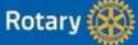




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JANUARY



TAKE ACTION: Get Involved, Join Rotary

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

Rotary Membership Michael Spears, Chinook Member



Our speaker Michael Spears spoke to us today about how he became a Rotarian, and why it is important for us to consider why we are Rotarians, and why we continue to attend meetings and participate in Rotary activities. We can use these reasons to assist in attracting new members.

He was introduced to Chinook Rotary eight years ago through volunteering at a local Casino. He met Alex Soutar who sponsored him into Chinook. He has volunteered at Mustard Seed helping feed the homeless, and now has a room full of Rotary friends whom he characterizes as quality people.

He proceeded to outline some of the history of Rotary which began in 1905 in Chicago through the efforts of Paul Harris, an attorney who was seeking high-quality contacts to grow his business. Rotary proceeded to grow across America and around the world. There are currently over 46,000 clubs in over 200 countries with membership of approximately 1.4 million.

Michael then told us about the origin of Rotary's emblem, the Rotary Wheel, which was adapted in 1922 and contains 24 teeth and six spokes, designed to emphasize the value of teamwork. The object of Rotary is to encourage acquaintances, values, service, goodwill and peace. Rotary's motto is "Service above Self", which was adopted in 1950 and represents the value that brings us together.



Michael then opened the floor, and asked our members to tell us why they had initially joined Rotary, and what was it that kept them returning for all these years? Quite a few responses were volunteered including fellowship and the opportunity to meet new people, the opportunity to develop new business contacts, the opportunity to raise funds and thereby provide service to those in need, both in our own community and internationally, and to assist in the eradication of polio.



We discussed the challenges of recruiting new members, and Michael suggested one idea would be to consider why we continue to participate in Rotary, and use these reasons to suggest to others that they also might enjoy similar benefits.

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President Wayne called our meeting to order at 12:15, welcoming all in attendance and wishing everyone a Happy New Year.

Indigenous Fact

Keith Wellon

Alberta is home to 48 district First Nations, part of Treaties 6, 7 and 8, representing diverse cultures like Cree, Blackfoot, Dene and Nakoda as well as diverse languages and dialects. Alberta also has eight Métis Settlements. Together they form the third-largest Indigenous population in Canada with over 284,000 people identifying as Indigenous in 2021.



Club Business

We had 24 members at our meeting today and no guests.

Wayne thanked Paul G for being our scribe today. He also thanked Bob Montgomery for being our Greeter and for making everyone feel welcome. He thanked Stephen and Anne for all they do for our Club, and thanked Paul H for arranging our meeting set up. In addition we also wish to thank both Hank and Neil for operating our payment system.

Message from Rotary International

Wayne related a message from Rotary International Director Chris Etienne in which he recommended that the Clubs should begin 2026 by focusing on what we want to accomplish in the coming months. We can make the world a better place through our efforts of introducing Rotary to someone new and increasing our impact through projects and programs of our Rotary Foundation both in our own community and abroad. He also noted that January is Vocational Service Month and that Vocational Service is one of Rotary's five avenues of service. It involves using our professional skills and expertise to serve the community, promote ethical practices and inspire others.

New District Governor Nominee Designate

Past President Rob announced that he had agreed to put his name forward as a District Governor candidate for 2028-2029. He thanked our members for their support and noted that his interview by District representatives was held on December 18th. He heard their final decision just before Christmas, and is proud to announce that he has been selected to be our District Governor in the Rotary Year 2028/29. Congratulations to Rob and we note that he will be the very first DG from the Rotary Club of Calgary Chinook (which was chartered in 1977).

Congratulations!

Chase the Ace

Bill Stemp's ticket was drawn resulting in his winning \$66 (with \$68 going to our Club). Bill was not in attendance so Rob will be in touch with him to see that he chooses a card. We have 44 cards left in our deck so the odds are getting better. Our next draw will be on January 20th for the \$597 jackpot (assuming Bill doesn't choose the Ace of Spades).



Birthdays and Anniversaries



Paul announced our birthdays for both December and January. We missed announcing December's due to the cancellation of our early December meeting as we held our excellent Christmas Party that week.

We had two member birthdays during December: Bob Levenson on the 7th and Jim Hennessy on the 13th.

We also had three spousal birthdays for December: Lois Beatty on the 16th, Sharon Bickham on the 21st, and Jim Swan on the 31st.

We have two anniversaries during the month of December starting with Wayne and Muriel Wiebe celebrating their 62nd on the 28th, and Stephen and Anne Pick celebrating their 56th on the 20th.

December Anniversaries of joining Rotary: Wayne Wiebe — 44, Al Holt — 39, Tammy Truman — 31, Ted Wada — 29, and Rob Wolfson — 11.

We have four member birthdays during January: Bruce Bohnet on the 7th, Dick Snel on the 24th, and both Rob Dempsey and George Van Schaick on the 30th.

Our three spousal birthdays for January are: Maria Stemp on the 7th, Aida Trutan (Vlad's partner) on the 20th, and Josette Fraiman also on the 20th.

We have a single anniversary in January: Vlad and Aida celebrating their 32nd on the 21st.

January Anniversaries of joining Rotary: Anthony Tonkinson — 39, Sandy Swan — 34, Bob Montgomery — 30, Stephen Pick — 25, and Michael Spears — 8.

Congratulations and best wishes to all!

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Sunshine Report:

George VS reported that Jim Thompson had initially hoped to attend today, however Judy has a cold or flu, and Jim didn't want to risk passing any germs to our group.

George also spoke to Garth Plunkett who wishes to thank the many members who were in touch with him re his recent surgery. The surgery went well and he will be meeting with his doctors shortly to plan on his next treatment schedule. He hopes to attend a Rotary meeting in the near future.

Guest Speaker

Today our speaker was Michael Spears, who spoke about Rotary, its history and importance.

Rotary Membership ... cont'd from page 1

Lastly Michael volunteered to tape a video of any member who might be interested in outlining their reasons, which could then be used as a tool in future recruitment.

Neil Beatty thanked Michael for his presentation and advised him that we would be making a donation to Rotary's Polio Plus in appreciation for his presenting to us today.



Lager @ The Legion January 13th



Casino Volunteers

We are booked for our casino on **May 13th and 14th, 2026** at Elbow River Casino. Please block these times in your calendar so you can be available to volunteer.



This is Chinook Rotary's major project to raise money for our charitable commitments. Further details will be provided by Bruce Bohnet and Joe Hooper.

Dates to Remember

January 13th	Meeting at the Legion for lunch and fellowship
January 20th	Regular meeting at noon at the Carriage House
January 29th	Evening fellowship meeting 5:30-7pm ... details to be provided

Wayne 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!
Meeting adjourned at 1:30pm.

Photos courtesy George Van Schaick

'Hank's Social' @ The Legion December 30th



What's Up !!

Vocational Service Month

January 20th	Spencer Tonkinson Real Estate 2025 Summary
January 29th	Evening Pub Meeting 5:30-7pm at 'The Pointe' 2515 - 90th Avenue SW

Peace Building and Conflict Prevention Month

February 3rd	Cameron Henki Habitat for Humanity
February 17th	Sharon Fraiman — MADA
February 26th	Evening Pub Meeting 5:30-7pm at 'Limericks' 7304 Macleod Trail SE

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Month

March 3rd	Emily Braun — Distress Center
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Environmental Month

April 7th	Thomas Cell — Prostate Cancer
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Youth Service Month

May 13th & 14th	Casino volunteers needed Elbow River Casino
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