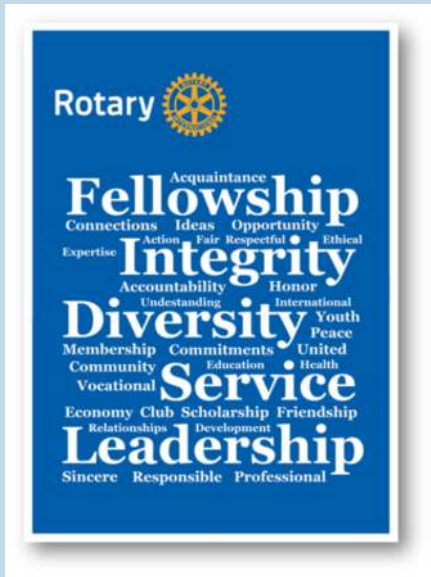




Calgary Stampede Jay McNeil, President

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Today's speaker Jay McNeil, President of the Calgary Stampede, was introduced by Bart Dailley.

Jay McNeil was born in London Ontario, and played high school football in his hometown, subsequently moving on to play for Kent State. He earned a Bachelor of Administration degree from Kent State, and then went on to earn a Masters of Business Administration at the University of Fredericton.

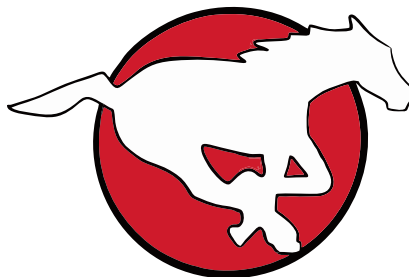


He was drafted by the Calgary Stampede in 1994 in the fourth round, 34th Overall Pick. For 14 seasons he anchored the Stampede's offensive front line playing guard. Twice he hoisted the Grey Cup, in 1998 and in 2001, five times he was a CFL All-Star, and six times he was a Western All-Star. He was loved and admired by his teammates, and on two occasions he was named the winner of the President's Trophy for Excellence on and off the field.

After football, he entered the business world and excelled in sales and business operations with several companies and organizations. He also continued to be involved in football and has been a trustee of the CFL players pension plan, and Vice President of the CFL Players Association. 28 months ago he was appointed President of the Calgary Stampede after serving for a year and a half as Vice President of Business Operations. He played an integral role in the Stampede's winning bid to host the Grey Cup in November. Jay and his wife Tara live in Calgary along with their son Cuyler. The family enjoys traveling, skiing and Calgary's vibrant food scene.

Jay began his remarks by stating that he loves to visit our Club where he finds great friends and fellowship. He noted the victory they just had yesterday against Saskatchewan, and while it was a pre-season game, their goal is always to win.

He highlighted that 2024 was a disappointing year as they missed their goals, however 2025 was a year of positive change. However they still didn't meet their budget nor win a Grey Cup. They hope to win the Grey Cup in 2026, especially as the big game is being held in Calgary.



Our QB, Vernon Adams Jr, had a pretty good 2025 as Calgary's starting quarterback, finishing fifth in passing yardage (4,247) in 17 games. It should be an exciting prospect for Stampede fans, with 'Big Play VA' still well within his quarterbacking prime at the age of 33. From a league point of view there are many positive features:

- The team ownership group is strong and supportive.

cont'd on page 4 ...

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

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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".



Indigenous Fact

Keith Wellon

At our last meeting Keith spoke about Chief Crowfoot, whose name is on numerous buildings, and for whom Calgary's Crowfoot Community is named. Today he told us about Chief David Crowchild, for whom Crowchild Trail is named.

David Crowchild was born in 1899 on the Tsuut'ina Reserve where he had a significant influence. He loved horses, and in his younger years he participated regularly at rodeos at First Nations fairs. He particularly enjoyed competing with his rig in the chuckwagon races at the Calgary Stampede. His teepee was encamped every year at the Stampede Teepee Village as well. He married and had five children with Daisy Downan Crowchild, who was as committed as he was to creating strong relations between the people of Calgary and the First Nations.

Crowchild was a member of many organizations related to his interests, including the Calgary Pioneers, the Old Timers Association and the Canadian Citizenship Council. He was also one of the founders of the Indian Association of Alberta. In 1946, Crowchild was elected to be Chief of the Tsuut'ina reserve. During his seven year tenure, he became a distinguished leader. He created jobs on the reserve and pushed for education for his people.

Crowchild was well known as a wise person who increased the level of acceptance of First Nations in and around the city of Calgary. In response to the honour of having a prominent road named after him, Crowchild said, "May this be a symbol of cutting all barriers between all peoples for all times to come". To recognize his lifelong belief and actions toward reconciliation, the "Chief David Crowchild Memorial Award" was established in 1986 by the City of Calgary. It is presented each year to honour the efforts and contributions of a person, group or organization, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous who have:

- demonstrated leadership in building relationships between aboriginal and non-aboriginal communities in Calgary
- displayed a commitment to building bridges between the aboriginal and non-aboriginal communities
- supported and encouraged effective engagement and activities between aboriginal and non-aboriginal communities
- created and supported positive changes in their community.



Club Business

We had 30 attendees at our meeting today, which included two visiting Rotarians: Asif Abdul from the Millennium Club and Bob Whyte from 7040 Passport Club (Ottawa), as well as three guests: our guest speaker Jay McNeil, Tom Hefter (guest of Keith Wellon) and Mitchell Whyte (guest of Bob Whyte). Our guests were introduced by Rob Dempsey and welcomed with our Welcome to Rotary song.



Wayne thanked Paul for being our scribe today. He also thanked our greeter (Rob Dempsey) for making everyone feel welcome. In addition we also wish to thank Hank and Neil for operating our payment system.



• Upcoming President's Dinner

President Wayne

Wayne reminded us that we have scheduled our President's Dinner to honour last year's President, Rob Wolfson, on the evening of Saturday, June 6th. Thanks to the hospitality of Anthony and Bev Tonkinson, we are holding the event at their home in Lake Bonavista. The cost will be \$25 per person and an RSVP directly to

Wayne would be appreciated by June 1st. Wayne advises that he is hoping for 100% attendance, so please consider this a "must attend" event which will recognize Rob's two years as President of our Club. We currently have 18 confirmations.

Member Minutes



• Cribbage League

Bob Montgomery

Bob reported that we had a dozen players out for our recent evening of Crib and that our next game (only one evening per month) is being held at the Horton Road Legion on Wednesday, June 3rd at 5:30 for dinner and Crib at 6:30. The evening get together will shut down at 9:00.



• **Rotary Friendship Exchange**
Anthony Tonkinson
 Anthony told us about Rotary's Friendship Exchange which will be visiting New Zealand next March, and hosting Rotarians from that country back in Canada. Contact Anthony for more information if you are interested in taking on this adventure.



• **Rotary Foundation Update**
John Charrett
 Now that our Rotary year is coming to a close (June 30th), John provided a report encouraging our members to consider donating to our Rotary Foundation and the Polio Plus Campaign. Your donation builds to a Paul Harris Fellowship recognition when you achieve a total of \$1,000 USD. It's easy to donate by entering the rotary.org website and following their

prompts. Funds donated to the Rotary Foundation do many things, including providing vaccinations for third world children, helping family education worldwide, and also helping the creation of family businesses in the third world.

• **Millarville Racetrack**

Rob Wolfson
 Rob asked our members to mark down Canada Day, July 1st, regarding Millarville's Day of Activities at which they will be asking six of our members to help park vehicles. As Dale has already volunteered, we will require 5 additional volunteers to join her. Kindly reach out to Rob Wolfson to volunteer.

• **Remembrance of Reg**

Bob Montgomery
 Bob reminded everyone that their family will be holding a remembrance for Pam's husband Reg on Sunday, May 24th from 2pm to 5pm at the Carriage House, and our membership is invited.



• **Breaking News**
Bart Dailley
 Bart reported on a number of current news items (we have included a few):

- During his recent state visit to China, President Trump asked Premier Xi if he knew of any good Chinese restaurants nearby. They decided to withdraw to a private

room for a game of Chinese checkers, but that was called off because it was obvious that the President didn't have all his marbles. Premier Xi suggested Mah Jong. The President replied "well, if that's your John, where is my John?"

- Prime Minister Carney met with Premier Smith in Calgary last week, and the Prime Minister says that there is going to be a pipeline carrying bitumen to the West Coast and that shovels should be in the ground by 2027. They also hammered out a deal on carbon pricing. The Prime Minister then took the Premier into a private session and suggested that the Alberta government should invest in some prime Liberal Party oceanfront property just outside of Phoenix. The premier says she'll propose a referendum.

- In sports, the Toronto Maple Leafs have okayed the placing of a new professional women's hockey league team in Hamilton, but they say that they will not allow an NHL franchise in Hamilton, because then people in Toronto would want an NHL team too.

Good News / Bad News

There was no 'good' news provided today, however there was also no 'bad' news.

Sunshine Report

- It was great to see Jim Thompson attend our meeting today. While it was not easy for him to do so, he wanted to see his friends and hear Jay McNeil update the Stampeders news.
- Sharon also was in attendance today after recent surgery, and she advised that she still had additional surgery to have done. We wish her a speedy recovery.
- George reported that Garth is proceeding through his current treatment program and we look forward to seeing him back shortly.

Chase the Ace

Our draw winner (of \$81) today was Bev Tonkinson. She picked the 2 of Spades so our draws will continue. Our Club earned \$108 on today's draw. The pot is currently \$1,257 and growing. There are 35 cards remaining in our deck. Rob will send out a request for our members to send in their money for the June draws shortly.



Guest Speaker

Today's speaker was Jay McNeil, President of the Calgary Stampeders.

Dates to Remember

- May 28th Evening Pub Get-together at Limericks, from 5:30 to 7pm
- June 2nd Our regular meeting on this date is being cancelled due to our President's Dinner scheduled for Saturday evening, June 6th, at the Tonkinsons' in Lake Bonavista
- June 16th We will be back at the Carriage House for our regular meeting. Our guest speaker will be Lynn Van Edmond, founder of "Soft Landings", on the subject of downsizing for seniors

Wayne asked everyone to stand and join in reciting Rotary's 4 Way Test. Rotary's Theme this year is "Unite for Good". Have a great Rotary week! Meeting adjourned at 1:30pm.

Community Volunteer Opportunity

Volunteer at Ronald McDonald House ...there will be a chef there telling us what to do so we just need to show up and follow his instructions. We need up to 10 volunteers on that day.

Saturday, June 20th from 9am to 1:30pm
 Ronald McDonald House — 111 W Campus Place, Calgary
 Please contact Ted Wada to sign up for this "service above self".



Rotary Fellowships Month

June 3rd Last Rotary Cribbage Night at 6:30pm, before the summer break
 June 6th President's Dinner honouring Rob Wolfson, a catered dinner at Tonkinsons'
 June 16th Lynn Van Egmond, founder of 'Soft Landings' (downsizing and relocating)
 June 20th Kitchen work, cooking and serving at Ronald McDonald House

Maternal and Child Health Month

July 1st Parking for the Millarville Canada Day Races — contact Rob to sign up
 July 7th President Wayne Wiebe — Year End Report
 Keith Wellon — Plans and Goals for 2026-2027
 July 21st Sheldon Smithen's Antiques

Membership and New Club Development Month

August 18th Annual Picnic in our Nature Park



Calgary Stampeders ... cont'd from page 1

- The game metrics for 2025 were encouraging: average points per game were 52.9, fifty one per cent of games were determined in the last 3 minutes so they were exciting. There was a 97.4 QB rating, and 7 teams had 7 or more wins, so there was parity.
- Both the league and the games are going in the right direction. The league audience (game attendance) has been growing for three consecutive years.

From the Stampeders' viewpoint they are in their 81st year of bringing Calgaryans together. Jay advised that the thing he is most proud of is their commitment to the community. The players and management donate their time and money to the community. For example they visited 65 schools during the year.

They are committed to growing the game and continuing to bring Calgaryans together. Jay noted that 2026 is the "Year of the Horse" and that the last "Year of the Horse" was in 2014, and guess which team won the Grey Cup that year ... yes, it was the Calgary Stampeders!

Jay wrapped up his presentation by telling us about this year's Grey Cup Game, and how it will be a great opportunity to have an impact on both the team and the City. They are planning to host the best Grey Cup celebration in history. They are stressing three areas: Connection (building meaningful relationships), Legacy (lasting for years), and Excellence. They are planning to arrange concerts for each evening during Grey Cup Week. They will be hosting a mini stampede on Saturday night, followed by the Big Game on Sunday, November 15th.

Tammy thanked Jay for his "incredible" presentation and advised that we were excited to hear all about the league's and our team's plans for 2026. We are all looking forward to the Grey Cup Game in Calgary in November. She noted that a donation to Polio Plus would be made in appreciation for his presentation today.



Project Donation Neil Beatty

Information on our last project that we donated \$2700.00 to.



Because of you, more families in Guatemala now have not only a concrete floor, but a healthier, safer, and more dignified place they can finally call home

With love,

 Habitat for Humanity
Guatemala

Heritage Rotary Club has now consolidated all funds committed to the Habitat for Humanity – Guatemala concrete floors project. The funds have been sent to RC Los Altos Quetzaltenango, which will distribute them to HFH-G. The board chair of HFH-G is a member of RCLAQ. The final amount we sent was just over US\$22,000. That is sufficient for about 60 floors. I hope that most of your clubs will be amenable to considering future donations for this project.

Bill Skinner, Past President
Rotary Club of Calgary Heritage Park

Part of the message from the organization in Guatemala:

Because of your leadership and the generosity of the 11 Rotary clubs from Canada and 3 from the United States that joined this effort, dozens of families will experience a transformation that will remain with them for many years to come. Thank you, Bill, and many thanks to everyone who joined this campaign, for becoming such a powerful voice for families who are still striving for decent housing in Guatemala. For Habitat Guatemala, it is both an honor and a great responsibility to work alongside allies like you who continue to trust in our work and in the families we serve. With sincere gratitude,
Daniela Ramirez Recinos
Coordinadora de Desarrollo de Recursos Internacionales
Habitat for Humanity Guatemala