

DGPenny Offer's Welcome message

Happy Canada Day. It is the start of a new Rotary Year 2010-11 with RI President Ray Klinginsmith asking our clubs to become Bigger, Better and Bolder. The theme for the new year is **Building Communities and Bridging Continents**. President Ray hopes

"That these four words aptly reflect who we are, and what we do, as Rotarians. We are a unique and a premier organization — certainly one of the best in the world. We build the spirit and resources of our local communities in an important way, and we are the best in the world at linking people of goodwill around the globe and then gaining their cooperation and support to make the world a much better place to live and work."

I am looking forward to a wonderful year in District 5040:

We have the excitement and challenge of being one of 100 **Future Vision Pilot Districts** shaping the future of our Foundation. The District is qualified to receive grant funding as are many of our clubs. It is time to send us your plans for District and Global grants.

On September 29th President Ray will speak at the Lower Mainland Foundation Dinner at the River Rock Casino Theatre. Come join us to hear and meet our 2010-11 RI President. I am delighted that President Ray accepted my invitation to visit our District.

I am encouraging clubs to focus some of their service towards literacy projects in your own communities and internationally. Around the world more than 800 million people over the age of 15 can neither read nor write and 64% of these are women and girls. **Literacy Matters**. What can your club do for literacy this year? Check out [the literacy pages](#) on the website to meet our two new Literacy Champions for District 5040.

What is your Rotary passion for service? This year we will focus on Rotarian's passions for service and the District Conference May 6th to 8th 2011 at the River Rock Casino Resort in Richmond will celebrate our service successes in 2010-11. Details at www.rotaryevents.ca

Our district has fewer clubs and members as we start the new Rotary year. Our new club Presidents have set a net membership goal of 179 new members and three clubs are talking about starting new clubs. Let's turn our membership losses around and make 2010-11 a year of growth and pride in this amazing organization we are all part of.

The club presidents, Assistant Governors and District Committees form **Penny's Posse**. I look forward to working with them and meeting as many Rotarians as I can as Chris and I visit the clubs and spend time in your communities, learning about your Rotary projects and activities.

See you soon.

District Governor

Penny