



THE STANDARD

OCTOBER 23, 2026

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**PRESIDENT
JOE KLASSEN**

**REPORTER
JIM DAVIS**

**EDITOR
ASHA PAUL**



MEETING NOTES

Judy Cochran welcomed us on entering the energetic atmosphere of the Barn.

President Joe got right at it and had Sran lead us in O Canada that the chorus seemed to want a different pace than our leader.

We were pleased to welcome Vanessa Brown, Stan Heeringa, Sarah Murdoch and our speaker Kathryn Harvey to our meeting.

Judy's sunshine report reminded of various "National" days but she lost me with National Champagne Day so missed with one about molecules and atoms.

President Joe imparted his words of wisdom for the day and the Land Acknowledgement before providing an invocation on how we can reflect on the importance of opportunity and may we be grateful for chance to support those coming to Canada seeking safety, stability and future for their families.

And he then introduced our plate shiner – Bob Clark

PROGRAM

Jim Sawers introduced Kathryn Harvey, Associate Director at Windmill Microlending, a national non-profit organization, founded in Calgary in 2005, focused on restarting careers. Our Club has supported Windmill for the last two years through Vocational Services. The founders, a small group of visionaries, raised their seed money from some of the City's philanthropists.

Windmill provides low interest loans between \$2,000 and \$15,000 using an innovative loan model created in 2005. These are low interest short term loans (ave 4 years). The borrowers must be permanent residents of Canada, have post secondary education and at least one year of work experience. The loans are to assist individuals with foreign accreditations gain Canadian credentials (ie. Doctors, nurses), career changes and professional development to upgrade qualifications. They have loaned out \$165 million through 15,000+ loans. They have a 95% repayment history, so the money repaid is loaned out again to a qualifying candidate. Their sole business is lending and collecting, other services are provided with partner organisations to help their clients have the greatest chance of success.

Proof of their success is the 3x earnings levels achieved by clients, a reduction in unemployment by 75% and a net benefit to Canada with their 10,000+ clients paying \$3.6 billion in taxes.

Jim Sawers presented Kathryn with a Polio vaccination certificate as a thank you.

HAPPY BUCKS

Those happy today were relatively few, but the contributions generous. Peter H for the Community Kitchen, Jim D for retirement, Vince for his lottery win and I might have missed one.

FRIDAYS 7 AM. GUNN'S DAIRY BARN, HERITAGE PARK, 1900 HERITAGE DRIVE SW, CALGARY



NEW MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENT

The board has approved the applications of

Sami Alfakih

Classification Youth Cultural Broker

&

Vanessa Brown

Classification Accountant

50/50

Steve Dunk had his ticket drawn for the 50/50. An accurate, random 4-way test was followed by pulling the 4 of diamonds. The \$1,056 continues to grow

CLOSING REMARKS

President Joe ended the meeting with the reminder that impact begins with opportunity. Windmill Microlending helps skilled newcomers reclaim their careers, strengthen their families and contribute to their community. A powerful example of Rotary's commitment to creating last impact.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

DARREN YATES (EVE SIRVENT MILBRAT).....Nov 3
ELAINE DUNCAN (BRIAN GENTLES).....Nov.5

ROTARY ANNIVERSARY

WYNNE BJORGAN (27YRS).....Nov.1
GARRY GRAY (26YRS).....Nov 1

DUTY ROSTER

OCTOBER 30, 2026

GREETER & SUNSHINE.....KEITH CURTIS
DOOR SALES & 50/50.....MARLENE DOHERTY
INTRO & THANK.....JORDAN GANCHEV
REPORTER.....ROGER SONNTAG

**If you are unable to fulfil your duties please
find your own replacement.**

MOTIONS

Judy discussed the Rotary Youth Exchange for 2027/28 followed by a motion: On behalf of Youth Services Committee, I move RCCHP change their RYE commitment for 2027-28 to sponsoring 1 Outbound student and 1 Inbound student on their own rather than partner with Calgary North. RYE participation in our District is to the point the program won't be sustainable due to a lack of commitment by District Clubs. This demonstrates our support and commitment to a life changing experience for the students. Total RYE budget for 2027-28 is \$14,000. This funding will be committed in 2026-27. The motion was seconded.

A motion to table the above motion to October 30, 2026 was made, seconded and passed.

MINUTES

Our minute folks headed for the podium, although I doubt if the four speakers were done in four minutes. First out of the gate was Marlene with a LOT of information: (1) October 24th is World Polio day (hence the purple pinkies) and there are a few options to support Polio Plus by attending other Club's events. (2) Unfortunately, the music concert for Sunday is cancelled. (3) Next week is time to wear your Hallowe'en hat or mask (4) November 15th is the Chili Cook-Off and Grey Cup Party.

Steve is looking for short term storage for art. We have a donation of approx. 100 pieces that we need to store from soon to mid-January when we get access to the Magic of Christmas warehouse. If you can store some art, please contact Steve. He has arranged for the pick up and delivery.

Stan H - in his words "a very Canadian week", a busy week canoeing, hiking, attending a soccer game and is looking forward to this Sunday's game. Oh, and school.

Sarah Murdoch is our new liaison with the Rotary Employment Partnership as Ashley has moved on. The partnership with Rotary is now celebrating 25 years and their major fundraising breakfast is on November 17th, which is even more important now as they have lost 50% of their government funding.

Please attend if you can. Also, Sarah is continuing to look for employers of those with disabilities.