

# Rotary

Bringing the Light of Service to the Community and World Through Rotary



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## March is Literacy Month

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**Rotarians have a long history of helping develop literacy and numeracy in all parts of the world. Most recently, at the RI Convention in Montreal in June 2010, Rotarians lent their support to Dolly Parton's Imagination Libraries project that provides one book per month to every child registered until they start school. There is no greater gift for a child than the love of reading.**

## Doctor to Auto Racers

Our guest speaker on Tuesday was Dr Rob Seal, Medical Director of the Edmonton Indy. Rob oversees the response to crashes that occur during the running of the race. He outlined the complexity of creating and training a team of volunteers who specialize in medical care, emergency fire fighting and driver extraction all aimed at protecting the lives of the drivers engaged in the fast-moving sport of Indy car racing. Rob covered the evolution of cars and specialized equipment that has reduced the fatality rate from about one in nine in the 1950s to about one in four hundred in the current era. Rob's speciality is anaesthesiology whose interest in auto racing drew him to become involved in helping deal with the spectacular crashes that sometimes occur at high speeds. He traced the development of safety equipment for the drivers including specialized head restraints, seven-point safety harnesses and clothing manufactured from Nomex, including underwear that can protect a person at 1300F for 12 seconds. He showed a number of interesting clips of crashes and the responses by rescue crews.



[www.edmontonindy.com](http://www.edmontonindy.com)

[www.rotarycc.org](http://www.rotarycc.org)



## Announcements

Let us put our minds together and see what we can make for our children. ~Sitting Bull

- Jill Cornwell is always interested in suggestions for speakers: [jcornwell@shaw.ca](mailto:jcornwell@shaw.ca) Jill is also accepting donations of good books for our library at Cumberland Lodge.



- From President Alan: Due to Jeneece's current medical condition, the planned trip to Victoria on 1 March to attend the sod turning for Jeneece Place has been postponed. Thank you received from Cumberland Health Centre for the door closing device we funded. →



- Liz mentioned that the first Guess Who's Coming to Dinner on 26 February was enjoyed by all who participated. She reminded everyone of the Ladies' Clothing Swap at Deb Nolan's on Monday, 14 March. Please let Liz or Deb know if attending.
- **March Greeters:** Jay and Keith.
- **Greeters' Duties:** Arrive by 6:30 AM, set up room, greet everyone as people arrive and hand out badges, help with visitors' name tags and make-up cards. Return room to original setup.

## Rotary Moment

### Handwriting on the Wall

**By Frank Deaver, Rotary Club of Tuscaloosa, Alabama**



Seated comfortably at a weekly Rotary Club meeting, we hear from the podium that Literacy Programs are among the projects encouraged by Rotary International, and that March is designated as Literacy Awareness Month. But we immediately turn our attention back to our salad and social conversation. "Illiteracy? Not a problem around here," we apparently assume. So it comes as a shock to realize that yes, we are challenged by the scope of functional illiteracy among us, and it's not limited to distant and less-developed societies.

Cities and counties in the United States, with few exceptions, are revealed to have illiteracy rates above 20 percent. Although the "functionally illiterate" may attempt to disguise their limitations, they are handicapped in performance of many daily activities. They may not be able to read a help-wanted ad in the newspaper, or understand the label instructions on a bottle of medicine. Projecting their own shortcomings to the next generation, they do not read to their children, and by example they convey the impression that literacy is not a high priority.

Years ago, and for some people even now, "literacy" was indicative of "the ability to read and write," simply that and nothing more. But in a rapidly emerging technological society, literacy has evolved to be far more than that. In predominantly agrarian societies of the past, the most important knowledge might have been how to feed and milk a cow, or how to manipulate a horse-drawn plow. No more, for now the successful farmer must be able to determine the pH value of soil, operate and maintain increasingly complex machinery, and follow market prices for crops.

As younger generations abandon rural life for city employment, they encounter even higher expectations. It is no longer enough to be "willing to work." Meaningful employment requires at least high school education, but more likely a college or trade school preparation for skilled job opportunities. No more can they find access to the basic job of "digging ditches," for now that task requires the ability to operate heavy equipment, and to read plats identifying underground utility lines.

A Canadian study concluded that their people with literacy problems have two-thirds the income of others, are twice as likely to be unemployed, and many times more likely to receive some form of social assistance. Indeed, the social impact of illiteracy has been directly correlated with poverty, crime, broken homes, teen pregnancy, health, and welfare costs.

No wonder, then, that RI Presidents -- past, present, and future -- have emphasized Literacy as a challenge for Rotarians. **Glenn Estess** told a Rotary audience that "in your own communities there are individuals who need some help to live a better life." **Carl-Wilhelm Stenhammar** said literacy is necessary to "prevent children from becoming adults who cannot read, write, do basic arithmetic, or use a computer." **Wilfrid Wilkinson** encouraged local clubs to "undertake literacy projects both at home and abroad." **Ray Klingensmith** encouraged Rotarians to "incorporate a literacy component into all district training functions." And President-Elect **Kalyan Banerjee** is challenging Rotarians to "be the instrument of change" to spread literacy in the world.

Rotarians, the "handwriting is on the wall." It is up to us to read it!

### Attendance

Only 17 Cumberland Rotarians attended our meeting on 1 March. We missed the company of: Leslie, Catherine, Jill, Jay, Christine, Cathe, Robb, Mac, Kurt, Kim, Chantal, David S, and Jon. Visiting Rotarian: Bent Harder of the Rotary Club of Courtenay. Guest: Dr Rob Seal our guest speaker. It was great to see Plan as well.

### Birthdays and Anniversaries in March

Birthdays: 4 Chantal, 22 Debbie, 26 Kurt. Anniversaries: 5 Stefan and Annemarie, 23 Adri and Casper. Best wishes to all from our club.

## Parting Shots



Guess who came to dinner at the Challenders on Saturday evening?  
Hope everyone who got together for dinner had a great time. Thanks to Liz for organizing "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner" for our club. A great way to spend time getting to know one another better!

### March Programs

8 - Social Network Marketing 15 - Club Assembly  
22 - AIDS Action Group 29 - Extreme Kindness

## Chuckle Corner

### Why Do We Say The Things We Do?

There is an old Hotel - Pub in Marble Arch, London, which used to have a gallows adjacent to it. Prisoners were taken to the gallows, (after a fair trial of course) to be hanged.

The horse drawn dray, carting the prisoner, was accompanied by an armed guard, who would stop the dray outside the pub and ask the prisoner if he would like "ONE LAST DRINK".

If he said YES, it was referred to as "ONE FOR THE ROAD"

If he declined, that prisoner was "ON THE WAGON"