to seek out the Rotary Club of Windhoek, where he has become a regular attendee. That has let him maintain his Rotary involvement while he's away from home and allowed him to introduce the Windhoek police to Rotary and reinforce the idea that police officers should be involved in community organizations.

"Like anywhere else, the Rotary club members in Windhoek are highly involved community members and business owners, and so they're quite invested in the well-being of their city and want to work with various agencies, including the police, to help," says Lucy. "This has been just one more step in linking police directly to the community." He has also begun working to connect the Windhoek Rotarians with members of his club. He would like the Abbotsford Rotarians to support some of their Windhoek counterparts' initiatives, which include assisting a local school for the children of farm workers.

In Windhoek, "they're facing challenges that we aren't used to in most places in North America," Lucy explains. "It has the same kind of crime that goes on in most any community or city. It's just that the frequency of it is much greater in certain ways. There are people who are involved in committing crime who are doing so for no reason other than they are in tough circumstances, unemployed, requiring necessities of life. And it's a city that is growing very rapidly."

How does Lucy think of his time in Namibia? "The word 'adventure' gets used quite often, and there is an adventure piece to it for sure," he says. "But in the end, it's just people who wanted some help, and we were in a position to help." – ANNE FORD 

SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME

**To celebrate Canada's sesquicentennial,
Ontario club plants a maple grove with a special silhouette**

by PAUL ENGLEMAN

If you're flying into Toronto for the 2018 Rotary International Convention, look down. You might catch a glimpse of a giant sugar maple leaf in the forests outside the city, courtesy of the Rotary Club of Guelph, Ont.

Since 2008, the Rotary Club of Guelph has celebrated Earth Day by organizing hundreds of volunteers and providing financial support for a tree-planting initiative designed to re-establish the forest and aid water management in the Guelph area, about 100 km from Toronto.

In partnership with the Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA), Guelph Rotarians and other volunteers have planted 4,000 to 5,000 trees each year for the past decade on a section of GRCA land that has come to be called the Rotary Forest. By the time the program is completed in 2020, the centennial year of the club, some 60,000 trees will have been planted, covering 40 hectares. (A hectare is about 2.5 acres.)

For 2017, the 10th year of the program, the club added a new twist to the annual rite of spring. In recognition of the 150th anniversary of Canadian confederation, the planting included a grove of 150 maple saplings configured in the shape of a giant sugar maple leaf, the species on the Canadian flag. You can enjoy the aerial view on Google Earth and on some flights in

and out of Pearson International Airport in Toronto.

"GRCA is a wonderful partner to work with," says Carolyn Weatherson, who chairs the Guelph Rotary Club's environmental committee. "They are just as excited about this as we are, and the community really pitches in. We have a wide range of support from every age group and every possible demographic. The kids who come out to plant are getting a great education in voluntarism as well as environmental stewardship."

The seed for the maple leaf motif was planted by GRCA environmental educa-

tion specialist Greg Meredith after he bought a house in the country and started looking at it on Google Maps. "We planted a thick hedge of cedar trees around the maple trees to define the outside of the giant leaf," says Meredith, who has worked at GRCA for 30 years. "It's going to take a number of years for the maple trees to grow, but the hedge is visible already. My hope is one day we will have a giant red maple leaf surrounded by a dark green line of cedar trees."

Designing the maple grove involved a combination of "ingenuity and digital tools," Meredith says. The digital component made use of satellite imagery data and geographic information science (GIS) measuring tools on the GRCA website. The ingenuity was provided by seniors from St. James High School, who used measuring tapes and staked out the ground. The width of the grove is 60 metres across the maple leaf and the length is 50 metres from the base to the tip.

The reforestation program is about much more than aesthetics. The GRCA is one of 36 conservation authorities in Ontario, which manage and protect the province's waterways and woodlands and develop programs to prevent erosion and flooding. Early settlers removed nearly all of the region's tree cover and, by the 1930s, only 4 per cent of the forest was left. "That






Clockwise from top left: James Clarence “Clare” Rennie, who died in 2016, is honored for his role in starting the Guelph Rotary Club’s forestation project; the club has celebrated Earth Day with hundreds of tree-planting volunteers every year since 2008; Guelph Rotarians and other volunteers plant 4,000 to 5,000 trees each year; a hedge of cedar trees will outline a grove of maples configured in the shape of a giant maple leaf.

created a number of issues – one of the big problems being flooding,” Meredith says. “Planting trees is one of the important things that GRCA does. Trees on the landscape keep water in the ground and reduce the speed of the snow melt. Our goal is to reach 30 per cent tree cover in our watershed.” That, he says, is the minimum level of future sustainability; currently the forest covers just over 20 per cent.

The club is building a system of hiking trails to provide easy access through the forest for visitors and school groups that

take part in outdoor education programs offered by GRCA. “Our district [7080] has allotted funds to make the Rotary Forest special for our centennial year,” Weather-son says. “We want to make it a hub for the community.” Signage along the trails will provide educational information and highlight points of interest, and a kiosk and benches planned for a high point on one trail will give hikers views of the entire forest. The club has named the spot Clare’s Lookout, in memory of James Clarence “Clare” Rennie, an environmentalist and

former president of the Guelph Rotary Club who was instrumental in getting the forestation project off the ground. Rennie died in 2016.

“This was a visionary project from the beginning. It’s good for the environment, good for the Rotary brand, and good for the people in the community,” Weather-son says. Adds Meredith: “When I walk in a forest today, it’s because somebody pre-served that for me 50 years ago. I won’t live long enough to see this become a forest, but my grandchildren might.” 

COURTESY OF GUELPH TODAY

Inspiration AROUND EVERY CORNER

The service project that changed everything

Bilal, from Tripoli, Lebanon, and Greg, from Massachusetts, USA, formed an extraordinary connection at the 2012 Rotary International Convention while painting and fixing a school playground affected by flooding in Thailand. What began as two strangers having a conversation rapidly grew into a project that transformed the lives of Syrian refugees by providing over 1,500 ShelterBoxes in Lebanon and the Kurdistan region of Iraq.

**Find your inspiration at the Rotary Convention in Toronto.
Register today at riconvention.org.**



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