

Schedule of Events:

09:40 Start Music with narrative of songs' significance (TY Stacey Steinmiller for helping curate the list of songs we get to enjoy this morning)

10:00 Introduction: Welcome and good morning fellow Rotarians, guests, friends and family. A special Thank you to the Staff of The Sunshine Camp to help make this special day become a reality. Thank you Brandi Koch, Camp Director for taking care of logistics and Jarod Alexander Facilities Manager for ensuring a carefree install. Carefree was all me...Jarod did the digging and made sure this Pole is gonna be here for a long time by planting it securely.... and HUGE thank you to Image 360 and Past President Julie St. Germain and her partner Jackie for crafting an incredible set of graphics. Just look at how beautiful this Peace Pole and dedication plaque came out! Just outstanding!

Acknowledge D7120 dignitaries:

When DG Dave DeMers and his wife Ann first made their official visit to Rochester Rotary last year, they shared the idea of the Peace Pole project championed by none other than Rotary International President Stephanie Urchick. Honestly, I had no idea what it was but I just knew it was something we would end up doing before DG Dave and Ann's year came to an end. And, here we are!

Rochester Rotary's International Service Committee is pleased to host today's event. Thank you to ISC Chair Pat Coleman for leading the charge in our International Service efforts.

It is now my privilege and honor to introduce our special guests and Peace envoys DG Dave and Ann DeMers. Let us please give them a warm Rochester Rotary welcome:
(Dave and Ann preside over their dedication)

Rich

We gather today as members and friends of the Rochester Rotary Club to dedicate this Peace Pole—a vibrant symbol of hope, unity, and the enduring dream of peace. This Peace Pole stands not just as a monument, but as a testament to Rotary's commitment to building a culture of peace in our community and around the world.

A Peace Pole is more than just a beacon of hope; it embodies the heartfelt message, "May Peace Prevail on Earth," displayed in the languages of its host country and many others. This year's Peace Pole is especially meaningful, bearing the word "Peace" in the native languages of 14 countries, each represented by the flag and language of one of our inbound Rotary Youth Exchange students in District 7120. These young ambassadors remind us that peace is not just an ideal, but a daily practice—enriched by the diversity of cultures, perspectives, and friendships that Rotary fosters. I believe we have one of our YEX Students here with us today...Ariana from Argentina. Let's give her a warm round of applause please.

14 Countries: Belgium, Finland, Thailand, Taiwan, Switzerland, Brazil, Sweden, Norway, Japan, Spain, Italy, Germany, Netherlands ...and Argentina

(Shout out to Gretchen DiNardo – D7120 YEX Chair)

With over 250,000 Peace Poles standing as monuments to peace in communities worldwide, each one affirms our commitment to harmony, understanding, and friendship among all people. Originating from Masahisa Goi of Japan after the tragedies of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, this universal call for peace continues to inspire.

As we plant this Peace Pole, we join a global movement—over 250,000 Peace Poles worldwide—each silently affirming: “May Peace Prevail on Earth.” Our ceremony links us with people across the globe who share this vision and who work, in countless ways, to make peace a reality.

Let this pole serve as a constant reminder that peace begins with each of us. May it inspire us to think, speak, and act in the spirit of harmony, and may it stand as a beacon for all who pass by—inviting them to join us in building a more peaceful world.

We dedicate this Peace Pole to our students, our community, and the cause of peace everywhere. May peace prevail on earth.

Dedication Plaque:

Rochester Rotary Peace Pole Dedication:

“This Peace Pole stands as a symbol of hope, unity, and Rotary’s commitment to Peace in our Community and around the world.

It bears the word “Peace” in the native languages of 14 countries, honoring the 14 inbound Youth Exchange students in District 7120 this year.

May it inspire all who see it to work for Harmony, Peace and Understanding.

May Peace Prevail on Earth.

June 10, 2025

The Sunshine Camp

Rochester Rotary”