



Service Above Self

## Rotary Club of Regina Eastview

# The ROTOR

Thursday September 10, 2015

 [Club Web Site](#)

**Editor:** Peter Peters [mppeters@sasktel.net](mailto:mppeters@sasktel.net)  
If you have any comments or questions, email the editor.

September 17, 2015 RI President Ravindran's inaugural address by DVD

September 24, 2015 Updated Financial report and budget for 2015-2016 with Wally Dressler

October 1, 2015 ArrowMight, a literacy program with Marcia Kooger

**NEXT WEEK**  
**September 17, 2015**

**RI PRESIDENT RAVINDRAN'S**  
**INAUGURAL ADDRESS**

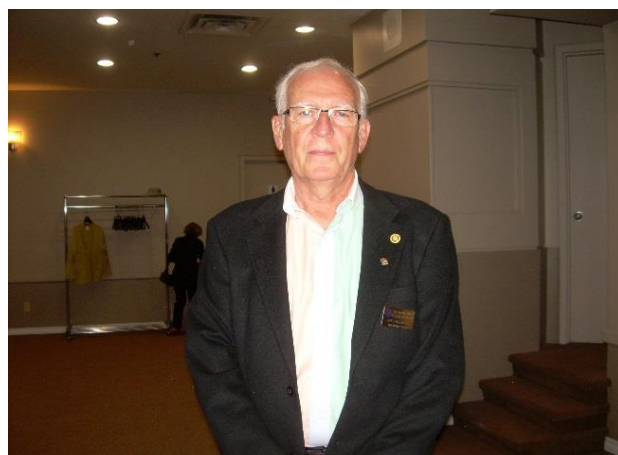
Sept. 17,  
2015

**Registration: Pat Richards**

**50/50: Wally Dressler**

**Greeter: Lloyd Rogers**

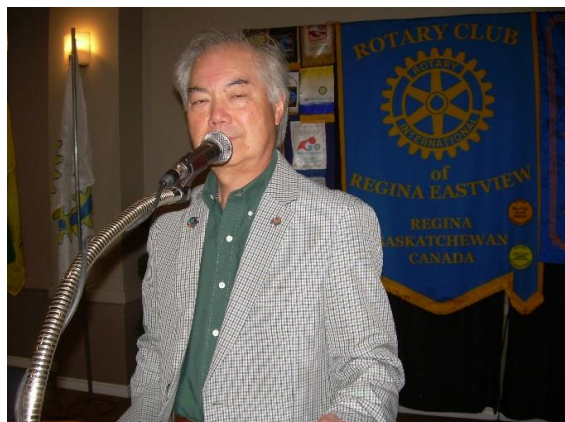
**Registration:** Leif Riesach today was in charge of registration while Gary Carlson was in charge of the 50/50. Greg McNamara with great enthusiasm welcomed everyone to Eastview.



**Lead table:** With President Ron: Ross, Randy and Stephen King, Ann Grahame, Gail Bradley. An additional guest to those at the lead table was Sherri Gawley, guest of Sherry McKinnon.

President Ron welcomed everyone to Eastview and awarded a Rotobuck to the person who could successfully name the theme for this Rotary month. The lucky winner was Ann Grahame as she correctly answered 'Literacy' month.

**Sergeant at Arms:** Alda Bouvier was the Sergeant today. Her first task was to collect all of the Rotobucks. Then it was time for happy bucks. Doug Mortin was happy because he had heard from former Exchange student, Cujo Casanova, from Mexico who is completing his University studies. Peter Peters had been in touch with former member Roger Currie, who is now living in Winnipeg and was recently married. The Sergeant fined Allen



Hillsden for being an enthusiastic Blue Bomber fan in & wearing his Bomber cap at the barbecue. On the other hand Peter Neufeldt was rewarded for wearing green at the same function. President Ron was fined for bringing the Sergeant to the podium prior to announcing the winner of the 50/50. Jeanne Martinson was fined for tempting Charles to taste the desserts and advise her of the best choice. That was the Sergeant's report.



**50/50:** Guest Ross King won the 50/50. He donated his \$20 winnings to the Rotary Foundation.

**Program:** Gail Bradley introduced speaker, Ross King who was born in Estevan, Saskatchewan and raised with his six brothers and sisters in the village of North Portal. He did a BA and MA at the University of Regina, a PhD at York University in Toronto and post-doctoral studies at the University of London. For the past twenty years, as he will describe, he has worked full-time as a writer and is a best selling author. He is the author of

two novels as well as seven works of non-fiction, including Brunelleschi's Dome, Michelangelo and the Pope's Ceiling, and his book on the Group of Seven, Defiant Spirits. His works have been translated into more than a dozen languages. His books have been nominated for a National Book Critics' Circle Award, the Charles Taylor Prize, and the National Award for Arts Writing. He has won both the Governor General's Award in Canada (for The Judgment of Paris) and the BookSense Non-Fiction Book of the Year in the United States (for Brunelleschi's Dome).

He has lectured widely in both Europe and North America, including at events at the Art Institute of Chicago, the Smithsonian, the Aspen Institute and the Frick Collection. He has also given lectures and guided tours in Florence, Rome, Milan, Paris and Giverny. He lives near Oxford with his wife Melanie, also a writer and historian.

Ross discussed how his method of writing has developed over the years. His writing career began with a novel and has taken off from there. Following are the highlights of Ross's story.

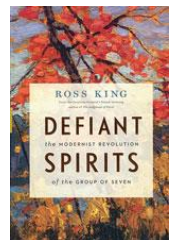
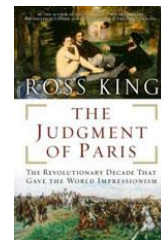
“‘What do you do?’ asked the Immigration officer at Pearson International Airport. ‘I’m a writer,’ I replied. ‘Just that?’ he asked incredulously.

I didn’t know how to reply. I wasn’t sure if he was a) impressed that I wrote full-time and didn’t have to supplement my income and siphon my energies away from my art by taking demeaning part-time jobs, or b) he regarded me as a lazy dilettante who didn’t have a proper job. In any case, he let me back into the country, and I am ‘just’ a writer. I’ve never really had what might be regarded as a ‘proper job’, that is, one for which you undergo a job interview, vanquish the other candidates, and then earn a paycheck ... though it certainly wasn’t for lack of trying.

I became a writer out of a sort of necessity, through a lack of other opportunities for gainful employment - BUT if you woke me up in the middle of the night when I was 15 and shone a light in my face, secret-policeman-like, and forced me to ‘confess’ what I wanted to do with my life, I would have said I wanted to be a writer. I had never met or even seen a writer, but the shelves of my local library in Estevan, confirmed that these mythical creatures actually existed.

However, I knew there weren’t too many 15-year-old writers around, so I had to do something else with my life for the next decade or so. And thus I spent a happy and leisurely 14 years studying in university. My dream of becoming a writer gradually morphed into the dream (which I definitely did not have as a 15-year-old) of becoming a distinguished Professor of English. When I finally completed my PhD and then – prolonging the pleasure – my post-doctoral studies, I discovered how little a chance my dream had of coming true: a 1 in 90 chance, to be exact, since those were the odds (I was told) of finding a tenure-stream position in the humanities. (And now, apparently, the odds have dwindled to 1 in 150.)

I was living in London at the time of this disillusionment and running out of money so I decided to make a virtue of necessity and begin writing a novel. Luckily, no one told me that a novel has (according to another depressing statistic) a 1 in 500 chance of getting published. I published two novels, but I now write about other people (biographies) — snooping on the lives of others - but to what end?”



Ross discussed the traditional motive of biography with examples from the great philosopher, Machiavelli, who in his biography of Castruccio led Ross to question why we write (and read) biographies today. He asked? "Do we still want these examples of 'valour and fortune'?"

These days perhaps we don't look for heroic ideals (we don't believe as much in 'great' men and women) - instead we read (or write) a biography and we look for:

1) a kindred spirit - as early as the 18th century Samuel Johnson wrote that in biography we can find what he calls 'parallel circumstances' - i.e. we compare ourselves with the subject of the biography - use him or her (usually a him in the 18th century) as a kind of yardstick for ourselves. Inevitably I find myself doing this when I read a biography with a source of great anxiety - the subject has accomplished more at a younger age than I have! I personally read biographies of artists and writers (people I can identify with) - rejoice in their success (maybe a bit enviously) and feelingly deplore their failure and rejection.

2) there's another motive (perhaps related) - it could be argued that the purpose of biography is now to reduce great figures to their mere humanity and thus to comfort us in the knowledge that they too are imperfect - and to console us in our own imperfections. There are examples: Michelangelo - who was as troubled by self-doubt and by personal problems as the rest of us - badgered by irritating family members. Another example is Leonardo da Vinci whom we tend to think of as an all-conquering genius (with good reason). But there was a big gulf between his ambitions and his accomplishments. It's sobering to think that at the end of his life Leonardo considered himself a failure. Claude Monet: despite the fact that his paintings show beautiful landscapes ('the great anti-depressant') he was filled with insecurities and uncertainties."

In conclusion Ross noted that "the trials and tribulations of Michelangelo, Leonardo and Machiavelli have given me a few crumbs of comfort over the years."

Thank you Ross for your insight into the workings of the mind of a successful writer. It was good to have you visit Eastview.

**Announcements: Sept. 11, 2015 Porchlight Realty and Harbour Landing Business Park will hold their First Food Truck Friday from 11-30 AM to 1 PM when they will serve burgers. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to Canadian mental Health Association in honor of Reginan Wade Moffat who passed away recently. The address is 4581 Parliament Avenue.**

**Chili For Children, September Duty Roster: Sept 11—Hans Gaastra, Doug Mortin, Sherry McKinnon  
Sept 18—Ron Okumura, Allen Hillsden, Lyle Gollnick, Sept 25—Nelson Falkowsky, Ann Grahame, Tanya Woroby**

**Hans Gaastra noted that Trudy Jones, wife of former Eastview Rotarian, Dill Jones, passed away this past week. We extend our sympathies to the family.**

**Allen Hillsden advised that he has two theme pins for purchase.**

**Peter Peters reminded Rotarians of the September 26 Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) training session to be held at the Best Western Seven Oaks Inn beginning with registration at 9-30 AM and concluding at 4 PM. The Club will pay the \$55 fee on your behalf. If you wish to attend please advise Peter Neufeldt (read about RLI below).**

**Doreen Pankewich advised that the Interclub Barbecue held last week raised \$1126 which was donated to Shelter Box.**

*In honour of her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's long reign, the meeting closed with God Save The Queen.*

### **What is The Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI)?**

**RLI is a multi-district, grassroots leadership development program of member districts organized into regional divisions in various parts of the world. RLI is not an official program of Rotary International and is not under its control. RLI seeks to have Rotary Clubs in its member districts identify those Rotarians who appear to have the potential for future club leadership (not necessarily as club presidents) and provide those so identified with a quality education in Rotary knowledge and leadership skills so important in voluntary organizations. It is also an excellent resource for new members to learn about Rotary. RLI is for everyone. Whether you are a young professional looking for skills to help you grow your business or leadership abilities or a seasoned Rotarian looking to add value to your club, District or Community, RLI will help and learn from your experiences. Read more at ...<http://www.rotaryleadershipinstitute.org/organization.html>**

### **NEWS FROM REGINA ROTARY PARK SEPTEMBER 2, 2015**

*Wednesday September 2, 2015, was the occasion of the Regina Rotary interclub barbecue held in Rotary Park. The event was organized by Club Past Presidents and a good turnout, good food and fine interclub fellowship were experienced by all in attendance. The pictures below, courtesy of Rotor Editor PDG Peter Peters, capture the essence of the event.*







*Left, A beautiful summer evening was enjoyed by all.*

*Right,  
The Peace Pole in Rotary Park*

*Below, the Shelter Box reminds us of those less fortunate in the world and that Rotary and partners try to help.*

*Below, right, the 3 young people with Ray Ruth are (right to left): Giovanna Palhares, Rotary Youth Exchange student from Brazil hosted by the R.C. of Weyburn; Jacob Yi-Jeng Lin, Rotary Youth Exchange student from Taiwan hosted by the R.C. of Regina Oskaya; Eric Alarcon, out-bound Rotary Youth Exchange student sponsored by the R.C. of Regina Oskaya, off to Germany on Sept. 6th.*



*Chefs Ren Labbee, Regina Industrial Parks, and Ken Thiessen, Regina Club*

*Below, Jeanne Martinson introducing the Peace Pole:*

“World Peace Prayer Society and the Peace Pole Project was begun by Masahisa Goi. He was born in 1916 in Tokyo, Japan into a family of nine children. Although his family was not wealthy, he was determined to gain an education and worked his way through school. He was fond of literature and music and hoped one day to be a writer. But after witnessing the devastation caused by World War II and the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Mr. Goi's life took on a new meaning and purpose. He dedicated himself in service to humanity and the attainment of global peace and harmony. Mr. Goi believed that our words, thoughts and intentions carry energy strong enough to influence the destiny of all living things. By speaking, acting and living in the spirit of the prayer, ‘May Peace Prevail on Earth’, Mr. Goi believed that the energy of love and harmony would radiate forth to all creation, having a positive



and purifying effect on the consciousness of humanity. This was the beginning of the World Peace Prayer Society—a genuine peace movement to spread the message and prayer ‘May Peace Prevail on Earth’.



When I met Mr. Goi’s granddaughter, Yuji, in Montreal a year ago and heard her speak about the World Peace Prayer Society, I was re-energized by the power of this movement, particularly the **World Peace Prayer Ceremony**.

**This ceremony is a global celebration of the oneness of life and the human family. With united hearts and minds, participants of the Ceremony are invited to invoke prayers for peace to prevail in the countries and regions of the world.**

**Rising above national boundaries, religion and ideologies, it gives expression to the universal wish for peace and harmony which lies at the core of every human heart.**

**In the ceremony, the flags of the world are presented alphabetically and after each country’s flag is presented, the audience says: ‘May Peace Prevail in (the name of the country in the country’s language), May Peace Prevail on Earth’.**

**For example when our flag is raised, the audience would say ‘May Peace Prevail in Canada, May Peace Prevail on Earth’.**

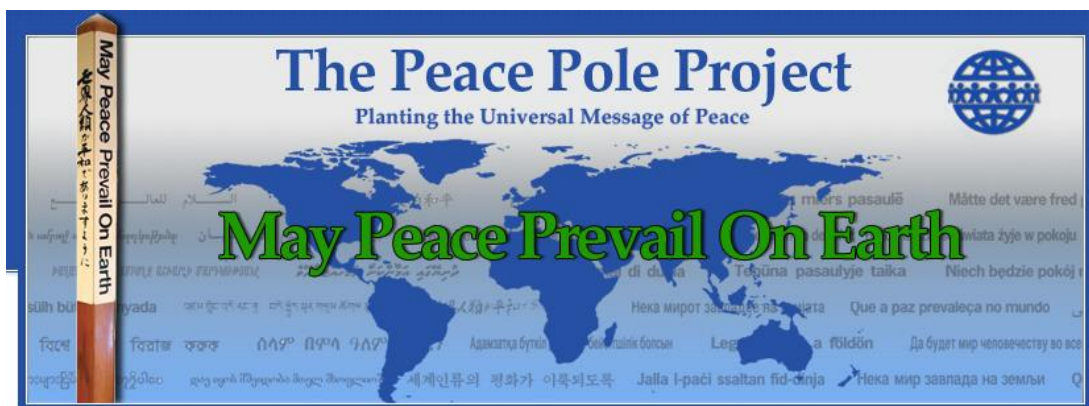
Although the World Peace Prayer Society was founded in 1955 by Mr. Goi, the organization has come to be best known outside of Japan for his global Peace Pole Project.

The first Peace Poles outside of Japan were constructed in 1983. Since then, more than 100,000 have been placed around the world in over 180 countries. They can be found by pyramids, by labyrinths, in hidden and remote locations, in formal gardens and parks. They can be as sober in design or psychedelic, made from materials of nature or from steel. They can be as far away as Baghdad, Iraq and by River Kwai, Thailand or as close by as Rotary Park here in Regina. Our peace pole was erected during the term of District Governor Peter Peters.

Whether the peace pole has one side or eight, one language or twenty, they all say the same thing: May Peace Prevail on Earth.

I encourage you when you have a few moments to spare, to stop by our own Rotary Peace Pole and have your own short and personal Peace Prayer ceremony, saying the closing phrases of every Peace Prayer Ceremony:

May Peace Prevail on earth, May Peace Prevail on Earth, May Peace Prevail on Earth.”



*Filling in for Rotor Editor  
Peter Peters, I am Gail  
Bradley—have a good week.*