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# Rotary

CANADA 

## VIEW FROM THE NORTH

### United we serve

**O**ne of the keys to Rotary's success is its eagerness and well-honed ability to collaborate. Look at the benefits accrued, in each of Rotary's areas of focus, thanks to endeavours undertaken in partnership with the United Nations, the World Health Organization, and other institutions.

Nor, to be a worthy accomplishment, must shared undertakings be planned on a grand scale and involve renowned global partners. Consider Celebrate Community Week, those days in September when members of Rotary, Rotaract, Kiwanis, Lions, and Optimist clubs join forces to foster local projects. Elsewhere, the Rotary Community Corps program encourages cooperation between Rotary clubs and nonmembers, and those partnerships have led to impactful civic contributions.

That kind of engagement has long been one of the strengths of Ontario's Rotary Club of Bridgenorth-Ennismore-Lakefield, as evidenced by the results of its annual polar plunge fundraiser (opposite page). "The plunge went off like clockwork thanks to the tremendous work of the sponsors, volunteers, and community supporters — and of course the intrepid plungers," says Club President Susan Davidson. "It is truly a community event, and it is the efforts of everyone concerned that make it such a success. As a small club we depend on this support, and we were not let down."

So gather members of your local community and jump in. Those ripples of service you create could come cascading back as waves of achievement.

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#### PHOTO OF THE MONTH

Formal wear is not required for participation in Rotary clubs' community-wide projects, as the Barbie towels wrapped around these shivering plungers attest. The occasion was the annual polar plunge conducted in Ontario at Chemong Lake by the Rotary Club of Bridgenorth-Ennismore-Lakefield.

On the cover:  
A clear blue sky,  
cherry trees in  
blossom, and the  
Canadian flag  
flying free, sure  
signs that spring  
has arrived.

## FIELD NOTES

# Freezin' for a reason

*An icy lake, frigid temperatures, and people in outlandish attire — yet an Ontario club's fundraiser went swimmingly*

**T**he theme of the event was Barbie, so of course the colour du jour was pink. Pink pompoms and wigs, pink tutus and sweaters, pink sweatsuits and boas. The occasion was the 44th annual Polar Plunge, sponsored, as it is every year, by Ontario's Rotary Club of Bridgenorth-Ennismore-Lakefield, and as plungers emerged from icebound Chemong Lake, their skin exhibited a decidedly rosy hue. "So cold but so good at the same time," said one participant through clenched teeth. "Exhilarating, it's like a reset of your body," added a dapper dude with a buccaneer's beard, rimless pink sunglasses, and a pink cowboy hat adorned with silver sequins. "Everyone should do it."

Despite the subzero temperatures, the event was an unqualified success. One hundred and thirty-five participants raised nearly \$70,000, easily surpassing the \$25,000 goal organizers set for themselves. The money each person or team raised will be split equally between BEL Rotary, as the club is known, and the plungers' charity of choice. Beneficiaries included The Rotary Foundation, polio eradication, Habitat for Humanity, and local food, suicide prevention, and children's programs. The event also received significant support from local businesses that served as sponsors.

"It is the enthusiasm of the awesome plungers and the generosity of our incredible community that make a day like this possible," said Mike Richardson, who organized the event with fellow club member Tony Davidson. "We are lucky to be part of such a civic-minded and caring community."

The leading fundraiser was Brenda Mann, who raised more than \$5,000. Her designated charity was the Canadian Cancer Society; because her husband was being treated for prostate cancer, she wanted the money to go toward prostate cancer research.

Celebrating her 70th birthday, Brenda was joined by nine other members of the Mann family; calling themselves the P.P. Plungers, they collectively raised nearly \$13,000. "I want the next family that receives a diagnosis [of prostate cancer] to have hope for the best treatment and outcome possible," said son Mark Mann, a local schoolteacher. "I also want to support Rotary and the many excellent programs they are part of, locally and beyond. I have directly witnessed the work



**Chill thrill:** Raising funds for a variety of causes, an intrepid trio and a fleet of faux Kens launch themselves into icebound Chemong Lake.

they do with youth, including several of my students. They make our communities and our world a better place, and I believe that what they do matters."

Speaking to a television reporter, Davidson praised all the plungers. "They all want to help each other," he said, "and there are a lot of people these days that need help."

Despite the earnestness of the event, the atmosphere was festive, with participants and onlookers alike clad in appropriately outlandish attire. The winner of this year's best costume was a group of 13 women called the Dynacast Dynamos. Dressed as "beach Kens" — think Hawaiian shirts, pink leis, and blond Ken wigs — the baker's dozen of Barbie's boyfriend had a ball while raising more than \$5,600.

Plans for next year's plunge are already underway. As you make your preparations, keep in mind the sage advice of the pink buccaneer. "Just remember to bring dry underwears."

That's right, "underwears." Because on the first Sunday of February, Chemong Lake can be icebox cold. Prepare to dive!



PROFILE

## Team player

*Equal parts zealous missionary and humble humanitarian, Walley Temple is one of Rotary's 2024 People of Action*

**W**alley Temple always figured that one day he would become a missionary. Credit his mom — and the Alsatian physician, humanitarian, and Nobel peace laureate Albert Schweitzer. “For some reason I was influenced by missionary stories of Schweitzer,” Temple says. “And my mother was very generous. Even though we were poor, she’d still give \$10 to somebody who needed it, and in those days that was a lot of money. Those things rubbed off on me, and I thought that, after medical school, I would be a missionary.”

All these years later, Temple, a member of the Rotary Club of Calgary, admits to being “a different kind of missionary”



PHOTOGRAPHS: COURTESY OF WALLEY TEMPLE

← On a mobile mission to a remote hamlet in northern Guatemala, Walley Temple screened women for cervix cancer, triaged patients for surgery, and conducted postoperative examinations.

than he envisioned, one whose many accomplishments were made possible and multiplied by the assistance he received from universities, from his mentors and colleagues, and from Rotary. Whatever its nature or provenance, Temple's missionary zeal has won him recognition as one of Rotary's People of Action: Champions of Impact. He and the five other 2024 People of Action will be celebrated in May at the Rotary International Convention in Singapore.

Temple is being honoured for his work in Guatemala to fight cervical cancer, an endeavour supported in part by a Rotary Foundation global grant. The work has been "spectacularly successful," Temple says. "It's far exceeded our objectives," thanks in no small part to the global grant. "It's been one of the most exciting things I've done," continues Temple, who has encountered his fair share of exciting moments as a doctor. "Over the course of my career, I've maybe treated 10,000 patients one way or another. During the term of the global grant, it was many thousands in terms of how many people we reached.

"I'm very humble with what has been accomplished because it's really a team effort — everyone from your parents, to your spouse, to the universities, to the Canadian health system, to the Rotarians. So rather than 'person of action,' I would say 'team of action' is really the appropriate description."

Temple's road to Guatemala began after his graduation from medical school when he set out in earnest to become a missionary. Accompanied by his wife, Doreen, and their two young children, he eventually landed in Churchill in northern Manitoba, about 140 kilometres south of the border with Nunavut and only a few degrees below the Arctic Circle. Situated on the western shore of Hudson Bay, it's also known as the polar bear capital of the world, as Temple and his family discovered.

"The polar bears wandered up and down the streets where we lived," Temple recalls. "For Halloween night, we parked

cars at each end of the street with their lights on so the kids could see if a polar bear was coming. And when we went ice-skating on the little ponds, we'd have to have our car door open and be ready to jump in if a polar bear walked by."

In Churchill, Temple and another doctor tended patients at the local hospital. They also travelled far afield to provide medical care. That was no easy task: Even today, some 50 years after Temple's time there, it's impossible to drive to Churchill by car. He and his colleague would travel south in a rickety old train, stopping at Indigenous settlements along the way to minister to patients from a boxcar. "People would line up," Temple explains, "and we'd see them one by one in the boxcar, then close up the boxcar and go on to the next settlement."

He flew north in a Twin Otter — "an amazing plane because it takes off almost in the width of a runway and is able to land in all situations" — to vaccinate Indigenous people against the flu, and he'd sometimes fly to Winnipeg when an expectant mother had to deliver her baby by cesarean section or, on one occasion, when a boy with meningitis went into shock.

And then there were the times he'd get on the phone with surgeons in Winnipeg and have them walk him through the procedure of drilling a burr hole in someone's skull to relieve pressure on the brain. "The blood comes out and you've alleviated the problem." Easy-peasy.

"It was really an amazing experience and put all my medical knowledge to the test," Temple says. It also inspired the next phase of his career: a general surgery resi-

dency at the University of Manitoba and, when his focus shifted from neurosurgery to cancer, training in oncology surgery at the University of Miami.

After practicing in Miami for seven years, Temple returned in 1983 to Canada, where, at the University of Calgary, he established the country's first surgical oncology training program; from 1983 to 2012, he also served as the chief of surgical oncology at the Tom Baker Cancer Centre. Despite those many responsibilities, Temple travelled extensively, teaching and speaking in Asia, Australia, Europe, the Middle East, and South America. He participated in multiple surgical missions in Haiti, Ecuador, and Guatemala, though one of his more unusual experiences occurred in Nepal, where he was teaching family doctors how to perform basic surgery in rural settings.

Late one night, Temple answered a knocking at his door and discovered a man holding a rifle. The doctor must come to the hospital, cried the man. A woman had gone into labour and urgently needed a C-section. Of course, said Temple, but why the rifle?

"Well, he needed the rifle because tigers were roaming around," Temple explains. "And the reason tigers were roaming around was that, after babies were deliv-

↓ With NGO partner Asociación Compañero para Cirugía, Temple and his team conducted training and screening for cervical cancer in Guatemala.





← At a training session in Guatemala, nurses and other health care professionals learn how to screen, diagnose, and treat cervical cancer.

ered, the attendants tossed the placenta out the window. Basically, the hospital had become the tigers' feeding station."

On a surgical mission in South America, Temple had a more significant encounter, the occasion, as he puts it, when he "discovered the long, wonderful arm of Rotary." In Ecuador, he worked alongside another visiting surgeon, an orthopedist screening for dysplastic hips, where the bones don't fit together properly. Assisting was a volunteer who had retired from his work providing prostheses for hospitals — and the man happened to be a Rotarian.

Back home, with his experience in Ecuador still fresh in his mind, Temple finally accepted an oft-extended invitation to visit the Rotary Club of Calgary from a former colleague, Israel "Sonny" Belenkie. "Finding out about Service Above Self and The Four-Way Test — those things really captured my imagination," Temple says. He also learned that Rotary could support the causes that interested him, one of which was eradicating the scourge of cervical cancer.

"We have a world service committee," Temple says, "and they've sponsored projects in Uganda, Thailand, the Philippines, and other places around the world." Among other things, the committee, with Temple's input, backed a cervical cancer screening program for 2,000 women in Quito, Ecuador, that also provided training for local doctors. Building on that, the

club, with Temple at the helm, applied for and received an \$80,000 global grant to fund what it called Towards Elimination of Cervical Cancer — the project that would win Temple recognition as one of Rotary's 2024 People of Action.

Originally slated to screen 5,000 women and train medical personnel in five states in Guatemala over its two-year term, the project has now expanded to a sixth state and expects to screen about 9,000 women. Temple and his team were also able to purchase diagnostic equipment, including the compact and highly accurate EVAPro colposcope that captures magnified images of the cervix.

In addition, the program educated women and girls about cervical cancer and provided essential training to health care practitioners that enabled them to screen, diagnose, and treat for the disease. "That was another thing that captured my imagination about Rotary," Temple adds. "When you leave a location, the program doesn't disappear. It has to be sustainable.

Cervix cancer is a terrible disease, and it can be easily prevented. This minimal screening will save so many women."

In addition to extolling the benefits of the Towards Elimination of Cervical Cancer program, Temple is quick to praise all the members of Rotary who helped make it a success, among them — and the list is long — his fellow Calgary club members Sonny Belenkie and Barbara Young, as well as Esther Brol Menegazo, Sophia Calderon Pezzarossi, and Merly Sandoval Diaz, members of the Rotary Club of Guatemala La Reforma. He also lauded Rotary members who raised funds for and assisted in delivering the program.

"When it comes to this project, I don't need any accolades," Temple insists when talk returns to his recognition as one of Rotary's People of Action: Champions of Impact. "I'm not any more special than the other members of the team. They're the ones who made this work. Every one of them should have a medal."

— GEOFFREY JOHNSON

**"Cervix cancer is a terrible disease, and it can be easily prevented," says Walley Temple. "This minimal screening will save so many women."**

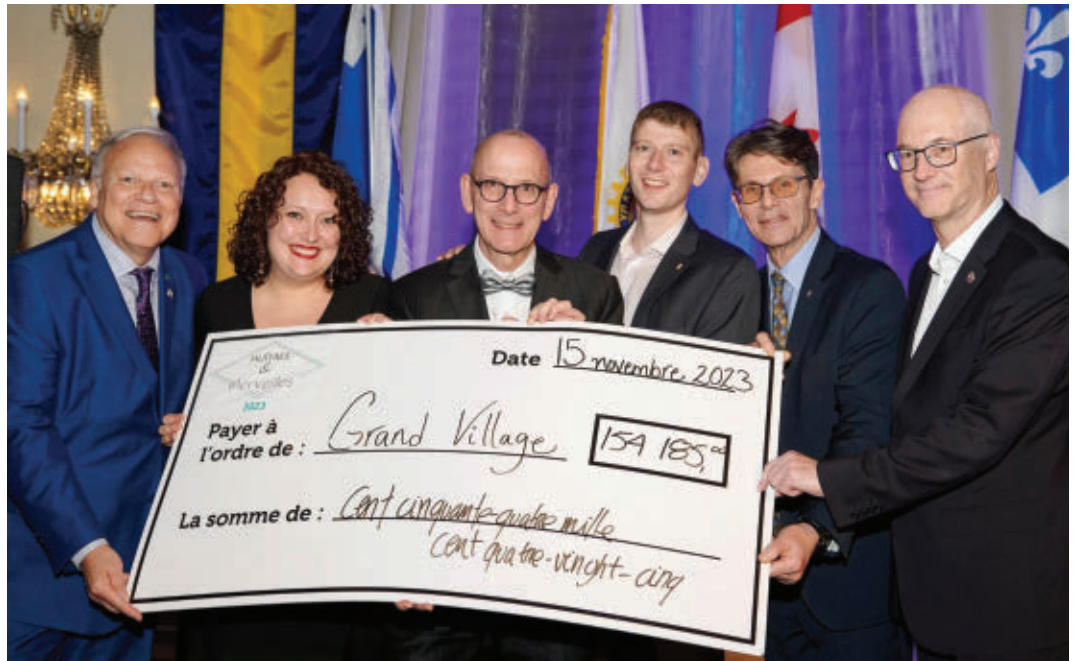
# Un souper d'huîtres annuel aide les personnes à besoins particuliers

par Dino Marzaro, club Rotary de Québec

**L**e Club Rotary de Québec, fondé en 1919 et se réunissant dans le magnifique Château Frontenac, organise, depuis 35 ans, un souper d'huîtres pour aider un camp de vacances et service de répit pour personne avec des besoins particuliers. Ce souper, intitulé Huîtres et Merveilles, se déroule dans la salle de bal du Château Frontenac et accueille 450 personnes chaque année. Le cocktail d'ouverture présente des huîtres crues dans les coquilles, et le menu principal comporte un potage d'huîtres, des huîtres frites, ou servies en vol au vent ou sous l'appellation Rockefeller — et c'est à volonté pour combler tous les appétits !

Pourquoi le nom Huîtres et Merveilles ? Les merveilles décrivent autant les participants au souper, les donateurs et les commanditaires ; les bénévoles durant la soirée ; les employé(e)s du camp de vacances et de répit appelé Le Grand Village; les campeurs qui vivent avec des défis particuliers ; et les parents qui dédient leur temps pour leur enfant avec des besoins particuliers.

Fondé en 1965 par le Club rotary de Québec, Le Grand Village accueille annuellement environ 1000 campeurs avec des besoins particuliers. Ces besoins particuliers incluent des personnes qui vivent avec une déficience physique, intellectuelle ou du trouble du spectre de l'autisme. La mission de Grand Village est de faire vivre



des expériences enrichissantes et adaptées aux enfants, adolescents et adultes à besoins spécifiques et surtout, aider les familles en leur offrant un répit où ils savent l'usager en sécurité.

Baignade en piscine, jeux d'eau, peinture sur toile, théâtre, petite ferme, salle sensorielle, salle de psychomotricité, interprétation de la nature, jardinage, trampoline et basketball ne sont que des exemples des activités qui occupent le temps des campeurs durant leurs séjours.

Le Grand Village offre différents types de répits, soit de fin de semaine, cinq jours de camp avec hébergement ou un camp de jour durant la saison estivale. Ces répits permettent aux parents de se reposer et de diminuer la fatigue accumulée en raison des besoins particuliers de leur enfant, l'école, le travail, les rendez-vous familiaux et les nuits courtes. De plus, 95 per cent des usagers vivent de prestations de revenu ou sont sous curatelle. De plus,

plusieurs des enfants à besoins particuliers vivent dans une famille monoparentale, ce qui alourdit le fardeau financier du parent.

Puisque Le Grand Village ne facture que 60 per cent du coût réel de chaque inscription, il doit trouver une façon de combler le 40 per cent manquant. Depuis 35 ans, Le Club Rotary de Québec amasse 155 000 \$ lors du souper Huîtres et Merveilles, ce qui permet à l'organisme de maintenir un service personnalisé et de qualité à leur clientèle. Depuis ses débuts, c'est plus de 12 000 bénéficiaires qui ont pu participer aux activités du Grand Village. Les valeurs de Grand Village peuvent être résumées en six mots : authenticité, respect, confiance, coopération, innovation et inclusion.

Nous vous attendons, en novembre 2024, pour la prochaine édition du souper Huîtres et Merveilles au Château Frontenac de Québec !



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better in your community and around the world.*

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