Governor's Blog April / May 2024

With the district conference in May and all of the planning, I did not have time to put together my April blog, so I'm combining both April and May in this entry.

April 12th – Adele and I had the pleasure of attending the President's reception as part of the annual conference of **Inclusion Alberta**. We were there representing the Rotary Employment Partnership, an important relationship where Rotarians can help find employment opportunities for their clients.





April 19th – We headed back to Vermilion to witness their garage sale that they hold annually to raise funds for their club. What an amazing opportunity to witness their curling club stuffed to the rafters with items for sale. All these items are donated by residents of Vermilion and there are no fixed prices on anything; people simply pay what they can or are willing to. The club raised **$64,000** through this venture. What an accomplishment. Congratulations to President **Kirby Whitlock** and all the members of the Vermillion Rotary Club on such a successful fundraiser.



April 27th – We were honoured guests at the Camrose Club's Centennial Anniversary Celebration. It was a beautiful celebration with representatives from the Edmonton club who was their original sponsor back in April of 1924. I had the opportunity to share a few reminiscent stories of their past researched by **Donna Phillips** and **Shirley Rostad**. Congratulations to club President **Tina Myles,** Organizing Committee Chair **Lou Henderson** and all the members of the Camrose Rotary Club for their incredible accomplishment of 100 years.

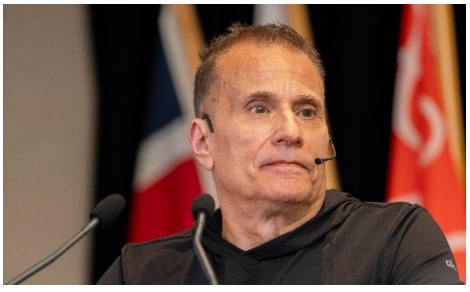
May 3-4 – CREATE HOPE District Conference - How do you encapsulate into a few short words the power and impact of the CREATE HOPE Rotary District Conference? Three powerful presenters: Michael Landsberg - breaking down the stigma of mental illness; Paul Brandt - the scourge of human trafficking and shining a light on the traffickers; and Brian Rusch - ensuring human rights of LGBTQIA+ citizens globally brought 400 delegates to tears hearing how we can all do better to create hope through discussion of these difficult subjects.

Thanks to the generosity of Rotarians, we filled a U-Haul cube van with needed supplies as requested by the Bissell Centre.











May 13th – We had the pleasure of attending the Whitecourt Rotary Club anniversary celebration. As part of this celebration they present a Rotarian of the Year award. Congratulations to **Doreen Opsal** for being recognized by the club for her outstanding service, particularly with youth. Also a big thank you to **Area Governor Nevis Prufer** who served for many years in this role and is moving to Athabasca. Congratulations to President **Carol Zemp** and all the members of the Whitecourt Rotary Club for their amazing work.



May 15 – Integrity Awards – Always a heartwarming celebration, the Capital Region Rotary clubs recognized 14 recipients with their Integrity Awards. We had the pleasure of dining with Her Honour Salma Lakhani, Lieutenant-governor of Alberta, who brought greetings of inspiration to all the recipients for their amazing hard work. Congratulations to the **Rotary Club of Edmonton West** who hosted this important gala event.



May 18 – Fort Edmonton Foundation – I was thrilled to represent Rotary District 5370 on being he recipient of the Samuel A. Dickson Award in recognition of our longstanding support of the Fort Edmonton Foundation. Thank you to Fort Edmonton Foundation President **Grace Kallal**, Fort Edmonton Park CEO **Darren Dalgleish** and Executive Director **Lori Farquharson-Persaud** for this prestige award.



May 27th – Operation Friendship Senior Society Fundraising Gala – We were pleased to attend the OFSS annual fundraising gala with fellow **Riverview Rotarians**, raising money to support their many clients. The room was packed and there were so many items on the silent auction tables. Congratulations to **Jimmy Morrison**, Community Relations Manager, on a successful event.

