Governor's Blog

One of the joys of being District Governor is traveling the highways and byways of north central Alberta taking in the beautiful fall colours as we visit the many clubs in our district. September was a very busy month with club visits, and I want to offer my congratulations and heartfelt thanks to all those clubs and the great work they do within their communities. Here's a brief synopsis of our stops along the way:

September 6th to 8th - visited Fort St. John and had a great day volunteering with packing then delivering their bag breakfast to many companies supporting this fundraising initiative. We then held a lovely dinner meeting with the two clubs, Fort St. John and Fort St. John sunrise. The next day we had a fantastic visit and tour of this city, including the Rotary RV Park, an outdoor skating rink, and their beautiful splash park as part of the Pomeroy Rec. Centre. Congratulations to Samantha Warren, Kris Olsen, and PDG Bruce Christensen for their great work in this community.

On the way back we stopped in Grande Prairie as part of the inbound orientation for our Youth Exchange students.



September 11th – I visited Fort McMurray and had a tour of the Rotary Links golf course and the new sign entering Fort Mac that had burned down from the fire. We then held a joint meeting of the two clubs, Fort McMurray and Fort McMurray-Oilsands at the Rivers Casino. Thanks to Club Presidents Steve Auty & Taras Andrusiv and PDG Frank and Barb Reitz for their hospitality during my trip.





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September 13th to 15th – Adele and I had a lovely drive to **Slave Lake** and had a tour of their many projects. Thanks to President Valerie Tradewell for showing me around, and we then attended their meeting on Wednesday evening. Like other communities in north, Slave Lake suffered severely from wildfires, and the new Rotary Library is a testament to the club's participation in rebuilding the community. After the meeting the club presented a cheque to the Canadian Legion President Phylis Conrad. Each year the Legion holds a dinner for the local RCMP officers and Bylaw Officers honouring the work they do for the community, and Rotary has been sponsoring this event for the last 10 years.



Lac La Biche - from Slave Lake we drove to Lac La Biche and had a great visit with President Tim Polzin and the club. Tim toured us around to show us the two gazebos the club built and an upgrade being done to McArthur Park featuring the Rotary playground. Thanks to Sue Ward for opening up her home and backyard for a real fireside chat.





September 19th to 21st – We visited **Wainwright** and met with their executive to learn about all the great projects that the Wainwright Rotary Club participates in. Their fundraising prowess is second to none, and congratulations for the great work they do in their community. Their latest endeavor is a Grow Park featuring an outdoor skating rink and multipurpose field as part of a new school being built on these grounds. Four combines harvested a Canola field with all proceeds going to this project. Congratulations to President Allan Samm and the Wainwright Rotary Club for their great work!



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Vermilion - from Wainwright we drove to Vermilion and met with the Vermilion Rotary Club for a fantastic "Shrimp Boil" organized by President Kirby Whitlock. What a feast! The next morning we met with the Rotary Club followed by a tour of the town by President Kirby and Loretta Quickstad. We saw the beautiful Rotary lookout, and the highlight was a tour of the Lakeland College Dairy Research Centre. What a fantastic visit to Vermilion!







September 22nd – I attended the grand opening of the **Rotary Club of Vegreville's Skateboard Park**. This park has been in the works since 2018, and what a wonderful opportunity to be a part of this historic opening ceremony. In attendance were dignitaries MLA Jackie Armstrong-Homeniuk, Vegreville Mayor Tim McPhee, Deputy Reeve of Minburn County Tara Kuzio, and of course members of the Vegreville Rotary and Rotaract clubs. Congratulations to Patti Johnston, the driving force behind this project, and President Deanne Nichol for their resilience and perseverence in bringing this project to fruition.



September 23rd – We participated in The Rotary Club of Hinton's "Oktoberfest", their annual fundraiser. Congratulations to President Bernie Kreiner, Donna Arnesen and the entire club for this great event.