

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

WE ARE THE "INTERNATIONAL" CONCRETE REPAIR INSTITUTE



GARTH FALLIS

I am extremely proud to be the 24th President of ICRI and especially pleased to be the third international President of this international organization, following in the footsteps of Jack Morrow and Joe Solomon (both fellow Canadians).

The international aspect of ICRI is sometimes lost in all the work we do, which is seemingly focused on the U.S. Of our approximately 2000 members, however, over 200 are international—representing 34 countries. We have two international chapters and are looking at more in Canada and possibly Australia. Our guidelines are being used and referred to in many countries around the world; and having attended many international conferences, I have heard them referred to in a variety of presentations. With our founders' initial desire for an organization to enhance the quality of concrete repair, they envisioned serving not only the U.S. but also the world—thus, our original name was the International Association of Concrete Repair Specialists. We are truly the "International" Concrete Repair Institute. One of my goals this year is to enhance international membership and increase the visibility and recognition of ICRI around the world.

I have had the opportunity over the past few of years to spend some time in the ICRI booth at World of Concrete (most recently, this past January). The one question I hear the most is also the one I enjoy answering the most: "What is your greatest benefit from being a member of ICRI?" The answer for me is quite simple: "It is the friends (and I use 'friends' rather than 'colleagues,' as they are truly friends) that I have made within the industry from all aspects of our membership, be they contractors, engineers, manufacturers, academics, or students." I go on to tell them about times when I have come

upon a challenge, a new product, or an idea and have called one of these friends from another part of the continent or world—as I am based in Canada—and been able to talk about these things openly and get an honest answer. Furthermore, even though this person may be another contractor, there is no threat, as I am from a different part of the world, and therefore not a competitor. This has helped me on more occasions than I can mention.

Another aspect of this year that I am pleased with is the location of our two conventions: Québec City, QC, Canada, in the spring and Rancho Mirage, CA, in the fall. It is purely coincidence (or serendipity, depending on your view) that these two conventions fall during my year as President. I am so pleased and proud that members will have the opportunity to see this special part of Canada, with its quaint European atmosphere, and, more importantly, learn about our Québécois heritage. Please join us in Québec. And if you know me, you know I am an avid golfer; and where better to play golf than in one of the golf capitals of North America—Palm Springs? We are planning a golf tournament on the day before the convention. I am sure we will find time to play after the convention—not during, as there are presentations to attend and committee work to be done! And is there a better way to turn colleagues into friends than on a golf course? Not for me. Come join us at both our conventions to learn, contribute, and play.

We are looking forward to an exciting year in 2012. There are a few new documents ready to be published, some new initiatives starting, many other projects taking shape, the continuation and growth of the Concrete Slab Moisture Testing certification program, great convention locations and themes, and new friends to be made. Let's all enjoy and make it a memorable year for ICRI.