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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

## Seeds Connection Program George Taven, Project Manager



Our guest speaker today was George Taven, Project Manager of the Seeds Connection Program. George was introduced by Keith Wellon. Keith noted that he knows our guest speaker through their Indigenous activities over the past year. George is married and they have four children. He has enjoyed a 40 year career as a teacher and administrator for the Board of Education. He has also started and run a restaurant and a pub in Canmore.

George is now involved in a very worthwhile program which operates under the name of "Seeds Connections". George provided a fact sheet on our tables which provided the basic outline of how this program operates.

The Seeds Connection Program is an educational initiative that focuses on anti-racism, diversity and leadership for junior and senior high school students in Alberta. It is a program of the nonprofit organization, "Seeds Connections" which engages youth in hands-on learning to encourage positive change in their schools and communities. Key themes include multiculturalism, anti-bullying, environmental stewardship, and leadership skills development.

The Connections Program provides a five credit high school program on the subjects of diversity, anti-racism and leadership education. Its focus is to provide students with the knowledge to understand and recognize the issues of diversity, such as stereotyping, discrimination, prejudice, and racism, and how to deal with them in an effective manner in their schools, communities and workplace. The Program also provides students with an understanding of their own leadership skills and potential, and empowers them to become better allies to others when dealing with negative diversity issues.

The actual Connections Program is comprised of four components that take approximately 4 to 5 months for students to complete:

1. Pre-trip online work and related activities (about 12 - 15 hours to complete)
2. Online compulsory component
3. Post-trip online work and related community activities such as a final project — online work takes approximately 6 to 8 hours to complete
4. The fourth component is comprised of between 8 and 20 hours to design and deliver a final 'be the change' project to their school or community

Participating students in 2025 have presented their various 'be the change' projects to over 1,600 other students between the ages of 4 and 18. Projects included presenting to individual classes as well as to large group assemblies. Projects were educational and awareness building presentations on various topics such as understanding more about diversity in our communities,

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P.O. Box # 78084  
Calgary RPO Heritage  
Calgary, Alberta T2H 2Y1  
info@chinookrotary.org  
www.ChinookRotary.org



President Wayne called our meeting to order at 12:15, welcoming all in attendance.

We had 32 members and guests at our meeting today which included visiting Rotarian Sandy Dougall and his guest Linda Ferguson, our guest speaker George Taven, and two guests of Sharon Fraiman, Anthony Dilello and Richard Outtrim.



Wayne thanked Paul for being our scribe today. He thanked Stephen and Anne for all they do for our Club, most notably the regular production of our e-Arch. In addition we also wish to thank Neil and Hank for collecting our lunch payments. Thanks to our greeters today, Tammy and Garth. Joe was doing his best to see that all our tea drinkers were properly served.

### Club Business

We had three sign up sheets circulating today: one for our Christmas Party, and two for volunteer opportunities ... Salvation Army Kettles, and parking cars at the Millarville Christmas Market (fundraiser).

### Presentation of our June 30th Year End Financial Statements



Our Treasurer Vlad took to the podium to present Chinook's June 30, 2025 Year End Financial Statements. He had passed out the actual financial statements to each table earlier in the meeting. He advised that he wished to highlight a few specific numbers, after which he would be pleased to answer any questions anyone might have. He noted that there is currently \$50,000 in the Club account, and in addition, that our casino account currently holds \$83,000. Our Club held our last

casino in the previous Rotary year. He noted that we had revenue last year from both the Ribfest as well as from our Summer Round

Up, which took place at Ranchmans. He highlighted that our casino funded projects are listed on the statement as well as our club account projects.

We should note also that Anthony Tonkinson took the opportunity to thank Vlad for taking on the role as treasurer for our club. We do appreciate the great job that Vlad is doing.

### Happy Bucks



- Ted Wada advised us that we had recently served a meal for around 300 people at Mustard Seed and that it was a wonderful evening. He thanked our volunteers who participated.
- Ted announced that he would like to donate 20 Happy Bucks to the Club in honour of President Wayne losing 20 pounds and looking fantastic. Apparently, Ted and Wayne have been challenging each other to lose weight for sometime, and Ted

wanted to highlight Wayne's recent success. Congratulations to Wayne and thanks to Ted for the \$20!

### Christmas Kettles

Ted then switched the subject over to our upcoming Salvation Army Christmas Kettles volunteer opportunity. We will be managing two days, November 21 and 22nd, of the Christmas Kettle located at the Chinook Mall just outside the bookstore on the first floor. These shifts will only be two hours each (with the exception of the last shift, which will be 2 1/2 hours). We will be inside, warm, and all we do is smile and thank people for donating. Please contact Ted to take a shift.

### Presentation of Paul Harris Fellowship

Peter Bickham, Director of Club Financial, presented a Paul Harris Fellowship to Anthony Tonkinson in honour of his continuing donations to the Rotary Foundation. This particular Fellowship represents Anthony's initial Paul Harris, +7 additional levels.



*Photos courtesy George Van Schaick and Sharon Fraiman*

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Peter went on to outline some recent facts about the Rotary Foundation, including that it raised \$400 million in donations last year, and highlighted some of the ways these funds are invested. They fund projects designed to improve community needs around the world, including improving education, improving freshwater production, and providing menstrual kits for young ladies which allow them to continue their education. Peter also noted that Anthony is one of our Club's monthly donors, and highlighted that this is an easy and convenient way to donate.

Peter noted that Alex Soutar, who until recently was a long-term member, is currently not doing well, however he has earned a Paul Harris Fellowship, and we will be sure to deliver it to Alex at home. Our best wishes to Alex and we hope he feels stronger soon.

### Membership Minutes

- Tammy told us about our upcoming Christmas Party which includes a great dinner followed by headline entertainment. We are fortunate to have this opportunity and Tammy highly recommends purchasing tickets (\$50 per person) and attending.
- George, speaking on behalf of Jim Henessey, recommended that we consider attending "Rotary Remembers" on November 11th at the Carriage House (\$50 ticket). The speaker is a historian from the University of Calgary who will be speaking about the "Battle of the Atlantic". Tickets can be purchased through ClubRunner and will not be available at the event.
- Rob told us about next week's evening (5:45pm) get-together which is being held at a new pub ... Blowers & Grafton in Shawnessy at 70 Shawville Blvd SE.
- Rob encouraged our members to help out our fundraising efforts by volunteering to park cars at the Millarville Christmas Market on two consecutive weekends (November 8th & 9th and 15th & 16th). Contact Rob for shift details.



### Chase the Ace

Rob arranged our draw for this week and Paul Gaudet's ticket was chosen (but no Ace found). The Club's portion is \$68. We now are drawing from a 49 card deck with a \$ 268 pot. We expect to have two draws in November so send your \$20 by e-transfer to Vlad.



### Sunshine Report

Pat advised that he had occasion to chat with our former member Dawn Rennie who is now living in Vancouver caring for her parents.

Wayne advised that Jim Thompson is dealing with an injured ankle which makes it extremely difficult to walk.

### Guest Speaker

Our guest speaker today was George Taven, Project Manager of the Seeds Connection Program.

### Dates to Remember

- October 28th Tuesday lunch at the Legion
- October 30th Evening fellowship at Blowers & Grafton
- November 4th Meeting at Carriage House  
AG Madeline King as speaker

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



## Lager @ The Legion October 14th



As a Committee we meet to review requests from various organizations, and for which we make decisions on funding based on certain criteria:

- Request must be for a program and not just to “keep the lights on”.
- If a registered charity, we access the CRA charity information to determine their mission, financial position, funding sources (grants, other charities etc) and where they spend their funds (other charities, executive salaries, administration, fundraising).
- Communication with applicants to determine needs and our ability to support based on our criteria.

We are currently focussing on issues such as food insecurity, homeless/housing, mental health, youth disabilities.

In the past we have supported:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Univision (formerly Kerby Seniors)</li> <li>• Acadia Food Pantry</li> <li>• Alpha House</li> <li>• Homestead</li> <li>• Inn From the Cold</li> <li>• Inclusion Alberta</li> <li>• Variety Childrens Charity</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>renovations to increase bed capacity for abused seniors</li> <li>hamper program for our Community area</li> <li>Indigenous program to provide assistance in getting to medical appointments</li> <li>renovation to existing building to provide housing for homeless looking to improve their lives</li> <li>funding youth access to mental supports</li> <li>funding supervision for work support program</li> <li>provided a specialized motorized mobility for the “Go Baby Go” program for children with disabilities</li> </ul> |
|---|---|

These are only some of the organizations we have supported in the past. As with any service club, our ability to assist is based on a limited budget. Based on our “Service Above Self” ideology, along with financial support, we endeavour to assist in volunteering where feasible and where it is of value to the organization. An example of that is acquiring and providing toiletries, socks etc to Alpha House residents; assisting at the Acadia Food Hamper distribution; assembling hampers at the Community Kitchens; providing and serving dinner at Mustard Seed, Drop Inn Centre as well many other organizations where needed.

Our Community Services Committee continues to actively pursue opportunities to lighten the load of the many Calgary charities that provide hope and assistance to the many in need. In addition to the above documentation from previous years, we have also donated to the following groups in the 2024-25 year:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PaceKids Society</li> <li>• Unison</li> <li>• Acadia Food Pantry</li> <li>• Distress Centre</li> <li>• YYC Helps</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a pre school dedicated to ensuring children with special needs are able to reach their potential to succeed as they enter the elementary school system</li> <li>seniors food insecurity and housing needs</li> <li>food insecurity through hamper preparation and distribution</li> <li>support for various programs such as suicide prevention, food insecurity etc</li> <li>a program that identifies needs through a single source for those requesting support from Calgary Rotary Clubs</li> </ul> |
|--|--|

In addition to the summary of prior years as noted above, I am attaching photos relating to  
 Inn From the Cold - grand opening of housing facility  
 PaceKids - grand opening of new premises  
 Alpha House - support for the indigenous outreach program

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## Inn from the Cold

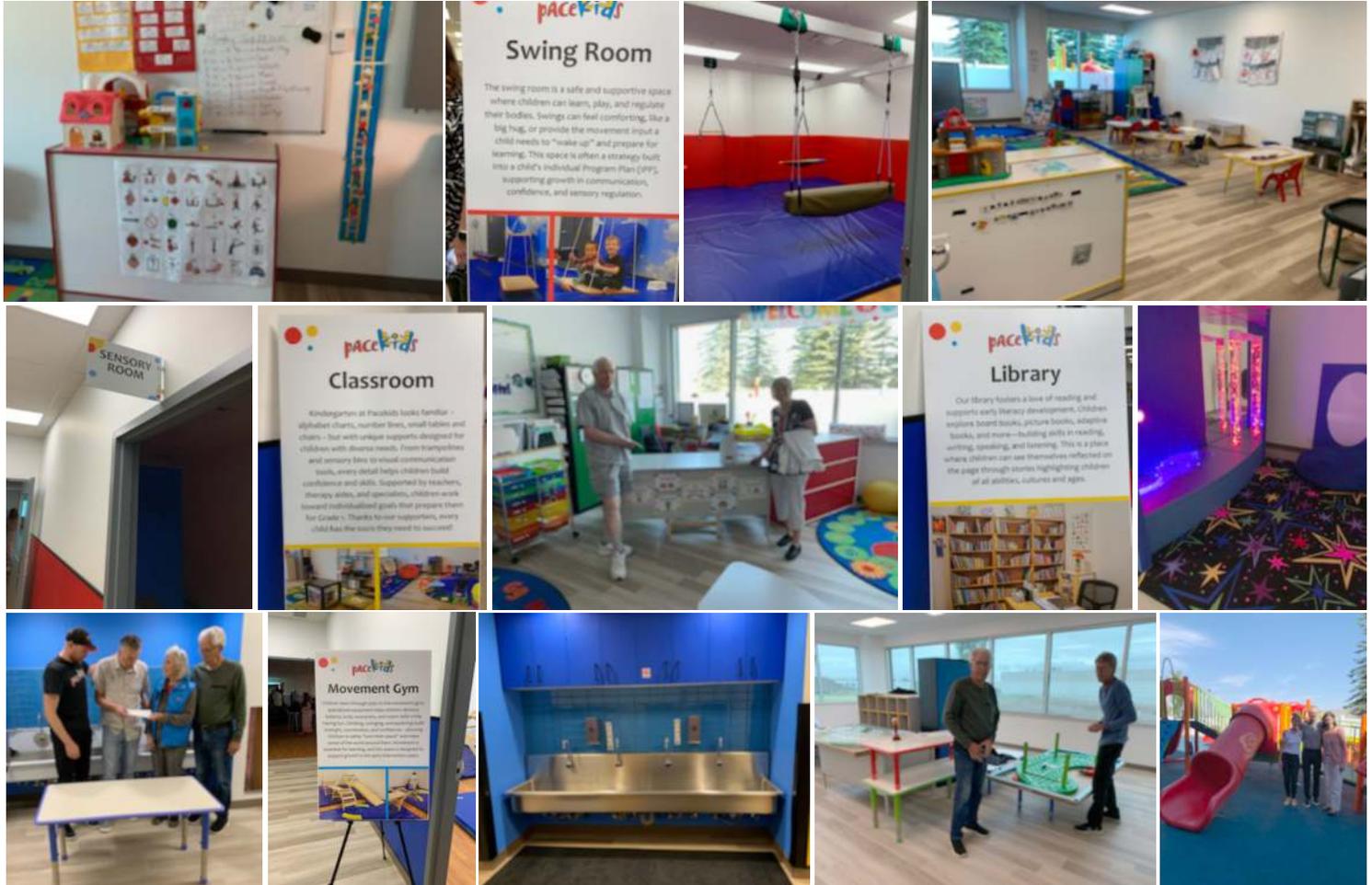


As well as contributing financially to various charities we also participated in hands on projects such as:

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- assembling packages of toiletry, socks etc for Alpha House participants
- assembling furniture for the new PaceKids facility
- volunteering at Acadia Food Pantry distribution
- assisting and funding in meal preparation for Mustard Seed

## PaceKids



## Alpha House



## Unison



## Millarville Christmas Market

We are volunteering to park cars at the Millarville Christmas Market !! This is a new fundraiser for us. Unfortunately we were unable to fill all the available shifts.

Come say hello, and be parked by your fellow members on November 8th & 9th and 15th & 16th!

Visit this great annual Market, and do some shopping from local vendors ... crafty types and food, and the variety available is great!

## Can You Help?

I take the train into downtown every day so it's difficult to get to the Rotary meetings. I wonder if there is someone who could pick me up at the Heritage station before the meetings, and then drop me off at the Heritage station again afterwards.

*Bill Stemp*

Editor's Note: Is there anyone else who might be in a similar situation and would appreciate a ride? Perhaps a list of willing ride givers could be put together, along with a list of riders?

September 30th was National Day of Truth & Reconciliation. It has been 10 years since the release of the report of the Truth & Reconciliation Commission (TRC), headed by Justice Murray Sinclair. The TRC was established to investigate the Indigenous Residential School system, and to recommend a way forward. Over a 6 year period, there were hundreds of hearings and over 7000 witness statements, mainly from former residents (now known as survivors, based on the widespread serious abuse experienced by most of the 150,000 children aged 5-17 who were forced from their families for over 150 years). In terms of moving forward, the report had listed 94 "Calls to Action", including the establishment of this commemorative Day. Knowing, understanding and acknowledging the wrongs of the past, are the all-important first steps on the long road of reconciliation and healing.

Our Rotary District Indigenous Relation Committee (DIRC) actively participated in the walk, and at the Indigenous Gathering afterwards. Many Rotarians were on the walk including District Governor Manon Mitchell, Past DG Kurt Kowalchuk, Past DG David Wartman, and Keith Wellon from our Chinook Club. In one of the pictures, at the DIRC booth, can be seen two of our DIRC leaders, Cam Stewart and Brad Sewall (who will be speaking at our club in the new year). Another picture is of Elder Joyce who gave the prayers and a talk at the opening of the walk, and at the opening of the Gathering. She was one of the organizers of the first walk 9 years ago. That first walk had 60 participants, and it has grown every year to about a thousand this year.



## Evening Meeting @ Blowers & Grafton October 30th



## Christmas Party !!

**Get Your Tickets !! - for December 3rd**

Our Annual Christmas Party is on Wednesday, December 3rd at the Carriage House! It will be a great time with an interesting meal selection and fantastic entertainment! Cost: \$50 pp. A great way to start off the Christmas season! 

## Rotary Foundation Month

November 4th	Madeline King — Polio Plus
November 8th & 9th	Fundraiser: parking cars at the Millarville Christmas Market — contact Rob Wolfson
November 11th	Rotary Remembers 2025 at the Carriage House 10am - 12pm, lunch afterwards
November 15th & 16th	Fundraiser: parking cars at the Millarville Christmas Market — contact Rob Wolfson
November 18th	Charlotte Dempsey — Charity Project
November 21st & 22nd	Volunteer: Christmas Kettles at Chinook Mall — contact Ted Wada
November 27th	Evening Meeting at the Pub — TBD



## Disease Prevention and Treatment Month

December 2nd	Spencer Tonkinson — Real Estate End of the Year Review
December 3rd	Annual Christmas Party @ the Carriage House with great food and entertainment!
December 16th	District Governor Manon Mitchell — Christmas Music

## Seeds Connection Program

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building community capacity and creating greater awareness about Indigenous, perspectives and reconciliation.

Our Rotary Club has financed two students to participate in this program last year.

Joe Hooper thanked George for his presentation on this powerful program and advised him that we would be making a donation to "Polio Plus" in appreciation of his joining us today.



## Did You Know ?

by Jim Thompson, Charter Member

As the last Charter Member, I get asked often about the club's changes over the years.

### My Club, The Rotary Club of Calgary Chinook

Fifty years ago this month, at the Foresters Club on Macleod Trail in Calgary, a group of businessmen were gathered. About 30 in total had been gathered there by recruiters from the, Rotary Club of Calgary (downtown) and the Rotary Club of Calgary South.

Each recruit was handpicked by the recruiting sponsor, classified by that sponsor, and told they were selected as the best example of their classification in the formation of an all new 6th club in Calgary, to be known as The Rotary Club of Calgary Chinook. The recruitment would be from all businesses in the areas from the Stampeder Hotel in the north to Southland Drive south, and west to east.

We were mentored for several months and received our Charter on March 14th, 1977. The new club was celebrated at a welcoming event held at the Palliser Hotel on April 12th, 1977. Members from all NYC clubs were in attendance with gifts for our future meetings use.

We moved into the Trade Winds Hotel, met every Tuesday at noon, sang the National Anthem to open, God Save the Queen to close, and had a Member at Large say Grace before the meal. The Sergeant at Arms collected token amount fines from members and Happy Bucks. Our members all recruited new members and by 1982, we had 70 active members. The Board met once a month at altering Board members' homes. No funds for RI Conventions meant incoming Presidents paid their own way or

didn't attend. We were represented in Rome in 1979 by Greg MacLellan and myself, in Dallas in 1982 by Herb Imler and myself, at our own expense. In years to follow, the Club had a maximum budget for incoming Presidents to attend if they chose to do so.

We developed a connection with the Mad River Club in California, which Tom Ransom maintained for years, and a close connection with the Invermere BC club with golf and winter skiing fellowship visits. Their "flags of our nation" display at their museum was a joint venture. The Kootenay Classic Golf Challenge went on for years.

In 1992, we were directed by RI to accept female proposed members, and have been fortunate to have had many join our ranks to continue our commitment to "Service Above Self".

