

# 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'](#).



### MONTHLY FEATURE:

- Get Out There!
- Big Ideas and Great Impact
- The Magic Touch - Meet Will!

## Get Out There!

Over the years, I've come to truly understand the value of being visible and present. Early on in my journey with Rotary, I thought that making an impact was about big ideas and planning. But as I travelled through the District and see the work firsthand, I realize that the real magic happens when we show up, when we are physically there, engaging with the people and communities we aim to support.

I've witnessed it at the Youth Nuclear Summit, where students' voices were heard because they stood in front of us with their research. I saw it in Steinbach,

where youth programs flourished because Rotary members were present and involved. Being visible and present creates connection and trust, and ultimately, it's the foundation of true change!

*-Peter Tonge*



Photo of MLA Jelynn Dela Cruz at Youth Nuclear Summit with 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.

### Contact:

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## Big Ideas and Great Impact

Travelling through the District, I've learned about the many different ways Rotary contributes to communities. This month, I attended three very different events focusing on change.

I spoke at the Youth Nuclear Summit at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, where high school students from around the world presented anti-nuclear research projects. The highlight was a presentation by two students from Osaka, Japan. They learned English specifically to present their research. Their presentation received a standing ovation, which was unnerving for the students, as this is not a common custom in Japan!

I also spoke in Steinbach, MB, at the South Eastman Club's annual fundraising lunch, which supports their youth programs, such as the Rotary Youth Leadership Assembly and D.A.R.E. Public speaking can be challenging, and I spoke immediately after Mayor Earl Funk's story, "The Lessons We Learn from Cucumbers." It was a tough act to follow.

Lastly, I attended the first anniversary of the Pitikwé Skatepark, a do-it-yourself, community-driven project located in Portage Place in Winnipeg. The skatepark is partially sponsored by the Winnipeg Rotary Club. I wasn't brave enough to skate the steep ramps, but I learned from the participants about the importance of having a safe, fun after-school environment.

Bringing the magic of Rotary out in very different ways.

## 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

Meet Will Jones, a proud member of the Winnipeg Assiniboine Rotary Club and a supported education teacher at R.B. Russel School. Will's Rotary Club regularly participates in walks with the Bear Clan Patrol.

The Bear Clan Patrol is an Indigenous-led organization that works with the community to provide personal security in the inner city in a non-threatening, non-violent, non-judgmental, and supportive way. They are best known for their safety walks and food distribution in Winnipeg's downtown.



Photo of Will Jones and members of the Bear Clan Patrol.  
Photo credit: Ruth Bonneville/Free Press

While working with the Patrol, Will realized that this initiative would be of interest to many of his students, especially those who wanted to make a difference in a way that traditional school clubs did not offer.

With the support of the Winnipeg Division and the Patrol, the Bear Clan Club was born. Now, the students walk in the community, meeting residents, sharing food and water, and learning not only about the challenges people face but also about community pride.

Combining passion and vocation to build stronger communities — that is the magic of Rotary! Thanks Will!