

The Complexity and Challenges of Tunneling

**Lok Home, President & Principal Owner
The Robbins Company**

WEDNESDAY JAN 30TH at NOON in BB 125
- lunch provided -

The tunneling industry is a multi-billion dollar industry. To be successful as a Tunnel Boring Machine supplier, you need extensive knowledge of mechanical and electrical engineering, geology and of course business. To demonstrate how these disciplines are combined we present on two interesting projects. The 14.4 m diameter by 10 kilometer long Hydro Electric Power tunnel in Niagara, Ontario, now complete had its challenges by technical and commercially. The other project which will be presented is a water diversion project in Southern India that is 43 kilometers long by 10 m diameter in very hard granite and quartzite rock. The project has been ongoing for six (6) years and is only 40% complete. The financial and business challenges on both projects are as interesting as the technical challenges.



Lok Home is the President and principal owner of the Robbins Company, a worldwide developer and manufacturer of tunneling and underground construction machinery. With 800 employees and 16 worldwide subsidiaries, The Robbins Company generates sales of approximately \$400 million annually. Lok is a Mining Technology graduate of Haileybury School of Mines in Ontario, Canada. He began his career in mine development and soon after joined The Robbins Company. Lok left Robbins to be the President of Atlas Copco Jarva in 1980 and started the company Boretac, Inc., a tunnel boring machine company, in 1985. Boretac, Inc., acquired The Robbins Company in 1998. Lok is active in UCA, the International Tunneling Association (ITA), and SME.

