



The Rotary Club of Yellowknife  
"Service Above Self"

## MEDIA RELEASE



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**Photo Opportunity**

### **U.S. Consul General Visits Yellowknife** *Thomas Huffaker Addresses the Rotary Club of Yellowknife*

YELLOWKNIFE, NT-October 11, 2006: U.S. Consul General, Thomas Huffaker, is looking forward to making his first ever trip to the Northwest Territories this week and will be sharing his excitement with the Rotary Club of Yellowknife this Thursday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, where he will be welcomed as a guest speaker.

"I'm delighted to make my first visit to the Northwest Territories so early in my tenure," remarks Huffaker. "I'm especially looking forward to meeting the many men and women in this important and unique part of Canada."

Mr. Huffaker's address to Yellowknife Rotarians will focus on the United States' relations with Canada and the Northwest Territories. Mr. Huffaker assumed his duties as Consul General for the Calgary Consular District, encompassing Alberta, Saskatchewan and the Northwest Territories, on August 14, 2006.

"I know this visit to Yellowknife will be the first of many journeys I make to the Territories to maintain the important connections between the United States and the people of Canada's north," adds Huffaker.

Media are welcome to attend the luncheon speech of the new US Consul General, Thomas Huffaker, on Thursday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2006 at 12:00 noon at the Explorer Hotel.

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## **Backgrounder:**

### **Tom Huffaker**

Consul General of the United States of America  
Alberta, Saskatchewan and the Northwest Territories

The State Department selected Tom Huffaker as Consul General for Alberta, Saskatchewan and the Northwest Territories in the fall of 2005. He arrived in Calgary to take up his duties on August 14, 2006. Tom was honored by his selection and looks forward to his role in furthering the already extraordinarily close partnership between the United States in Canada, with which we maintain the world's largest bilateral trade, energy and agricultural relationships. Western Canada's role as our largest foreign supplier of oil, gas and uranium is deeply appreciated in the United States. These economic relationships complement our very close political and security links and strong bonds of family and friendship all across our common border.

For the past three years, Tom served as Deputy Minister Counselor for Economic Affairs at the United States Embassy in Moscow. While there, his focus was on U.S.-Russian energy ties, Russian accession to the World Trade Organization, and management and reorganization of one of the State Department's largest economic sections.

Tom spent four years as Energy and Environment Officer at the U.S. Embassy in Ottawa (1999-2003), which followed two years in Washington (1997-1999) as Chief Economist in the State Department's Office of Russian Affairs. He previously served in Moscow (1994-1996) in the Economic Section. Tom was a Corporate Fellow in California with Sun Microsystems from 1996-1997. Earlier assignments included the Political Military Affairs Bureau of the State Department in Washington, DC (1990-1992), Mumbai, India (1988-1990) and Belgrade, Yugoslavia (1986-1988). Tom practiced law in California from 1982-1985.

Tom is a graduate of the University of California, Davis and the University of California, Hastings College of the Law. He is married to Claire Fried Huffaker, a former U.S. diplomat. They have a son in middle school and a daughter in high school. Avid skiers and lovers of the outdoors, the entire family embraces the life Western Canada has to offer.

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Rotary International is a worldwide organization of business and professional leaders, providing humanitarian service, encouraging high ethical standards in all vocations, and helping to build goodwill and peace throughout the world. Approximately 1.2 million Rotarians belong to more than 32,000 clubs in more than 200 countries and geographical areas.

The main objective of Rotary is **service**—in the community, the workplace, and throughout the world. Rotarians develop community service projects which address many of today's most critical issues—such as children at risk, poverty, hunger, the environment, illiteracy, and violence. Rotarians also support programs for youth, educational opportunities and international exchanges for students, teachers, and other professionals, as well as vocational and career development. The Rotary motto is ***Service Above Self.***