June 2024 Words from District Governor Roger Sevigny

If you are looking to have something posted in the July newsletter, please email your articles and photos to Public Image Chair Kelly Hunt at rotarykellyhunt@gmail.com by **June 27th**

District Facebook

Please check out, Like and Follow our District 7815 Facebook page, where we hope to publish your stories and share your successes. Please tag us in your stories and send any Club updates to Kelly Hunt our District 7815 Public Image Chair at rotarykellyhunt@gmail.com.

June – Rotary Fellowships Month

June is designated Rotary Fellowships Month to recognize the importance of international fellowship and goodwill among Rotarians with similar recreational and vocational interests, promote increased participation in fellowships, and increase understanding of this program.

"Fellowship is wonderful; it illuminates life's pathway, spreads good cheer, and is worth high price." Rotary Founder, Paul Harris

What are the benefits for Rotarians in joining the Rotary Fellowships?

Fellowship provides opportunities for Rotarians to make lasting friendships outside their own Club, District or country. Fellowships contribute to the advancement of world understanding and peace. Also, Fellowships serve as an incentive for attracting new members to Rotary and retaining our existing members. Indeed, Rotary Fellowship, together with the Rotarian Action Groups, serve as an effective tool in promoting membership development and should be actively promoted in our Districts.

There are many Fellowships that would be of interest to our members, and they are detailed on https://www.rotary.org/en/our-programs/more-fellowships

Simply Irresistible Webinar Series - Zone 28 & 32 Membership Team

Monday Membership Meetup for June!
Mark your calendar for the first Monday of every month. It will be Magical! Keep the alliteration going...

This one will prompt you to ***Rock the Boat... on purpose.***

Here is the link: CLICK HERE

Please share with your clubs!

District 7815 Conference – Info, Registration Deadline & Gala Theme

The Rotary Club of Saint Pierre et Miquelon is getting ready for its first ever District Conference which will be held on June 14th-16th, 2024 and **YOU HAVE UNTIL MONDAY, JUNE 3rd TO REGISTER!**

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU HAVE ACCOMODATIONS BEFORE YOU REGISTER!

There are accommodations for 4 remaining at Ma P'tite Cocotte and a few potentially at Hotel Robert.

Travel insurance is recommended coming to France.

Our theme for the Saturday night Gala is: ROARING 20's!

Agenda to be announced soon.

Rotary Club of Amherst, Nova Scotia, donates $20,000 to help fund new roof at "Bright Beginnings Day Care Centre".

The home of "Bright Beginnings Day Care Centre " on Park Street in Amherst, Nova Scotia. This day care facility has operated in a former church for over 40 years. Last year it was in dire need of a new roof or else it had to close. Government assists with programming, but not with the physical facility. A new roof was estimated to cost over $70,000, plus hst.

Despite tentatively promised help from two other sources - and several refusals of assistance from others, the full amount could not be raised. Our club decided to donate $20,000 from our Community Service Fund, which then made the other promised help come on board and the job was able to be done.

The daycare centre was saved.
The new roof looks great.

Cheque presentation in early November, with Vice-President Matt Ellis (left) and Chris Goodwin, the Board Chair of Bright Beginnings Day Care Centre (right) and Chair of the New Community Projects Committee, Morris Haugg (c).

Morris Haugg
Rotary Club of Amherst
Chair of the New Community Projects Committee

NOTE: Sincerest apologies to Morris Haugg and The Rotary Club of Amherst for missing this wonderful article which was submitted for a previous DG Word.

Rotary Friendship Exchange to District 9370 South Africa

Our team representing District 7815 returned in May from a wonderful but eye-opening exchange with clubs in the Eastern Cape area of South Africa. This team consisted of nine members from six clubs in our district.
Initially a couple of days in Johannesburg, or Cape Town for some, to acclimatize after a long journey. Those who were in J'Burg had a tour of Soweto Township along with its historic sites including Mandela's home and prison. We enjoyed some local foods and native dancing in the streets was unexpected. Decrepit homes built tightly together, children playing in dirt, goats feeding on the garbage everywhere showed the poverty of the community.

We then flew to East London, where we were met and warmly welcomed by a contingent of local Rotarians. Five clubs participated in hosting, touring, entertaining and feeding our team. Thanks to the Rotary Clubs of East London, Gonubie, Gately and Bonzy Bay. Everything was first class. We toured many of their projects, most of which focused on improvements of education for impoverished communities as well as food security.

The Fort Grey School is a great example of success in spite of hardships, little government support, water issues, poor buildings and infrastructure and snakes in the classroom among others. The singing and dancing, sports program, gardening and the chess club show the dedication of the teaching staff. The enthusiasm of the students is great. Students want to attend school. Absenteeism is very low. Seven year old Azo competed in the national chess championships after we left and has won a spot on the

South African team in the African continental competition in June. We were so impressed that we have supported his travel to the nationals and wish him success and will go much further.

Our next stop was at the neighbouring communities of Port Alfred and Kenton-on-Sea and hosted by Rotarians of the respective clubs there. Beautiful affluent towns, many of the homes are summer holiday homes. The support of the local township schools and food security are priorities of these clubs.

Grahamstown is a historic town commemorating the settlement by Europeans. A former government seat, it has many beautiful religious buildings, the site of several respected universities and colleges. The local Rotary club hosted us at the appropriately named Pothole & Donkey Restaurant which accurately describes so much of what we saw.
We then spent two wonderful days at the Amakhala game reserve. Our guide was a wealth of knowledge. A great experience in looking and viewing the “big five” as well as learning about so much fauna, flora, birds, minor wildlife. Watching a couple of juvenile lions stalk and chase a wild pig was an interesting experience. An earlier chase that we observed put the score at Lions 1; Pigs 1.

Our next stop was Port Elizabeth, renamed Gbeherha, was the final stop of our official exchange. The Rotary Clubs Algoa Bay and Port Elizabeth are quite involved in the training of boys, young men and deaf people to take place as productive workers in the world.

At every stop that we made, we were hosted by wonderful and generous Rotarians who were very committed to improving the lives of those less fortunate in their various communities. We had many discussions centering around the inequalities of lives in the Easter Cape, how the government needs to do so much more to improve the lives of its citizens.

South Africa is a beautiful country that has its challenges. We have barely mentioned the many spots that we saw, the events that we attended, the hospitality, the meals, and especially the wonderful people that we met. We were toured around by dedicated Rotarians who showed us sights that the average tourist would not see. That is one of the many benefits of the Rotary Friendship Exchange program.
This post can only show a very few of the many sights that we saw, the people who we met, the meetings and conversations that we participated in, the projects we visited. They all added up to a fabulous exchange.

We have recently set up the Rotary District 7815 Friendship Exchange Group (https://www.facebook.com/groups/986969666080690) where some of our team have posted and will continue posting their own experiences. Others are invited and encouraged to post their own experiences,comments or questions. We will endeavour to keep this site up to date with all things that relate to RFEs.

(*See below collage!)*

St. F.X. student forms Antigonish Rotaract Club

Press Release in The Casket. Read online version HERE

Left to right; Emma Proudfoot, Abaigeal O'Neil, Sarah O'Neil, Janelle Brewer, Jessica Cuvelier, Alexander Driscoll, and Ngoc Hoang Lan Vo are all current members of the New Rotaract Club of Antigonish.

"With great power comes great responsibility." This is a well-known line for fans of the Marvel Comics Spider-man franchise and something that hits close to home for Emma Proudfoot.

"I've always been passionate about community service and giving back through volunteering," she said. "Since I was young, my family was always involved with the community."

Proudfoot found out about the Interact Club in Grade 9.
"They are an organization who provide service to the community. Their goal is to do good for everyone," she explained.
Proudfoot joined the Interact Club in high school as a general member in Grade 9 and then in Grade 12 served as president.
"My mum was involved with the Rotary Club of New Glasgow, so I found out about the Interact Club through her and a few of my friends. That was the only club at the time that did community service," said Proudfoot.

Rotaract is the branch of the Rotary Club aimed at young adults and university students.
“I was excited to join the Rotaract club when I came to university, but we didn't have one, so I started one,” said Proudfoot.
Proudfoot, who is a third-year St. F.X. student studying business management and leadership started the club last year.
“We grew pretty quickly,” said Proudfoot of the now 15-member club.
“We have grown more this year in terms of our projects and things we have accomplished,” she continued.

One of the fundraisers they organized was a Beatles trivia night.
“It was very successful, said Proudfoot. We raised a lot of money.”
Another thing they took part in was the Samaritans Purse Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Project.
“We shipped boxes of gifts, school supplies, hygiene items across the world,” explained Proudfoot, who is president of their chapter.

As a way of growing their community outreach, their chapter has also helped the New Glasgow Rotaract Club with a few of their events.
“We are trying to grow our outreach,” said Proudfoot.

Another of the activities they took part in was cooking for the homeless shelter.

Two of their upcoming events are Shelter Box and Ribfest.
“We will be involved with Ribfest, which the New Glasgow Rotary is hosting,” said Proudfoot.

Proudfoot also notes they are associated with the town of Antigonish, not just St. F.X. for anyone who wants to get involved.
“We plan to do meetups all through the summer. This way we can gain community members rather than only ST. F.X. students,” said Proudfoot. “It's hard with just students because at the same time we are going through midterms (and) we leave for four months of the year. We want to grow our club as a community open to all ages.”
Throughout the summer, these zoom meetups will be used to plan events for the fall.

For anyone interested in joining or wanting more information you are encouraged to reach out to Emma Proudfoot at 902-759-6474.

The Rotary Year 2023-2024 in Review for our Interactors

District 7815 Interactors, Rotary advisors and teacher advisors had a very successful year with a Food Drive and Photo Contest. Many thanks to D7815 Interact Committee member Michelle Vokey who chaired the Food Drive Contest and volunteers who help the Interactors count bar codes to determine the winners.
Also, committee member Beverly Barker chaired the Photo Contest and Rotarians

Susan Cassidy of NB, Nora McCarthy of PEI, Galib Bin Bakhtair of NL and Jamie Goodwin of NS who gave many hours of their time to determine our winners.

We wish every Club in the District could be winners but all communities are winners as the students worked diligently to support many needs across the Atlantic Provinces. Just to share a few activities, C.P. Allen High School held a Bake Sale to raise funds for Phoenix House Shelter which provides emergency accommodations for youth. North and South Esk Regional High School hold a yearly Trick or Eat campaign for Halloween which resulted in 1882 food items being collected which benefited 4 different Food Banks in their surrounding area.Glace Bay High School spent a weekend selling tickets and face painting at a Hockey Tournament to raise funds with the help of their sponsor club to provide toys to a local organization so that children had toys for Christmas. And finally, Gonzaga Club in NL took part in the Coldest Night of the Year raising funds to end youth homelessness.
I would be amiss not to mention the Trans Atlantic Challenge that Glace Bay High School participated in with Italy and UK Interact Clubs — what an experience for all involved.

There are so many other Clubs to mention but space is limited so I encourage you to join our FB page...District 7815 Interact Group.

We must mention the Rotarian and teacher advisors who work along side the Interactors attending meetings, helping with events, providing guidance and encouragement and giving numerous hours of time and everything you do to help our future Rotarians, you are all very important to the Clubs and Members .

Finally, a big thank you to the District 7815 Interact committee members Axel Nafthal, Donna Randall, Beverley Barker, Michelle Vokey and ex-officio Director of Youth Jane Simmons who give up many hours to attend zoom meetings, look after contests and any other items I ask for help with. Thank you all for your support.

If you are interested in joining the District Committee, please email me for more information as there is always lots to do.

Paula Hiltz
District 7815 Interact Chair
Nason@nbnet.nb.ca

Rotary Youth Exchange – District 7815 Year in Review

This past year District 7815 Clubs sponsored 13 Short Term Exchanges and 11 Long Term Outbound Exchange students and 13 Long Term Inbound Exchange Students. Two students are participants from the **Power of One Program** (Ethiopia and Uganda- Inbound only) supported by St. John's Northwest and

Moncton respectively. District 7815 was the only Canadian district participating in this program.

Our Short-term exchange students for 2023 (July/August) participated in the following exchanges:

- Isabelle (France) who exchanged with Margot sponsored by Florenceville
- Heidi (Italy) who exchanged with Alice (Ali) sponsored by Dieppe
- William (Switzerland) who exchanged with Florian sponsored by Rothesay-Kings
- Alice (Italy) who exchanged with Elisa sponsored by Moncton West & Riverview (MWR)
- Rachel (France) who exchanged with Zoe sponsored by Halifax Harbour
- Asia (Germany) who exchanged with Jana sponsored by MWR
- Claire (France) who exchanged with Tilda sponsored by Florenceville
- Emily (Italy) who exchanged with Camilla sponsored by Shediac
- Faith (France) who exchanged with Agathe sponsored by Newcastle
- Damien (Germany) who exchanged with Maximilian sponsored by Shediac
- Zoe (Belgium) who exchanged with Masuma sponsored by Dieppe
- Flavia (Italy) who exchanged with Vittoria sponsored by Moncton
- Elliot (Italy) who exchanged with Alessandro sponsored by Sackville, NB

We are preparing to welcome back our Long-Term Exchange Students and to say good bye to our Inbound students. A special thank you to the Rotary Clubs, Youth Exchange Officers (YEO), and generous host families who supported these students this past year:

Sponsoring Club	**Name Outbound**	**Country**	**Name Inbound**	**Country**
Dieppe	Will (William)	Belgium	Santiago	Spain
MW&R			Arthur	Brazil
New Minas Sunrise	Arreyah	France	Camille	France
Halifax Harbour	Simon	Brazil	Alice	Belgium
Truro	Abigail	Spain	Noel	Switzerland
Moncton	Julia	Italy	Rahim	Uganda
Kentville	Joey	Belgium	Helena	Spain/Germany
Dartmouth/Dartmouth East	Pippin	Taiwan	Federico	Italy
Charlottetown/ Charlottetown Royal	Connor	Switzerland	Vivian	Taiwan
Summerside	Omelia (Mia)	Spain	Nicolas	Switzerland
Summerside	Lucie Erin	Italy	Leon	Belgium
MW&R	Katherine	Germany	Carolina	Spain
St. John’s Northwest			Yonas	Ethiopia

District 7815 Students Participated in the Following Weekends throughout the year:

- Inbound Orientation, Camp Tidnish, Baie Verte, NB

- Peace Weekend, Moncton NB November, 2023
- LTEP Inbound/Outbound Weekend, Halifax NS January 2024
- Ski Weekend, Martock Ski Hill, NS February 2024
- Outbound Orientation Weekend, Mount Allison University, Sackville May, 2024*
- Some students also attended RYLA, Sussex, NB in May, 2024

Mount Alison University, Outbound Orientation, including this Rotary year's Inbound Students and next year's Outbounds!

For 2024/2025 we have students confirmed to be sponsored by the following clubs:

Long Term Exchange (9+2):
Charlottetown
Charlottetown Royalty
Dieppe
Grand Falls
Halifax Harbour
Kentville
Moncton (+ 2 Power of One Students)
Moncton West & Riverview (MW&R)
Summerside

Short Term Exchange (13):
Dartmouth East (X2)
Dieppe
Fredericton Sunrise
Halifax Harbour
Moncton (X4)
MW&R (X2)
Shediac
St. John's Northwest

Club compliance checklists, volunteer applications/reference checks, host family applications, vulnerable sector/criminal record checks, and youth protection training is required of all volunteers involved at club level, with hosting, and

chaperoning events. Please reach out to John Harnett if you require additional information on this.

We need a Treasurer for weekend events and Public Relations Support for 2024-2025. Please consider volunteering with our great team for the coming year!

We have a phenomenal Youth Exchange Committee chaired by Marcel Gervais, Youth Exchange Chair (DGN 7815). Members include the following:

- Wayne Wornes, Inbound Coordinator
- Ade Adeyemi, Long Term Outbound Coordinator
- Jennie Bernard, Short Term Outbound Coordinator
- Monica Hudson, Secretary
- Alida Campbell, Training Chair
- John Harnett, Youth Protection Officer
- Anna Gleason, Rotex
- Jane Simmons, Director

Goals for 2024-2025:

- Meeting with Youth Exchange Officers (YEO) quarterly or as needed;
- Increase clubs/students participating in Youth Exchange;
- Continue to lead a phenomenal youth exchange program giving our youth the opportunity for a lifetime, building world peace, one student at a time!
- If you want to participate in 2025-2026 Youth Exchange, reach out soon as we start recruiting students in the fall of 2024. We would love to support your club in sponsoring a youth for this life changing experience.

RYLA – Rotary Youth Leadership Awards

May 10th and 11th, the fourth annual RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) hosted by the Rotary Club of Sussex took place at Kingswood University in Sussex, NB. The program was led by Edgar Allain, a John Maxwell certified leadership trainer and member of the Rotary Club of Moncton. 32 Students attended this value-based leadership program called iChoose developed and given free of charge by John Maxwell Institute. (see below picture)

Special thanks to Angie Cummings (who took charge of things from start to finish), Edgar Allain (who gave freely of his time with enthusiasm), and Marcel Gervais (who ensured students had curriculum/resources needed). Special thanks to our facilitators Ed Keith, Amber Douthwright, and John McNair (Sussex) , Lech Krzywonos (Truro) , Edgar Allain (Moncton), and Yonas Dejene (Youth Exchange Inbound Student - St John's Northwest).

We will continue to recruit for a chair for RYLA and hope to organize more than one workshop in District 7815 in the 2024-2025 Rotary year. Anyone interested in getting involved, please reach out.

Honouring Indigenous People (HIP)

HIP
Honouring Indigenous Peoples

Honouring Indigenous People (HIP) was held in Zajac Ranch in Mission, B.C. on March 24-30, 2024, with 10 students from District 7815 in attendance. If you would like a presentation from students who participated this year or find out how your club can join the 7 clubs in our District that supported students' participation in this life changing cultural experience, please reach out. Plans are under way to coordinate a HIP Youth to Youth program in Nova Scotia next year and we are counting on your support. Please join our committee to help make it the best one yet!

See this link (https://youtu.be/az5i0E-xtHM) for a video that shows how valuable this event was to some of the participants who attended this year!

I have a District 7815 Page set up under Canada Helps so clubs can easily contribute to this initiative. See below link if your club wishes to support youth participation from our district in this event. https://www.canadahelps.org/s/6eEFJZ

Venezuelan Scholarship Project (VSP)

Matthew Quirez, a 2019-2020 Youth Exchange student to our District, obtained his Grade XII from Dartmouth High despite Covid 19 but was not able to return home as Venezuela was closed in June of 2020! With the advice of Michael Craig, former Youth Exchange Chair of our District, District Grant Applications that were supported by 5 Rotary Clubs in our District, and many other supports from multiple clubs/individuals within our district, Matthew stayed in Nova Scotia and just completed a Bachelor of Science Degree, Majoring in Statistics, from King's University.

Matthew was an exemplary student, contributing to Rotaract, Youth Exchange Programs as a Rotex, and various Rotary projects in our district over the last 5 years. He received many scholarships and worked part time, contributing significantly to his education/expenses. He just recently ran a marathon raising money for Shelter Box to pay it forward.

Matthew joined the Rotary Club of Dartmouth East on Monday May 13, 2024 and will convocate on May 23, 2024. He has a full-time job in Nova Scotia and aspires to someday be a Canadian Citizen. Matthew is a good news story of Rotary in our District that we all need to celebrate!

Thanks to current and former committee members: Brian Smith, Kevin Connors, Gary Holt, Lorraine Lewis, Michael Craig, Diane Sweeney, Sharon Barnes, Jane Simmons, Melanie Taljaard, Matthew Kempton, Kathleen Ellwood, and John Molden who have supported this initiative.

My first donation
Join me next time!
blood.ca