

ROTARY_PETER

DISTRICT 5550

Rotary_Peter is a place for updates on the good work of District 5550. Rotary has been a force for humanitarian efforts, building goodwill, and promoting peace on both local and global scales. Powered by our membership and the community we serve, we have become synonymous with service, integrity, and ethical leadership. We believe in the power of collaboration and collective action to address the world's most pressing challenges.

This is a place to highlight the difference makers, and Rotarians within District 5550 are making a difference wherever they go! So, join me on the website or monthly through this newsletter to keep up on our ['Magical Mystery Tour'](#) and meet the people with the ['Magic Touch'](#).



THE MAGIC OF ROTARY

MONTHLY FEATURE:

- Growing Our Public Presence
- Transition
- The Magic Touch - with Maurus Schwarz

Growing Our Public Presence

There's an expression: "You never get a second chance to make a first impression." Today, people's first impressions of an organization are often based on its online presence. That's why we've modernized our District's public presence.

In the past month, we've updated our District website and created a LinkedIn account to share the best things happening in our District with the public and fellow Rotarians. If you haven't yet, please find us on Facebook and LinkedIn.

Liking and sharing our posts helps spread the magic of Rotary and supports our growth.

Anyone interested in Rotary can contact our leadership team directly via the District website or the District Governor's site. It's a great way to start a conversation about Rotary.

Special thanks to the public image team—Fred Wright, Jo-Anne Dalton, and Ken Singer—for their work and leadership.

-Peter Tonge



Picture of Peter Tonge, smiling. He is seated in a wheelchair and has a bald head and a black and white shirt on.

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Transition

July is Rotary's transition month, a time for club and district leaders to settle into their new roles, marking the start of the Rotary year.

I've spent my time meeting Rotarians and making new friends, with visits ranging from the Rotary Club of Le Pas to others across the district, including Saskatoon and Winnipeg. At each stop, we celebrated successes, tackled challenges, and, most importantly, built connections.

One of the highlights was inducting three new members into the Winnipeg Satellite Club. In another memorable moment, the St. Boniface St. Vital Club awarded University scholarships

to two deserving students, a ceremony filled with hope and inspiration. Club President Richard Senez and I also found time to share travel stories, adding a personal touch to our meeting.



Club President Richard Senez (left) with District Governor Peter Tonge at the St. Boniface-St. Vital changeover meeting.

July has been a wonderful month of connecting with Rotary members and making new friends. As we move forward, I encourage everyone to embrace these connections and continue building a strong, supportive Rotary community. Enjoy your summer, and let's make this Rotary year a memorable one!

District Meetings

Check the calendar at

www.rotary5550.org

for all district meetings and events!

District 5550:

District 5550 of Rotary International covers an area from Northwestern Ontario, through Manitoba, to the western border of the Province of Saskatchewan.



The Magic Touch



Our paddler team in northwestern Ontario.

Maurus Schwarz, a university student from Zurich, Switzerland, reached out via social media after participating in the International Wilderness Canoe Camp organized by the Rotary Club of Sioux Lookout.

The camp, for young people aged 18-21, involves paddling 200 kilometers through northwestern Ontario's boreal forest in two-person canoes. Participants engage in all aspects of the trip, including cooking, setting up tents, paddling, and carrying equipment over seven portages.

Maurus shared: "From learning essential survival and camping skills to navigating challenging portages and working as a team, every moment was rewarding and educational. Connecting with participants from diverse backgrounds opened my eyes to new perspectives and broadened my horizons."

Maurus and the other participants have grown from the experience. That is the magic of Rotary!