



Club of Calgary  
at Stampede Park



## RCCSP Weekly Bulletin April 13th, 2023 Volume Number 68, Issue Number 37

Bulletin Editor: Carol Graham  
Photography: Glen Godlonton  
Administrator: Sarah Brown

### Welcome to the March 13th meeting of the Rotary Club of Calgary at Stampede Park. I am the Club's President, Jim Fitzowich.

**Head Table:** PDG Ken Copithorne, Hon. Premier Danielle Smith, **President Jim Fitzowich**, PP & DGE Kurt Kowalchuck, **PEN Jim Bladon**, PP Penny Leckie.



#### President Jim Fitzowich

This week our guest speaker is the Hon. Danielle Smith, the 19<sup>th</sup> Premier of Alberta. A few quick facts about the office of Alberta Premier:

**First Premier** – was Alexander Rutherford in 1905, whose first act of Government was to create the University of Alberta. He later became its Chancellor.

**Longest serving Premier** – was Ernest Manning from 1943 to 1968.

**Shortest serving Premier** - was David Hancock from March to September 2014

**19<sup>th</sup> Premier** – Premier Smith is our 3<sup>rd</sup> female Premier, 2<sup>nd</sup> Premier of Ukrainian descent, and our 1<sup>st</sup> Rotarian Premier...

A couple of **ground rules for today** before we start lunch:

There are question cards on everyone's tables. If you would like to ask the Premier a question, please write it down during lunch and forward it to our Club Secretary Luanne Whitmarsh. Luanne will sort the questions into a few "buckets" the best she can, and pick representative questions to be asked to the Premier. This way, everyone in the audience has the opportunity to pose a question, given the time constraints we have for the meeting.

Please join **Glen Potter** and me for the singing of O Canada followed by Rotary Grace.





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## Announcements:

**Visitors and Guests:** **Greg Smyth** welcomed all of our many guests and they stood as we provided a loud rendition of our Welcome Song!



**Health and Wellness:** Great news! Health and Wellness contact for April is ; **Brenda McKinley** Tel 403 870 4292 Email: [b-mckinley@hotmail.com](mailto:b-mckinley@hotmail.com)

## Member Survey

Dear members of the Rotary Club of Calgary at Stampede Park – we want your feedback on our Club! **President Elect Bryan Walton** would like you to complete this short survey to provide the 2023-24 Board with some guidance in planning and executing the initiatives of our Club.

The survey is only a few questions and there is ample room to provide comments which you are encouraged to offer. We would like all responses submitted by **May 31** so we can have time to assemble the results which will be presented to the Club thereafter. Thank you for your participation as strive to keep this the best Club in Rotary.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RX72ZFB><https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RX72ZFB>



As many of our Members head down south for the winter, many of them frequent the Scottsdale Arizona Rotary Club. We received this photo of **Glen Richardson, Corinne Wilkinson, and Jim Burns** holding a special flag showcasing both Countries together. Love this photo! Thanks for sharing Corinne.

## WATER CHANGES EVERYTHING

Apr 25, 2023 11:45 AM - 2nd Annual James Wheeler Davidson Luncheon (JWD)—**Downtown Rotary Club (optional)**

We celebrate the legacy of James Wheeler Davidson by focusing on the impact of clean water and sanitation projects around the world.

Without JWD's persistence and diplomacy where would we be as an international organization? Many of the clubs in our district partner with Rotary and organizations such as CAWST to provide the education and services needed to provide a basic human right: clean water.

Join us as we connect learn and grow in celebration of JWD and all the WASH (Water and Sanitation and Hygiene) projects we've run Internationally. Get your tickets [here](#)



## Main Presentation

### DGE Kurt Kowalchuk - Greetings from District 5360

Today I have the honor of greeting the Honourable Danielle Smith, Premier of Alberta on behalf of Rotary District 5360.

Rotary loves acronyms and mysterious numbers. Unless you are a Rotarian from the district, you will have no idea what District 5360 means or where it is. In plain English, our district covers Southern Alberta and South-western Saskatchewan. It includes 45 Rotary Clubs, 3 Rotaract Clubs (geared to younger adults) and 20 Inter-act Clubs (geared to primarily to high school aged children). Ms. Smith, I look forward to hearing from you today and to learning more about your plans for the future of our wonderful province. I would like to thank you for taking the time from your busy schedule to be with us here today. Thank you.

### PNE Jim Bladon - Greetings from Rotary Club of Calgary at Stampede Park

I bring warm greetings and welcome Premier Smith today.

Our Club began 68 years ago, in 1955 and in 1979 we constructed and opened "Rotary House". Initially our Club was known as the "Rotary Club of Manchester", then "South Calgary", "Calgary South" and now the "Rotary Club of Calgary at Stampede Park". Throughout all the name changes we have never waived in our commitment to service and our community.



Since 2009 we have invested over \$30 million into our community through our local fundraising, together with our amazing partnership with the Calgary Stampede and the Kinsmen. In 2023 alone, we disbursed \$1.75 million. In 2018, under the leadership of PP Craig Stokke and his team, Calgary won the bid to host the 2025 RI Conference, where we anticipate over 30,000 Rotarians and visitors will come to Calgary to celebrate Rotary, our City, our Province and our nation.

### PP & PDG Ken Copithorne - Introduces the Premier, Honourable Danielle Smith

There is a great pressure for change today. We are at a crossroads nationally and globally. We have a choice to make regarding what the future looks like in the next 4 years and beyond. It is important to support leadership. In her very short tenure, Premier Smith has accomplished a great deal;

- Standing up for the rights of Albertans-both federally and provincially;
- Diversifying our economy and bringing new sources of revenue and growth to the province;
- Put a budget in place that not only supports new funding for schools, hospitals, cities and infrastructure projects but moves Alberta toward a balanced budget with reserves for the next rainy day;
- Consulting with Albertans on all of these critical issues with a strong understanding of the pressures we face as Albertans, Canadians, and global citizens.







Alberta is thriving under this leadership, even in these complex times. Ask your family, friends and neighbours to make their voice count this May in choosing a leader that has the ability, the support and the foundation to help Alberta to continue to grow and thrive. I have known Premier Smith for many years and have seen first hand her honesty, resilience, and ability to learn, grow and move forward. I am pleased to introduce her today and support her in these complex times.

Please join me in welcoming Premier Danielle Smith.



## Main Speaker Presentation - Honourable Danielle Smith



Thank you very much Ken Copithorne, (former President and District Governor) for the kind introduction and for all the work you've done serving the Rotary of Calgary at Stampede park since – and I don't want to age you here – but the late '60s. And I want to thank you all for being here today because I always value the chance to spend time with Rotarians. I have a great deal of respect for you and I want to thank you all for donating your time and money to help build our community.

A lot of people have good intentions, wanting to make a difference in society. It's easy to say you want to help others. But actually getting up and serving your communities – providing service to others, promoting integrity, supporting others – shows a commitment to create lasting and meaningful change. And this commitment – turning vision into reality – has not only created a better Calgary, but has built goodwill across the world by creating solutions for people stuck in poverty and suffering. And I know you do this because when you see problems, you refuse to turn away and instead try fixing them. It's an understatement to say that we need more people like Rotarians. I like to think politicians have some of the same goals and motivations. So, I want to share a bit about how our government is working – like you – to help address social and economic challenges.

### SUPPORTS

Many Albertans are suffering because of the high cost of living and their inability to fulfill even their most basic needs. And the inflation fueled by national and global issues continues to make it worse. When you can't make ends meet, everything else falls apart. That's why our government developed the Affordability Action Plan. It provides broad supports for all Albertans – with a strong focus on families, seniors on fixed incomes, and vulnerable Albertans who rely on benefits like AISH, PDD, CPP Disability, and Income Supports. And it includes a range of measures to help them with the worst financial pressures. We are also spending millions of dollars to help food banks feed hungry Albertans and to help communities solve social issues.

After all, they're the ones dealing with the immediate impacts of the most serious disruptions in people's lives. And they need to be equipped to steer vulnerable Albertans through personal crises. On that note, we've also set aside more than \$100 million to increase pay for more than 20,000 workers in the social service sector. None of this would be possible without the front line staff in disability services, homeless shelters, and family violence prevention programs who support thousands of vulnerable Albertans every day. They are life savers and life changers. They are the system's most important resource. They go through so much and they deserve fair compensation. And no one who needs them should be left to wait desperately, because the capacity isn't there.

Continued on next page...



## Main Speaker Presentation - Honourable Danielle Smith - Continued

We've increased funding for low-income transit pass programs, so everyone can make it to work, school, or the doctor's office. And we're investing to make child-care more affordable to make it easier for families to participate in the workforce. By the end of 2024, the average cost of licensed child-care will reach \$15 per day. By the end of 2026, it will be \$10 per day. And we're creating up to 68,000 new spaces.



### FISCAL FRAMEWORK

All of this is essential. Families need it. Vulnerable people need it. No one should be left to sink into despair as they endure this affordability crisis. Without the hope and the opportunity to rise again, Alberta would not be the place we all love. However, it's important to point out that sustained supports rest on sound finances and a responsible spending plan. Without careful management, debt mounts, interest payments increase, and there is less money to spend on programs and services for Albertans. And, sooner or later, governments are forced into deep cuts. We're working hard to ensure this doesn't happen, so people going through hard times don't slip through the cracks.

You can see this responsible, long-term approach in how we treat the treasury. This year we were able to table our second balanced budget in a row, and only the fourth in 15 years. Our budget is balanced. We are in surplus. We are paying down debt. In fact, over the last few years we've paid off over \$13 billion in debt and we are expecting to pay off more. And we are building up guardrails to keep provincial finances stable.

We've put in place a new fiscal framework that will require all future Alberta governments to balance their annual budgets – with certain exceptions. They will have to use any surpluses to first pay down debt and save for the future before investing in one-time initiatives. And if a government does have to run a deficit, there has to be a plan to balance the books.

Getting into the habit of overspending means taking on more debt, which means less money for programs and services for Albertans. Lower debt servicing costs, and ensuring Alberta is an attractive place for job creators' dollars and people's dreams helps support high-quality healthcare, education, and assistance for Albertans struggling through the affordability crisis. Albertans deserve nothing less – especially those who are struggling and need a hand.

### ECONOMY

We're also ensuring that those, like Rotarians, who give so much to help them can continue to do so. A healthy economy means a healthy society. That's why our Budget 2023 is about job creation, economic growth, diversification, and investment attraction. We're maintaining Canada's lowest corporate and personal income tax rates. We're injecting more resources into job skills programs to close labour shortages in key industries.

And we're increasing funding for initiatives like the Film and TV Tax Credit and the Petrochemicals Incentive Program. To attract out-of-province investment, we're putting \$15 million annually into the Investment and Growth Fund. And we're continuing with the Alberta is Calling campaign, drawing dollars and skilled workers from across Canada – which always reminds me to mention that we are now at six consecutive quarters of net interprovincial migration growth. But I can assure you, people are choosing Alberta because of the ads.



## Main Speaker Presentation - Honourable Danielle Smith - Continued

They're coming for the opportunity and for the vibrant civil society built by community groups like your own. We have a government focused on moving Alberta forward. An Alberta that has recovered from the recession where nearly 500,000 more Albertans are working today than in May 2020. And we need to continue moving Alberta forward, growing the economy, creating jobs, and ensuring families can pay their bills.

### CONCLUSION

Whether it's the economy, affordability, or finance, I know that our government's approach is something Rotarians understand. There's a big gap between wanting to do good and actually doing it. And it takes care and caution to turn wishes into results. Rotary International is the gold standard for community-based philanthropy.

You have a clear sense of what you want to accomplish and how to go about it. Your projects have budgets. And you stick to them with careful planning. Our government is no different. We want to heal the problems that Albertans face. We want to lift people out of poverty, so they can stop worrying about rent, or what they'll eat tomorrow. Then they can have the opportunity to build careers, raise families, and ensure the future is brighter for the next generation. And we want to preserve all the great features about our province that make this possible. And the way to accomplish any of this is by being just as dedicated, committed, and pragmatic as you are.

Thank you.



Following her presentation Premier Smith answered some audience questions on top priorities, concerns regarding public safety, access to healthcare and social disorder due to addiction and mental health. Premier Smith concluded by saying she hoped to return again and that she would be holding the same job!







## Main Speaker Presentation - Thanking the Speaker

### Thanks to the Speaker: PP Penny Leckie

Good afternoon Premier Smith, Rotarians and Guests Premier Smith, my role is to thank you and express gratitude to you for being the speaker at our meeting today. We live in a world of media clips, where many comments and statements are misinterpreted and taken out of context. With that, It is so important for our Members to be able to have a complete conversation with you, like we have had today. I have always marveled at the extent of your knowledge base, and the breadth of topics you are current on. I know it comes with the territory, but I honestly don't know how you are able to stay on top of so many issues. It goes without saying your schedule is extremely hectic. I know everyone in this room considers it a privilege and an honour to have spent time with you today, and to hear your comments on your team's vision for the future of Alberta.



Thank you for taking the time to be with us today, and to share your thoughts. On a final note, if I may, Danielle, speaking as one "big shouldered gal who lives in High River", to another "big shouldered gal who lives in High River", I want you to know the door is always open, the coffee pot is on, and the Baileys is in the fridge. Consider this your invitation. Once again, Premier Smith, thank you. You have many friends in this room. We hope you will visit more often.

### President Jim Fitzowich

On behalf the of Club we make a \$100 donation in Premier Smith's honour to the CRCF, which you know, supports Calgary area Rotary Clubs do their good works.



Danielle Smith visiting our Club circa 2002.



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## THIS WEEK'S MEETING LINK: No Recording for this Meeting

### In Closing:

**Next week's Meeting:** There will be no meeting at Rotary House next Thursday.

Next weeks meeting will be our new members "Wine, Wheels & Jazz" event on Friday evening April 21<sup>st</sup> at 7pm at Lexus of Royal Oak. This event will be an attendance meeting in lieu of next Thursday's meeting. Your guests are welcome.

Tomorrow is the registration deadline so please register if you have not already done so. Tickets are \$49.95 per person.

### Final words:

Thoughts for the coming week are from former British PM Margret Thatcher:

*"You do not achieve anything without trouble, ever."*

And with that, our meeting is adjourned.

**Thank you for coming. Have a great Rotary week!**



**No Meeting next week to register for but please register for our New Member Event Wine Wheels and Jazz at LEXUS of Royal Oak. Early bird deadline is April 14th by 5pm to be entered into a draw for a special LEXUS. Final deadline April 17th by 5pm**



Are you going to the 2023 Rotary International Convention? This time in Melbourne, Australia! If you are planning to go please let me ([admin@rotarycs.org](mailto:admin@rotarycs.org)) know so I can update the names on our Website. <https://rotarycs.org/page/who-s-going-to-the-convention/> As well as the District Convention in Lethbridge.



### **VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITY !!!**

Volunteers are required to build Good Food Boxes.

#### **April 17th, 2023 - 5-8pm Monday evening shift**

June 6th, 2023- 1-3pm Tuesday shift (usually a daytime shift but I could make this an evening shift starting at 5PM)

Email Earl or Ken to sign up for a shift.

Earl Huson (403) 686-0828/ [ehuslink@telusplanet.net](mailto:ehuslink@telusplanet.net) Ken Farn: (403) 560-6770/ [kgefarn@telusplanet.net](mailto:kgefarn@telusplanet.net) **EARL AND KEN REALLY NEED YOUR HELP!! THANKS FOR VOLUNTEERING!!!**





## Partners in Print

### SPRING BRUNCH INVITE

**You're Invited**

**Rotary Partners of Calgary at Stampede Park**

 **"Spring Brunch"**

**May 2, 2023**

**Registration Starts 10:00am**

**The Glencoe Club , 636 -29 Avenue SW**

**Cost \$35.00 per person**

**Please feel free to bring a Guest.**

Confirm your attendance to:  
Karen Grant NO LATER THAN April 24, 2023.  
partners@rotarycs.org or 403 239 8987

Payment via e-transfer to:  
Rotary Partners of Calgary at Stampede Park  
partners@rotarycs.org

Payment by cheque. Made out to:  
Rotary Partners of Calgary at Stampede Park  
Mail cheque to: 3927 Vancouver Crescent NW,  
Calgary, AB T3A 0M2  
Attention Karen Grant  
or pay CASH at the Door  
Any Food Allergies contact Kerry Stack  
403 256 7201 or kerrystack@gmail.com

**50/50  
Draw**

**Jewellery  
Raffle**

**Door Prizes**

**Ticket  
Auction**

### **Rotary Partners Book Club April 17th Meeting**

Our next meeting is Monday, April 17<sup>th</sup> at the Calgary Golf and Country Club. We meet at 9:30 for a lovely buffet breakfast of fruit, cheeses, scones and muffins plus coffee and tea. The cost is \$20. Please email janetopp@shaw.ca or call Jane at 587-349-4006 to reserve a spot. We need your attendance count by April 13. Maureen and I hope to see you there to discuss books that you have read or just to chat! \*Our book that we will be discussing in May is "Ordinary Grace" by William Kreuger. If you have one of the library books please return it to one of the City of Calgary libraries once you have read it.

Thank you.

**I**   
**Book Club**

Rotary



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JOIN OUR CLUBS NEW  
MEMBERS

# WINE WHEELS & JAZZ



FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 2023

7:00PM-10:30PM

LEXUS OF ROYAL OAK. 7677 112 AVE NW

TICKET PRICE- \$49.95

FAMILY MEMBERS WELCOME

REGISTER & PAY AT

ROTARYSTAMPEDEPARK.COM



*EVENT IS A REPLACEMENT FOR THURSDAY THE 20TH MEETING  
NON-ALCOHOLIC AND ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES BEING SERVED  
ATTIRE: CASUAL BUSINESS UP TO COCKTAIL ATTIRE  
THIS IS NOT A FUNDRAISING EVENT, IT'S A FUNRAISING EVENT*



LEXUS OF ROYAL OAK

Get your tickets for the **New Member Event Friday, April 21!** Time is closing in on us... final date to register is April 17!!

Event is at **Lexus of Royal Oak 7677 - 112 Ave NW. 7 to 10:30 pm. All inclusive for \$49.95 pp.**

**PLEASE NOTE: This is a FUN raiser NOT a FUND raiser!** We have wine tasting, food pairings and beautiful music by **Vitaliia Vash**. **Non alcoholic beverages will also be served.** This is your opportunity to get to know our *New Members*, with a game called, "Name that Rotarian". There are great prizes to be won.

**Dress is business casual.**

**Just added!!!! Hot off the press! We have a special draw for anyone booked before Friday, April 14th at 5 pm. Your names will be entered into a draw for a special LEXUS!!**

**NO REGULAR MEETING ON APRIL 20** - this event takes the place of our regular lunch. Register now:  
[www.rotarystampedepark.com](http://www.rotarystampedepark.com) **Final deadline to registration closes on April 17 by 5pm.**

**Check out our You Tube video!!** <https://youtu.be/xriwoE0R-Y>

Rotary



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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

## Calendar of Events

April 20th: **No Meeting** in lieu of New Member Event on April 21st.



April 21st: New Member Event. Get your tickets today at;  
<https://rotarystampedepark.com/product/rccsp-new-member-event-april-21st-new-member-event-lexus-royal-oak/>



April 27th: Calgary Foundation - Eve Friesen CEO



May 4th: Rotary Profile - Bruce MacDonald



District 5360 Convention in Lethbridge - May 5th and 6th

