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## 2025-2026 Officers and Directors

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

Bev Tonkinson, International Service  
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Ted Wada, Community Service  
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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

## RI Convention 2025



The 2025 Rotary International Convention in Calgary, Canada, concluded in a spirit of fellowship and rejuvenation. Addressing the event's closing general session, Rotary International President Stephanie Urchick urged members to recognize the power of their relationships.

"Rotary's most powerful asset has always been you, our members. But we are only as strong as the people who stand beside us," she said. "We talk a lot about goals and strategy. But without friendship, without encouragement, none of it takes hold. Rotary works because we belong here. ... This is our community, and it matters."

Over 16,000 members and participants from 140 countries attended. Often described by attendees as a "mini-United Nations", the convention served as a hub for Rotary members and participants to connect and learn from each other and a range of experts on how to take action to address issues in their communities.

In the House of Friendship exhibition hall, it was impossible to miss a 20-foot-tall tipi sponsored by Rotary District 5360 (parts of Alberta and Saskatchewan, Canada). The tipi was equipped with numerous learning tools to inform visitors about the concerns of Indigenous peoples.

Rotary announced the extension of its joint commitment of up to US\$450 million with the Gates Foundation to end polio, a Rotary-led peace building program to help strengthen communities affected by conflict in Colombia, and a partnership with Symbiosis International University to establish a Rotary Peace Center in India.



The 2026 Rotary International Convention will be held in Taipei, Taiwan from June 13th to 17th, 2026. The 34,000 Rotary members of Taiwan invite you to explore and truly experience the culture, impressive countryside, the National Theater, and beautiful temples throughout the city. The 2026 Convention will provide an experience that will remain with you for the rest of your life.

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

**Indigenous Fact**

MRAS Land Acknowledgement  
The Millarville Racing and Agricultural Society would like to acknowledge that we are situated on the traditional territories of the peoples of the Treaty 7 region in

Southern Alberta, which includes the Blackfoot Confederacy (including the Siksika, Piikani, and Kainai First Nations), the Stoney Nakoda (including the Chiniki, Bearspaw and Goodstoney First Nations), as well as the Tsuut’ina First Nation. In addition, this area is also home to the Metis Nation of Alberta, District

This acknowledgement is part of our journey towards reconciliation, and a way to respect and honour this land, as well as the diverse histories and cultures of the original occupants of this area.

**On This Day In History:**

- 1837 Charles Goodyear obtains his first rubber patent.
- 1885 Statue of Liberty arrives in NYC aboard French ship 'Isere'.

- 1928 Amelia Earhart leaves Newfoundland to become 1st woman to fly Atlantic (as a passenger in a plane piloted by Wilmer Stultz).
  - 1962 US Open Men’s Golf, Oakmont CC ... Jack Nicklaus wins his first major title by 3 strokes in an 18-hole playoff with Arnold Palmer.
  - 1994 O.J. Simpson doesn’t turn himself in on murder charges, LA police chase his Ford Bronco for 1½ hours before he eventually gives up (seen live on national TV).
- Celebrity Birthdays: Venus Williams (45), Barry Manilow (82).

**Club Business:**

We had 26 members and **Guests** at our meeting today which included 5 spouses: Bev Pettigrew, Lois Beatty, Janet Popoff (Honorary Member), Connie Hussey and Judy Thompson. One of our new membership applicants, Robert Dempsey, also attended. In addition to our members and guests there were also eight volunteers/employees from the host Millarville Race Track team, led by their General Manager Suzanne Sills. Our guests were introduced by Rob and everyone was welcomed with our “Welcome to Rotary” song.

Rob thanked Paul for being our Scribe today, Stephen and Anne for all they do for our Club, most notably the regular production of our e-Arch, and Neil for collecting our lunch payments.

*cont'd on page 3 ...*

Rob confirmed that the Rotary Club Of Calgary is holding a **special luncheon** on Thursday, June 26 between noon and 2 PM on the subject of "Addictions and Mental Health". Marshall Smith, former Chief of Staff for Premier Danielle Smith, and one of the principal architects behind the Alberta Recovery Model, along with the honourable Dan Williams, Minister of Addiction and Mental Health, and a driver behind the Alberta Recovery Model implementation, will speak at this event. This is an excellent opportunity to introduce some of the most effective and innovative Addiction and Mental Health Initiatives being implemented in Canada. Anyone interested in attending can register on the Club's website ... [www.rotaryclubofcalgary.org](http://www.rotaryclubofcalgary.org)

## Rotary Year End

Rob noted that our Rotary Year End is on June 30th, at which time we will be asked to pay our Annual Dues. If there is anyone who has decided not to renew (we sincerely hope there isn't!) we ask that you advise Rob right away so we can save H.O. and District dues.

## Good News/Bad News

- Rob noted that it was great to see Al and Bev Pettigrew at our meeting today, and also that today is their Anniversary. Pat Hutchinson was also attending today.
- Joe Hooper celebrated his 85th birthday at the Legion last weekend. His family and friends wished him the very best for this notable year.
- Rob noted that we had 20 attend our recent dinner at "Broken Plate". The fare and service were excellent ... thanks to all for attending.
- Rob noted that it was still possible to attend the "Signature Events" at our upcoming Convention, and that you don't have to be a registrant to do so.
- Bev highlighted that there will be an "after party" taking place at the Cowboys Casino after the Closing Ceremonies to thank the volunteers.

## Chase the Ace

Rob arranged our draw for this week and Tammy Truman's ticket was chosen. As Tammy was absent, Rob will contact her so she can select a card. We now are drawing from a 13 card deck with a \$2,700 pot (good odds). We expect to have two draws in July so send your \$20 by e-transfer to Vlad.



## Sunshine Report

Rob has contacted Ian Burgess who is now staying at Stay Well Manor (403 816 3232), and advised that he would enjoy hearing from his Rotary friends.

## Rotary Convention Host Hospitality Event

Neil reported that we continue to seek member support for our upcoming Host Hospitality Convention Event being held on Monday, June 23rd at the Horton Road Legion (at 5:30). There has been a great deal of interest shown by visiting Rotarians in attending such an event so our Club arranged for us to host 60

visitors. We need a minimum of 20 Chinook members and partners (or singles) to fit a seating schedule of four visitors and two hosts at each table of six.

Neil noted that we also need 2 of our group to welcome the visiting Rotarians onto the bus which will carry them from BMO Centre to the Legion.

## Guest Speaker

Our speaker today was Suzanne Sills, Operations Manager of the Millarville Racing and Agriculture Society (MRSA).



Suzanne introduced the staff and volunteers attending today, and proceeded to provide us with a brief update on the MRSA operation and upcoming events. Their facility includes a racetrack with grandstand, hall, quonset structure, and an active Equine Community with a riding arena and outdoor sand ring, picnic shelter and Campground. It is located 35 km southwest of Calgary.



The MRSA is a private not-for-profit, agricultural society registered under the Alberta Society Act. They provide authentic family experiences and exceptional facilities, which celebrate their agricultural heritage, inspiring a sense of belonging for the community.

Their regular weekend markets begin in June (every Saturday commencing June 21st), and their popular Priddis and Millarville Fair (118 years old) takes place on August 16th and 17th. They will also be holding their Canada Day (July 1st) Races (120 years old) and their Christmas Market which takes place November 6th through 9th and 13th to 16th (Thursday through Sunday). She highlighted the importance of their volunteer base (400) and they look forward to working with Rotarians.

They indicate that their key opportunities for volunteers include entrance gate shifts, both for their farmer markets as well as their Canada Day and Christmas Market activities. They also require parking volunteers for Canada Day, the Priddis and Millarville Fair, and for their Christmas Market.

Their website is "[www.millarvilleracetrack.com](http://www.millarvilleracetrack.com)

*Photos courtesy George Van Schaick and Stephen Pick*

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Rob thanked Suzanne for her presentation on the activities of the Millarville Race Track and advised her that we would be making a donation to "Polio Plus" in appreciation of her joining us today.

Rob related the story on how we contacted the Millarville group, and now hope to build a mutually beneficial relationship going forward. His daughter Kia worked there through a summer internship, which led to discussions about Rotary and a referral between Rob and Suzanne. Great job Kia!



## Dates to Remember

June 21st to June 25th

Rotary International Convention

As the first meeting date in July falls on Tuesday, July 1st (which is Canada Day), there will be no meeting that week.

July 8th Passing of the Gavel

July 25th Dawgs Baseball Game in Okotoks at 7:05pm - contact Paul G. (\$45 per person).

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!  
Meeting adjourned at 1:30pm.



## Pre-Convention RV Fellowship Events near Chestermere

Anne and I joined the Rotary RV Fellowship events held in a campground near Chestermere. We delivered some Iron Lung Ale (by FAHR Brewery in Diamond Valley west, made for the convention). After helping set up, we handled the wine and beer distribution. Tourism Calgary gave a presentation, and then everyone sat and chatted for awhile. Attendees came from across Canada, USA, UK and Australia.



The main dinner event was back in the tent a couple of days later. The attendees had done day trips to Drumheller and the Rockies prior to the RI International Convention opening. Following a catered dinner, various presentations were made and the new executive for the Fellowship introduced for the new Rotary year. A presentation was made by the Chestermere Fire Department on their youth program — the Ember Fire Camps that are free to youth selected from submissions they have to make. The RV Fellowship raised funds via a lottery and other means, and donated \$1,800 US to support the program.

This is just one of the many, many Rotary Fellowships. Check them out for one that aligns with your passions and join like-minded Roatarians for fun and fellowship!





Two young women are Rotoract members from Uganda, here for the convention and choosing to volunteer. In the centre photo, a delegate from Nigeria, Dr. Olayinka Olayeni. That picture is taken on the stage at arrivals set up for performers to welcome delegates. On our shift, in addition to delegates coming from across Canada, we saw a lot of delegates from Africa, Asia and Australia, and that was just at domestic arrivals. There were also volunteers at International arrivals with flights from Europe and elsewhere.



Calgary Chinook Home Hospitality Night at the Horton Road Legion

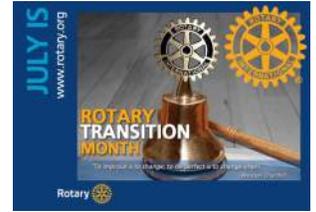


### Maternal and Child Health Month

- July 1st Canada Day - no meeting
- July 8th Passing of the Gavel
- July 25th Okotoks Dawgs baseball game, first base patio booked

### Membership and New Club Development Month

- August 19th Annual Nature Park meeting, with sandwiches from MacKenzie Meadows GC



## Volunteer Thank You Event June 25th



## Sneak-a-Peek Dinner at the Calgary Stampede July 3rd



## Donation

I delivered our \$10,000 cheque to Big Brothers Big Sisters on June 28th. *Vlad Sasarman*

