

# 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:

- This One is All About the Youth!
- Talking Accessibility and Ableism
- The Magic Touch - Rotary Youth Leadership Assembly



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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## This One is All About the Youth!

This August, I had the opportunity to participate in some incredible youth-focused initiatives. I took part in the Rotary Youth Leadership Assembly (RYLA) at Riding Mountain National Park and Rotary Adventures in Human Rights (RAHR) at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights.

Each program, organized by Rotary members, had a unique focus, but the goal was the same: to create a safe space where teens can learn, grow, and be their authentic selves. As the youth engaged in various activities, they were encouraged to apply what

they learned to impact their home communities. I also had the chance to learn alongside them, brainstorming project ideas and even learning how to shoot a music video.

Rotary offers many other youth programs, including student exchange, wilderness canoe camp, and Adventures in Agriculture. I encourage you to get involved in these youth initiatives or share them with a young person in your life. Working with Rotary's future leaders is truly magical.

*-Peter Tonge*

## Talking Accessibility and Ableism

I love those moments when work, volunteering, and life experiences come together. I had one of those moments during a conversation with these teens. The group, from across Canada, was in Winnipeg for Rotary International's program, Rotary Adventures in Human Rights.

We talked about accessibility, removing barriers, and ableism. I shared my experiences and gave examples from our work at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights. The students identified barriers in their communities and came up with creative solutions to remove them.

Best of all, we had a great discussion around the question, "What is normal?" It was inspiring to watch the group realize that if disabilities, both visible and invisible, were seen as a normal part of our communities, accessibility barriers would disappear. Working with creative young people gives me hope on the tough days.



Rotary Adventures in Human Rights. Youth met at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights.

### Listen Now:

[I'm A Rotarian Podcast Season 10 EP.20](#) with District Governor Peter Tonge

### District Meetings

Check the calendar at [www.rotary5550.org](http://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



Rotary Youth Leadership Assembly (RYLA) 2024

A special "Shiny" to all of the campers and the camp leaders Scott, Jorrel, Sarah, Tye, Brielle, Imisi, Jake and Kali Ann for sharing their magic!

I visited this year's Rotary Youth Leadership Assembly (RYLA) senior camp. Six groups of teens attend the camp, which is held at the beautiful Riding Mountain National Park.

While I was there, the campers learned cooperation by eating dinner while tied to each other's wrists; they learned about the world by discussing current issues;

they learned creativity and communication by making music videos and they learned about each other in sharing circles.

I was impressed to see how quickly teamwork became the norm. Everyone worked together, and friendships were made. The campers learned and grew while having fun.

Rotary is supporting young leaders and future Rotarians!