

ROTARYCanada

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A message for the world

When I unfolded my map of Canada and for the first time studied — and marvelled at — the itinerary for RI President-elect Jennifer Jones' upcoming cross-country tour, one name immediately leapt to mind: Alexander Mackenzie.

Mackenzie, as you likely recall, made two epic expeditions across the Canadian wilderness in the late 18th century. In 1789, searching for the fabled Northwest Passage, he journeyed north from Lake Athabasca (in modern-day Alberta) to the Arctic Ocean, much of the way on the river that now bears his name. Four years later, travelling westward, he crossed the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific Coast, which had been his goal all along. Once there, using a mixture of vermilion and bear grease, he inscribed a message on a rock: "Alex Mackenzie from Canada by land 22d July 1793."

Nearly 230 years later, there are reminders of Mackenzie's journeys in Jones' tour. In the early days of her trip, she will visit Tuktoyaktuk, an Inuvialuit community in the Northwest Territories that lies near the Mackenzie River delta. And she will conclude her cross-country travels on an island in the Pacific Ocean — Mackenzie's irresistible lure — when she visits British Columbia's capital, Victoria.

Jones is clearly making her trek under much different conditions than Mackenzie. But unfold your own map of Canada and tell me you aren't awed by the breadth of her route. And then figure out where along the way you can come out and greet her as she begins to inscribe her own message for Rotary, for Canada, and for the world.

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PHOTO OF THE MONTH

Signal Hill rises above the harbour of St. John's, the capital of Newfoundland and Labrador and one of the oldest cities in North America. On this site, in December 1901, the Italian inventor Guglielmo Marconi received the first wireless transatlantic signal, which had been transmitted from Cornwall, England.



FEATURE

O Canada

Jennifer Jones inaugurates her presidential term with an epic tour of her home and native land

On 15 June, RI President-elect Jennifer Jones will begin a tour of Canada. And when Jennifer Jones tours Canada, she tours *Canada*. From Point Pelée on Lake Erie, the southernmost point on the Canadian mainland, to Tuktoyaktuk on the Arctic Ocean; and from St. John's on the Atlantic, a few kilometres from the easternmost point in North America, to Vancouver Island on the Pacific, Jones will spend nearly four weeks introducing herself to members of Rotary in Canada — and to anyone else who wants to come out and say hello.

"We have three coasts in Canada," says Carol Tichelman, the na-

tional tour chair, "and Jennifer will be travelling from coast to coast to coast. And we have many cross-border districts," she adds, referencing those Rotary districts with clubs in both Canada and the United States. "But Rotary is borderless, and any and all are welcome." (For more on Tichelman, see page 7.)

In late February, as *Rotary Canada* went to press, plans for Jones' tour were still being finalized, and as they took shape, organizers were factoring in the unexpected challenges that might arise from delayed flights and an ongoing and unpredictable pandemic. Yet even as the tour's organizers anticipated those variables, they projected an

Show and tell

"When we share our stories, like-minded people want to join with us," says President-elect Jennifer Jones. "This tour provides an opportunity for others to see themselves reflected in our actions, and perhaps they will want to learn more about Rotary."

impassioned "the show must go on" fervour, a spirit that emanated from the top down: In a January message to French Canadian Rotary members, Jones spoke of her "*beaucoup d'enthousiasme*" as she anticipated the tour.

And why not? The midpoint of the tour will signal the beginning of Jones' term as president, and the cross-country trip across Canada is only the start of her worldwide Imagine Impact Tour intended to showcase Rotary's global accomplishments and its areas of focus. Accompanied by her husband, Nick Krayacich — a member of the Rotary Club of La Salle Centennial in Ontario and the recently selected governor-nominee-designate of District 6400 — Jones will be joined at various times by other senior Rotary leaders from Canada. (For more on Jones' hope for the Canada tour and what lies ahead, see "Lifting the Veil on Canada's 'Best-Kept Secret,'" next page.)

But the spotlight will be on the members of Rotary that she en-



counters along the way. Not only will the tour be an opportunity to celebrate all the accomplishments of the country's clubs and districts, but each stop — or “hub,” as the organizers characterize it — will provide occasions to participate in local projects. “The focus is on service,” Tichelman says, and many of the events will be livestreamed to ensure maximum participation.

The first leg of the tour gets underway on 15 June in Whitehorse, the capital of the Yukon. “The northern part of the tour is a wonderful segment, recognizing the vastness of our country,” says Tichelman. Over the next seven days, as Jones meets with Rotary members, civic leaders, and Indigenous Elders, she will travel from Whitehorse to Dawson City, move on to Inuvik and Tuktoyaktuk in the Northwest Territories, and then return to Whitehorse — a round trip of about 3,000 kilometres.

For three days, beginning on 26 June, the president-elect visits the Windsor hub in Ontario. “The celebration in Windsor, which is Jennifer’s home district, will be awesome,” promises Tichelman. (A member of the Rotary Club of Windsor-Roseland, Jones was the 2007-08 governor of District 6400.) The first day will be devoted in part to working with Sleep in Heavenly Peace, an international

organization that builds, assembles, and delivers beds to children in need. Plans were in the works for a youth symposium on 27 June, and 28 June has been designated District 6400’s “Day for Jen.”

Fittingly, on 1 July, Canada Day and the first day of her RI presidency, Jones will be in Ottawa, the nation’s capital. Plans were in the works for meetings with leading government officials, as well as a discussion of Indigenous issues and visits to local Rotary projects, including a respite home that, for 40 years, has provided care for people with physical disabilities.

On 2 July, Jones arrives in St. John’s, the Maritimes hub and the capital of Newfoundland and Labrador. “We will welcome Jennifer with a traditional kitchen party,” says Stella Roy. “That means music, friends, and the opportunity to be ‘screeched in’ and become an official Newfoundlander and Labradorian.” Roy, a member of the Rotary Club of Halifax Harbour, Nova Scotia — which, the day before Jones’ arrival, will have become part of Rotary’s newly created District 7815 — guarantees that there will also be plenty of “people of action activities” for the district’s Rotarians, its “huge” Rotaractor contingent, and anyone else who cares to participate. Rotaractors will again be out in force on

4 July in Quebec City as they join other Rotary members in projects and service opportunities.

On 5 July, Jones arrives in Canada’s largest city. “Our hope is that Jennifer will experience all the people that have been touched by Rotary as we showcase the many hundreds of projects completed by all the clubs throughout the four districts in our hub,” says Michele Guy of the Rotary Club of Toronto. The day’s ambitious plans include a watershed cleanup and a stop at Kids Against Hunger, where the goal is to pack 117,000 lunches in honour of Rotary’s 117 years.

Winnipeg, the Manitoba city that made Rotary international, welcomes Jones on 6 July. “Our vision is to demonstrate — to the community, to the needy, and to the media — that we are people of action,” says Eva Vida, a member of the Rotary Club of Winnipeg, the first Rotary club established outside the United States. The plan, explains Vida, is to have clubs across District 5550, which includes Manitoba and parts of Ontario and Saskatchewan, simultaneously perform projects to honour Jones’ visit. In some cities and towns, that will mean working with Rotary’s partner ShelterBox, which will set up tents to receive donations pertinent to the needs of that area. In Winnipeg, there will be two tents, one devoted to helping In-

Lifting the veil on Canada’s ‘best-kept secret’

Despite her busy schedule, RI President-elect Jennifer Jones took a little time to respond to *Rotary Canada*’s queries about her upcoming Canada tour.

Why did you decide to undertake the Canada tour?

As a way of focusing our presidential travel, my husband, Nick, and I decided to create a global impact tour to showcase projects and programs of significance across the Rotary world. The Canada portion of the tour spans from coast to coast: north to south, east to west. Our hope is to attract top-tier media, influenc-

ers, and notables to help us share our members’ stories and to draw attention to the lasting impact we create as people of action. This is an opportunity to uncover the best of what we do and share it with others.

What do you hope the tour accomplishes?

When we share our stories, like-minded people want to join with us. This tour provides an opportunity for others to see themselves reflected in our actions, and perhaps they will want to learn more about Rotary. We have been a best-kept secret for many years, and I am hope-

ful this awareness tour will help Rotary to grow in Canada.

What would you say to encourage members of Rotary to come out and say hello?

In recent times, we have all witnessed incredible acts of service and kindness — especially throughout the pandemic. This tour is intended to provide our members and others with opportunities to showcase the innovation and inspiration that is the essence of Rotary. The 21,000-plus Rotary members in Canada have been responsible for providing leadership during this challenging time in history. This is a chance

for our communities to say thank you, and for others to perhaps join our great movement.

The breadth and rigour of your Canada tour are impressive — and this is just the beginning of your presidential travels. Are you going to have anything left in the tank for the following 11 months?

The best part of this tour is that it is going to energize us for the year ahead. While this is the first leg of the Imagine Impact Tour, there is nothing that can’t be accomplished when Rotary members unite — and we are ready to get started!

digenous people and a second dedicated to IRCOM (the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization of Manitoba). “We want to show that here’s what we do on a big scale — because on a small scale, we do this every day,” Vida says.

Jones will make two stops in Alberta: On 7-8 July, she will be in Calgary, the site of the 2025 Rotary International Convention, where she will meet with Indigenous leaders, visit a Rotary-sponsored residential safe house, and walk with Rotaractors in the annual Calgary Stampede parade, which signals the opening of the large multiday rodeo. After participating in a variety of events in Edmonton on 9 July, it’s on to British Columbia, where Jones will visit Vancouver on the 10th.

“I’m excited as a Canadian Rotarian that Jennifer, the first woman to be president of Rotary, is visiting Canadians to kick off her year of *Imagine Rotary*,” says Chris Offer of the Rotary Club of Ladner and a former governor of District 5040, one of British Columbia’s five districts. The day starts with a pancake breakfast in Peace Arch Park, which straddles the border with the United States, followed by hands-on activities that could include an Indigenous literacy project, a beach cleanup, and a kit-packing project for the nonprofit Days for Girls, which, among other services, distributes sustainable menstrual health products.

The tour concludes on 11 July in Victoria, the province’s capital, on Vancouver Island. The stop will include a visit to the Food Rescue Distribution Centre, which is sponsored in part by the Greater Victoria Rotary Clubs. And organizers hope there will be time for a photograph at Mile 0, the western terminus of the Trans-Canada Highway.

“But these events are not just for Rotarians or just for the people of Vancouver and Victoria,” insists Offer. “As at each of the stops along the tour, they are for anyone who can get to these hub areas.”

“All of the hubs are going to be exciting in their own right,” adds Tichelman *avec beaucoup d’enthousiasme*. “There is so much about Jennifer’s tour that promises to be wonderful.”



NOTES DE TERRAIN

Un club dynamique reflète la communauté qu'il dessert

par Éva Gravel et Claude LaLiberté,
club Rotary Drummondville-Malouin

Le club Rotary Drummondville-Malouin, nommé en l'honneur d'Alonzo Malouin, qui fut directeur au Rotary International en 1984-86, est bien représentatif de sa communauté : effervescent, créatif, dynamique, actif, jeune et au service de sa communauté, particulièrement au niveau des projets auxquels il s'associe. Fondé en 1961, il est l'un des quatre clubs francophones du district 7850, qui comprend des clubs au Québec, au Vermont et au New Hampshire. Aujourd'hui, ses 25 membres actuels — dont 56 pour cent sont des femmes — voient à la bonne marche des levées de fonds, dont leur lucratif bingo télévisé et l'événement « Bière et Fines Bouches » qui permettent de redistribuer de 40 000 \$ à 50 000 \$ annuellement.

Pour les membres, pendant la période 2020-22, un projet spécifique leur tenait à cœur : l'aménagement de la nouvelle cour extérieure de l'école Saint-Joseph de Drummondville, qui est une des 37 écoles préscolaires et primaires du Centre de services scolaires des Chênes. C'est une école située en milieu très défavorisé, avec beaucoup de personnes issues de l'immigration et peu de ressources et de moyens. L'idée était de créer un environnement favorable où les élèves et la communauté peuvent s'y réunir 24/7 et avoir accès à des sports comme le basket-ball avec des équipements modernes et adéquats.

Dans le cadre d'un investissement global des gouvernements et de la municipalité de près de 400 000 \$ afin de rehausser les lieux physiques de l'école Saint-Joseph, le club Rotary Drummondville-Moulin devint le partenaire important pour l'idéation et la construction d'une aire de jeu ouverte

Cette contribution représente le plus gros don individuel du club depuis sa création.

Le club Rotary Drummondville-Malouin a été un partenaire important pour la construction d'une aire de jeu ouverte dans la cour de l'école St-Joseph.

à toute la population du quartier, en contribuant jusqu'ici près de 26 000 \$, incluant une participation de la Fondation Rotary. Cette contribution représente le plus gros don individuel du club depuis sa création.

Une autre cause, chère aux membres, ce sont les camps d'été pour enfants, dont une majorité provient de l'école Saint-Joseph, offert chaque année par le Centre communautaire Drummondville-Sud. Un montant de 4 000 \$ fut remis à cet organisme qui offre aux citoyens des activités de loisirs et autres opportunités de développement de la communauté.

Malgré la pandémie, l'année rotarienne 2020-21 a été fructueuse, surtout grâce au succès fabuleux du télé-bingo — une activité idéale pour les gens confinés. Cela a permis au club de redonner un total de 39 063 \$ à la communauté. Voici quelques exemples d'actions du club dans la dernière année : achat de 150 masques en tissus, 50 bouteilles réutilisables, fournitures scolaires et collations pour l'école Saint-Joseph; activité Halloween entre l'école Saint-Joseph et les deux classes de l'école Saint-Louis-de-Gonzague; cadeaux reconnaissance pour la persévérance des enseignants de l'école Saint-Joseph et les deux classes de l'école Saint-Louis-de-Gonzague; et plusieurs dons à différents organismes, comme la Guignolée, le Centre d'Ecoute et de Prévention Suicide, le Centre communautaire Drummondville-Sud et le Centre communautaire Saint-Pierre pour des vélos pour enfants.

Tout ceci est possible grâce à la participation généreuse des gens du club Rotary Drummondville-Malouin à ses différentes activités de financement. Merci beaucoup de votre soutien!



Photographie par Martin Morissette



PROFILE

The power of the profound

In 1992, Carol Tichelman made what was almost a perfunctory gesture: She decided to join her local Rotary club. “I was a bank manager, and it was expected then that you take those kinds of positions in the community,” she recalls. “I didn’t know anything about Rotary, but after joining, I learned of its mission to eradicate polio — and my father was a victim of polio. So that became a passion of mine.”

After three decades, Tichelman’s passion for Rotary and its many missions has only grown stronger. Today she’s a member of the Rotary Club of Chilliwack, British Columbia, where she has twice served as president, and she was the 2020-21 governor of District 5050, which includes clubs in British Columbia and Washington state. More recently she has been working as the

tour chair for President-elect Jennifer Jones’ upcoming Canada tour (see page 3). And she continues to dedicate herself to service, which is something of a hereditary trait.

“I was brought up in a family that did all sorts of volunteer work,” Tichelman explains. “That was instilled in me by my parents. The opportunity to serve was something that warmed me to Rotary — and the vastness of those opportunities escalated with my growing knowledge of Rotary.”

Tichelman experienced what she calls her “initial awakening” to international service in 2004, when members of her club travelled to Mexico for a wheelchair distribution project. The trip also led to a breakthrough in her relationship with her mother, Therese. “We loved each other fiercely, but we weren’t buddies,” Tichelman says. “Later in life,

a lot of our fights had to do with me doing all my volunteer work with Rotary. Mum wanted me to do all my volunteer work through the church.”

Tichelman’s father, Bart, who contracted polio in the early 1960s, had died in 1996. Eight years later, Therese was fighting cancer. Despite that, Tichelman invited her mother to join her on the trip to Mexico.

“There was a profound moment on the first morning of the wheelchair distribution,” Tichelman says. “We were setting up, and there was this wave of arriving people carrying family members to come receive a wheelchair. Mum turned to me, with tears running down her face, and she said, ‘You truly are doing God’s work on earth.’ And that moment and that trip allowed me to become best friends with my mother for the last four years of her life.”

While caring for her mother in her final years, Tichelman had been on a waiting list to travel to Ethiopia with Ezra Teshome, a Seattle Rotarian renowned for his annual polio eradication trips to his home country. In 2009, Tichelman travelled to Africa with Teshome and his group for a National Immunization Day. Since then, she has been back to Ethiopia and northern Uganda eight times. In 2015 she received the Service Award for a Polio-Free World from The Rotary Foundation, and a year later she received RI’s Service Above Self Award. “We don’t do service for recognition, but it is nice to be recognized,” she admits.

It’s clear, though, that Tichelman has already reaped the most meaningful rewards for her good deeds. She has kept the vial from the first polio immunization she gave — “I’ve asked my brothers to make sure it gets buried with me” — and the memories of what she has accomplished are indelible.

“I don’t speak Amharic, nor did the villagers speak English,” she says, recalling those trips to Ethiopia. “But every mother, after we immunized their child, we exchanged a glance. The gratitude I felt touched my soul. Those kids I immunized will have a hard and challenging life, but I know they will never be victims of polio. And that’s profound.”

Carol Tichelman
Rotary Club
of Chilliwack,
British Columbia



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