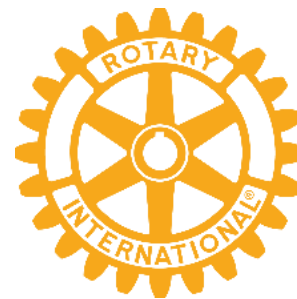


Rotary Club of Winnipeg



ROTARY NEWS, and MORE....

May 3, 2020

EDITOR's NOTE:

So much has happened in the past two weeks, in addition to the COVID 19 pandemic. As if staying at home, washing your hands, maintaining physical distancing and not touching your face for two months wasn't enough. Then we are jolted, shocked and saddened by the shooting of 22 innocent people in Nova Scotia, the deaths of many seniors in personal care homes by COVID 19, the ice jams and flooding and evacuations in Fort McMurray, and most recently, the crash of a Canadian Armed Forces Cyclone CH-148 helicopter with six military personnel on board.

With this as an opening paragraph, I hope you will find some interesting and inspirational stories in this Newsletter. Stay Safe, Stay Strong, and Stay Apart (6')

UPCOMING EVENTS:

RIBFEST 2020 is CANCELLED: It is with disappointment that the RIBFEST Planning Committee has decided to cancel our 2020 RIBFEST event. This follows the Provincial Government announcement on April 29th that:

"There will be no large gatherings or events until at least September 2020. As the situation evolves, Manitoba Public Health officials will make decisions based on evidence at the time." The Safety of our members, our volunteers, our vendors, our entertainers and the public is of prime importance to us. We look forward seeing you all at RIBFEST 2021.



The ROTARY 50/50 On-Line Raffle is still continuing with two early bird draws (August 1st & 14th) and the Final draw on August 23rd. To purchase your tickets on-line go to: www.ribfestwpg5050.ca

Next Club ZOOM Meeting is on Wednesday May 6th at 12:15 pm. You will be receiving the Sign-In link by e-mail before the meeting. If you have any concerns or questions about how to sign-in to the next Zoom Meeting, please contact Eva Vida at: Tel: 204-792-2156.

Rotary District 5550 District “VIRTUAL” Conference on Saturday, May 23rd.

Registration fee is now only \$50, and FREE for STUDENTS.

For a list of Speakers & To register, just go to the District Conference website.

<http://rotaryclubofkenora.ca/>

Just Announced this Week:



ROTARY CONNECTS THE WORLD

2020 Rotary Virtual Convention – June 20 – 26, 2020

Learn more at reconvention.org

We never needed Rotary – and we have never needed each other – more than we do now. We hope to see you online, because Now More Than Ever, Rotary Connects the World. <https://www.riconvention.org/en>

SPECIAL EVENTS:

National Volunteer Week (April 19 –m April 25, 2020)

National Volunteer Week has been set aside as a special time to recognize the special contribution that volunteers make to all of our organizations, especially our Rotary Club.

https://volunteer.ca/?gclid=EAlaIQobChMI3o3pxoqT6QIVhobACh0yowLoEAAYASAAEqKvv_D_BwE



75th Anniversary of the Liberation of Holland will be celebrated on May 5, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. EST with a “Virtual Fireside Chat” hosted by **True Patriot Love**. Click on link.

<https://truepatriotlove.com/get-involved/events-educational-trips/virtualchat/>

See Peter Markesteyn’s Memories on Page 5

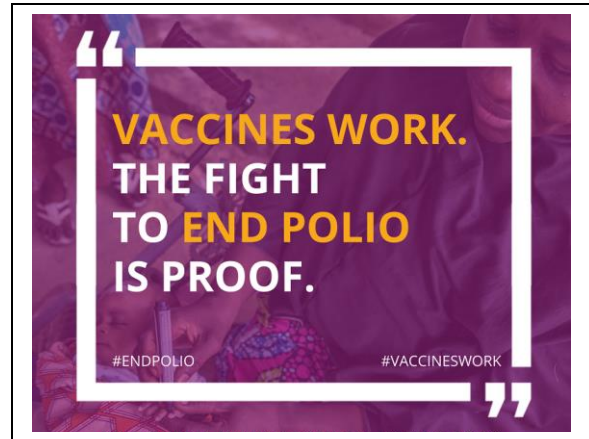
Ramadan (April 23 – May 23, 2020)

Observed by Muslims worldwide as a month of fasting, prayer, reflection, and community. <https://theconversation.com/why-ramadan-is-called-ramadan-6-questions-answered->

World Immunization Week (April 24 – April 30, 2020)

The aim of World Immunization Week is to promote the use of vaccines to protect people of all ages against disease.

<https://www.who.int/news-room/campaigns/world-immunization-week/world-immunization-week-2020>



RECENT PRESENTATION:

Taiseer Shareif, one of our newer members, did an excellent presentation on “**The Power of Art**” at our first Zoom Meeting on April 22, 2020. Click on the link below for her full presentation.

<https://prezi.com/view/2Dwlb8NypYg7nkTJtHVJ/>



MESSAGES FROM ROTARY MEMBERS & ALUMNI:

Verna Hryhorchuk (Member)

“I arrived back in Manitoba yesterday (April 30th). I think the timing was perfect before things start to open up and get busier. The Toronto and Winnipeg airports were eerily quiet which was nice as it was nerve wracking to be out and about with the number of cases they have had in Ontario plus people still being brought in from other countries. My flight too was not very full as only a fraction of people are traveling between provinces. We, my dog Cosmo and I had a nice extended stay with my youngest son and daughter in law in Ontario. What was supposed to be a 3 week visit it turned into 9 weeks!! I couldn't have found a better place to have to be while the world went a bit nuts and as we all get use to this virus and what we are learning daily!!”

Verna



Peggy Maycher (Alumni) from Kano, Nigeria

"Hi Nancy, I hope all are healthy and safe with you.

Yes, there have been a lot of deaths in Kano of late. Most have been in the Old City. Every year during the extreme heat there are many deaths although there have been more than usual this year. Most people in the Old City and who live in Sabon Gari Market area sleep outside at night due to the heat. Add in all the mosquitos, the Lasa Fever and Dengue Fever that is still very much around, then add in COVID, it's a terrible situation for all!! The Government Officials say they are looking into it.



On a brighter note, it's been +43 here in the days and cooling down to about 28 at night! The night of the lockdown here, Paul went to the store and bought an above ground pool! It's been a lifesaver especially since we are stuck on the compound!

Other than our pool to amuse us, we are just working away as per usual! I do spend many evenings calling and checking in with people who are locked down on their own while Paul BBQs. FYI, it turns out that our Cook Raymond is NOT an essential service!! I really tried to make them see the need to change this but it fell on deaf ears, hence the BBQing!!

Technically we are to be in lockdown until May 7th but I have already heard that they will ease this on Friday. So we shall see. Paul and I have closed the office until at least May 15th. We will reassess from there. Although somewhere between the 7th and 15th, we may move from BBQing to making soups! 😊

Paul and I are now in the position that we can leave, so as soon as they open the domestic airports and we can get to Abuja, we will hold up in Suleiman's house until the International airports open. We are hoping we can get back to Winnipeg sometime in June or before.

Please say hi to everyone for me! It will be good to get back and see them all!

Stay safe and healthy!! Thanks Peg."

Peggy Maycher

Bill Owen (An American Rotarian living in Ghana):

"Thank you again Frank for introducing Rotary to me in 2006 in Tamale, Ghana. Never knew it could be so much fun and rewarding. It was an unknown for me for a long time. The Rotary Club of Techiman, Ghana is just now 6 years old. Club has brought in a bit more than \$2.0 million in Global Grants so far. The Club itself contributes very few funds, but we do go out to design and monitor projects."



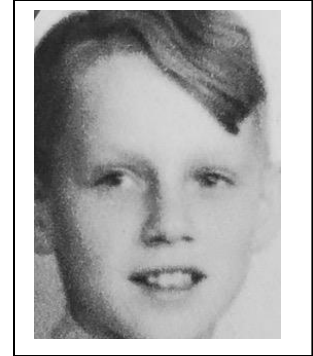
Peter Markesteyn (Member)

The Liberation of the Netherlands by the Canadian Army in 1945

(75th Anniversary of the Liberation of the Netherlands will be celebrated on May 5, 2020)

Some personal memories from Peter Markesteyn (Peter was 13 years old in 1945)

I was living in the village of Hoogezand in the North of the Netherlands on the 13th of April 1945, the day the Canadian army arrived there. We knew that the Allied Forces had broken through and had crossed the rivers at Arnhem. They were going north towards Hamburg, cutting off the German army in Holland.



I remember the days of the liberation very well. The conquest of the Canadian army was preceded by parts of the German Army retreating towards Germany. I can still hear the early-morning sounds of thousands of soldiers retreating, many of them wounded. They went by on foot, on stolen bicycles, horses and trucks. I remember one soldier pushing his wounded comrade in a child's carriage. Quite a sight!



The German border is some 30 or 40 kilometers from the village. I will never forget the din and the despair in the eyes of the soldiers. A truck packed with German soldiers stopped, an officer jumped out and, waving his handgun toward us, told us to stay back. He banged on the house, seeking water for his soldiers. They didn't harm us and went on their way.

Then we heard the tremendous clatter of a train going by on the railway tracks leading to Germany. At the end of the train was an enormous hook that tore up the sleepers between the tracks as it progressed, making it impossible for that train track to be used again for quite some time.

My foster father decided that we should leave the house, which had previously been commandeered by the German officers for their headquarters. He thought, quite wisely, that this may have been known by Intelligence and that our house might well become a target. We therefore dug foxholes in the garden. I remember saying to him that we should have white flags, so that we could surrender properly.

I will never forget the silence between the two armies. There was the tremendous clamor of the Germans retreating, followed by sharp cracks of the residual local occupying forces breaking their stored guns in a nearby school.

The tremendous bang of the blowing up of the bridge over the canal and then - the

silence. Nothing. Not the slightest sound... until after what seems hours, in the distance, we heard the cheers of people rejoicing, shouting and carrying on, and the distant sound of the tracks of small armored vehicles. Within twenty minutes, there were the Canadians in small armored vehicles progressing slowly towards the village. It was then that great jubilation broke out and more soldiers appeared in non-armored vehicles immediately behind the armored vehicles.

There was jumping, crying and shouting and the red-white-and-blue flag, with the orange Royal banner on top, began to appear here and there. However, later that evening, trouble started. The Dutch underground went around with loudspeakers, telling us to take all flags down as the Canadians were retreating. That meant, in theory at least, that the Germans could return and retaliate. Nobody knew why the retreat was ordered, probably for security reasons and because the Canadian army did not have much heavy armor at that time with them. So that night, we all stayed awake, somewhat frightened. We heard machine guns in the distance but no heavy artillery. The next day we found that the Germans had indeed retreated and had not come back.

We were liberated.

The Germans surrendered The Netherlands unconditionally on May 5, 1945

A day to remember....

NOVA SCOTIA ROTARIANS – STAY STRONG:

- On April 18–19, 2020, twenty two people were killed by a lone individual on a wild rampage in Nova Scotia.
- On April 20th I sent a condolence note to the Rotary Club of Halifax asking for assistance in contacting the Clubs most impacted by the weekend events.
- On April 22nd I received the attached reply from the RC of Halifax
- On April 22nd I sent a note of condolence to the Rotary Clubs of Dartmouth, RC of Truro, and RC of Amherst.
- On April 23rd I received a note from Don Penwell, Pres. RC of Dartmouth
- On April 30th I received a note from the RC of Truro.



Note: One of the notes below mentions their fundraising efforts on behalf of the victims' families and/or community. This fundraiser is NOT endorsed by our Club but is shared so that you are aware of what Nova Scotian Rotarians are doing.

Below are copies of some of the messages.

From: "heatherdonald@ns.sympatico.ca"
To: Frank Cosway <frankcosway@mts.net>
Date: at April 22, 2022
Subject: Re: Condolences

Rotary Club of Halifax

Good evening Frank,

Thank you so much for reaching out, it is such a horrific tragedy that we are trying to come to terms with, and we are so very touched at the kindness of your club to reach out to us in this very painful time. Some of my own members knew Constable Heidi Stevenson, and over the coming days and weeks I am sure we will learn of connections other members had with the 23 beautiful souls who were taken from us far too soon. I reached out to our Assistant District Governor Barbara Pate for some contact information that you will see below. Constable Heidi was from Cole Harbour, part of Dartmouth, so that is why I included that Club. The community where this awful tragedy occurred is between Truro and Amherst, so their contact information was also included.

My very best to you and your Club and again, thank you for having Nova Scotia in your thoughts, hearts and prayers.

Yours in Rotary, Heather MacDonald, President, Rotary Club of Halifax

From: Frank Cosway [mailto:frankcosway@mymts.net]
Sent: April 22, 2020 8:27 PM
To: 'penwells@bellaliant.net'; 'trina.clarke@cumberland.ymca.ca';
'lech.krzywonos@nsc.ca'
Subject: Condolences
Trina, Lech & Don,
RC of Amherst, RC of Truro, & RC of Dartmouth

I just received your contact information from Heather MacDonald in Halifax. I am writing from the Rotary Club of Winnipeg to express our condolences to all of the people impacted by the terrible events during the weekend in Nova Scotia. It is hard to know what to say. But I just wanted to make contact with Rotarians in Nova Scotia and let you know that we are thinking of you at this time of grieving and sorrow.

I just learned today that one of the victims, Joanne Thomas, lived in Winnipeg during her childhood. Her sister and brother still live in Brandon Manitoba and she was in daily contact with her brother and weekly contact with old friends.

Please pass along our condolences to all of your members. Let them know that we are thinking of them. Stay Strong, Frank

From: Don [mailto:penwells@bellaliant.net]
Sent: April 23, 2020 8:11 AM
To: Frank Cosway <frankcosway@mymts.net>
Subject: Re: Condolences



Thank you so much for your kind note and thoughts. I have forwarded your email to our members. All Nova Scotians, and I'm sure all Canadians, are horrified to think such violence could be inflicted in our communities. It will take time for families to heal, but hopefully families, friends and all Nova Scotians will emerge stronger than ever. Thanks again for your reachout.

Yours in Rotary, Don
Rotary Club of Dartmouth

From: blgoit@gmail.com [mailto:blgoit@gmail.com] **On Behalf Of** Truro Rotary
Sent: April 30, 2020 12:44 PM
To: frankcosway@mymts.net
Subject: Colchester Tragedy



Frank - Thank you for reaching out to our club. Lech has asked that I respond. I will share your sentiments with our membership.

The tragic events of April 18-19 in central Nova Scotia have had a profound affect on us all. Many of our club members have close connections to some of the victims' families, and we're doing our best to support them. We are all grieving in our own ways. While our club supports a variety of community needs, our special focus is youth. So many have been impacted by this tragedy (aged 2 - 17) including Lisa McCully's grade 3 class at Debert Elementary. Supporting long term counselling, RESP's, grief camps for those directly impacted are just some of the items we are considering, and all carry hefty price tags.

One thing is certain, we want to find the most meaningful and appropriate way of helping. To that end, we have created a designated fund to support the victims' families and/or community in a manner and time which is deemed most appropriate. We commit to holding any funds donated in trust until they are required. We are assuming that you will not need a charitable donation receipt for income tax purposes.

If you wish to make a donation, please do so by etransfer to etrct0949@gmail.com and specify "Rotary Cares". Thank you.

We know that you understand that it will take some time to get some clarity around how we can best help. We do not wish to rush in because the needs of these children will be long term and substantial. We also wish to allow some time before we approach the families for their blessing.

Thank you all for your support at this most difficult time. We know that we will emerge stronger together and, while the violence inflicted cannot be undone, we will heal in time.

Please feel free to contact us at any time at trurorotary@gmail.com.

Barbara, for the Rotary Club of Truro (Nova Scotia, Canada)

ROTARY NEWS:



Rotary Ripple Effect Scholarship Program



April 2020

Dear Members of the Rotary Club of Winnipeg Downtown:

Thank you for your generous gift to the Ripple Effect Scholarship Program

The Ripple Effect Scholarship Program is a Rotary International District 5550 International Service Projects initiative. We work in partnership with Guatemalan Rotary Clubs to enhance educational opportunities for children who live in challenging environments in their country.

Your generosity, when combined with gifts from like-minded individuals, is most appreciated as it makes it possible for children to attend school past Grade 6; children who might otherwise be expected to work in the fields with their parents. The lives of more than 50,000 children have been directly improved as a result of the various Ripple Effect projects during the past twenty years, with over 5,000 more benefitting each year.

The Ripple Effect Scholarship Program provides young Guatemalans with the opportunity to pursue vocations for which they are very thankful. These opportunities enrich not only their lives but also the lives of their extended families. Thank you for choosing to be part of this important work – please know you are making a difference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. Kettlewell".

Marian Kettlewell
Rotary Club of Moose Jaw Wakamow

Canadian Manager
Ripple Effect Scholarship Program

Telephone: 306-694-5907
Email: rotary@kettlewells.ca

CLUB REPORT ON “COVID 19 RESPONSE” PROJECTS:

- 1) **Winnipeg Harvest (\$2,000):** The Club will be providing Financial support to Winnipeg Harvest because of the tremendous increase in the demand for food by many adults who have been laid off and students who do not have access to breakfast programs because the schools are closed.
- 2) **Computers for Kids by Inspire Community Outreach (\$4,000):** Inspire Community Outreach has organized a “Computers for Kids” program to provide laptops for students and families who do not any, so that they can access the lessons being provided by their teachers.
<https://inspirecommunityoutreach.ca/computers-for-kids/>
- 3) **Two “Tech-savvy” university students** have been recruited for Inspire Community Outreach to service the donated laptops and train the users to use the equipment.
- 4) **Storage space has been located** to collect, clean, and prepare the items for delivery to the recipients.
- 5) **Food Hampers for Families in Need (\$1,000):** Food hampers for families in need due to the closure of the schools & places of work. A grant for \$1,000 is being provided by the Board, to Hugh John MacDonald School towards the cost of providing food hampers worth \$50 each. The hampers will contain items such as canned goods, pasta, soap, feminine hygiene products, baby formula, fresh fruit and vegetables, bread, oatmeal, milk and cereal.
- 6) **Partner Clubs in South Africa:** We are currently consulting with our partner Rotary Clubs in South Africa to find out how we can best support them in their COVID response efforts.

Thank you to all of the members who donated towards the \$3,500 needed to apply for a District Matching Grant of \$2,500. These funds will be used for the Winnipeg Harvest and Computers for Kids projects.



Frank Cosway, Editor
Tel: 204-294-7079
E-mail: frankcosway@mts.net