

Two Compassionate Individuals Pleased to Serve Others through Rotary

Story by Ed Kolybaba on Nov 30, 2022



Diane Brodeur and Brandon Foster were welcomed by the members of the Rotary Club of Kelowna Sunrise when they were inducted into the club on November 18th. Both new members come to the club with a wealth of understanding and compassion for the work of Rotary International and how Rotary impacts the lives of others in the local community.

Diane Brodeur, a Rotarian since 2010 with the Rotary Club of Peace River and a self-employed franchise owner and Chief Administrative Officer of DiTAB Enterprises o/a H& R Block with offices in the NWT, AB and BC, brings her leadership experience with Rotary and career

to the Rotary Club of Kelowna Sunrise. As a Rotarian with the Peace River club, Diane served as the club secretary (2010-15), Chair of the International Service Committee (2016-20), and member of the Foundation and Environment Committees. She is a strong supporter of The Rotary Foundation and is currently a Paul Harris Fellow (PHF+1).

Diane was born and raised in Ottawa Ontario. She attended the University of Western Ontario where she graduated with an Honours Bachelor of Science in Geology and Geography. Her degree brought her to Alberta where she worked in the oil and gas industry as a Wellsite and Company Geologist until the crash in the late 80's.

Diane's husband Toner, who at the time was working for H&R Block, saw an opportunity to purchase the H&R Block franchise in Peace River, which over their 30 years together in Peace River, along with their two children, became expanded to an additional 12 offices in Alberta and beyond.



Diane certainly believes that you can't be successful at work without having outlets for play. For Diane, that play comes through her love of the outdoors, sports, and travel, but her passion is running ultra-marathons, particularly in exotic locations. In fact, Diane qualified to run at the 2020 Boston Marathon but because of Covid the event was cancelled. Diane's motto is 'travelling to run and running to travel,' which results in her completing marathons in Ecuador, South Africa, Uganda, Nepal, Uganda and in Montreal and Vancouver in Canada, which often have coincided with Rotary conventions and other events.

Between work, Rotary and running marathons, there has always been time put aside to provide voluntary service, such as being a founding member of the Peace River Recycling Society, and providing community leadership as a member of the Peacefest Committee, as coach (NCCP) of Northern Lights Speed Skating Club, as an executive member for North Peace Gymnastics, and providing additional leadership for other clubs.

Brandon Foster is a Wealth Advisor, most recently with ScotiaMcLeod in Kelowna, providing holistic wealth management which involves several services including but not limited to Financial Planning, Investments & Securities, and Insurance-Life. While Brandon is new to Rotary, his heart is in contributing meaningfully to his community through voluntary service and in serving abroad through the focus of The Rotary Foundation. His past involvement in volunteering with organizations focused on youth, even while beginning a demanding career and a new family, illustrate his aspirations to serve, just the opportunities that can be provided through Rotary.

Brandon began his life in Edmonton, Alberta, where he attended his K-12 and university education. He graduated from Harry Ainlay Composite High School and from the University of Alberta with a Bachelor of Commerce in 2017 with a focus on cooperative education, finance and accounting.

He was taught early in his years the value of hard work focused on his education. While attending secondary school he found his passion for football, which together with his academic achievements, led him to earn a scholarship and to then complete his post-secondary education as a student-athlete.



His achievements on the football field with the Alberta Golden Bears Football club as a team captain for all four years of his university attendance, included being honoured four times as an Academic All-Canadian with Academic Honours as a CIS (USPORTS) Athlete, and being awarded twice with the James Venn Memorial Award as the Most Dedicated Team Player Both On and Off the Field.

Brandon began his professional career in Calgary in 2017 with PricewaterhouseCoopers while continuing his education in accounting and finance, soon after completing the Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA, 2020) and Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA, 2022) designations at PricewaterhouseCoopers. In late December of 2021, Brandon and his wife moved to Kelowna at which time commuted for several months when he joined a wealth advisory team in Kamloops with RBC Dominion Securities. In September of 2022, he launched his own wealth advisory practice with ScotiaMcLeod in Kelowna.

Brandon and his wife Ashley are avid snowboarders and golfers, and they also enjoy boating water sports. Brandon adds that “when we add wine enthusiasts to the resume, there’s no question why we made the transition to Kelowna.” By the way, apparently Brandon has a secret talent as a curler. Readers will have to pursue this with him to learn more about this special gift.

When asked why he sought out membership with Rotary, in particular the Rotary Club of Kelowna Sunrise, he shared the following: *“New to Kelowna, Ashley and I were looking for ways to network and contribute meaningfully to our community. I was very impressed with the size and vibrant energy of the group, how welcoming everyone was, and I quickly came to understand the deep friendships and relationships between members.”*