



# The Four Way Flasher

**Meadow Ridge Rotary Club**

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Website: [www.MeadowRidgeRotary.ca](http://www.MeadowRidgeRotary.ca)

Meetings: Tuesday 12pm, Bella Vita Restaurant

President:	Lynda Lawrence	Phone: 604-868-4674	<a href="mailto:president@meadowridgerotary.ca">president@meadowridgerotary.ca</a>
Secretary:	Alphonse Seward	Phone: 604-467-2540	<a href="mailto:secretary@meadowridgerotary.ca">secretary@meadowridgerotary.ca</a>
Editor:	Peter Boekhorst	Phone: 604-465-3392	<a href="mailto:editor@meadowridgerotary.ca">editor@meadowridgerotary.ca</a>

## January is Rotary Awareness Month



**TODAY:** Fireside

**NEXT WEEK:** Who's Who - Laura Cherrille

### Happy Anniversary

Jan. 22: Gord & Mary Robson

### Happy Birthday

Jan. 20: Deb Tucker

### INVOCATION:

<b>Jan. 25</b>	Sharon Kyle
<b>Feb. 1</b>	Lynda Lawrence
<b>Feb. 8</b>	Debbie MacRae
<b>Feb. 15</b>	Patrick O'Brien

### CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT 5050 EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
<b>Feb. 15</b>		New Member's Meeting	

## 'REACH WITHIN TO EMBRACE HUMANITY' IS 2011-12 RI THEME

RI President-elect Kalyan Banerjee will ask Rotarians to *Reach Within to Embrace Humanity* during the 2011-12 Rotary year.

Banerjee unveiled the RI theme during the opening plenary session of the 2011 International Assembly, a training event for incoming district governors.

He urged participants to harness their inner resolve and strength to achieve success in Rotary.

"In order to achieve anything in this world, a person has to use all the resources he can draw on. And the only place to start is with ourselves and within ourselves," Banerjee said.

Once Rotarians find their inner strength, he continued, they can accomplish great things in their communities and around the world.

"Discover yourself, develop the strengths within you, and then unhesitatingly, unflinchingly, go forth and encircle the world, to embrace humanity," he said.

Banerjee emphasized the family as a starting point in serving others. "The communities we live in are not built of individual people but of families -- families living in homes together, sharing their lives and their resources and their common destinies. Good families lead to good neighborhoods, and good neighborhoods build good communities."

Rotarians can focus on projects that support families, such as those that provide safe housing or improve maternal and child health, he said.

Continuity in Rotary's work, including polio eradication, is also important, Banerjee said. "There are so many things we are indeed good at: working for clean, safe water; spreading literacy; working in so many ways with the New Generations, our youth, in our newest Avenue of Service and assisting them to become the leaders of tomorrow."



RI President-elect Kalyan Banerjee announces the 2011-12 RI theme during the International Assembly in San Diego.

**50 / 50 draw - Jackpot at \$245.50 + 1/2 of today's sales, 44 cards left, Jackpot on "Queen of Hearts" only!**

Citing Mahatma Gandhi's call to "be the change you wish to see in the world," Banerjee said Rotarians should also focus on change.

"If we wish for peace, we start by living in peace ourselves, in our homes and in our communities," he explained. "If we wish environmental degradation to stop, if we wish to reduce child mortality or to prevent hunger, we must be the instrument of that change -- and recognize that it must start *within* us, with each of us."

The theme inspired the roomful of Rotary leaders, including Jogesh Gambhir, governor-elect of District 3250 (India).

"It is a touching theme, but also very purposeful and meaningful," said Gambhir. "I'm sure we can inspire the clubs into action to solve the problems in the community. That's the ultimate goal of Rotary."

"There are no words for me to describe how remarkable it was. To me, he was right on and weaved everything together beautifully," said Jane Millar, governor-elect of District 6290 (parts of Ontario, Canada, and Michigan, USA). "I am so thrilled to be a district governor when this man is president."

"I loved the focus on family, continuity, and change," she added. "Family is the center of everything, and not just our immediate family. It's also about the family of Rotary and the world as one big family."

## LAST WEEK'S MEETING

### Rotary Moment:

Members were reminded of some of Rotary's efforts in Haiti on the anniversary of the catastrophic earthquake. A 7.0-magnitude quake struck Haiti on 12 January 2010, killing more than 300,000 people and crumbling the country's infrastructure. More than a million people still live in tents and under tarpaulins. A deadly cholera outbreak in October slowed the work toward long-term recovery.

Rotary clubs have provided more than \$18 million in aid to Haiti. District 7020, which includes Haiti, raised US\$1.5 million and secured goods and services valued at about \$11 million for immediate help.

Rotarians worldwide have contributed more than \$2 million to the fund. The relief effort has involved Rotarians from about 50 countries.

One of the initiatives supported by the Haiti fund includes:

- A \$13,700 project by the Rotary Club of Carrefour, to educate 1,300 students about the importance of reforestation. Haiti lost 98 percent of its trees because of the earthquake. Students will plant and maintain fruit trees, reducing erosion and increasing agricultural production.

### Guest Speaker:

#### Past President Marco Terwiel – "Arctic Doctor"

Ineke introduced Marco on the occasion of his 74<sup>th</sup> birthday as the meeting's guest speaker. She described him as an Olympic achiever in the medical field and well as in the Rotary organization.

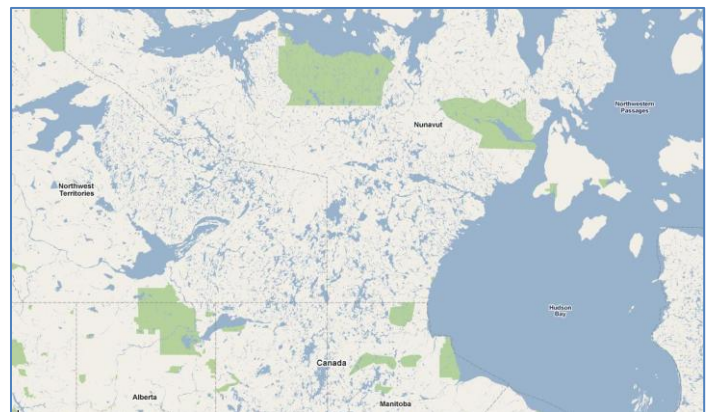
Before beginning his presentation, he drew members attention to the latest insert in the Rotary Canada Magazine, headed "First Nations Outreach", which would be of interest to members after hearing his talk.

Marco went on to give a most interesting presentation on his experiences as a medical practitioner in the arctic circle in the Nunavut province, working with the Inuit people.

He explained how the local population are very sceptical of the white man due to the actions of the local RCMP and the Canadian government's handling of their community in the past and how he had to win their trust as their doctor. The area is home to 30,000 Inuit people and is extremely remote, reachable only by air. There are no roads and transport in the area is mainly by ATV. Weather conditions are extreme reaching -35C with strong hazardous winds.

For some 7 years, he returned to Rankin Inlet for 4-6 weeks in the spring to assist as one of two doctors at the medical clinic. The clinic, built at a cost of \$15 million, is well equipped and is staffed by partly Inuit and partly European staff. In fact the first Inuit staff member graduated from medical school last year.

Members were enlightened about some of the social and medical issues which Marco encountered on a daily basis including foetal alcohol syndrome, teenage pregnancies and cigarette smoking amongst children. These issues seem to continue to reproduce themselves throughout the generations.



It is these issues which may lend themselves to a possibly opportunity for the club to get involved in a project in the area, which would be discussed at the upcoming Fireside chat.

Vice President Terry closed the meeting.