



Message From The Governor

February has been a month of Celebration. It started out with many clubs in the District holding events to celebrate Valentine's Day. Red Roses for the ladies, an opportunity for all of us to show our partners how important they are to us. Wendy and I were able to participate at a number of the parties and enjoyed the great fellowship that exists in Rotary.

The main focus this month was, of course, the Celebration of Rotary's 100th Birthday. Wendy and I attended celebration parties in Medicine Hat, Red Deer and Calgary. Unfortunately, we were unable to attend the Lethbridge party. The events were well planned and a lot of attention was focused on Rotary through out the area. There were inserts in local newspapers that provided a lot of great information on the work that Rotary does. The attention that Rotary has received because of these celebrations throughout the community will be invaluable. Many of the congratulatory messages in the paper recognized the great contributions local Rotary clubs make to their communities and around the World.

The Province of Alberta declared Feb. 20th-27th "Rotary Week." The following was a message from Gary Mar.

"Message from Minister Gary Mar

On behalf of Alberta Community Development, I am pleased to recognize February 20 to 27 as Rotary Week.

Alberta is fortunate to be home to a number of dedicated organizations and individuals who are willing to give their time and their talents for the benefit of others in their community.

Embracing the motto "Service Above Self," Rotarians have taken on a vital role in our province through countless acts of service in areas throughout the province. From building parks to sponsoring music festivals, you have helped to make our communities vibrant and enjoyable for all.

Rotary International has built a great legacy of success in Alberta and this momentum is sure to continue through another 100 years."

We now have the April 9th District Celebration to look forward to. The planning committee have been working very hard to provide a program that will be fun and to recognize the importance of our 100 year celebration. The Mayor of Calgary is recognizing this event and will be declaring it officially as Rotary Weekend in Calgary.

The entertainment will be spectacular featuring the Young Canadians, this will be the first time the Young Canadians will perform at a non Stampede event. The recognition given to Rotary by the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede is very much appreciated. The well known Comedian Jeb Fink will be there to entertain and provide us with some great humor that I'm sure will give us much to laugh at. We will auction off the District 5360 Bell, and provide a short pictorial of the Bell's travels. The formal or speech making part of the evening will be kept very short as this party is intended to be a Celebration.

The organizing committee wants to first and foremost make our 100th Birthday party a celebration, but also to highlight the evening with two very meaningful projects. After a great deal of investigation and deliberation we decided on a joint Centennial project with the Province of Alberta. The project consists of providing 25 trees and/or shrubs per applicant to clubs around our District. The criteria to be an applicant is they must be a non-profit organization, trees must be planted on public land and the non-profit organization must have the ability to plant and take care of trees/shrubs by providing water and weeding. Our financial commitment to this project is \$50,000.00. There will be plaques recognizing Rotary's contribution to this program. Hopefully it will be a lasting legacy and a reminder to all of Rotary's participation in meaningful projects throughout the District (more information is available on our Clubrunner web site.)

Rather than distributing souvenirs of the event, we decided it would be more meaningful and beneficial to use the money to provide clean drinking water through the bio-sand water filter project. The same project we participated in earlier in the Dominican Republic and Haiti. It will simply be an extension of what we have already been doing in these two countries. I cannot think of a better way to Celebrate, when we know we are changing the lives of thousands of people by our efforts. This party will be providing \$10,000 for this worthwhile project. Of course we will have these monies matched and our total contribution will hopefully be \$20,000.

As you can see these are very ambitious projects and will require a lot of support from all Rotarians and clubs throughout the District. We only have one chance to Celebrate Rotary's achievements over the past 100 years. I consider it a privilege to have the opportunity to be part of this Celebration. I believe it is up to all Rotarians to showcase the contributions Rotary has made over the past 100 years. It is also our opportunity to demonstrate our ongoing commitment to Rotary in the next Century.

Rotary is one of the only organizations committed to making **THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE**. It is a demonstration to the World that we can work together and are supportive of one another.

Perhaps with our continued presence and hard work we can show the World there is hope for Peace.

I wish to congratulate the Fort Macleod Club on their hosting of the District bonspiel. I understand it was a great success. I believe District events of this nature provide an opportunity for fellowship that allow us to renew old acquaintances and make new friendships. This will only serve to make Rotary stronger.

The spring RYLA and RYPEN camps have been announced and the planning is well underway. The value of these programs has over the years proven to be immense. The hard work and dedication of Rotarians in planning and making them work is most appreciated.

I wish to remind all of the Clubs that have not yet completed their commitments to the Polio Plus program that the due date is June 2005. We in District 5360, at last count, were 90 percent complete. Our District was at the very top of the list in Zone 22 in respect to fulfilling our pledges.