

# 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:

- Collaboration Makes Us Stronger!
- A Family Tradition and a New Beginning.
- The Magic Touch - Meet Navreet.

## Collaboration Makes Us Stronger!

Around the District this month, I had the privilege of witnessing one of Rotary's greatest strengths —people working together. In Regina, four clubs came together to host a barbeque, providing an opportunity for friendship, idea sharing and a great visit! I also spoke about the year ahead during a joint event held by the Moose Jaw clubs.

In Winnipeg, our club, along with others, partnered with the charity *Sleep in Heavenly Peace* to build beds for children in need.

Rotary's volunteer power, combined with the charity's expertise, made a significant impact on the lives of these children.

I often speak about expanding our reach. By collaborating with others and working with new partners, we, as an organization, become stronger and more effective. I encourage all clubs to seek out strong partners to support our Rotary mission.

*-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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## A Family Tradition and a New Beginning

The Magical Mystery Tour has been making its way through Saskatchewan, learning about the great work done by clubs in the province and meeting some outstanding Rotarians.

At a multi-club barbeque in Regina, I chatted with Joanna Alexander. Quick to smile and share a story, Joanna explained that her father was a long-time Rotarian before her. Women couldn't yet be members when her late husband, Doug, joined Rotary. Undeterred, Joanna worked alongside him to support the Rotary Club of Regina. Eventually, she became a proud member herself, partly to honour

Doug and continue their Rotary work. Today, she's an active "senior" member, managing her club's communications and regularly contributing to website stories and media releases.

By any measure, Teegan Knibbs is a brand-new Rotarian. I met him at the Estevan club meeting, which was only his second week in Rotary. Invited by his friend and club President, Chris Hoffos, Teegan joined to make friends. Unsurprisingly, as he learned more about Rotary, he became eager to help others.

These two meetings reflect my experience in Rotary: veterans and beginners working together, learning from one another, and collaborating to strengthen our communities.

## The Magic Touch



Photo of Navreet building beds at the Sleep in Heavenly Peace event.

Meet Navreet, a member of the University of Winnipeg Rotaract club. She and I joined 40 other Rotarians and friends to build beds for kids in need.

Spearheaded by the Rotary Club of Winnipeg, several clubs partnered with *Sleep in Heavenly Peace* to make the event a success. Sleep in Heavenly Peace is a volunteer group that builds, assembles, and delivers quality beds to children in need.

The bed-building process is impressive. Lumber is cut, sanded, drilled, and assembled at workstations that ensure consistent components.

## 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.



Even volunteers with little experience can complete tasks. The beds are then treated, stained, and branded with the SHP logo using a hot iron from a nearby fire.

Families also receive bedding, pillows, and handmade quilts donated by a local quilting guild.

This is Rotary at its best—clubs working together with a local charity to strengthen our community and support those in need.