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From the President's Desk

Dear Fellow Members,
July marks the beginning of a new Rotary year—a time of fresh beginnings, renewed commitments, and exciting possibilities. Across the globe, Rotary clubs welcome new leaders, new ideas, and new opportunities to serve. It is a time to celebrate continuity while embracing change, to honour the achievements of the past while looking ahead with optimism and purpose.

For the Rotary Global History Fellowship, the start of a new Rotary year is particularly significant. History reminds us that every new chapter in Rotary's journey has been shaped by individuals who dared to think differently, lead with conviction, and serve with compassion. The traditions we cherish today were once new ideas brought to life by committed Rotarians.

As we embark on another year together, it is worth reflecting on an important truth: **today's actions become tomorrow's history.**

Every club installation, every service project, every fellowship gathering, every innovative initiative, and every life touched through Rotary contributes to the ever-growing story of our organization. The responsibility of the Rotary Global History Fellowship is not merely to preserve the past but also to ensure that the significant moments of today are carefully documented for the generations that will follow.

History is often viewed as a record of completed events. Yet, in reality, history is being written every single day. It is created through the dedication of club leaders, the enthusiasm of new members, the vision of district teams, and the countless acts of service performed quietly across communities worldwide.

This Rotary year presents us with an opportunity to strengthen our Fellowship in new and meaningful ways. We will continue to encourage research into Rotary's rich heritage, preserve valuable archives, document significant

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milestones, and promote greater awareness of Rotary's remarkable legacy. At the same time, we seek to engage more members from across the world, foster collaboration among Rotary historians, and inspire clubs and districts to record their own unique stories.

One of our priorities this year will be to make Rotary history more accessible and relevant to every member. History should not remain confined to archives and publications; it should be shared, discussed, and celebrated. By connecting our past with our present, we can better understand the values that have sustained Rotary for more than a century and continue to guide its future.

As President of the Rotary Global History Fellowship, I am deeply honoured to serve this distinguished community of passionate Rotarians who understand the importance of preserving our collective heritage. Our Fellowship is united by a common purpose—to ensure that the remarkable stories of Rotary, from every corner of the world, are never lost but continue to educate, inspire, and connect generations of Rotarians.

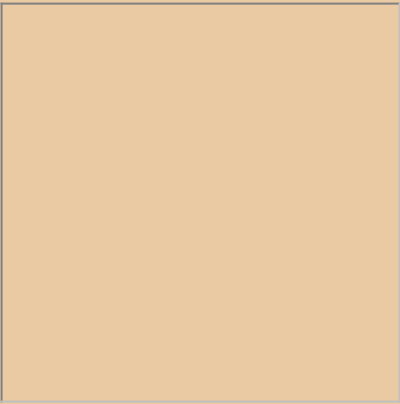
I invite each one of you to make this year one of participation and contribution. Share your club's history. Document milestones. Record the stories behind impactful service projects. Preserve photographs, publications, and personal recollections. Encourage fellow Rotarians to appreciate the rich legacy that has shaped our organization. Every contribution, however small it may seem, becomes an invaluable part of Rotary's global narrative.

As we begin this new Rotary year, let us move forward with enthusiasm, curiosity, and a renewed sense of purpose. Let us continue building not only a stronger Fellowship but also a richer historical record that future Rotarians will look upon with pride.

Together, let us preserve the past, celebrate the present, and inspire the future.

I wish each one of you a rewarding, meaningful, and successful Rotary year ahead. May it be filled with fellowship, service, discovery, and the joy of creating history together.

Rotary Regards,



Jeetendra Sharma
President
Rotary Global History Fellowship (RGHF)

FROM THE DESK OF ARCHIE

My fellow History Hunters,

July has given us some remarkable moments in history.

On July 1, 1867, Canada officially became a nation, a day now celebrated as Canada Day.

On July 4, 1776, the Declaration of Independence was adopted, creating a new nation founded upon the ideals of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Then, on July 20, 1969, the world watched as Apollo 11 astronaut Neil Armstrong became the first person to step onto the moon.

"That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."

Armstrong intended to say, "one small step for **a** man." One little word may have been lost somewhere between the moon and Earth, but the meaning was not. One person took the step, but the achievement belonged to all humanity.

July is also an important month in Rotary history.

Each July 1, Rotary begins a new year. New presidents, governors, and leaders step forward, bringing new ideas and new energy while continuing the vision that began in Chicago in 1905.

History teaches us that growth does not happen by standing still.

Canada grew from its beginning into the nation it is today. The United States grew from a bold declaration into a country that continued to change and evolve. And one small step on the moon opened the door to possibilities once thought impossible.

Rotary has grown the same way. One meeting became a club. One club became a worldwide movement. One idea brought together millions of people committed to Service Above Self.

Now, the Rotary Global History Fellowship is preparing to take some exciting new steps of its own.

Over the coming months, you will begin to see new ideas, new opportunities, and new ways to explore, preserve, and share Rotary's incredible history.

We will begin with the launch of a new, interactive RGHF website designed to make Rotary history easier to discover, more engaging to explore, and more accessible to Rotarians around the world.

And that is only the beginning.

*Archibald Gearhart, History Hunter
History Hunter
Rotary Global History Fellowship*

Great Things Ahead

RGHF will always honor and protect the past, but preserving history does not mean standing still. We can respect where we came from while continuing to grow, change, and prepare for the future.

Here are just a few examples of what you can look forward to:

- New and interactive ways to explore Rotary history
- More historical photographs, documents, stories, and discoveries
- New opportunities for members to participate and share their own Rotary history
- Expanded programs that will bring Rotary's past to life
- New ways to welcome members and grow the RGHF family

Be on the lookout for some exciting and dynamic changes as RGHF honors our past while taking its steps into the future.

As always journey through history, keep searching, keep sharing and keep preserving.

Yours in Rotary History,

Archie

*Archibald Gearhart
History Hunter
Rotary Global History Fellowship*
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