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Calgary Stampede Jay McNeil, President

Our guest speaker today was introduced by Tammy, who has enjoyed a close relationship with the Stampede organization for many years.

Jay has been President of the Stampede since January 2024, after serving two years as the Vice President of Business Operations and, of course, as an All-Star Offensive Lineman with the team from 1994 to 2007. During those playing years, he received three All-Star recognitions and five West Division All-Star honours. His playing career included winning two Grey Cups, in 1998 and 2001.



Jay has always resided in Calgary, where he built a strong business career after obtaining his Bachelor of Business Administration from Kent State University, and his MBA from the University of Fredericton. Jay and his wife Tara and his son Cuyler are big supporters in many ways of the Calgary community.

Jay began his remarks by highlighting that the Stampede training camp opens tomorrow, and emphasizing that he truly does love football.

He will tell us today what it is that football teaches athletes. He was born and grew up in London Ontario and started playing football in grade 9. Jay was a tall and strong young man, and the coach of the high school recruited him to try out for football. He discovered that trying out for football turned out to require a lot of hard work, day after day. This amount of effort seriously cut into his opportunity to spend time with friends, so he quit the team. He advises that he tried all kinds of different sports during this period and quit them all. It turns out, however, that he discovered that he didn't like the feeling of quitting and being disappointed in himself.

He decided that he needed to change this feeling by giving all he had to actually make it through the training camp and hopefully make the team. So that is what he did the following football season, and it turned out to be a successful training camp and he did make the team.



He learned also that being on the team still required the same, if not more, effort and hard work. Most of the players on the team at that time (university years) were on scholarships, and even a number of them left the team rather than adapt to the work level required.

While Jay continued to hate
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P.O. Box # 78084
Calgary RPO Heritage
Calgary, Alberta T2H 2Y1
info@chinookrotary.org
www.ChinookRotary.org

Rotary
Club of Calgary Chinook



120
YEARS OF ROTARY

May 6th, 2025

Scribe: Paul Gaudet

President Rob called our meeting to order at 12:15, welcoming all in attendance and leading us in singing O Canada.

Indigenous Fact

Tsuut'ina T'ina

Once part of the more northerly Danezaa ('Beaver Indians') Nation, the Tsuut'ina are part of the Athapaskan group who migrated south onto the Great Plains during the 1700s, prior to any written records of the area. The Tsuut'ina Nation is adjacent to the southwest city limits of Calgary. The northeast portion of the reserve was used as part of CFB Calgary, a Canadian Army base, from 1910-1998. The land was returned to the Nation by the Government of Canada.

On This Day in History

1910 George V becomes King of the United Kingdom upon the death of his father, Edward VII.

1915 Future Baseball Hall of Fame slugger Babe Ruth hits his first MLB home run; pitches 12 frames in Boston Red Sox 4-3 extra innings loss to New York Yankees.

1937 German airship Hindenburg explodes in flames at Lakehurst, New Jersey, killing 35 of the 97 on board and 1 on the ground.

1968 Columbia Records releases "Johnny Cash at Folsom Prison", the first live album by the American singer-songwriter, recorded in January 1968.

2004 TV sitcom "Friends" airs the season finale in its 10th and final season in US (52.5 million viewers).

Club Business

We had 33 participants at our meeting today which included 5

Guests: our guest speaker Jay McNeil, Bob Levenson, Bernice Bohnet, and two of Keith's guests, Sanjay Singh and Dilip Urishna. Our guests were introduced by John and welcomed with our 'Welcome to Rotary' song.

Rob **thanked** Paul for being our Scribe today. He also thanked Kim and John 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, and Paul Hussey for organizing our greeters and set up. In addition, we also wish to thank both Hank and Peter for operating our payment system. Rob also thanked Joe for serving tea at our meeting, Bev for helping to serve meals, and Kim for taking photos.

Rotary Book Sale

Garth Plunkett used a 'Rotary Minute' to tell us about the upcoming Rotary Book Sale being held once again this year at the



Calgary Curling Club from Friday, May 9th through Sunday, May 18th. The host of the event is the Rotary Club of Calgary, and they have engaged with four other Rotary clubs in the city to provide volunteer assistance managing this event. Each of these clubs volunteered in different areas of the event (Calgary Chinook assisted in providing parking services). Each of the four clubs will be paid \$10,000 for their volunteer assistance during the event, and they will be in a position to distribute these funds to local evidence-based early literacy projects. The funds earned by Chinook in 2024 were donated to Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Calgary and area, and will be used to fund their early literacy program for children up to age eight.



Host Hospitality Event

Next up was Joe Hooper who was following up on the recently announced Home Hospitality Event being planned at the Legion during our upcoming Rotary International Convention in late June. This event is basically an evening of fellowship (scheduled for the evening of June 23rd) during which members and family from the Chinook Club will host approximately 60 visiting Rotarian families to an evening of good food and fellowship. We are seeking host Rotarians to attend this event and help sponsor the cost for the visiting Rotarians. For example, we are thinking that a single Rotarian would pay \$100 and this would subsidize themselves as well as two visiting Rotarians to a steak dinner with

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RI Convention 2025

CALGARY 2025

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION



entertainment. Similarly, a Rotarian 'couple' would pay \$200 which would pay for themselves and four visitors.

Our Club Champion, Bev, reported that as there are only a relatively small number of our members who have registered to attend the Convention, this would be a great way for those who have not signed up to become involved in making the convention a wonderful event for all concerned.

Kindly consider getting involved and contact Joe or Monty to confirm.

Meals on Wheels

Bob Montgomery reported that he has just received a card from Meals on Wheels noting our four year anniversary of providing services to this important charity. Bob highlighted that the members from our club who are active in this service are Hank, Neil, Dale, Wayne, as well as Bob himself. He also highlighted that Keith Wellan is actively involved in this charity as well.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Bev announced our **Birthdays** for May.

We have four member birthdays during the month with George K. starting us off with his birthday on the 3rd,

Haim on the 7th, (both George and Hair... are celebrating their 80th), Al on the 9th, and Garth Sabirsh on the 25th.

Our four **Spousal Birthdays** during May are Bev Pettigrew on the 5th, Beti Gaudet on the 6th, Carol Van Schaick on the 27th, and Lise May on the 30th.

We have two **Anniversaries** during the month of May. Al and Bev Pettigrew are celebrating their 62nd on the 2nd, and Jim and Judy Thompson are celebrating their 60th on May 15th.

Congratulations and best wishes to all!

May Anniversaries of Joining Rotary

Hank Popoff - 59 years, Al Pettigrew - 41 years, Bill Stemp - 39 years, - Peter Bickham - 19 years, Bev Tonkinson - 13 years



Chase the Ace

Tammy had won the prior draw so began today attempting to select the Ace of Spades. Fortunately for our other players, she missed the Ace. We then picked today's ticket and Neil Beatty was the winner. He won \$72 but as he was not in attendance. Rob will contact him to have him make his card selection. The Club received \$96 and our jackpot is now \$2,367 !! Our next draw will be from a 17 card deck, and will be made at our May 18th meeting (if Neil hasn't won it).

Sunshine Report

- Rob noted how good it was to see Fred Jessee at today's meeting.
- Jim Thompson announced that he is donating \$500 to our Convention Hospitality Hosting Project being organized by Joe and Monty.



Good News/Bad News

Keith reported that he had attended Sharon's CMDA Gala and that it was a very successful event, both in terms of attendance (sold out) and funds raised.

Guest Speaker

President Jay McNeil of the Calgary Stampeders:

Dates to Remember

- Our next informal get together will be 'Lager at the Legion' next Tuesday, May 13th, at Legion #285 on Horton Road, at noon.
- Rob advised us that Tuesday, May 20th will be our next regular meeting at the Carriage House at noon. Our speaker will be Ray McPhee on the subject of Human Trafficking.

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 Rotary's Theme this year is "The Magic of Rotary". Have a great Rotary week! Meeting adjourned at 1:30.

Lager @ The Legion May 13th



The winner ... George VS

Stampeders

... cont'd from page 1

the routine, he felt pride for having made the team and he just couldn't find it within himself to return to his hometown having dropped out. So he stuck it out, made the team, and ended up having a successful college career at Kent State. After college, he was drafted by the Calgary Stampeders.

He recalled that one of his agents early on gave him three points to remember to be successful in the game. The first point was "do something to get noticed", the second was "don't take any crap", and lastly, "don't make the same mistake twice". He advises that over his career these three items have stood up well.

He also has learned that there are five traits that he recommends for success:

1. hard work;
2. perseverance;
3. teamwork;
4. passion;
5. leadership

If we work hard trying to develop these traits, then we can become a real life champion.

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Youth Service Month

May 20th
May 29th

Ray McPhee, Human Trafficking
Evening meeting at The Pointe

Rotary Fellowships Month

June 3rd
June 10th

Leny Smith — Pediatric Dentistry
Dinner meeting at a restaurant TBD
(no pub evening meeting re the Convention)

June 17th
June 21st - 25th

Rotary International Convention



Calgary Stampeders

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Jay then told us about this year's football team, and the challenges they face turning around negative attendance and developing a winning team, which will encourage both existing and new season ticket holders to re-book for the 2025 season.

To accomplish this goal, the team has hired some new coaches. They have arranged for a new proven quarterback, and they have the first draft pick in this year's player draft. He says this will guarantee that we will be bigger and bolder, and prove that we are committed to making 2025 a success. Their number one goal is to win a Grey Cup Championship in 2025, and he highlighted that we have successfully arranged to host the Grey Cup Game in 2026. He highlighted also that we have made more trades in November than we had made in entire years in the past. In addition, they have improved the actual McMahon Stadium facility by improving locker rooms and improving the workout area for players.

From a business viewpoint, Jay pointed out that if 14% of Calgary came to only one game, they would reach their attendance goals for 2025. They have established the "Stampeder Bowl" which will

be played during the Calgary Stampede in Calgary against Winnipeg. There will be a significant half-time show and they are hoping to develop a strong attendance for this new game, something like the popularity of our Labour Day game against Edmonton in September.

He wrapped up his comments by highlighting how important it is for the Stampeders players to continue to have a positive impact on the communities in Calgary, and he noted that last year they made 337 appearances throughout Calgary, and spent 530 community hours doing so.

Tammy thanked Jay for his presentation today, and noted that everyone is excited to see what the Stampeders are going to do in 2025. We are excited to see how the new quarterback makes out, and whether we can make the playoffs and possibly go further this year. She advised Jay that Rotary has been working hard to eradicate Polio from the world, and in appreciation of his presentation today we will be making a donation to "Polio Plus" to help accomplish this goal.



PS MONDAY MAY 19 2 PM

WEEK 2 SATURDAY JUNE 14 2 PM

WEEK 6 FRIDAY JULY 11 7 PM

WEEK 9 THURSDAY JULY 31 5:30 PM

WEEK 13 MONDAY SEP 1 4 PM

WEEK 17 FRIDAY SEP 26 5 PM

WEEK 20 SATURDAY OCT 18 5 PM

PS SATURDAY MAY 24 7:30 PM

WEEK 3 SATURDAY JUNE 21 2 PM

WEEK 7 FRIDAY JULY 18 8:30 PM

WEEK 10 SATURDAY AUG 9 5 PM

WEEK 14 SATURDAY SEP 6 5 PM

WEEK 18 SATURDAY OCT 4 5 PM

WEEK 21 FRIDAY OCT 24 7:30 PM

WEEK 1 SATURDAY JUNE 7 5 PM

WEEK 5 THURSDAY JULY 3 7 PM

WEEK 8 THURSDAY JULY 24 7 PM

WEEK 12 SATURDAY AUG 23 5 PM

WEEK 16 FRIDAY SEP 19 7:30 PM

WEEK 19 SATURDAY OCT 11 1 PM

POST SEASON

DIVISION SEMI-FINALS SATURDAY | NOV. 1 | 4:30 PM

DIVISION FINALS SATURDAY | NOV. 8 | 4:30 PM

GREY CUP IN WINNIPEG SUNDAY | NOV. 16 | 4 PM

TOGETHER WE RIDE STAMPEDERS.COM

ALL GAME TIMES ARE LISTED IN MT. DATES AND TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

HOME AWAY