October 2025

Rotary District 7090
Rotary Foundation Newsletter

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🔦 In This Issue

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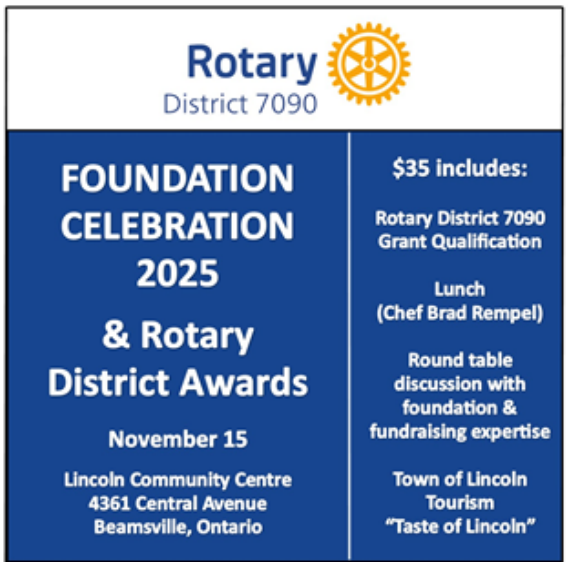
New Rotarian's Learning Session – October 28
Foundation Celebration & Grant Seminar – November 15
Spotlight Story: Lincoln Rotary multiplies its community impact through District Grants
Legacy Giving: “Donating In-Kind” with Wolfgang Lindemann
Rotary Peace Fellowships
Paul Harris Fellows: Celebrating outstanding Rotarians making a difference
Your Support Matters: Together we raised over US$569 million last Rotary year!
and more

Feature Quote

“Every act of generosity, large or small, contributes to a world of lasting peace, goodwill, and opportunity.”
— The Rotary Foundation



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KEY EVENTS

- October 20: **Cluster Grant**
- **October 24-World Polio Day**
- October 24-Pints for Polio and Light up the Arches Fonthill
- October 27-Light up Niagara Falls
- October 28: Foundation Open Hour
- November Foundation Month
- November 3 **Michael McGovern** Polio-zoom

LOOKING AHEAD

- November 15 : **Rotary District Grant Training 9-1 approximately**
- November 15: **Foundation Celebration 1-3**
- December 2: **Giving Tuesday**

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

- ***Goals set for Foundation not too late!!***
- ***June 10- deadline for global scholarship applications to RI for September 2026 starting or 3 months prior to courses***
- **qualify for Global Grants-year round**
- **June 30 Contributions to Foundation for year 2025-26 must be postmarked by June 30, and arrive by July 5**

www.rotary7090.org
see events

Rotary
District 7090

FOUNDATION CELEBRATION 2025

& Rotary District Awards

November 15

Lincoln Community Centre
4361 Central Avenue
Beamsville, Ontario

$35 includes:

Rotary District 7090 Grant Qualification

Lunch (Chef Brad Rempel)

Round table discussion with foundation & fundraising expertise

Town of Lincoln Tourism "Taste of Lincoln"

END POLIO NOW

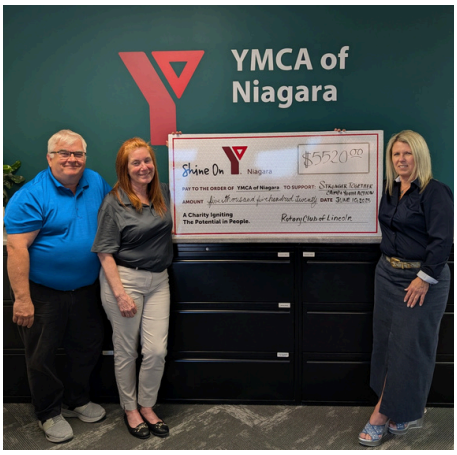
ENDOWMENT FUND-SHARE

UNITE FOR GOOD

Rotary

DISTRICT GRANTS

Grants Chair - Sue Foster
Sub-committee - Club Grants Chair
suefoz@gmail.com



Bigger Impact for your Club Project Budget?

A story about how a club project can be multiplied by accessing District Foundation Matching Funds.

The Lincoln Rotary budgets monies every year to give to different
local community groups with an emphasis on groups that support kids and youth
A presentation was given by the YMCA of Niagara around the summer camp program offered this summer. The club allocated $2000 Canadian to directly fund access to the YMCA's Summer Camp for children and youth through the Helping Hands Program to support the day camp programs offered by the YMCA Niagara.
At this time the club was notified that there were still District Grant Matching Funds available, and although we had already accessed the funds with an approved grant the club decided to apply for another District Grant.
By applying and receiving a District 7090 grant the club was able to significantly enhance the donation to $5520.
.The donation helped ensure that no child was left behind due to financial barriers and that every child has the chance to experience to PLAY, GROW, THRIVE and sense of belonging that camp provides. This support bridges the financial gap for these families—turning what would be an unreachable opportunity into a real, life-enhancing experience. The donation helped support approximately 60 children and youth to the day camps.

For more information on how your club can access
District Foundation Matching Funds
contact Sue Foster - Club Grants Chair

A FOUNDATION MOMENT

The Rotary Foundation is the engine that transforms and supports projects that changes lives in our local communities and around the world.

WHAT IS POLIOPLUS?

Ending polio is Rotary's main humanitarian goal, and PolioPlus is the program that supports these efforts.

It was launched in 1985 with help from Dr. Albert Sabin, the developer of the oral polio vaccine, as a worldwide program to protect children from the paralyzing consequences of polio.
Rotary later became a founding member of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative.

Since then, the incidence of wild polio cases has decreased by 99.9% and the wild poliovirus remains endemic in just two countries, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The processes Rotary helped build to fight polio have also been used to protect communities from COVID-19 and other diseases. This illustrates the Plus in PolioPlus.

But polio anywhere is a threat to children everywhere. Only global eradication will ensure that no child suffers its devastating effects ever again.

HOW SUCCESSFUL HAS THE EFFORT BEEN TO ERADICATE POLIO?

Because of Rotary's support, nearly 3 billion children have been immunized against polio and are protected for life against this crippling disease.

Rotary and our partners reduced the number of wild polio cases from 350,000 in 1988 to 25 in 2024. Twenty million cases of paralysis have been averted through this global effort.

The wild poliovirus is now endemic in just two countries, and we won't stop our effort until we're able to give children a polio-free world.

WHAT IS ROTARY'S POLIO FUNDRAISING CHALLENGE?

Rotary is committed to raising US$50 million every year for polio eradication. Through our partnership with the Gates Foundation, every $1 of that is matched 2-to-1.

Raising both funds and awareness and mobilizing volunteers are among Rotary's primary roles as a partner in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. With our members, we've contributed more than $2.6 billion to fight polio, including matching funds from the Gates Foundation, and Rotary volunteers have dedicated countless hours to protecting children everywhere.
You can take action and raise awareness on World Polio Day, 24 October, and throughout the year.

Learn more about Rotary's efforts to eradicate this disease at endpolio.org.

Rotary Peace Fellowships: Peacebuilding & Conflict Resolution in Action

Each year, Rotary selects Peace Fellows through a highly competitive global process, recognizing personal, academic, leadership, and professional excellence. For **2026–27**, the Rotary Foundation will fund **50 Master's Fellowships** and **140 Professional Certificate Fellowships** at Rotary Peace Centers hosted by leading universities worldwide.

What Fellows Receive

- **Full funding**: tuition, fees, room & board, round-trip travel, and internship/field study costs
- **Program value** (estimated): **>$85,000 USD** (Master's) and **>$35,000 USD** (Professional Certificate)

Why It Matters
Peace Fellows gain advanced skills to lead and build peace in communities and regions around the world. With **1,800+ alumni in 140+ countries**, graduates serve in government, NGOs, education, research, peacekeeping, law enforcement, business, human rights law, media, and international organizations (including the UN).

Key Dates (2026–27 Cycle)

- **Applications open: February 1, 2026**
- **Applications close: May 15, 2026**

Who Should Consider Applying
Emerging and established leaders committed to peace and development—professionals in public service, nonprofits/NGOs, education, security, law, journalism, community development, and related fields.

Learn More / Get Involved
Questions or want to help with outreach? Contact **District Peace Fellowship Subcommittee Chair, Bob Munroe** at **munroerobert@yahoo.ca**.

Donating "in kind"

Some of the main reasons for giving to the Endowment Fund are to establish your Rotary legacy, provide a permanent source of funds to support Foundation grants and programs that are important to you starting now or in the future, estate tax planning and to be part of Rotary forever.

One of the best tools for funding a bequest or gift is to donate securities "in kind" to The Rotary Foundation, you must first have qualifying securities such as publicly traded stocks, bonds, units in mutual funds, exchange-traded funds (ETFs), and segregated funds. Private company holdings are generally not eligible. You will then need to contact The Rotary Foundation, to initiate a transfer directly from your brokerage account. All you have to do is inform your financial advisor, who can help arrange the transfer of securities directly from your investment firm to The Rotary Foundation. This allows you to avoid capital gains tax on appreciated securities and receive a charitable tax deduction, making the gift more tax-efficient.

When you donate appreciated securities "in kind" (meaning, without selling them first), you do not pay the capital gains tax on the profit the securities have made. You receive a tax receipt for the full fair market value of the donated securities, allowing you to claim a charitable tax deduction.

There are many options but the most impactful gift or bequest for one's Legacy is to establish a Named Endowment Fund with a gift of 25,000+USD.

Imagine the tremendous impact of your Legacy after many decades of investment not only in the markets but also in life changing, sustai
designated portion of your gift has been applied to.

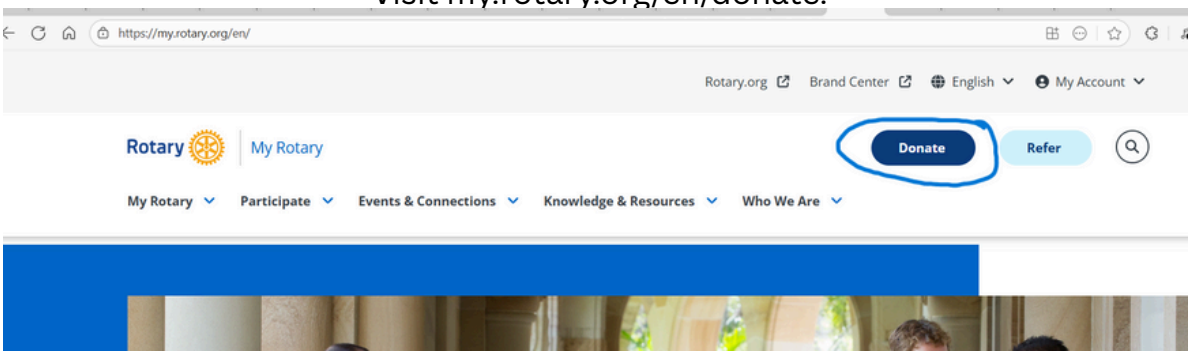
Wolfgang Lindemann
RC of Norfolk Sunrise
District Endowment/ Major Gift
Subcommittee Chair
wolflindemann1@gmail.com

FUND the FUTURE

Wolfgang will speak at your club on endowment and The Rotary Foundation

How to Donate to The Rotary Foundation

Your support helps Rotary create lasting change — in your community and around the world.
General Steps to Donate
1. Go to the Official Rotary Website
Visit my.rotary.org/en/donate.



(Canadians receive a tax receipt through The Rotary Foundation Canada.)

2. Choose Your Donation Method
Online: Make a credit card gift or set up a recurring contribution.
Rotary Direct: The easiest way to give — automatic contributions starting at just $10.
By Phone: Call 1-866-976-8279 (1-866-9ROTARY).

By Mail: Send a cheque payable to The Rotary Foundation or The Rotary Foundation (Canada).
Address details available on Rotary's website.

3. Specify Your Gift (Optional)
PolioPlus (eradicating polio worldwide)
Rotary's Areas of Focus:
• Peace and conflict prevention/resolution
• Disease prevention and treatment
• Water, sanitation, and hygiene
• Maternal and child health
• Basic education and literacy
• Community economic development
• Supporting the environment
Together, We Inspire Hope

Every gift — big or small — transforms lives. Donate today and be part of Rotary's global movement for good.

👉 my.rotary.org/en/donate

All gifts to Rotary Annual Fund can be used for District 7090 for District Grants

🍺 **Pints for Polio – Raise a Glass, End Polio!-World Polio Day**

Join fellow Rotarians and friends as we celebrate World Polio Day

📍 Kame & Kettle Beer Works
25 Pelham Town Square, Fonthill, ON

📅 Friday, October 24, 2025
🕖 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. fellowship at the brewery-have your pinkie painted purple
📸 9:00 p.m. – Group picture under the Rotary Arches

Come enjoy good company, great conversation, and a pint in support of Rotary's signature cause — the eradication of polio worldwide.

Rotary International has been at the forefront of the effort to end polio for more than 35 years. With support from partners like the World Health Organization, UNICEF, and the Gates Foundation, Rotary has helped reduce polio cases worldwide by 99.9%. But the fight isn't over — and your participation makes a difference.

🌸 Special Highlight
Later in the evening, we'll gather under the Rotary Arches in Fonthill, which will be illuminated purple in recognition of the Purple Pinkie campaign for polio eradication. This global symbol represents one child, one vaccine, and one step closer to a polio-free world.

This event is proudly brought to you by Rotary's Beers Rotarians Enjoy Worldwide (BREW) Fellowship members.

New Member Rotary Foundation Learning Session

October 28, 2025 | 5:30–6:30 p m. | Zoom

What You'll Learn

The Basics of the Rotary Foundation
Discover the history, purpose, and structure of Rotary's charitable arm and why it is consistently ranked as one of the world's most trusted foundations.

How Your Donations Make an Impact
Learn how Annual Fund, PolioPlus, and Endowment contributions are used, and how funds flow back to districts and clubs through District Designated Funds (DDF).

Grants That Change Communities
Gain an understanding of District Grants and Global Grants, including inspiring examples of projects—both local and international—that were made possible through member support.

Recognition and Membership Opportunities
Explore the Paul Harris Fellow program, Paul Harris Society, PolioPlus Society, and how these opportunities recognize and encourage sustained giving.

Your Role as a New Member
Learn practical ways you can get involved right away: from promoting Foundation giving in your club, to supporting events, to sharing the Rotary story in your community.

October: A Time to Reflect and Act on Polio Eradication

Each October, Rotarian's around the world unite to recognize **World Polio Day**, established by Rotary International to honour the birth of Dr. Jonas Salk, who developed the first successful polio vaccine. The theme: **One Day. One Focus: Ending Polio**.

Rotary's commitment to polio eradication is strengthened by our partnership with the **Gates Foundation**. At the 2025 RI Convention in Calgary, Rotary and the Gates Foundation announced a joint pledge of up to $450 million over the next three years. Rotary will continue to raise **$50 million annually, with each dollar matched 2:1** by the Gates Foundation.

District 7090's Role: Launching the PolioPlus Society
To help meet this global goal, **District 7090 launched a PolioPlus Society on July 1st**, recognizing Rotarian's, Rotaractors, and friends of the Rotary Foundation who commit to donating at least **$100 USD annually** toward polio eradication. This program promotes sustained giving and has seen success across districts and zones worldwide.

Joining our PolioPlus Society is simple
Complete a PolioPlus Society pledge form and send your form and donation confirmation to PolioPlus Society Coordinator Elaine Richard at **emmrichard55@gmail.com**

Members receive a **PolioPlus Society Certificate**, a **Red & Gold Lapel Pin**, and—thanks to the **Thie Convery Challenge**—may earn up to an additional 1,000 Foundation Recognition Points for a $1,000 donation (available through November 1, 2025). Those who join during the 2025–2026 Rotary year will be recognized as **Charter Members**.

Celebrate World Polio Day at Niagara Falls
On **October 27th**, Niagara Falls will be illuminated in **blue, yellow, and purple at 10:15 p.m.** for 15 minutes in honour of World Polio Day. District 7090 members are invited to share the moment in person or via the live cam provided by Niagara Parks:
https://www.earthcam.com/canada/niagarafalls/?cam=niagarafalls_str

Keep the Momentum Going
Donations are still being accepted for the 6th Annual **Dr. Ron Mergl Participate for Polio Ride**, District 7090's Ride to End Polio. Our Raise for Rotary site remains open through October and November. Support PolioPlus here: **https://raise.rotary.org/Elaine-Richard/memorial822** Remember, every $1 becomes $3 thanks to the Gates Foundation's 2:1 match. Every donation brings us closer to a polio-free world.

Paul Harris Fellows

Rotary Club of Norfolk Sunrise Co-Presidents Ross Gowan and Mary Mercato recognized **Rotarian Keith Jones** with a Paul Harris Award for the long-service and exceptional contributions he has made to our communities

Kamal Shankardass from Rotary Club of Dundas Paul Harris +6 was recently presented from District Governor Aaron

Paul Harris Fellow

The Paul Harris Fellow recognition, established in 1957, is one of Rotary's most prestigious honors. Named after Rotary's founder, Paul Harris, it acknowledges individuals who contribute — or have contributions of US$1,000 or more made in their name — to The Rotary Foundation.

This distinction reflects a commitment to Rotary's ideals of service, goodwill, and peace. Many clubs present Paul Harris Fellow awards to recognize exceptional generosity, leadership, or community service.

Learning Center »

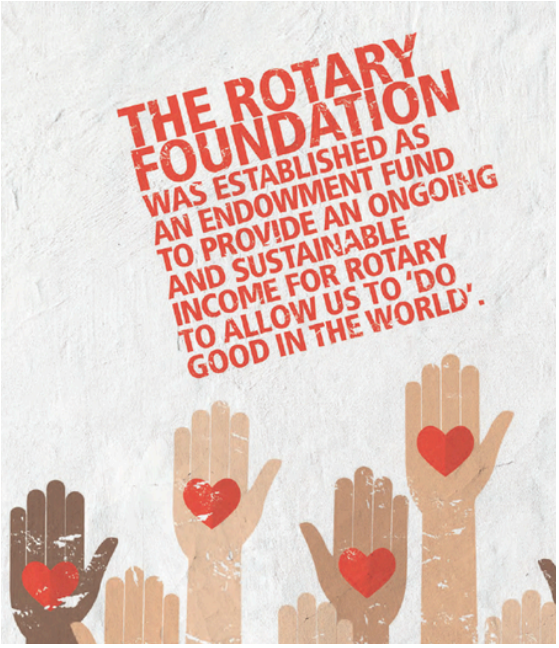
Learn new skills with online classes and materials created for your specific role or interests.

The Rotary Foundation

The **Rotary Learning Center** is your one-stop place to explore courses on Rotary leadership, membersh Foundation, public image, and more — all at your own pace!

Step-by-Step Guide

Step	What to Do	Notes / Tips
1	**Go to** my.rotary.org ↗	The "My Rotary" portal is your gateway to Learning Center.
2	**Already have a My Rotary account? Sign in.**	Enter your email/username and password
3	**Need an account? Click "Register."**	Use the same email your club has on file t correctly.
4	**Once signed in, select "Learning & Reference → Learning Center."**	You'll find this option in the main menu.
5	**Browse or search for topics.**	Try keywords like *Foundation, Public Imag Leadership.*
6 (Optional)	**Download the "Go.Learn" app for mobile access.**	Best experience is still on a computer for t features and certificates.



Thank you for giving to The Rotary Foundation!

Your generosity helped us reach several milestones in 2024-25 that will bring hope, resources, and sustainable solutions to more communities around the globe.

Together, we raised more than US$569 million in the Rotary year that just ended! These funds are more than just donations — they are the means that allow the Foundation to support service projects in communities close to home and around the world.

And together, we reached an incredible goal of surpassing US$2.050 billion for our Endowment. This achievement dramatically enhances the long-term resources available for members to undertake life-changing initiatives far into the future.

Thanks to you, we've been achieving meaningful change. In 2024-25 The Rotary Foundation was able to:

Award 1,424 global grants, 468 district grants, and 74 disaster response grants
Renew our agreement with the Gates Foundation, recommitting to the fight to end polio
Award the Programs of Scale grant to an initiative that works to build peace in Colombia
Partner with Symbiosis International University to create a Rotary Peace Center in India

Because of you, Rotary members are able to address the world's toughest challenges. This means helping people access clean water, education, health care, and disaster relief, while working steadfastly to eradicate polio.

Doing Good in the World starts with people like you.

2025-26 District 7090 Rotary Foundation Committee

Note: Many Committee members make great speakers at your club

District Foundation
DRFC-IPDG Dave Alexander
Past Rotary Foundation Chair - PDG Lisa Bishop

Fundraising Chair -IPDG David Alexander
Annual Fund - John Weismantel
Committee: Annie Holtby
Paul Harris Society - Paul Lehman
Endowment Fund - Wolfgang Lindemann
Polio Plus Chair - Elaine Richard/Frank Adamson
coordinator polio plus-Elaine Richard

Stewardship Chair - Paul Saskowksi
committee: Lezlie Murch
Sandi Chard

Grants Chair - Sue Foster

Subcommittee:
Club Grants Chair-Sue Foster
Global Grants Chair- Lezlie Murch District 7090
International Service Committee: Brad Wood
Global Vocational Training Team - Dan Smith
District Scholarships - Carol DeNysschen
Ontario Cluster Fund - Dave Berry
New York Cluster Fund-TBA
District Governor: Aaron Carlson
District Governor Elect: Joanne Serkeyn
Governor-Nominee: Paul Gibel

District Grants Review Committee:
John Boronkay,RC Orchard Park
Margaret Andrewes, RC Lincoln
Don Lawrence, RC Amherst
Jim Ellison, RC LeRoy
Cameron Johnston, RC Brantford Sunrise
Lezlie Murch, RC St. Catharines
Ken Schander, RC Niagara on the Lake
John Teibert, RC St. Catharines South
Glen Christenson -RC Brantford Sunrise

District Scholar Peace Subcommittee Chair Bob Munroe

Bold is Voting Members of Foundation Committee

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