

October is Rotary's Economic and Community Development Month, highlighting how Rotarians help communities build stronger, more sustainable futures.

Around the world, Rotary projects create opportunities by supporting small businesses, vocational training, entrepreneurship, education and access to financial resources. By helping people develop skills and earn sustainable incomes, Rotary strengthens families and entire communities.

Our Club contributes to this goal through local community initiatives and international projects, including our support of **Kiva microloans**, which help entrepreneurs build businesses and improve their livelihoods.

It is another example of how Rotary service can Create Lasting Impact at home and around the world.



At our September 9th meeting, we welcomed **Deborah Cushing from Boys & Girls Club South Coast BC**, who shared an inspiring overview of BGC's important work supporting children, youth and families in North Vancouver.

Our Club has proudly supported BGC for many years. Each year, we fund six local youth who might not otherwise have the opportunity to attend Camp Potlatch, providing them with a memorable summer camp experience. We also support local families through BGC's Christmas hamper program.

Thank you, Deborah, for sharing BGC's story, and a special thank you to Anne-Marie for co-ordinating our Club's ongoing support and partnership.

Our **Shred-It for Charity fundraiser** on Saturday, September 12, was another great success, raising more than \$1,700 to support our Club's local and international causes, including North Vancouver Student Scholarships and Rotary's global fight to eradicate polio.

A huge thank you to Gilles for co-ordinating the event and keeping everything running smoothly. We also sincerely thank the District of North Vancouver for providing the parking lot and our valued shredding partner, Shredwise, for their continued support.

A special thank you to everyone in the community who came out to generously support the event - and of course, all our members and friends who lent a hand. Great teamwork, community spirit, and Rotary service in action!



Saturday, September 12 was a very busy and productive day for our club. Some members also participated in packing a **Rotary World Help** shipment of medical supplies bound for Honduras.

As well as repurposed medical equipment, this shipment also included 15 pallets of dried food prepared by the Fraser Valley Gleaners in Abbotsford. This group collects surplus fruits and vegetables from farms across British Columbia, dehydrating them to create nutritious soups and meals for communities in need locally and abroad.

This is great example Rotary transforming local surplus into vital global relief.



On Friday, September 18, members and friends rolled up their sleeves for morning of packing food at **Backpack Buddies**. A big thank you to everyone who came out to help, and it was greate to have four friends join us for the morning.

With so many willing hands, we made quick work of the packing and even finished a little earlier than usual! That left time to head to Liberty Kitchen for an enjoyable and well-earned lunch and share some Rotary fellowship.

Backpack Buddies does tremendous work helping ensure local children facing food insecurity have nutritious food to take them through the weekend. It's

always rewarding to support such a worthwhile program - combining hands-on service, friendship and a little fun along the way!

September 21 marked the **International Day of Peace**, a reminder of the importance of building understanding and resolving conflict around the world.

Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention is one of Rotary's key Areas of Focus. Through The Rotary Foundation and Rotary Peace Centers around the world, Rotary supports education, training and practical initiatives that help develop leaders committed to creating more peaceful communities.

Our Club has proudly supported this important work, including sponsoring Rotary Peace Scholars in the past, and we continue to support Rotary's commitment to peacebuilding. In a world where conflict continues to affect so many, Rotary's work promoting peace remains as important as ever.





Also at our September 9 meeting, Membership Director Gilles proposed an ***International Toast to the Rotary E-Club of Ukraine***. At each meeting, we recognize a Rotary club somewhere in the world, celebrating the work of fellow Rotarians and sharing their stories with our members. We also send greetings to the selected club, letting them know their work is recognized and appreciated.

Recent International Toasts have included the Rotary Club of Kyiv, Ukraine, and the Rotary Club of Madang, Papua New Guinea, where Carole and Ian previously participated in humanitarian missions.

These connections remind us that wherever Rotary serves, we are part of one worldwide family - united by friendship, service, and a shared commitment to *creating a lasting impact*.

Copy of email sent to the Rotary E-Club of Ukraine – 15 September 2026

Dear President and Fellow Rotarians,

Warm greetings from your Rotary friends at the Rotary Club of Lions Gate North Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

At a recent Club meeting, we were proud to recognize the Rotary E-Club of Ukraine with an International Toast. We shared some of your story with our members and raised our glasses to your Club, to Rotary fellowship, and particularly to the courage and determination of Rotarians throughout Ukraine who continue to serve their communities during such extraordinarily difficult times.

Our Club feels a special connection with the people of Ukraine. We were one of the founding Rotary Clubs in British Columbia that helped establish Rotary World Help, an organization that collects repurposed medical equipment and supplies and ships them to communities in need around the world.

Since the beginning of the conflict in Ukraine, Rotary World Help has sent 25, forty-foot containers of medical equipment and supplies to Ukraine. These shipments have been made possible through the combined efforts of Rotary Clubs across British Columbia, local volunteers, Ukrainian expatriate organizations in Canada and, importantly, Rotarians and other partners on the ground in Ukraine who ensure the supplies reach those who need them.

While North Vancouver and Ukraine may be separated by thousands of kilometres, Rotary reminds us that distance does not diminish friendship or our shared commitment to helping others.

We can only imagine the challenges you, your families and your communities have faced. Please know that your fellow Rotarians here in North Vancouver are thinking of you, admire what you are doing, and stand with you in Rotary friendship and solidarity.

We send our warmest wishes to every member of your Club and to your families. We wish you continued strength and safety, and we sincerely hope for the day when peace returns to Ukraine.

Until then, please know that you have Rotary friends here in North Vancouver who support you from afar.

Yours in Rotary,

Ian Johnston
President
Rotary Club of Lions Gate North Vancouver
District 5040
British Columbia, Canada

Gilles Daigle
Membership Director

Rotary connections around the world were on full display during a recent Zoom meeting with President Shree Krishna of the **Rotary Club of Kathmandu Heights, Nepal**, and Janice Sommerfeld of the Rotary Club of Cranbrook (Deb's sister).

Shree shared the success of a Global Grant project supporting 100 farming families - more than 1,000 people with fruit trees, sun tunnels (greenhouses) and rainwater harvesting ponds. Farmers are now producing milk, vegetables, fruit and cereal crops and, through local co-operatives, connecting with markets in Kathmandu.



With Phase One successfully completed, the Rotary partners are now seeking support for Phase Two, with several Canadian clubs already committed. The next phase hopes to directly benefit more than 1,000 people and reach over 5,000 students through a school program.

We agreed to follow up and consider supporting this worthwhile project. It's a wonderful example of Rotary at its best - clubs working together across borders to create opportunities and lasting change.

UPCOMING SCHEDULE:

<u>Wednesday October 14</u> Board 10:30 am – 11:30 pm Club 11:30 pm – 1:00 pm	Board & Regular Club Lunch Meeting Speaker: DG Dean Hsieh Location: Capilano Mall – Second Floor - Community Room 203 935 Marine Drive, North Vancouver
<u>Wednesday October 21</u> 7:30 pm	RCLG Foundation Board Meeting Zoom Co-ordinator: Ron Location: Zoom
<u>Wednesday October 28</u> Club Meeting 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm	Regular Club Meeting Speaker: Pam Fitzpatrick Location: The Atrium at Parkgate 1188 Parkgate Avenue, North Vancouver
<u>Wednesday November 11</u> 11:00 am	Remembrance Day (No meeting) Wreath Laying Ceremony Team Leader: Peter / Stan Location: Victoria Park Cenotaph North Vancouver
<u>Friday November 20</u> 10:00 am – 1:00 pm	Backpack Buddies & Social Lunch at Liberty Kitchen Team Leader: Pam Location: 170 Harbour Avenue North Vancouver
<u>Wednesday November 25</u> 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm	Regular Club Meeting Location: The Atrium at Parkgate 1188 Parkgate Avenue, North Vancouver

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our partners who support us throughout the year. Your assistance helps make our work possible. Thank you.

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