

Governor's Blog October 2023

How do you possibly describe the fantastic opportunities to visit so many Rotary clubs over the course of the month and learn of the great work they do in their communities and across the globe? It's hard to encapsulate all the great experiences we've had over the last month, but I'll try to give you an overview of our visits this month.

October 2nd and 3rd – Lloydminster - we visited the two Lloydminster clubs and were royally treated to a lunch at the club's weekly meeting held at the Lloydminster Exhibition Grounds. Congratulations to President **Mike Sidoryk** and the club for the great work they're doing in their community. We then visited the Border City club on Tuesday morning and were pleased to have **Mayor Gerald Aalbers** attend the meeting. Big thanks to President **Maria Kokonas**, and also congratulations to City Councillor and Assistant Governor **Jason Whiting** and club member **Karla Furman** on their recent engagement.

October 12-14 – Jasper - we were invited to attend the Jasper Rotary club's "Dark Sky Festival" fundraiser event on Thursday evening, and had the pleasure of sitting with Keynote Speaker the Honourable **Marc Garneau**. What a special evening and congratulations to President **Hélène Gendron** and the Jasper Rotary club for their great fundraiser. I even was the highest bidder for 4 rounds of golf at Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge! We then took in the Dark Sky Festival at the JPL on Friday evening. How wonderful to see so many stars without the dimming of light pollution.



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October 16-18 – Whitehorse, Yukon - what an absolutely fantastic visit we had to Whitehorse, Yukon. Huge thank you to District Governor Nominee **Ramesh Ferris** and club President **Bonnie Venton Ross** for their hospitality and tour guide expertise! We had the pleasure of meeting Commissioner **Adeline Webber**, Premier **Ranj Pillai**, and Whitehorse Mayor **Laura Cabott** during our visit. We had the honour and privilege to be guests in the Legislative Assembly where leaders of each party rose to recognize World Polio Day on October 24th and thank Rotary for the great work they do in their community. We also celebrated their relaunch of the Rotary clock back to working order!



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October 20 – Fairview - a huge thanks to lead Assistant Governor **Dennis Radbourne** and Co-presidents **Pauline Boddle** and **Christopher Laue** for the great hospitality in Fairview, and what a wonderful sign to welcome us when we arrived. We toured the many great initiatives of the Fairview Rotary Club including their famous electronic Rotary clock and their Centennial Project gazebo. What a wonderful visit!



October 20-21 – Grande Prairie – we were invited to attend the five Rotary clubs' major fundraiser for the year, their **Fest-of-Ale** on Friday night, and their **Scarecrow Festival Shindig** on Saturday night. What a blast! Congratulations to all the Rotary clubs for this amazing fundraiser, the first time I've ever seen desserts auctioned off in a live auction! Rotarian **Nevada Wafler** created a word board that represented all the agencies and organizations that the Rotary clubs of Grande Prairie have worked with over the last two years. It was phenomenal. Our host, past Assistant Governor and Past President **Vernon Boyd** served as emcee for the Saturday night event. Congratulations on two great events.

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Rotary Club Past Presidents

October 23 – Peace River - we drove from Grande Prairie to Peace River and what a beautiful drive it is through the Peace Country. We were greeted by President **Brent Rostad** and AG **Dennis Radbourne**, and learned about the great work that the Rotary Club of Peace River has been doing over many years. After the meeting we visited Rotary House, a 60th Anniversary project of service to the Community. The Club identified a strong need in the region for a dedicated facility that could provide cost effective, temporary accommodations for family members travelling long distances to be near those seriously ill or receiving medical care at the Peace River Health Center. What a beautiful facility it is!



October 24 – Vegreville - President **Deanne Nichol** toured me around Vegreville to see all the great projects they have done. I was so impressed with their Rotary Peace Park and how this amenity is so well utilized by the citizens. We saw their Rotary clock and revisited the Rotary Skate Park that recently opened this summer. Of course we had to do a selfie in front of the world's largest Pysanka! I had a wonderful meeting with the club members and thanked them for the great service to their community. Now that the skate park is done the club is contemplating its next project in consultation with town council.



October 25 – Athabasca - what a wonderful surprise I received as I drove into Athabasca, as Assistant Governor and club member **Brian Scott** had put up a welcome sign on their Rotary billboard as you drive in. I had a lovely visit with their board first, then met with the full club for lunch. I presented Brian Scott with a Paul Harris Fellow Level 2, always a great honour. After the meeting Brian, President **Natasha Kapitaniuk** and member **Darlene Reimer** toured me around to see all the great projects they have done over the years. Wow is Rotary ever a powerful force in Athabasca! We saw the Rotary trails, the Rotary clock, their participation in the town's Multiplex and of course their large billboard. Thanks and congratulations to the Rotary Club of Athabasca on their fantastic work in the community and around the world.

