



RI Convention 2025 & Brazil Friendship Exchange Anthony Tonkinson

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Anthony volunteered to represent Bev, our Rotary International Convention Champion, and bring us up-to-date on what's happening. He will also tell us about the friendship exchange to Brazil.

Convention Update

There is an upcoming price increase for Convention Registration. It will increase by \$100 USD effective December 16th, so register soon. There are presently 78% of District Clubs with at least one member who has registered. The Break Out Sessions will be held at the BMO Centre. There will be free bus and C Train admission for all registered guests.

The Rotary Convention is offering four Signature Events, described as follows:

- On Saturday, June 21st (from 8pm to 10:30pm at GMC Centre (Stampede Grounds) there will be a **'Grandstand Spectacular'**, described as *"a spectacle of entertainment, showmanship, and toe-tapping tunes that'll have you hootin' and hollerin' all night long. From the electrifying performances of a dynamic marching band to the mesmerizing grace of Indigenous hoop dancing, there's something for everyone. And let's not forget the thrill of horseback relay races, where speed and skill collide in a whirlwind of excitement. Don't miss out on the ultimate celebration of the Wild West — grab your white hat and join us for an unforgettable experience!"*
This event costs \$95 USD.

- On Sunday, June 22nd, there are two separate events which are at the same time (7pm to 10pm), so each guest will have to select one or the other.

1. The first is **'Rocking The Big Tent'** and is described as follows: *"Get ready to kick up your boots and let loose at the Nashville North tent for an electrifying country concert experience! Join us for a night of unforgettable music, high-energy performances, and good ol' Southern charm. From twangy guitars to heartfelt lyrics, our lineup of talented country artists will have you singing along and two-stepping the night away. Whether you're a die-hard country fan or just looking for a boot-stompin' good time, this concert is the place to be. So grab your hat, gather your friends, and head on down to Nashville North for a country music extravaganza you won't want to miss!"*
This event costs \$60 USD.

2. The second event on Sunday, June 22nd, (from 7pm to 9pm) is **'New Blood with The Calgary Civic Symphony'** and is described as follows: *"a widely acclaimed theatre production that blends traditional Blackfoot music and dance with contemporary music by Grammy Award winning singer-songwriter Peter Gabriel to tell the life story of Chief Vincent Yellow Old Woman, a residential school survivor who overcame significant adversity to become Chief of the Siksika Nation in Alberta. The story, as told through the poem "The Indian in the Child", blends young Spirit Dancers with First Nations dance and drumming, and the music of Peter Gabriel performed by the Calgary Civic Symphony. New Blood is a powerful and*

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DECEMBER



Rotary TAKE ACTION: Get Involved, Join Rotary

2023-2024 Officers and Directors

Rob Wolfson, President
Wayne Wiebe, President Elect
Anthony Tonkinson, Past President
Dale Perret, Secretary
Vlad Sasarman, Treasurer

Pam Montgomery, International Service
Dean White, Youth Service
Brennen Pell, Community Service
Neil Beatty, Club Service
Keith Wellon, Club Operations
Peter Bickham, Club Financial
Sharon Fraiman, Membership
John Charrett, Rotary Foundation

RI President Stephanie Urchick
Rotary Club of McMurray, Pennsylvania USA
District 5360 Governor Christina Hassan
Rotary Club of Calgary Fish Creek

P.O. Box # 42041
Southland Crossing RPO
Calgary, Alberta T2J 7A6
info@chinookrotary.org
www.ChinookRotary.org

Rotary
Club of Calgary Chinook



President Rob called our meeting to order at 12:15, welcoming all in attendance.

Indigenous Fact

Pemmican: Traditionally pemmican was prepared from the lean meat of large game animals such as buffalo, elk or deer. The meat was cut in thin slices and dried over a slow fire, or in the hot sun until it was hard and brittle. Then it was pounded into very

small pieces, almost powder-like in consistency, using stones. The pounded meat was mixed with melted fat with a ratio of approximately 50% pounded meat and 50% melted fat. In some cases, dried fruits such as saskatoon berries, cranberries, blueberries, or choke cherries were pounded into powder and then added to the meat/fat mixture. The resulting mixture was then packed into "green" rawhide pouches for storage.

On this Day In History

- 1775 First official US flag raised (Grand Union Flag) aboard naval vessel USS Alfred
 - 1818 Illinois becomes 21st state of the USA
 - 1828 Andrew Jackson was elected as the 7th US President
 - 1947 Tennessee Williams' stage drama "A Streetcar Named Desire" runs for 855 performances, wins a Tony Award and a Pulitzer Prize
 - 1965 The Beatles begin final UK concert tour in Glasgow, Scotland
 - 1965 USSR launches Luna 8 ... it crashes on the moon
 - 1966 Television pop group "The Monkees" make their live concert debut at the Honolulu International Centre Arena in Hawaii
 - 1968 Elvis Presley's Comeback Special airs on NBC, his 1st live performance in seven years, re-launching his singing career
 - 1989 Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and US President George H. W. Bush, declare the Cold War over
- And a happy 75th birthday to Ozzy Osbourne today.

Attendance and Guest Attending

We had 28 participants at our meeting today which included one guest, David Weatherill (guest of Rob). Our intended guest speaker, Nicolle Oulette, representing "Light Up the World"

Photos courtesy George Van Schaick

unfortunately had to cancel due to another obligation. Our guest was introduced by Sharon Fraiman, and welcomed with our 'Welcome to Rotary' song.

Rob thanked Paul for being our scribe today. He also thanked Sharon and Haim for being our greeters, and for making everyone feel welcome. He thanked Stephen and Anne for all they do for our Club, most notably the regular production of our e-Arch. In addition, we also wish to thank both Hank and Janet for operating our payment system.

Club Business

Rotary Foundation Update



John Charrett noted that we have just passed both Black Friday and Cyber Monday, and that today is 'Giving Tuesday'. He believes that it would be a wonderful time for Rotarians to consider donating to the Rotary Foundation. He reports that 78% of our members are donors to the Rotary Foundation, and 12 are sustaining members which means they have signed up to donate a certain amount each month. He believes that it would be great if we could increase both these numbers by having new as well as existing donors for the Foundation and a few to sign up to give on a sustaining basis. Rob took the opportunity as our representative for the Calgary Rotary Clubs Foundation to make the same 'ask' for CRCF, as while it is a unique type of fund, it is equally beneficial.

Birthdays and Anniversaries



Paul announced our **Birthdays** for December. We have a single birthday during the month with Jim Hennessy's special day on December 13th. Our **Spousal Birthdays** during December are Lois Beatty on the 16th, Sharon Bickham on the 21st, and Jim Swan on the 31st. We have two **Anniversaries** this month: Wayne & Muriel Wiebe (their 61st) on the 28th, and Stephen & Anne Pick (their 55th) on the 20th.

Congratulations and best wishes to all!

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Anniversaries of Joining Rotary:

Wayne Wiebe — 43 years on December 1st
 Al Holt — 38 years on December 1st
 Tammy Truman — 30 years on December 1st
 Ted Wada — 28 years on December 31st
 Rob Wolfson — 10 years on December 2nd

Chase the Ace

The winner of today's draw was Ted Wada who missed picking the Ace of Spades, so won our weekly prize of \$60. The Club received \$80, and our jackpot is now \$1,533. Our next draw will be from a 30 card deck, and will be made at our December 17th meeting. Rob noted that we will add the \$10 fee for this last draw for December, to the three draws (\$30) for January into a single \$40 fee payable prior to December 15th.



Nominations

With regard to nominations, we are seeking candidates for four Board positions which are required for our 2025/2026 Rotary Year. (Note that the Rotary year begins on July 1st and ends on June 30th the following year.) We need a President Elect and three Directors. If you are interested in filling any of these positions, please contact Dale and/or discuss the role with anyone currently on the Board. In addition, if you would like to nominate another Rotarian by all means do so, however be aware that the nominee has to agree to being nominated.

Sunshine Report

Rob reported that our long time former member Terry Green is recovering from a recent heart attack, and he expressed our best wishes to him.

Good News / Bad News

- Hank donated \$10 to announce that he and Janet had dinner with Al and Bev Pettigrew recently, and note that they are both doing well.
- Anthony also donated \$10 to advise that he and Bev have recently returned from a wonderful Rotary Friendship Exchange in Brazil.
- Rob donated five dollars and announced that he has just returned from a trip to Las Vegas where he and a number of his friends took in a very exciting F1 car race for the first time.
- Sharon donated five dollars and announced that her daughter was currently in the hospital but doing well, and that her son who is an Alberta Sheriff has just completed training in Edmonton, which also went well.



Rob's Updates

Rob noted our upcoming Christmas dinner is taking place on Friday, December 6 from 5 pm to 7 pm at the Grey Eagle Casino. He highlighted that Sharon has worked very hard, organizing and arranging for this dinner, and we look forward to seeing a large number of our members and family attending. We will have our own section of the buffet area so when you arrive, simply advise the attendant that you are looking for Sharon's section. At this point we have 45 attendees signed up.

Rob expressed the club's gratitude for the volunteers who stepped up to assist at the Millarville Market which has lead to our club receiving \$367.

Our AGM is scheduled for our next meeting, December 17th at the Carriage House.

Rob told us about a Webinar designed to answer questions raised by Rotarians on the subject of Rotary, being held on Wednesday, December 4th (sorry, it'll be over by the time you see these minutes). Similarly, there is a second Webinar showing on December 7th on the subject of improving maternal care in Uganda. This project has been nominated for an award at our Rotary Convention next June.

Guest Speaker

Our guest speaker Nicole Oulette to speak about 'Light Up the World' unfortunately was forced to cancel her Rotary presentation as she had to be out of town. As a result, Anthony volunteered to represent Bev, our Rotary Convention Champion, and bring us up-to-date on what's happening. If there is sufficient time, he will also tell us about the friendship exchange to Brazil. concert is the place to be.

Dates to Remember

- Rob advised that Chinook has a table booked for the Annual Larry Kwong Chinese New Year Dinner, and Sharon booked the final three tickets. It takes place on Friday, January 24th.
- Our Christmas Dinner is scheduled for Friday, December 6th at the Grey Eagle Casino from 5pm to 7pm.
- Rob advised us that Tuesday, December 17th will be our next regular meeting at the Carriage House, and our favourite speaker, Bart Dailley, will be telling us about Christmas. It will also be our AGM.

Rob thanked everyone for attending today and asked all to stand and help close our meeting with a reading of Rotary's 4 Way Test.

Remember, "The Magic of Rotary". Have a great Rotary week!



Photo courtesy Kim Levenson



Disease Prevention and Treatment Month

December 17th Club AGM, and Bart Dailley

2025

Vocational Service Month

January 7th Alisha Reynolds, President and CEO, Tourism Calgary
 January 21st Mackenzie Murphy, corporate Communications Coordinator, The Calgary Airport Authority

Peace Building and Conflict Prevention Month

February 18th Shaundra Bruvall, Director of Communications, AlphaHouse Society

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Month

March 18th Jordan Guildford — Gems for Gems



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unforgettable piece of theatre; one that you will be talking about for years to come. Please join us at the Southern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium to experience this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity!"
 This event costs \$65 USD.

- The third day for a Signature Event is Tuesday, June 24th, and the event is the **Western Ranch Showcase** (from 7pm to 9:30pm) and is described as follows: *"Step into the heart of the Wild West at the Nutrien Western Event Centre for an unforgettable Western Style Showcase! Get ready to immerse yourself in the rich tapestry of Western culture as we celebrate the spirit of the frontier with an array of exciting events and activities. Join us for an evening filled with Western hospitality, live entertainment, and the chance to experience the timeless traditions of the Old West. Don your cowboy hat and boots, gather your posse, and make memories that will last a lifetime at the Nutrien Western Event Centre. Yeehaw!"*
 This event costs \$60 USD.

Home Hospitality events will be held on the evening of Monday, June 23rd, and the **Closing Ceremonies** will be on June 25th.

Volunteer shifts shall be of 4 hour duration. Kindly take the time to review the updates being sent out monthly by Bev, our Club Champion. Anyone who has questions please reach out to Bev or Rob.

Please consider volunteering as many will be required. As Moe said, "This is our moment to shine".

Friendship Exchange

Anthony then took time to tell us about the recent Friendship Exchange which he and Bev took to Brazil. The Brazilian Rotarians will reciprocate the visit next year to Alberta. Anthony and Bev and their hosts did a lot of hiking in the area and considered the entire event to be excellent. They visited some unique places like limestone caves and kept busy the entire visit. They went to two soccer matches, and the first one was so loud they couldn't hear a thing, but the second one was a little different because the Rotary District Governor had an ownership position in one of the teams with the result they were located in a private suite for that particular game and it was very enjoyable. He also highlighted that as one might expect from Rotarians, the host families they dealt with were wonderful.

Rob thanked Anthony for the Convention update, and also for the Friendship Exchange details. Anthony has pictures from the trip which he hopes to share at our meeting on the 17th.

