



DISTRICT CONFERENCE 2019

"It's What We Do!"

October 18th – October 20th

PROGRAM SUMMARY



FRIDAY

- 11:30 – 13:00** First Timers lunch - Waterhouse Ballroom 1-3
- 13:30 – 14:55** Plenary Session 1 - Peninsula Room
Opening Ceremonies
Ashley Hales, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards - *How RYLA Changed My Life*
District Conference 2020 - District Governor Elect Lynne Chant
- 15:15 – 16:00** Plenary Session 2 - Peninsula Room
Melissa Toupin-Laforge, Rotary Peace Fellow 2011-2013 - *How Rotary Changed My Life*
- 16:15 – 18:15** Assistant Governor Hub Crawl - Summit Building #51 - Hosted by Areas 2, 3, 5, 7
- 18:30** Indoor BBQ - Peninsula Room
DJ - Midnight Express

SATURDAY

- 07:00 – 08:00** *It's What We Do!* Breakfast Buffet - Peninsula Room
- 07:00 – 08:00** Rotaractors Breakfast Buffet – Waterhouse Ballroom 4
- 08:15 – 10:15** Plenary Session 3 - Peninsula Room
Paul Chappell, Peace Literacy Director & Rotarian - *Peace Literacy: Healing Trauma, Navigating Technology, and Protecting Humanity's Future*
Heydi Chanco, Guatemala Literacy Project Scholarship Graduate - *How My Scholarship Transformed*
- 10:15 – 10:30** Celebration of Life – Peninsula Room - Louise Thomson
- 10:40 – 11:25** Breakout Sessions
1. *Tips and Tricks for Growing your club and for Reflecting Diversity in Rotary* - PDG Lise Dutrisac
2. *Fabulous Big and Small Fundraising Ideas to Help Fund your Projects* - Panel Discussion
3. *"It's What We Do!" - How to Start an International Project* - Panel Discussion
- 11:30 – 12:15** Plenary Session 4 - Peninsula Room
Waubgeshig Rice, Former Youth Exchange Student, Indigenous Writer & Journalist - *From Germany to Journalism*
- 12:15 – 13:15** Lunch - Peninsula room - District Awards - PDG Susan Davidson, DG Bill Hagborg
- 13:20 – 14:15** Plenary Session 5 - Peninsula Room
Youth Exchange Program
"It's What We Do!" Rotary Moment [French] – Luc Tessier, Chapleau Club
- 14:20 – 16:05** Service Projects & Wellness Activities and Membership & Margaritas (run concurrently) -
Service Project 1 - *Helping Honduran Women* - Waterhouse Ballroom 1
Service Project 2 - *Guatemala Literacy Project* - Waterhouse Ballroom 4
Service Project 3 - *Local Women's Shelters* - Waterhouse Ballroom 5
Wellness Activity 1 - *"Lushes with Brushes"* - PDG Jack Lockhart, internationally acclaimed Canadian Artist
Wellness Activity 2 - *Deerhurst Fall Color Walk* – Allison Brownlee
Membership & Margaritas - Summit #51 Lounge
- 16:30 – 18:30** Assistant Governor Hub Crawl - Summit Building #52 - Hosted by Areas 1, 4, 6, 8 and Rotaract Clubs
- 19:00** "District Poutine Pints & Plaid Shindig" - Peninsula Room - ** Live Band - *Freedom Train* **

SUNDAY

- 08:30 – 9:40** Plenary Session 6 - Peninsula Room
Nicole Lavigne, Rotarian, Former Rotaractor and Youth Exchange Student - *Rotary in the millennial generation*
District Conference 2020 - District Governor Elect Lynne Chant
RI Convention 2020 - Honolulu, Hawaii, USA - District Governor Nominee Steve Meadley
"It's What We Do!" Rotary Moment [English] – Brandy Van Gelder, Huntsville Club

SPEAKER BIOS



Ashley Hales, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA)

Ashley will share her story and message of courage and hope as participant in RYLA, and how it (and the people who coordinate it) changed her life. She had left home at 16, and her high school principal recommended her for the program. From there, she gained confidence and built her network of support, and graduated from high school and went on to university, where she has been studying International Development.

After her first year as a RYLA participant, she was a leader in the following year, and last year, was selected and funded to attend the North American RYLA conference in Washington.



Melissa Toupin-Laforge & Nelson Sanz Cadena, Rotary Peace Fellows

Proud wife, mother of two and full-time manager, Melissa lives life in the fast lane... and loves every minute of it. A study abroad opportunity as an undergraduate student at Nipissing University sparked her career in international and intercultural education. Since then she has lived, worked, studied in various parts of the world, including Tokyo, where she completed her Rotary Peace Fellowship. She truly embraces the multiculturalism and acculturation in all aspect of her personal and professional life and helps volunteers, students and professionals

do the same through training programs and workshops. Melissa is currently the Manager of Professional Development at the Canadian Bureau for International Education in Ottawa.

Nelson Sanz-Cadena is a papi (Spanish for daddy) of two beautiful children, a very lucky husband of a northern Ontario girl. As a child growing up in Caracas, Venezuela, Nelson always dreamt of traveling around the world and discovering new and exciting cultures and people. His passion for traveling led him to spend most of his early adult years in the US, Australia, Japan and South-East Asia. During this time, Nelson worked in various international organizations supporting people and communities in vulnerable situations whilst also completing his graduate studies as a Rotary Peace Fellow in Tokyo. Upon completion of the fellowship, Nelson moved back to Australia to continue his work with the Red Cross and to form a family with his wife Melissa. Two children and 5 houses move later, Nelson is now acclimatizing to his new home in Aylmer, Quebec, learning Canadian English... Eh! and loving his new job as Senior Manager Psychosocial Support with the Canadian Red Cross.



Paul Chappell, Rotarian and Peace Leadership Director, Nuclear Age Peace Foundation

Traveling across the United States and internationally, Nuclear Age Peace Foundation (NAPF) Peace Leadership Director Paul K. Chappell lectures on waging peace, ending war, the art of living, what it means to be human. He also teaches workshops and courses on peace leadership and the author of 6 books, the most recent being the *Soldiers of Peace*. Paul is an Iraq War veteran and former army captain. Paul is a member of the Rotary E Club of One World D5240. For more information visit – <https://paulkchappell.com/> and www.peaceliteracy.org



Heydi Chanco, RISE Program Graduate, Guatemala Literacy Project

Heydi will share her emotional story of her life's transformation after receiving a Scholarship from the RISE Program, Guatemala Literacy Project. Heydi is employed by the Cooperative for Education, NGO partner for the project. For more information visit – <http://www.guatemalaliteracy.org/>



Waubgeshig Rice, Indigenous Writer, Journalist and former Rotary Exchange Student

Waubgeshig is an author and journalist originally from Wasauksing First Nation. His first short story collection, *Midnight Sweatlodge*, was inspired by his experiences growing up in an Anishinaabe community and won an Independent Publishers Book Award in 2012. His debut novel, *Legacy*, followed in 2014. A French translation was published in 2017. His latest novel, *Moon of the Crusted Snow*, was released in October 2018. Waub got his first taste of journalism in 1996 as an exchange student in Germany, writing articles about being an Anishinaabe teen in a foreign country for newspapers back in Canada. He graduated from Ryerson University's journalism program in 2002. He's worked in a variety of news media since, reporting for CBC News for the bulk of his career. In 2014, he received the Anishinabek Nation's Debwewin Citation for excellence in First Nation Storytelling. He currently hosts *Up North*, CBC Radio's afternoon show for northern

Ontario. Waubgeshig Rice is an author and journalist originally from Wasauksing First Nation. His first short story collection, *Midnight Sweatlodge*, was inspired by his experiences growing up in an Anishinaabe community and won an Independent Publishers Book Award in 2012. His debut novel, *Legacy*, followed in 2014. A French translation was published in 2017. His latest novel, *Moon of the Crusted Snow*, was released in October 2018.



Nicole Lavigne, Rotarian and former Rotary Youth Exchange Student, Rotaractor

Nicole's Rotary Story started with her grandpa, Robert Lynch (long-time member of the North Bay Rotary Club). Some of her earliest memories include going out to Rotary events with him and the North Bay Rotary Club. In 1999/2000 Nicole was the outbound Rotary Youth exchange student from North Bay and spent a year in Baden-Baden, Germany. Later she joined the Rotaract club at the University of Toronto until she graduated and joined the Rotaract club of Gosnell in Perth, Australia. Nicole now lives with her husband John and their cat Luna in Calgary, Alberta where Nicole works in commercial sales and enjoys rock climbing, hiking and camping in Calgary's mountainous backyard.

In Calgary, Nicole and John are also involved in the Rotary community and after not having any luck with existing clubs, they have in the past year started a new satellite club with other young Rotarians and are now associated with the Rotary Club of Calgary West. They call themselves the Rotary West afterhours group and we meet on a Rotating schedule in local microbreweries on a monthly basis.

SERVICE PROJECTS

Helping Honduran Women Feminine Hygiene Kits for Under-privileged Honduran Teens

Helping Honduran Women

Honduras is one of the poorest countries in the world and education is a key out of poverty. For many young women in the country school is inaccessible for hygienic reasons. They do not have the supplies necessary to allow them to attend school or work when they are menstruating.

Participants will produce kits containing washable feminine hygiene products for under-privileged Honduran teenagers. These kits will allow the girls to attend school and work without restriction due to a lack of menstrual supplies, and they will also be taught to produce kits themselves. All materials will be provided and there are no special skills required.



Guatemala Literacy Project – Teacher Kits

Guatemala is one of the poorest, least educated countries in the western hemisphere. Four out of five indigenous Guatemalans live in poverty and the average indigenous adult has less than a fifth-grade education. One third cannot read or write, they are illiterate. When a student starts in primary school, they learn to read with the Spark Reading Program.

Participants will fill 'Teacher Kits' with basic teaching supplies for the Kindergarten to Grade 6 students participating in Spark. All materials will be provided and there are no special skills required.



Local Women's Shelters

Facilities for women fleeing abuse is a home where women can go for safety, support and direction.

These shelters are committed to helping abused women and their children, living in communities across our District and beyond, rebuild their lives. By working together as shelter teams and in partnership with local communities, the shelters work hard to ensure that women and children have a safe and supportive place to turn to when home is no longer an option.

Participants will put together overnight hygiene kits, and other items suggested by the shelters, such as pajamas socks, underwear, grocery food vouchers, for women (and children) dealing with abusive issues. These kits and other items will be then distributed to the participants who have shelters in their communities.

CONFERENCE PHOTOS

View the photos courtesy of our Conference Photographer, Marc Durocher...[HERE](#).

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