

Does Your Club Have a Peace Pole?

By Jay Shepherd



The tradition of dedicating Peace Poles and the universal message for world peace began with Mr. Masahisa Goi of Japan after World War II and the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The Universal Message for World Peace, **May Peace Prevail On Earth**, was authored in 1955. In a moment of great inspiration, Masahisa Goi awakened to the need to spread this message in the hearts of the global community for the attainment of inner and outer peace.

Masahisa Goi encouraged creative ways to carry the message to public view. In 1976, the idea of placing the Peace Message and Prayer on poles began to gain popularity. This was the first impulse which led to the beginnings of the Peace Pole Project.

The first Peace Poles outside of Japan began to appear in towns and cities around the world in the early 1980s.

Peace Poles are now recognized as the most prominent international symbol and monument to peace. They remind us to think, speak and act in the spirit of peace and harmony, and they stand as a silent visual for peace to prevail on earth. It is an all-inclusive message and prayer to bring people of all faiths, backgrounds and cultures together to understand and embrace our common bonds.



The District 5080 goal of spreading newly installed peace poles across the District exists as part of the effort by the Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park Association (WGIPPA) to place 100 poles across the Rotary Districts 5360, 5370,

5390 and 5080 by the 100th anniversary of Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park (WGIPP) in 2032. These four Districts give support and membership to WGIPPA. All Rotary members in these district are members of WGIPPA and can also belong to action teams that work to promote the peace park, help conserve the environment of Waterton and Glacier parks, engage indigenous people, conduct broad outreach and extension within WGIPPA's mission, help manage the peace centre/er(s) within the parks, or simply promote peace. Rotarians can become their club's Peace Representative, which may mean becoming a member of the District Peace Team.

One of the tasks that will require an active team of Peace Representatives is helping document information about the peace poles that are or will be installed in each district. These may be Rotary peace poles or peace poles installed by other groups or private folks. To help WGIPPA track peace poles that exist or are in process, a form for the documentation of peace poles within the four districts is available online. We are also working on the possibility of creating a map of peace poles within the four districts that could be produced to be displayed on one or several websites. A very nice example of this type of map can be found at the Rotary Action Group for Peace Peacebuilder Clubs page at <https://fortress.maptive.com/ver4/85627837e92a969db6d816504ae5107d>

There is much to do to find, document, and potentially map most if not all the peace poles in the four districts. Let's have fun sleuthing together and helping WGIPPA find all the peace poles that have been placed in the four districts.

If you know of any peace poles in your area, please download a [Peace Pole Record](#), complete the form and forward the completed form to the Peace Committee as shown at the bottom of the form.