

Dear Friends in Rotary Service

The words to a song by Gregory Norbet express so much about our lives. "Journeys Ended, Journeys begun-To go where we have never been-To be beyond our past".

As my term of office comes to an end, I appreciate the opportunity in this final newsletter to express how honored and privileged I am to have served on the Board of Directors. I am especially grateful to all Rotary Leaders in both zones 24 and 32 who contribute on a daily basis to the tremendous success of our rotary organization. Specifically, I want to express my thanks to PRIVP Monty Audenart who continues to provide counsel and support for constant and never ending improvement to our clubs and districts. I look forward to July 1st as our new Director Ken Grabeau assumes the office of RI Director for 2010-2012. Ken is a very dear friend, a fellow PDG classmate and I am confident that he will be an excellent Director of Rotary International.

This past year, we have come together as paired zones to celebrate the "end of an era and a new beginning" of Rotary service. I congratulate all of you for your dedication and your commitment to that realignment process of our Rotary organization. Through your dedication, you give of your time, your vocational expertise and your financial resources but there is one thing more that you give that is so much more important than any of the others. What is it? It is the absolute love that we all share in our hearts for Rotary Service. The true strength of Rotary is the love and dedication of its members.

"Past RI President Bill Boyd said: "Even though we will never bring about a perfect world, we have no excuse not to try. And if we leave a better world than was left to us then we have not failed."

Please be assured that as I have travelled the past two years and have seen many Rotary projects we have provided a better world. Through our service above self, we make a difference to the most important people in rotary-those who we serve. Always remember that the greatest value of Rotary is not what we get but rather what we become.

Ann and I cannot say it often enough. Thank you for all you are doing for Rotary and thank you especially for your valued friendship which we shall forever cherish.

Please join us at the "Beyond Borders Breakfast" at the Montreal Convention. It will be a tremendous opportunity to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Rotary in Canada and the union of zones 24 and 32

Always your friends in Rotary Service
Mike and Ann