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2025-2026 Officers and Directors

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Keith Wellon, President Elect
Rob Wolfson, Past President
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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

Canadian Magen David Adom Sharon Fraiman, Western Regional Director



Our speaker today was our member, Sharon Fraiman, who was introduced by Bev, and her first sentence sums up Sharon very well: "Sharon brings together people from all walks of life, all nationalities and all religions to save lives for the betterment of both the world community and the community at home".

Sharon is the Western Regional Director of Canadian Magen David Adom (CMDA) and is responsible for their significant fund raisers to provide resources for MDA, Israel's 100% donor funded EMS and ambulance service, and their most secure blood bank. She has saved thousands of lives by raising funds for the acquisition of ambulances, emergency medical scooters, medical equipment and specialized training. MDA helps to save lives and provide emergency and medical aid in many countries which are decimated by earthquakes and other natural disasters. CMDA works in partnership with the Red Cross and other international humanitarian organizations.



Canadian
MAGEN DAVID ADOM
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Sharon is a very active member of our Rotary Club and is our current Membership Director. She is also our President Elect for the 2027/28 Rotary year.

Sharon was born and raised in Israel. She holds three Masters Degrees in education, and Bachelor Degrees in sociology and special-needs education. For 25 years she worked as a special education teacher for Israel's Ministry of Education. She received a national award for writing a special education curriculum. Since immigrating to Canada in 2015, as well as undertaking her many responsibilities for CMDA and Rotary, she also earned a Diploma in Executive Management. She has received the honourable King Charles Medal, and recently was awarded a Rotary Paul Harris Fellowship for her work in providing assistance to those in need. Last week Sharon was nominated for the International Achievement Award for the city of Calgary.

Sharon began her presentation by playing a video highlighting the 12 day war between Iran and Israel. The video effectively shows the role played by MDA in treating over 1,300 casualties, managing the blood supply and providing necessary medical equipment. She played a second video which showed a helicopter operating during and after the October 7th Hamas invasion in southern Israel. During this action MDA lost 10 of their own volunteers while working tirelessly to help the numerous casualties.



Sharon welcomed two additional guest speakers today, to tell us about their personal experiences while volunteering in Israel for MDA. The first speaker was Advanced Care Paramedic Don Sharpe who worked as an ambulance

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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.

Wayne thanked Paul for being our Scribe today. He also thanked Moe and Gordon for being our Greeters and for making everyone feel welcome. In addition we also wish to thank Hank and Ted for operating our payment system.



Indigenous Fact

by Keith Wellon

Treaty 7 covers southern Alberta and was signed in 1877 at Blackfoot Crossing (about 50 miles east of Calgary). It is one of eleven “Numbered Treaties” signed between First Nations and the Crown between 1871 and 1921. The Treaty established a delimited area of

land for the tribes (a reserve), promised annual payments, provisions or both from the Crown to the tribes, and promised continued hunting and trapping rights on the “tract surrendered”. In exchange, the tribes ceded their rights to their traditional territory, of which they had earlier been recognized as the owners.

Britain had transferred whatever jurisdiction over “Indians and lands reserved for the Indians” that it may have had, to the “Province of Canada” in the 1840s. This authority devolved to the Government of Canada at Confederation in 1867, and applied to the areas of the North-Western Territory and Rupert’s Land that were transferred to Canada in 1870, including the part that became Alberta in 1905. The British Government, in an exchange of letters at the time of the transfer, sought assurances that Canada would provide the Crown’s obligation to First Nations.

Club Business

We had 26 attendees at our meeting today (special thanks to all for attending during a freezing blizzard) which included five



guests: Bill Skinner, a visiting Rotarian from the RC of Heritage Park, Don Sharp and Dr. Dave Verkh, both speakers for Sharon’s presentation, Josette Fraiman and Copelan Manzer (our Club’s representative for Inclusion Alberta). Our guests were introduced by Gordon Juricic and welcomed with our ‘Welcome to Rotary’ song.

Photos courtesy George Van Schaick and Sharon Fraiman

Wayne reminded us about our upcoming **District Conference** from May 1st to 3rd in Red Deer. The registration cost is currently \$399 per person. The early bird discount (10%) expires effective Saturday, February 21st. First timers will receive their 30% discount anytime. Wayne advised that currently there are 120 Rotarians signed up, of which 7 are from Chinook.

Birthdays and Anniversaries



Bev announced our Birthdays for February. We have 5 member birthdays during February: Kim Levenson on the 22nd, Albert Amaniampong on the 19th, Pat Hutchinson on the 20th, Vlad Sasarman on the 22nd, and Sharon Fraiman on the 27th.

We have one Anniversary during the month of February: Haim and Josette Fraiman are celebrating

their 56th on the 16th.



February Anniversaries of joining Rotary:

- Bruce Bohnet ... 40 years of service on the 1st
- Neil Beatty ... 21 years of service on the 15th
- George Van Schaick ... 20 years of service on the 7th
- Dean White ... 10 years of service on the 9th
- Sharon Fraiman ... 7 years of service on the 25th

Congratulations and best wishes to all!

Member Minutes

- George Van Schaick reported on a change being put into effect by the Carriage House regarding early confirmation of the number of attendees for lunch

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at our regular meetings. They have been giving us a 10% leeway (ie, if 30 confirm attendance by Monday afternoon, then they can serve 33 for the same cost per person). Their new policy will be that each attendee over the 110% will be charged \$38 per meal. Our Board will be discussing this development at tomorrow's Board meeting.



- Bruce Bohnet reminded us all to volunteer for our upcoming Casino in May 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.



- Bill Skinner from the Heritage Club reminded us about their major fundraising project which they have been doing for many years, the collection and sale of "used art". Art pieces can be donated at most Co-op stores, and we can attend the sale on April 17th and 18th. We can also volunteer to help out at the sale by going to their website.



Sergeant at Arms

Ted Wada was our Sergeant for today's meeting and started out by wishing everyone a Happy Chinese New Year. He went on to thank our 5 volunteers who helped out at our recent Mustard Seed dinner service which went very well. He also thanked President Wayne for building our great relationship with the Mustard Seed through years of service. He then fined Bev and Anthony (a loonie each) who just returned from a two

month holiday travelling around Mexico. Bev upped it to \$5. Ted noted how many years George VS has been dealing on our behalf with the Carriage House, and asked for donations from our members to acknowledge his effort. Lastly, Ted noted George Kimura's recent family trip to Japan (not sure if there was a fine included?), and went on to tell a funny story about his own trip to Japan two years ago when he met a living Kamikaze Pilot, referred to as a chicken chow mein.

Sunshine Report

George reported that Jim Thompson has received an ankle brace and is on the mend. Pat Hutchinson is also recovering from recent skin cancer surgery. Garth Plunkett is now receiving daily treatments and reports that he is feeling good. We wish Jim, Pat and Garth the very best, and we look forward to seeing them soon at our meetings.

Chase the Ace

Our draw winner (of \$75) today was Dale Perret, however she was not in attendance so will be contacted to have her chance to pick the Ace of Spades. Our Club earned \$100 on today's draw. The pot is currently \$819 and growing. There are 41 cards remaining in our deck.



Guest Speaker

Out speaker today was our member, Sharon Fraiman, who was introduced by Bev.

Dates to Remember

- February 26th Evening pub get together at Limericks 5:30 to 7pm
- March 3rd Regular noon meeting at the Carriage House
Speaker: Emily Braun from the Distress Centre

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.

Meeting Meals Cost Info

Effective March 1, 2026

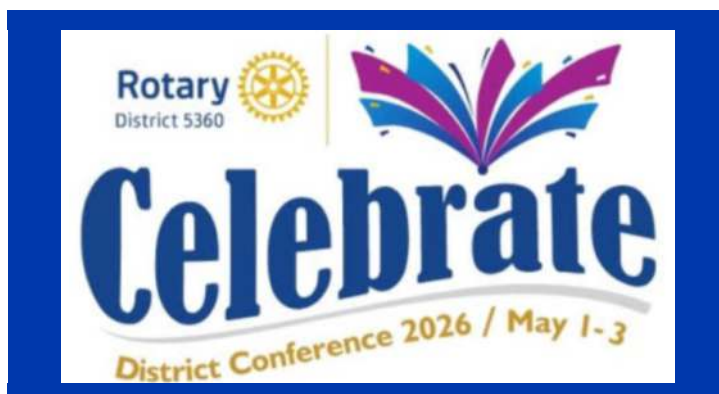
MEAL PRICES

The Carriage House currently prepare 10% more food than the attendee count we submit to accommodate small changes. For any increases beyond the 10%, Carriage House catering will increase the price of those extra un-ordered meals to \$38.00/plate, rather than the usual \$33.00/plate. The meal cost includes the room, set up, mic/podium, meal service and gratuity.

Members and Guests are required to pre-register for the Carriage House Meal, at a cost of \$33.00. All members must pay to attend the meeting.

Effective as of March 1, 2026, the members and guests who do not register in advance of the meeting, will now be required to pay \$38.00 / meal. Pay at the door by credit card or debit (no e-transfers).

- The Speaker meal is complimentary, additional guests of the speaker, the cost is \$33.00.
- Potential members' first meal is complimentary. Additional attendance/meals fall under the pre-register cost of \$33.00.
- Other Rotary Club Members' meal cost is \$33.00.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Month

March 3rd Emily Braun — Distress Center
 March 17th Charlotte Holmlund — Ujamaa Grandmas, Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign
 March 26th Evening meeting @ Limerick's Pub, 7304 Mcleod Trail — 5:30 - 7pm

Environmental Month

April 7th Thomas Cell — Prostate Cancer
 April 21st Richard Gotfield

Youth Service Month

May 1st - 3rd District Conference 2026 in Red Deer
 May 5th Jay McNeil, President, Stampeders
 May 13th & 14th Casino volunteers needed — Elbow River Casino
 May 19th Rob Dempsey



Canadian Magen David Adom ... cont'd from page 1

attendant for 40 years in Alberta before volunteering for similar service in Israel. He told us about the technology which is used in Israel

by MDA to provide the necessary communication systems for the unbelievable number of volunteers from all walks of life. This technology allows everyone to work closely while providing the necessary medical services and access to blood supply.



The second speaker was Dr. Dave Verkh, Sharon's volunteer, who told us about being raised in Israel and receiving medical training commencing in 2014. He confirmed the importance of MDA's communication system throughout Israel, and the number of volunteers who are instrumental to healthcare in that country. The MDA emergency mobile hospital is one of the most advanced in the world and is often first to arrive at a disaster scene. He also highlighted the importance of CMDA, raising funds in Canada to provide the equipment needed in Israel by the volunteers.

Sharon told us about CMDA's successful seven minute program throughout western Canada, including working with many indigenous communities. The program, which has been successfully completed by hundreds of participants, is designed to teach students emergency life-saving techniques in the crucial 7 to

10 minutes before the ambulance and paramedics arrive on scene. Bob Levenson thanked Sharon for her very moving and informative presentation, and pointed out that CMDA does remarkable work. He noted that a donation to Polio Plus would be made in appreciation for her presentation today.



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.