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## 2025-2026 Officers and Directors

Wayne Wiebe, President  
Keith Wellon, President Elect  
Rob Wolfson, Past President  
Dale Perret, Secretary  
Vlad Sasarman, Treasurer

Bev Tonkinson, International Service  
Dean White, Youth Service  
Ted Wada, Community Service  
Neil Beatty, Club Service  
Brennen Pell, Club Operations  
Peter Bickham, Club Financial  
Sharon Fraiman, Membership  
John Charrett, Rotary Foundation

RI President Francesco Arezzo  
Rotary Club of Ragusa, Italy

District 5360 Governor Manon Mitchell  
Rotary Club of Calgary Downtown

## Ujamaa Grandmas Charlotte Holmlund, Volunteer Board Chair



Our guest speaker, Charlotte Holmlund representing Ujamaa Grandmas, was introduced by Bev Tonkinson. Char is a former librarian and knowledge management consultant who spent her career helping people and organizations manage information. Now retired, she is the volunteer Board Chair for Ujamaa Grandmas in Calgary, where she helps strengthen community connections, inspire others to get involved and raise funds for the Stephen Lewis Foundation's "Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign".

Char's presentation will introduce us to Ujamaa Grandmas and tell us about her recent trip to South Africa and Eswatini, where she and 15 other members of grandmothers groups from across Canada visited community based partner organizations that are changing lives every day.

Grandmothers in Canada, Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States have rallied in response to the crisis faced by grandmothers in Africa as they struggled to raise millions of children orphaned by AIDS. Through the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign, groups are raising funds in their communities to support the life-enhancing programs run by grandmothers in Africa, and the community-led organizations who support them. The grandmothers movement amplifies the voices and expertise of grandmothers in Africa, and shows the world that leadership by older women is critical in reclaiming hope and rebuilding resilience across communities.



Ujamaa Grandmas is a group of over 500 Calgary women that is part of the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign of the Stephen Lewis Foundation. As such, they are committed to the Campaign's three goals: raise awareness, build solidarity, and mobilize funds for community-based organizations that support African grandmothers and the children in their care. The grassroots organizations funded by the Stephen Lewis Foundation provide them with supports that include food, educational supplies, uniforms and school fees, medical care, HIV counselling and testing, adequate housing and bedding, counselling and support groups, home visits, and much more. Since 2004, Ujamaa Grandmas has raised over two million dollars in support of the Stephen Lewis Foundation, through a variety of activities, both handcrafts-related and other.

Effective in 2024, in eastern and southern in Africa there are 21.1 million people with AIDS, with new cases being added annually estimated at 490,000. Every week 4,000 adolescent girls and young women aged 15 to 24 acquired HIV in 2024.

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President Wayne called our meeting to order at 12:15, welcoming all in attendance and leading us in singing O Canada. He noted that March is water, sanitation and hygiene month. Rotary International reminds us that clean water and safe sanitation are not privileges but are basic human rights.



Wayne thanked Paul for being our Scribe today. He also thanked Rob and Moe for being our greeters, and for making everyone feel welcome. In addition we also wish to thank Hank and Neil for operating our payment system.

### Indigenous Fact

by Keith Wellon



The Metis Northwest Rebellion occurred 141 years ago this month, in March, 1885. Louis Riel moves to form a provisional government and is told his efforts would be met with bullets. In response the Metis proceeded to establish a provisional government, and established its headquarters in Batoche (central Saskatchewan today).

The first battle occurred at Duck Lake on March 26th, where the Metis defeated a party of North West Field Force troops and settler volunteers. On April 24th Metis forces clashed with the Canadian Army at Touronds Coulee and once again, the Metis were victorious. From May 9th to 12th, the Metis forces fought 5,500 Canadian troops at Batoche. On May 12th, tired and out of ammunition, the Metis valiantly succumbed to the Canadian Troops. Metis homes were pillaged and burned. Riel surrendered on May 15th and was tried for treason on July 20th. During the trial he outlined the undemocratic treatment of the Metis, defended his sanity, and explained his vision for the country. Ontarians demanded his execution, French Canadians in Quebec argued for clemency.

On August 1st he was found guilty of high treason, although the jury recommended clemency. He was sentenced to death and was executed on November 16th. His trial and resulting execution caused great conflict within the new country. For English Canadians, Riel's execution was a message that western Canada would be run by and for Anglo-Protestants. For French Canadians, the execution was an attack on the French fact in Canada.

### Club Business

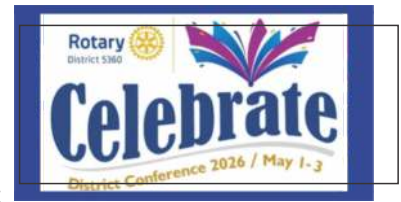
We had 34 attendees at our meeting today which included three guests: Copelan Manzer, our Inclusion Alberta representative, and Nick Crowston and Shael Gelfond, both guests of Sharon. Our guests were introduced by Rob Dempsey and welcomed with our Welcome to Rotary song.



### District Conference 2026

Red Deer — May 1st to 3rd

Wayne reminded us about our upcoming District Conference from May 1st to May 3rd in Red Deer. The registration cost is currently \$399 per person. First timers will receive a 30% discount. Wayne advised that currently there are 140 Rotarians signed up, of which 8 are from Chinook. We are hopeful we can reach 12 attendees so please consider joining our group. Give Wayne a call with any questions.



### Member Minutes

- **Rotary Curling Bonspiel in Yellowknife**

Paul reported on Rotary's recent Curling Bonspiel which was hosted by Rotary Clubs in Yellowknife. We had 6 teams from Calgary's Rotary league attend, 5 from Grand Prairie and others from around our District. While none of our teams won trophies, everyone had a wonderful time and returned to Calgary with big smiles. The hosts did an outstanding job setting up the hotels, banquets and curling club such that everything ran smoothly and everyone enjoyed their visit.



- **Casino Volunteers Needed**



Bruce Bohnet reminded us all to volunteer for our upcoming Casino in May (13th and 14th) at the Elbow River Casino on McLeod Trail. He emphasized the importance of this fundraising opportunity which generally provides our Club with around \$70,000 every two years, which we use for community support.

- **Cribbage, Dinner and an Evening of Fellowship**

We are proceeding with setting up a Cribbage Evening at the Horton Road Legion. Our plan is to make this a monthly event (one evening per month) with the initial date being Wednesday, April 1st. Bart advises that we should bring some quarters as well as dinner money. Contact Bart if you have any questions.



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## Inclusion Alberta Report Update

*Copelan Manzer*

Copelan reported that local Rotarians have recently assisted in placing 3 disabled individuals into new jobs. They now have 56 workers in Calgary, a wonderful example of helping those in need. If anyone can think of a situation where their business might be able to hire someone, kindly contact Copelan to discuss.



- Bev donated \$5 for playing a recording of Hank playing an accordion during a recent visit to their home.

## Sunshine Report

Brennen reported that Jim Thompson is receiving ankle injections to help deal with the pain he is experiencing. Garth Plunkett has completed the first group of daily treatments and is now enjoying a month off. We wish Jim and Garth the very best and we look forward to seeing them soon at our meetings.

## Chase the Ace

Our draw winner (of \$84) today was John Charrett, and he selected the 6 of Clubs. Our Club earned \$112 on today's draw. The pot is currently \$981 and growing. There are 38 cards remaining in our deck. President Wayne encouraged everyone to participate (only \$10 per draw).



## Guest Speaker

Ben Tonkinson introduced our guest speaker, Charlotte Holmlund representing Ujamaa Grandmas.

## Dates to Remember

- March 26th We will be holding an Evening Pub Get-together at Limericks from 5:30 to 7pm
- April 7th Regular noon meeting at the Carriage House  
Speaker: Thomas Cell who will be discussing Prostate Cancer.



## Sergeant at Arms

*Bart Dailley*

Bart advised that there has been some felonious behaviour recently which he needed to highlight:

- Wayne confused today's date
- Bruce confused the dates for our Casino
- Hank's large green bow tie
- Neil misplacing



our cribbage equipment

- John Charrett winning today's Chase the Ace draw
- Tammy for looking so good after her winter vacation in Mexico
- Bob Montgomery took the blame for rising gas prices

## Good News / Bad News

- Tammy donated \$50 for missing her duties during her extended vacation, as well as missing our upcoming Casino due to her next travel adventure.

Wayne asked everyone to stand and join in reciting Rotary's 4 Way Test.

As today is St. Patrick's Day, Wayne wrapped up with a traditional Irish Blessing:

*May your troubles be less  
Your blessings be more  
And nothing but happiness  
Come through your door*

Rotary's Theme this year is 'Unite for Good'. Meeting adjourned at 1:30pm. Have a great Rotary week!

*Photos courtesy Stephen Pick and Sharon Fraiman*



## Casino Volunteers

We are booked for our casino on **May 13th and 14th, 2026** at **Elbow River Casino**. **Please volunteer !!**



This is Chinook Rotary's major project to raise money for our charitable commitments.

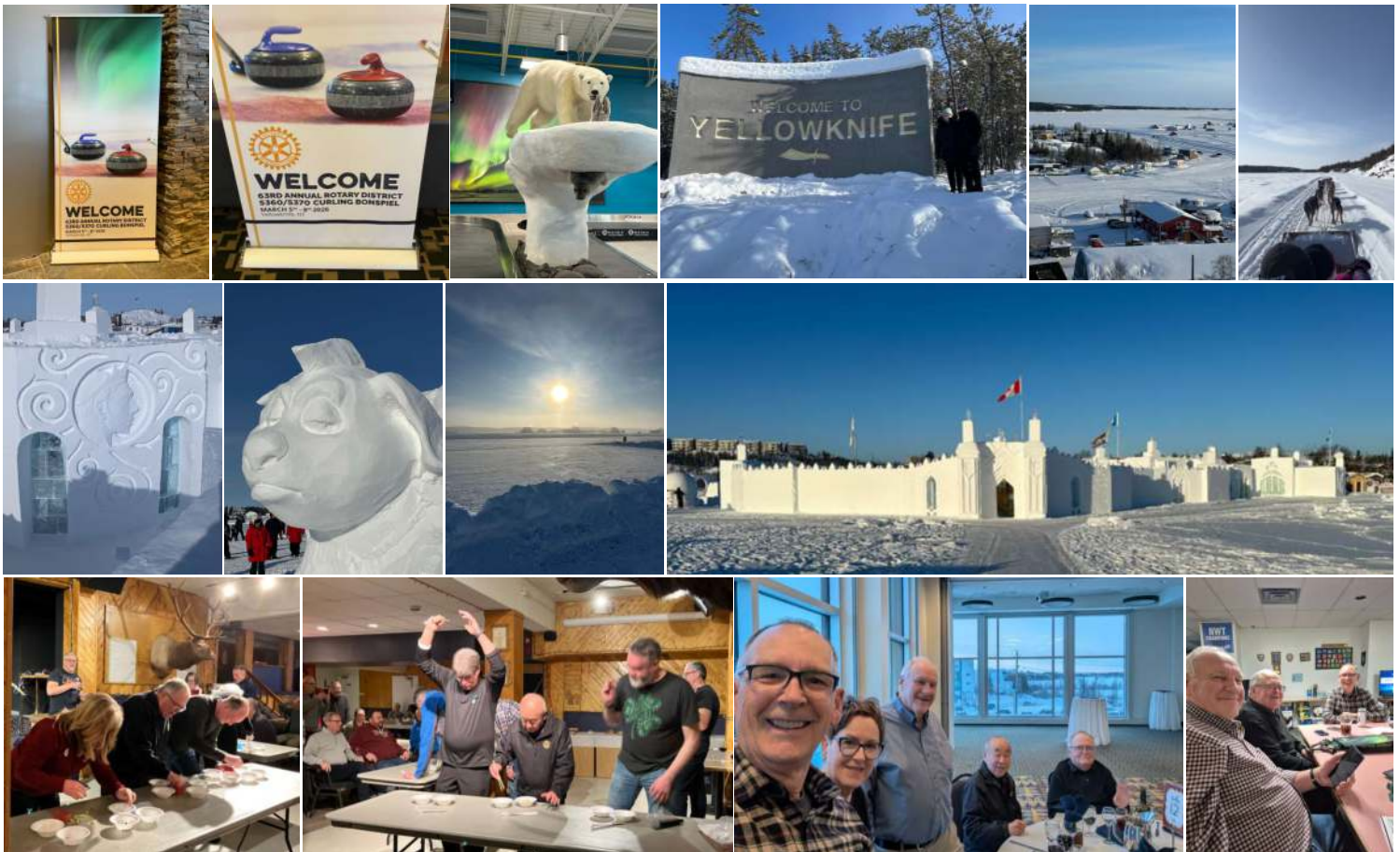
Sign up now!  
Contact  
Bruce Bohnet or  
Joe Hooper.

## Chinook Rotary Cribbage Club

**We are resurrecting the Cribbage Club and we are looking for players.**

We play one Wednesday night per month at the Legion on Horton Road, beginning April 1st. Arrive around 5:30 and buy dinner. The Legion is giving us the space at no charge on the understanding that the vast majority of us will spend money on food and drink before hand. Eat at 530, cribbage at 6:30 to no later than 9. Call or email Bart.





## Evening Meeting March 26th



## Nature Park Info

Ted Wada (Director Community Service) and I met with Charter Member Jim Thompson on March 20th, to get an update on our Nature Park. Jim has been our club liaison with the Provincial Government, as it relates to the Nature Park since its inception more than 20 years ago! As soon as Jim increases his mobility and is able to attend meetings, I have asked him to share this update with our members!



We will of course, have our annual club meeting at the Nature Park in August!

Wayne Wiebe

## Proposed New Members

The following new **Member** proposals were accepted by the Board for membership in the Rotary Club of Calgary Chinook:

**NICHOLAS CROWSTON**  
 Proposed by: Sharon Fraiman  
 Classification: Business Management

**SHAEL GELFAND**  
 Proposed by: Sharon Fraiman  
 Classification: Public Relations Consultant

In accordance with Club Bylaws, Article XI, Section 5:  
 Method of electing New Members  
 "If no written objection to the proposal, stating reasons, is received by the Board from any member (other than Honorary) of the Club within seven (7) dates following publication of information about the prospective member, that person, upon payment of admission fee (if not Honorary membership) as prescribed in the bylaws, shall be considered to be elected to membership. If any such objection has been filed with the Board, it shall vote on this matter at its next meeting. If approved despite the objection, the proposed member, upon payment of the admission fee, shall be considered to be elected to membership."

Dale Perret, Secretary  
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District Conference 2026 / May 1-3

Register now  
and join in on  
the learning  
and fellowship!!

## Environmental Month

April 7th  
April 21st

Thomas Cell — Prostate Cancer  
Richard Gotfield

## Youth Service Month

May 1st - 3rd  
May 5th  
May 13th & 14th  
May 19th

District Conference 2026 in Red Deer  
Rob Dempsey  
Casino volunteers needed — Elbow River Casino  
Jay McNeil, President, Stampers



Rotary   
**April**  
ENVIRONMENT MONTH

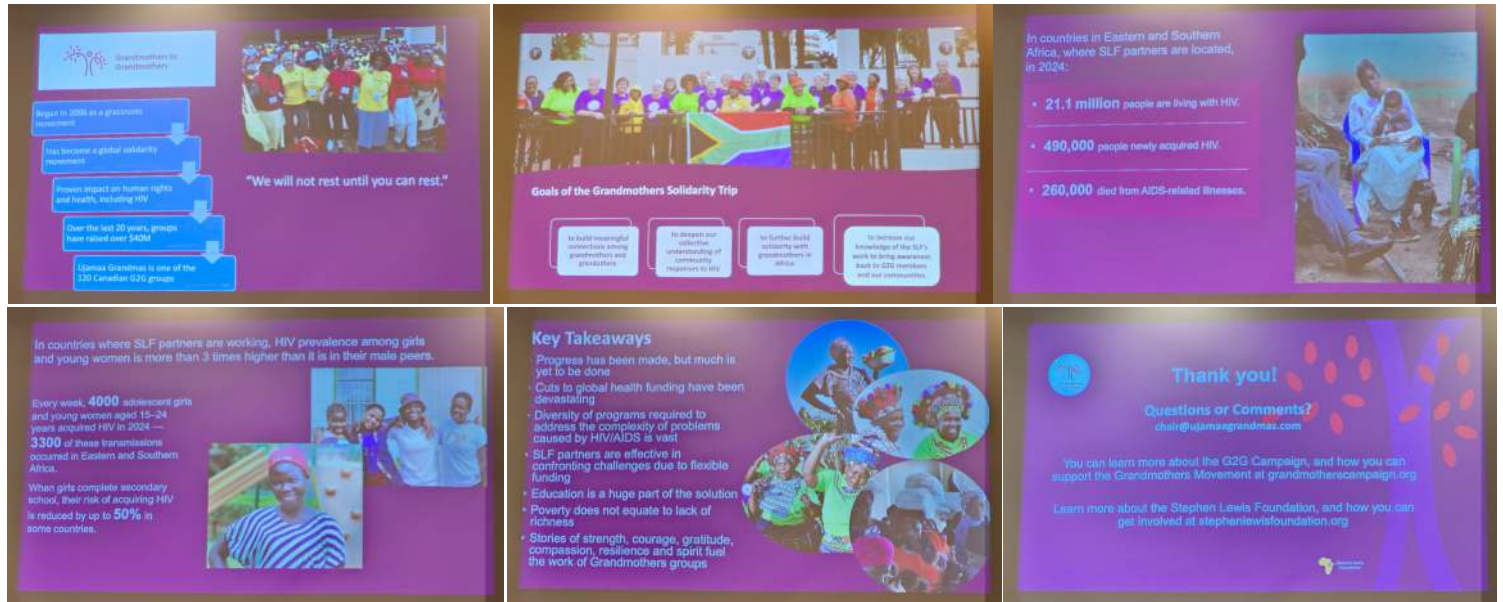
*"We owe it to ourselves and to the next generation to conserve the environment so that we can bequeath our children a sustainable world that benefits all"*

— Wangari Maathai



## Ujamaa Grandmas

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**Grandmothers to Grandmothers**

- Began in 2006 as a grassroots movement
- Has become a global solidarity movement
- Proven impact on human rights and health, including HIV
- Over the last 20 years, groups have raised over \$40M
- Ujamaa Grandmas is one of the 130 Canadian G20 groups

*"We will not rest until you can rest."*

**Goals of the Grandmothers Solidarity Trip**

- To build meaningful connections among grandmothers and grandsons
- To decrease HIV infection, understanding of, and community responses to HIV
- To further build existing work grandmothers in Africa
- To increase our knowledge of the G20's work to bring awareness back to G20 members and our communities

In countries in Eastern and Southern Africa, where SLF partners are located, in 2024:

- 21.1 million people are living with HIV.
- 490,000 people newly acquired HIV.
- 260,000 died from AIDS-related illnesses.

In countries where SLF partners are working, HIV prevalence among girls and young women is more than 3 times higher than it is in their male peers.

Every week, 4,000 adolescent girls and young women aged 15–24 years acquired HIV in 2021 — 3,300 of these transmissions occurred in Eastern and Southern Africa.

When girls complete secondary school, their risk of acquiring HIV is reduced by up to 50% in some countries.

**Key Takeaways**

- Progress has been made, but much is yet to be done
- Cuts to global health funding have been devastating
- Diversity of programs required to address the complexity of problems caused by HIV/AIDS is vast
- SLF partners are effective in confronting challenges due to flexible funding
- Education is a huge part of the solution
- Poverty does not equate to lack of richness
- Stories of strength, courage, gratitude, compassion, resilience and spirit fuel the work of Grandmothers groups

**Thank you!**

Questions or Comments?  
chair@ujamaagrandmas.com

You can learn more about the G2G Campaign, and how you can support the Grandmothers Movement at [grandmotherscampaign.org](http://grandmotherscampaign.org)

Learn more about the Stephen Lewis Foundation, and how you can get involved at [stephenlewisfoundation.org](http://stephenlewisfoundation.org)

The group of grandmothers from Canada visited southeastern Africa to meet and build relationships with various partnership groups in that area. They began in Eswatini and then flew to Cape town in South Africa. Their next stop was Kwazubi in the Natal Province. In each area, they met with partners of the Stephen Lewis Foundation.

The key takeaways from their trip were:

- progress is being made in the fight against AIDS, however much is yet to be done
- cuts to global health funding have been devastating
- the diversity of required programs is vast

Further information on the Stephen Lewis Foundation, the 'Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign' and 'Ujamaa Grammas' can be found at the following websites:

- [www.chair@ujamaagrandmas.com](http://www.chair@ujamaagrandmas.com)
- [www.grandmotherscampaign.org](http://www.grandmotherscampaign.org)
- [www.stephenlewisfoundation.org](http://www.stephenlewisfoundation.org)

Brennen Pell thanked Charlotte for her informative presentation and pointed out that she obviously knew all about service to those in need. He noted that a donation to Polio Plus would be made in appreciation for her presentation today.



## The Club's 50th Anniversary !!

Chinook Rotary's 50th Anniversary Party will be on  
**Monday March 15th 2027**  
in the evening at the Carriage House !!  
**Save the date and plan to be there !!**

