



BLISS



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We meet every alternate Thursday at THE ANTELOPE, 3, Ho Chi Minh Sarani, Kolkata - 700071 at 8.00 pm.		
Rtn Angana Paul President	Rtn Sabyasachi Roy Secretary	PP Rtn Chandra Kumar Paul Treasurer
		PP Rtn Subhashis Ghosh Editor

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ROTARY YEAR 2007-08
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Portable kidney failure treatment will keep patients in the remote communities they love

By Amy Hoak

There are two main ways to reach the community of Natuashish in Labrador. Travellers can go by plane or, in the summer months, take a boat up the coast. No reliable roads connect the subarctic Innu community of about 1,000 residents with more populated towns to its south.

Frequent transportation delays and high prices for plane tickets also are strains on those trying to make the journey. These issues make it challenging for people with some medical conditions to get treatment, including life-sustaining dialysis that cleans waste and excess fluid from the blood when a person's kidneys aren't working properly.

Without any dialysis clinics in remote Labrador, people with renal disease often need to move away to get critical care, says Mallory Peddle, a dialysis nurse specialist with Newfoundland and Labrador Health Services. Some have to live away from their families for extended time, and people with advanced kidney failure could face navigating the treatments towards the end of life far from their support system at home. "It's a cultural shock to them because they had grown up, lived and breathed their culture, in very remote, rural communities and then were expected to uproot," Peddle says. "It's not fair to them because the resources weren't available."

But with help from Rotary clubs, that is beginning to change with the addition in recent years of portable dialysis equipment for the area.

A better life at home

The first Natuashish resident to use the machinery purchased with Rotary Foundation global grants was able to live at home while getting treatment nearby. He previously had moved away for his frequent dialysis sessions but had the chance to return while using the new equipment for several months near the end of his life.

In a 2023 CBC/Radio-Canada article published after his homecoming, the man's daughter said that it was the happiest she'd seen her father, who had been given the gift of coming home after being away for years.

He'd go fishing and was surrounded by family, says Peddle, who helped train the man's daughter to use the equipment. "I kept in very close contact with the patient and caregiver, multiple times a day for any issues that came up, or just to check in," she says. "Both of them said how much they truly loved being there." Eventually, the man needed to leave Natuashish again, for health reasons, but the time spent at home was special for all involved.

It also was a special accomplishment for the Rotarians and others who worked on the endeavour, says Mike Spurrell, past president of the Rotary Club of Happy Valley-Goose Bay Labrador, a grant applicant and one of many clubs that contributed funding. Patients "are not away from their families and are able to stay in their communities," says Spurrell, now a member of the Rotary Club of Clarenville in another part of the province. That goes a long way in bringing comfort to a person receiving exhausting treatments several times a week.

Even more encouraging, the project brought hope of a solution for people in parts of the world who need dialysis but lack access to the equipment. The machines purchased through Rotary are not only portable but also solve another factor that commonly limits dialysis



Supporters celebrate at the project launch to provide portable dialysis equipment that allows patients or family caregivers to administer treatments.

Courtesy of Geoff Goodyear



Dialysis machines use a premixed solution, vital for areas with unreliable water.

Courtesy of Geoff Goodyear

treatment in remote locations: an inadequate water supply. These machines do not need local water; instead they use premixed bags of the solution needed to clean the blood during dialysis, says Anne Rowsell, who was the project manager for the renal expansion program at Newfoundland and Labrador Health Services, Labrador Grenfell Zone. (Rowsell has since retired.)

“When you think about coastal Labrador, when you think of the cultural sensitivities that we were working with, when you think of the supply chain — if this could be established in Natuashish, what could stop us from doing it absolutely anywhere?” Rowsell asks.

A challenge recognized

The idea for Rotary clubs to get involved came about after a Labrador Grenfell Health executive and a former Happy Valley club member had a conversation about the dialysis challenges. Happy Valley-Goose Bay, a town about 300 kilometres south of Natuashish, is one of several in the south of the province where, according to the global grant applications, the majority of patients receiving dialysis are Indigenous people relocated from isolated communities in the north “at great personal and social expense” to them and their families.

Coordination between Rotary clubs, the health authority for the area, and chiefs and councils helped bring the project to fruition, Spurrell says.

Funding came together quickly. Rotary members began applying for the first global grant in 2019, says Geoff Goodyear, a former Happy Valley club member who continued to work on the initiative when he moved to the Rotary Club of Exploits. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, “there was no dallying around” to get the project underway, he adds.

Clubs supplied four machines and staff and patient training using two Rotary global grants totalling \$143,000, including club and district funds. Two machines are in Natuashish and available for treatments (one is a backup in case the other fails), and the other two are for training and replacement needs, Goodyear says. (The nonprofit International Grenfell Association separately purchased several machines in Sheshatshiu, another Labrador Innu community.)

The international partner for the grants was the Rotary Club of Port Angeles, Washington, an area that is also home to Indigenous groups, member Ann Murakami says. Members’ work to implement the grants stretched into early last year.

To identify people who would be eligible for remote dialysis, a screening tool was developed, says Rowsell, the health facility’s former project manager.

“The stability of the patient was really important. How stable was the patient? How compliant was the patient? How suitable was the support person in terms of reliability to be there?” Not every patient meets the requirements.

The Natuashish resident who used the equipment had a caregiver who was quick to train and eager to learn, says Peddle, the dialysis nurse. “She absolutely loved the idea of her father returning. That was really a driving force, because that’s where she resided with her kids, and that’s where all the family and friends were.”

When he returned to Natuashish, it was a celebration, Peddle says.

A model for remote areas

The project’s early success is promising for isolated locations. “It’s being watched on a whole bunch of levels for its potential benefits, but also its potential spread,” Goodyear says. “For me, it underlines the word ‘global’ in global grant when what we do here could have an effect on other parts of the world.”

Meeting this challenge proved to everyone involved that dialysis in remote places could be accomplished, with the potential to one day help people in other areas, Rowsell says. For that, she adds, the success of the project was the highlight of her career.

Other people will benefit over time from the machines, Rowsell explains, getting the dialysis treatment they need without having to leave the comfort of their community. “I have a positive outlook on that for any number of reasons,” she says. “It is just a matter of timing, the right intervention, and the right support.”



Eugene Hart (center), chief of the Sheshatshiu Innu First Nation, talks with initiative backers, including Rotarian Ann Murakami (right).

Courtesy of Geoff Goodyear

Family Corner

Congratulations!

Members of Rotary Club of Calcutta North East heartily congratulates Sanjana Bhowmick, daughter of PP Rtn Vivekananda & Geetasree Bhowmick, on completing her MBBS from Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, Wardha Maharashtra.



Congratulations!

The members are delighted to convey their warmest congratulations to Ayush Bhowmick, son of PP Rtn Vivekananda & Geetasree Bhowmick, on passing ISC - Class XII from DPS Megacity.



Project Report – Entertain And Nourish

Rotary Club of Calcutta North East undertook its project “Entertain and Nourish” on 27th April 2026 at NRS Medical College & Hospital. A television was donated to the Gynaecology Outdoor Ward, which was inaugurated by the Principal Madam, enhancing comfort for patients and attendants.

Additionally, nutritious dry food items were distributed to mothers of newborns in the Neonatal Care Unit, supporting their well-being during a crucial time.

The initiative reflects RCCNE’s commitment towards compassionate healthcare support and patient welfare. The program was attended by PP Rtn Srikanta Basumullik, PP Rtn Chandra Kumar Paul, Secretary Rtn Sabyasachi Roy and President Rtn Angana Paul.



Project Report – Creating a Happy School in Rajabasa

As part of our digital literacy initiative, RCCNE donated two computers with UPS backup and a multifunction printer-scanner to the students of Rajabasa Primary School. To ensure a healthy learning environment, RCCNE installed a water purifier for safe drinking water. Additionally, the computer lab was repainted, students received nutritious dry food items, and the teaching staff were formally felicitated for their dedication. The project was attended by PP Rtn Chandra Kumar Paul, PP Rtn Subhashis Ghosh, Rtn Tapas Adlader, Secretary Rtn Sabyasachi Roy and President Rtn Angana Paul.



“Observing International Thalassaemia Day
– 8May” 2026
Thalassaemia is preventable –
Awareness today can save lives tomorrow.



**“Hidden No More:
Finding the Undiagnosed. Supporting the Unseen.”**

On the Occasion of International Thalassaemia Day 8 May
Join The THALASSAEMIA AWARENESS CAR RALLY 2025-26
Under the Aegis of Rotary International District 3291

► Hon'ble District Governor Rtn. Dr. Ramendu HomChaudhuri
will graciously flag off the rally

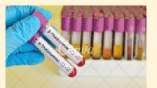
Organized by
Rotary Club of East Calcutta
Rotary Club of Calcutta Kankurgachi

📍 Starting Point: Rotary Bhaban (Official Venue – RC East
Calcutta)

Beside Beliaghata Post Office

🕒 Time: 7:30 AM | 📅 Date: 8th May

“Drive for Awareness, Drive for Prevention – Towards a
Thalassaemia-Free Tomorrow”





President Rtn Angana Paul attended Rendezvous the third President, Secretary, AG and ZS meet of District 3291.

Secretary Rtn Sabyasachi Roy attended SELS.

**ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA NORTHEAST
Minutes of Regular Meeting No. 1644**

Date : 23rd April, 2026, Time : 8.00 pm.

Venue : Builders Association of India, Chowringhee Court, 1st Floor, 55 Chowringhee Road, Kolkata - 700071.

The meeting commenced with the singing of the National Anthem, led by Past President Rotarian Ram Prasad Chattopadhyay. President Rotarian Angana Paul then called the meeting to order and extended “Shubo Nababarsho” greetings to all members present.

Project & Event Done

The President proudly announced that Rotarian Ahana Ghosh, one of the youngest members of the club, has secured admission to IIFM Bhopal and will soon be leaving to pursue her studies. The club extended its heartfelt congratulations on this achievement.

She then reported on the successful execution of projects undertaken on 29th March 2026, which included the distribution of kits to eight handloom artisans of Begumpur and the completion of house repairs for one beneficiary. It was further announced that a sum of Rs 10,900, originally earmarked for the project, will now be allocated to support an additional beneficiary for house renovation.

The President also informed the house about the successful hosting of the District Team Learning Seminar on 5th April 2026 at Spring Club, which saw a total of 205 registrations and full participation from club members. She expressed her gratitude to all members who contributed to organizing and sponsoring the event.

Upcoming Project/Event

The President also detailed an upcoming project scheduled for 27th April 2026 at the Gynaecological Ward of NRS Hospital, Sealdah. A television, generously sponsored by Past President Rotarian Srikant Basu Mallik, will be donated for the waiting

hall. Health drinks and biscuits will be distributed to mothers in the neonatal ward, and Rtn Neelanjan along with Rtn Partho Sarkar from “Life Beyond Cancer” are expected to be present. Members were requested to actively participate in this initiative.

Attention was then drawn to the District 3291 observance of World Thalassemia Day on 8th May 2026 at Ramakrishna Mission, Golpark, from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM, with a registration fee of Rs 300 per head. The event will include community awareness programs such as road shows. Locally, banners will be displayed at the Lake Town footbridge and nearby markets, and handbills will be distributed to spread awareness about Thalassemia. The design for the banners will be provided by the District Members were urged to register and take part in the event.

A major upcoming initiative, “Project Libas,” scheduled for 10th May 2026 from 10:00 AM, was then announced. The project aims to provide uniforms to 140 civic police volunteers of the Lake Town Traffic Guard. Each beneficiary will receive a shirt, trousers, and a hat, along with Rotary-branded umbrellas. The initiative will also include the installation of barricades, guardrails, and reflectors carrying Rotary Logo for enhancing the brand and Public Image of Rotary at key locations to assist motorists. A stage will be set up near the Lake Town Clock Tower, and several dignitaries, including the District Governor and other district leaders, will be invited to grace the occasion.

The President informed members about the upcoming President and Secretary Meet scheduled for 25th April at Haldiram Banquets and confirmed her attendance. She then invited Club Treasurer Rtn Chandra Kumar Paul to present the financial update. He informed the members that some membership dues are still pending and requested those concerned to clear them at the earliest.

In the absence of Club Secretary Rtn Sabyasachi Roy, the secretarial duties were carried out by PP Rtn Chandra Kumar Paul. He read and confirmed the minutes of the previous meeting and announced the upcoming birthdays and wedding anniversaries of members, conveying the club’s best wishes.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned by President Rotarian Angona Paul. The session concluded with fellowship and snacks sponsored by the President.

Minutes Prepared By

PP Rtn Chandra Kumar Paul, Club Treasurer

Birthday Greetings

11 May : Sreejoni, D/o Rtn Shubadip Roy

Wedding Greetings

10 May : Rtn Biswajit & Suhrita Choudhuri