



On Tues Jan 26, 5pm-6pm, Join Central Peel's Interact Event About Human Trafficking

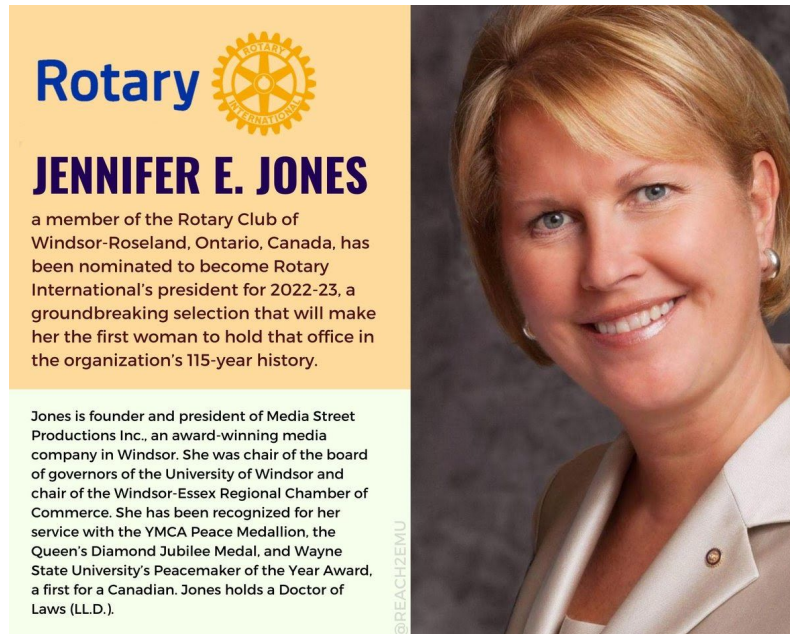


As one of our district's most vibrant Interact Clubs, Central Peel Secondary School continues to adapt and operate through Covid. The picture above was clearly from the Pre-Covid times but it conveys the engagement, excitement and the desire to serve others that Rotary Interact was created to foster.

For example, in January, CPSS Interact has been focusing on raising awareness about human trafficking. On **January 26 from 5pm- 6pm** they have organized a free virtual **Conscious Consumerism** event, where students can learn about the role individuals and consumerism plays in preventing labour trafficking. The purpose of this event is to raise awareness on the various aspects of human trafficking, through a respectful, sensitive and action based approach. **To sign-up bit.ly/signup4cc.**

[Interact Human Trafficking Event - Sign Up Here](#)

Canadian Jennifer Jones will be Rotary International's first female President



Congratulations to Ontario's Jennifer Jones on being elected Rotary International's President for 2022/2023. For that year Jennifer will lead Rotary's 1.2M global membership as well as the 250,000 Rotaractors and 500,000 Interact Club members worldwide.

While originally an all male organization, women have been an important part of Rotary International for over 30 years. As you would expect, female leadership has been critical to our organization and I am pleased to say that in local Rotary District 7080 and across Canada, women have for many years held the roles of District Governors, Club Presidents, and all other senior leadership positions.

While we are not yet at gender parity there is a steadily increasing number and proportion of women members and leaders in Rotary. For example, in 2021/2022, the Rotary Club of Oakville Trafalgar will have elected a female President for the fourth year in a row, despite women only representing 40% of the club membership.

[Jennifer Jones Short Video](#)

[Jan 2021 Jennifer Jones Presentation \(She starts talking at 9.56 mins\)](#)

Rotary's newest area of focus is Environment. Interact Clubs are invited to play an active role.



Rotarians, Rotaractors and Interactors do a lot of great work all over the world through volunteering, fundraising and in establishing humanitarian programs and projects. While there are as many great ideas and events as there are clubs, over time Rotary International has learned that a focus on certain critical issues has the biggest long term benefit for almost any community.

There used to be six of these **Rotary Areas Of Focus** but **Supporting the Environment** has recently been added. That is not to say Rotarians were not concerned about having a healthy planet before, it just means that it was recognised that we can have a much greater impact if, instead of it being incorporated within the other areas, concern for the Environment was specifically chosen and highlighted as Rotary's seventh area of focus.

The goal of this change was not only to recognize that a sustainable environment has a fundamental role to play in enabling a healthy and fulfilling life for every citizen of the world, but also to encourage members of the Rotary family to play their part, both individually and collectively, to address environmental concerns both at home or overseas.

Here is an opportunity to get involved. As the youngest tier of Rotary International, our District 7080 Interact Committee would like to invite and challenge each of the active Interact Clubs to research, consider, plan and launch or partner with an environmental activity in your community. If you need funds, think about how you may raise these, or alternatively, put together a project proposal and a budget and submit this to your local Rotary Clubs for their consideration.

It would be great for a few Interact Clubs to be able to do something related to the environment before June. However with the Covid restrictions it is also OK to think more long term by having an event or initiative it planned out in this school year ready for launch in September or October. Reach out to your local Interact support teacher or your Rotary mentor if you need some help.

If you take on this challenge please post the event information on the Rotary District 7080 Facebook page and we will help you publicise it and follow your progress. You don't have to reinvent the wheel. There may be well run environmental groups in your community that would appreciate your support, and they may already have scheduled events like local area litter or riverside clean ups or tree planting days, and be keen to have more volunteers.

The Rotary term **INTERACT** was derived from **INTER**national **ACT**ion. This is a reminder that focused, Rotary led activities and projects, both locally and internationally, can often generate a more effective outcome than well intentioned but poorly directed activism.

[Rotary's New Climate Change Initiatives](#)

What Subjects Would You Like To See Included At The Milton Youth Summit On April 10, 2021?



SAVE THE DATE! The Milton Rotary Club has a long history of supporting youth in their community and beyond. They are always thinking out of the box, so knowing that the Covid restrictions have been particularly tough on the youth in our communities, they decided to pull together the funds and resources needed to plan and run a one day virtual Youth Summit.

District 7080 Interact eNewsletter - December 2020

The event planning committee consists of a blend of youthful and experienced (meaning older!) Rotarians from Interact, Rotaract and Rotary. It is being spearheaded by Rotarians and youth leaders from Milton.

Want to earn one of our VIP Passes? Contact the organizers at miltonrotary7080@gmail.com and give them your suggestions for what would be a truly engaging topic for your demographic. This could be the name of an inspirational speaker, a subject for debate or an idea for a virtual workshop. If the organizers select your idea then you will get a VIP Pass and a mention at the event.

Regular FREE event invitations will be selectively made available to youth aged 12-24 years throughout Halton. Keep in touch through social media to ensure you don't miss out. Finally, as the heading states, **SAVE THE DATE, Saturday April 10, 2021**

[Milton Rotary Youth Summit - Find Out More](#)

Nelson Interact Club Supports The Community



The Nelson Interact Club is a team of students in all grades that meets weekly to discuss opportunities to get involved in our community. Everyone is friendly and has a genuine interest in helping. We are sponsored by the Rotary Burlington North and work together with them on various projects.

District 7080 Interact eNewsletter - December 2020

Through these, we earn volunteer hours and are learn that even the little things we do in our communities can make a difference in people's lives. During the pandemic, people need assistance and people who care for them more than ever. Nelson Interact members address these needs and work on ways to serve others in every way that they can.

We currently meet weekly over Google Meet and stay connected through Instagram and the Google Classroom. We are one of the very few Interact clubs in the District still able to operate. Prior to Covid-19, we were involved in events like Burlington Ribfest (which is Canada's biggest Ribfest), the Sound of Music Festival, serving at the Salvation Army and raising money for the Bethany Residence.

Although the pandemic has changed how we assist our community, we are still dedicated to helping others and creating a better life for those in need. One project that we have been focused on is raising money and supporting the Bethany Residence in Burlington, a home for 125 adults struggling with severe mental illnesses like schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. Due to Covid lockdown, they cannot leave the premises and take walks like they used to. The residents can walk on the property but isolation and loneliness are still problems. Many don't have families that visit.

The Residence does not accept cash donations but is open to receiving gift cards, pajamas, and personal care products. They also have personal needs lists for certain residents so people can donate more specifically. During the pandemic, we wanted these people to know that someone does care about them and is willing to help. Recently, Rotary and Interact donated \$700 in Tim Hortons gift cards so that the Bethany Residence can buy coffee and goodies. Interactors also created Christmas cards and a large sign.

Rotarians Mary Brady and Mr. Ross (one of the Rotary Mentors to our group) delivered the cards to the Bethany Residence: The residents were overjoyed by the donations and we thank Rotary for helping us do such kind things.

Another initiative Nelson Interact has been working on is supporting the community lunch program at Wellington Square United Church. For the holidays, church volunteers made boxes that carried traditional Christmas meals, a gift, and some treats for families in need. Another thing they have been doing is preparing hundreds of snack bags for children. They have been asking for donations from the community as they need about 800 individual snacks each week.

Recently, the church needed volunteers to wash dishes and we helped out. They have also been accepting donations like hats, mittens, Tim Hortons gift cards, lunch snacks, and stocking stuffers. Rotary Clubs in Burlington contribute a lot to these programs. Furthermore, Nelson Interact Club has been working on creating virtual educational sessions to discuss mental health, plus another initiative where students can study/receive help with their schoolwork from a tutor.

A few members have created Instagram pages to reach out to the Nelson student body to see what they are interested in and what they would like to see come out of these sessions. Our goal is to create safe environments where people can learn, study, and have comfortable conversations with others. The pandemic has been hard socially for many students, and by doing these things we can help them feel more at ease and comfortable with their courses.

District 7080 Interact eNewsletter - December 2020

In summary, the Nelson Interact Club is dedicated to helping others in any way that we can, even in hard times like the current pandemic. Through many platforms we spread the news about each initiative that we take part in and hope to inspire others to join our cause. Every donation makes a difference and many lives can be blessed. Nelson Interact hopes to see this happen more and more so that people in our community can feel loved and know that there are those who care about them and their needs.

Christiana Lammers, Grade 11, Nelson High School

[Nelson Interact Club Twitter](#)

[Nelson Interact Club Instagram](#)