Governor's Blog March 2024

As we wind down our visits, March represented visits 55 through 59 of our 60 clubs in the district. Here's who we met in March:

March 1 – I had the pleasure of throwing the ceremonial first rock at 61st annual **District 5360/5370 Rotary Curling Bonspiel** in Spruce Grove. I was proud as punch that my rock hit the button, but of course I was informed afterwards that every ceremonial rock hits the button. Drat! Congratulations to the **Rotary Club of Spruce Grove** for all their hard work in putting this together.



March 4th to 6th – Hay River – We had a fabulous visit to the Northwest Territories. First stop was Hay River. Big thanks to **President Tom Lakusta** who toured us throughout Hay River and down to Enterprise where we witnessed first hand the devastation of the wildfires last summer. On a positive note we stopped at Alexandra Falls to see it in the winter. What a sight. We had a very productive meeting with the club and even hung out at the Legion to learn how to play Euchre!



With Tom Lakusta at Alexandra Falls



Frozen Alexandra Falls

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March 6th to 8th – Yellowknife – Our trip to Yellowknife was equally rewarding, and we have so many new friends in the north. Big thanks to **Austin and Margaret Marshall** for hosting us in their home, to **President Lydia Bardak** (Yellowknife club) and **President Ajay Chauhan** (Yellowknife True North club) for hosting us at their club meetings, and particular thanks to Rotarian **Peter Vician** who toured us all around Yellowknife for 2 days. We saw the Bush Pilot's Monument, ate whitefish at the famous Bullock's Bistro, drove on an ice road, saw the Ice Castle, The Prince of Wales Heritage Centre, the NWT Legislature and the NWT Diamond Centre where we watched a video of the Diavik Diamond Mine. What an amazing visit!



Standing on the ice road



Yellowknife club in the lobby of the Explorer hotel



Diavik diamond mine



With President Lydia Bardak



Public Gallery in the NWT Legislature

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March 13 - Fort Nelson Rotary Club – because of the challenge of distance this visit was via zoom. It was still great to connect with the members of this small but mighty Rotary Club, and big thanks to **President Colin McMillan** and Area Governor **Rob Blain** for hosting me at their meeting.

March 13th - U of A Rotaract club - I had the pleasure visiting the U of A Rotaract club at their regular meeting and I'm always amazed at the great work that they do on campus and in their community. Thanks to **President Komal Kaur** for organizing and hosting me.

March 15th – Stony Plain Memorial Composite High School – I was pleased to be invited by the Stony Plain Rotary Club to be a rider in the high school Interact club's annual "bikeathon". The bikeathon raised close to $50,000! Thanks to club **President Tren Cole** for inviting me to participate.



March 20th – Fort Saskatchewan Rotary Club – we had a wonderful visit to the Fort Saskatchewan Rotary Club at the Ricky's restaurant. Everyone was in there Rotary finest, with logoed vests and T-shirts. Thanks to **President James Skeoch** for hosting us, we had a fantastic time.



Tara Skeoch receiving her Paul Harris pin



Bill Gordon receiving his Polio Plus Society pin

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March 23rd - Grande Prairie - we were thrilled to participate in Grande Prairie's **Rotary Day**, a combination of fabulous activities for members of all four clubs. We started with a lovely brunch at the Legion, then some fun tubing activity on the ski hill, and ended the day with a three-stop pub crawl. Now THAT was a pub crawl! Once again, we made so many new friends up in Grande Prairie and look forward to seeing them soon. Thanks to the **Presidents-elect** of the four clubs who organized this day – **Erika Fisher** (Grande Prairie After Five), **Robert Simmons** (Grande Prairie Rotary Club), **Janice Chomik** (Grande Prairie Sunrise) and **Dan Boorse** (Grande Prairie Swan City).



