

## DG Hans July Welcome Message

As we all celebrate Canada Day, enjoy our July 1<sup>st</sup> long weekend and the start of summer, there are other events which also need celebration.

Our peacekeepers in Afganistan are staring to be withdrawn and returning to Canada.

There are referendums being started which allow us to exercise our democratic and citizen rights. Civic and municipal elections are scheduled for this fall.

Our economy is improving and providing employment and our banking system is the envy of many other nations. Life is not too bad in our country and province.

Could always be better, but can you think of another place you would rather live?

As Rotarians of District 5040, we can celebrate a very successful year under the leadership of past District Governor, Penny Offer. More projects were funded, to a higher value than in the past several years. All, as a result of members' contributions to The Rotary Foundation 3 years ago.

As PDG Penny Offer and spouse PDG Chris now become new members of the Ladner Rotary club, and continue their service to our district in new roles, new leadership takes over in your district, from District Governor, Board of directors and numerous committee chairs.

As your incoming Governor for 2011-12, I and my wife Carol Ann, look forward to visiting each and every one of our 51 district clubs, starting the end of July through until early November that we might share Rotary and witness your clubs' activities and projects in your communities.

By now, most of your clubs will have had your own installation of new president and club officers.

At the President Elect Training Seminars this past February, I had the opportunity to meet almost all the incoming club presidents that had their training in Seattle. They were promised that this next year our **district focus** was on celebrating the family, continuing those activities that made each club unique to its members and actively pursuing change in how we as Rotarians go about doing, promoting, and exercising Rotary in our communities and internationally.

Your club presidents were charged with the goals of increasing club membership by 20%, to increase our district Foundation giving by \$100,000. This was done 3 years ago, why not again?

As club members you have a right to expect your district to help fund your community and International project work. This can only come about if sufficient funds are sent by your club or by your members to The Rotary Foundation. My favourite form of funding is with other peoples' money.

Let's show our communities who we are, as Rotarians, and get them to support our local and international projects. Many clubs already are doing this very successfully.

We can also celebrate the first full year under the Future Vision Plan, which gave our district greater say and control in how we were able to spend and allocate the funds the Rotary Foundation provides us.

There were new clubs added to our district in Powell River and Bowen Island. There are 4 new forms of membership available, and we have 4 pilot clubs designated by Rotary International, to see how these can be implemented in our district.

There will be more money available for youth programs, for membership initiatives, for training, all as a result of a modest district dues increase.

We can all celebrate something this next Rotary year, whether it is a new project, new members or simply the joy one experiences in belonging to a vibrant Rotary Club.

I look forward to supporting your clubs' projects, your clubs' executives and your personal needs as Rotarians, these next 12 months.

The district theme will be that of our Rotary International president, Kalyan Banerjee, "Reach within to Embrace Humanity".

Enjoy this new Rotary year with your club and see how you can make positive change happen. If it is not you who will be making the change happen, then who will?

I thank you all for the privilege of being your District Governor, join with me in celebrating Rotary.

Yours in Service,

Hans Doge,

Governor 2011-12