

ROTARY NEWS

RCCSP Weekly Bulletin April 16th, 2026
Volume Number 71, Issue No. 33

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Sgt@Arms: Chad Hason



Welcome to the April 16th meeting of the Rotary Club of Calgary at Stampede Park. My name is Gordon Weicker, and I am honored to be your President for 2025/2026.

Please join me in the singing of O Canada and Rotary Grace.

Head Table (L-R) Chad Hason, Brenda McKinley, Hermann Logsend,
President Gordon Weicker, Destiny Whitney, Corinne Wilkinson



**Presentation:
Destiny Whitney**

**April 30th
Police Chief of the
Alberta Sheriffs
Police Service**

**Next Week:
April 23rd
Alex Fitzowich**

Click [HERE](#) to register for upcoming Meetings.

Click [HERE](#) to watch the meeting video.

Today's Meeting: Hermann Logsend did the land acknowledgment

David Field introduced our guests, followed by the welcome song.

Chad Hason our Sgt@Arms, opens by saying it's too cold to fine people, so he'll keep things short with a "happy bucks" moment and a joke. He mentions celebrating several family milestones happening close together—his wife's 40th, his business partner's 50th, and his son's 10th—and contributes his last \$20, which someone else agrees to match. He finishes off with a joke.

Pat Neuman informed us that "Walk With the Earth" has been cancelled due to the snow. You can still donate using the poster that was emailed to all members earlier this week.

Brenda McKinley greets the group and highlights how their Dream Home fundraising supports important community charities. She gives examples such as Basically Babies, which provides essential items for infants, Brown Bagging for Calgary's Kids, which delivers meals to children, and Calgary Healing Centre for Women, which helps women recover from exploitation and trafficking.

She explains that these are just a few of the many organizations funded and stresses the importance of member participation, especially volunteering for required shifts. She reminds members that registration opens May 6 and that a new system will be used.

She also celebrates strong fundraising performance, noting significant growth in auction and online sales, and encourages everyone to keep up the momentum and work toward a record-breaking year.

Corinne Wilkinson thanks everyone for attending despite the difficult weather and introduces the guest speaker, Destiny Whitney.

She explains that since many people are curious about what happens at the Seven Chiefs Sportsplex, she invited Destiny—its general manager—to share insights. Destiny is described as a highly accomplished athlete, having competed in multiple sports and earned multiple gold medals at the North American Indigenous Games, as well as becoming an LPGA Class A golf professional.

Corinne highlights that Destiny's impact goes beyond personal achievements. In her leadership role, she helps run the sportsplex, builds partnerships, and creates opportunities that blend community, culture, and sport. She is a strong advocate for inclusivity and for supporting Indigenous youth in reaching their full potential in athletics, whether at a local, national, or even Olympic level.

She closes by emphasizing Destiny's vision of empowering Indigenous athletes to succeed and welcomes her to speak.

Destiny Whitney shares her journey as an athlete, mother, and advocate for Indigenous youth in sport. She explains how her own experiences—especially lacking support at times—motivate her to create better opportunities for the next generation, including her daughter who is already excelling in sports.

As general manager of the Seven Chiefs Sportsplex, she focuses on building pathways for Indigenous athletes by bringing programs, events, and resources directly into the community. She highlights her passion for supporting women in sport and increasing representation. She describes the Sportsplex as a major community and economic hub, hosting local, national, and international events while generating significant economic impact for Calgary. The facility also serves as a cultural gathering space, hosting powwows, community events, and partnerships that bring people together.

Overall, her message centers on using sport as a tool for empowerment, creating access, and ensuring Indigenous youth can see and reach their full potential.

Bryan Walton thanks Destiny for her presentation, praising the club's tradition of hosting engaging, high-quality speakers who share meaningful stories with the community. He notes that Destiny clearly met that standard.

He also highlights the Indigenous committee's goal of incorporating more Indigenous perspectives into the club's programming, mentioning past speakers such as Tom Jackson and Bryce Starlight. He adds that the club hopes to attend a powwow in July as part of strengthening those connections.

He closes by thanking Destiny again and warmly expressing appreciation for her visit.

President Gordon Weicker thanked Destiny Whitney and announced that we will be making a \$100 donation to CRCF in her name.

Click [HERE](#) for the photo gallery




Announcements

The Invermere Golf tournament is on June 5th, 6th, and 7th. Click [HERE](#) to register


Click the image to read a December 10, 1956 news article reporting on the plane crash that claimed the life of Harry Cleven.



Dear Friends, You're invited to another fun and informative evening with fellow members, hosted by **Lisa Maragh** of Your Senior's Concierge, from 6 to 8 pm on Tuesday, May 12th. Join us at The Edward at 3023 16th St SW. **Lisa** will be discussing Empowering Seniors Through Life's Transitions. We'll hear **Lisa's** story, get a chance to see The Edward space, and experience a potential living option firsthand! As always, we'll enjoy networking time along with snacks and refreshments. Register at <https://rotarystampedepark.com/>



ROTARY CLUB OF CALGARY AT STAMPEDE PARK
BUSINESS CLUB MEETING




Empowering Seniors Through Life's Transitions
Networking & Refreshments to follow

🕒 6:00 to 8:00pm

Join us at: The Edward
3023 16 St SW

🗓️ MAY 12



Get your \$20 tickets by May 8th at:
rotarystampedepark.com



A special pic from last week's Club meeting. Several Honorary Members are getting ready to head home for the summer. Pictured left to right with Mayor Dave Ortega are **Jim Burns**, Sandrine Coniau Gam, **Janet Matthews**, and **Glen Richardson**. Safe travels! We can't wait to have all of our Rotarian friends (from the north, west, and east) back with us next winter. Thank you all for jumping in to serve with us while you are here.

Announcements

Hello Rotarians,

April 7th was our Club's 71's birthday (Happy birthday to us)

As you all know, our club has made a significant impact on many people's lives. To celebrate this milestone, we'd like to share a bit of our history, starting with Past President George Adam. George played a vital role in preserving our club's history, and we are very grateful for his many years of dedication and contribution. Below you can find his 2011 history write-up.

We'd also like to remind you of Peter Penner's book, Manchester to Calgary South, 1955-2005, which captures an important part of our journey. Copies of this book are available at the office.

History from George Adam:

ROTARY CLUB OF CALGARY SOUTH

February 1905: Paul Harris along with 3 friends held the "first" Rotary meeting in Chicago.

August 1910: First Rotary Convention held in Chicago with 60 Rotarians attending.

November 1910: The first club outside the U.S. was chartered in Winnipeg which made Rotary "International".

March 1914: The Calgary Club was chartered and allotted the entire city with a population of about 50,000.

June 1924: The Banff Club was chartered.

October 1928: the High River Club was chartered. *I note this because they were the closest clubs for attendance makeup by Calgary Rotarians.

April 1955: With a Calgary population of about 170,000, the Calgary Rotary Club decided to recognize the 50th Anniversary of Paul Harris Founding the first Rotary Club by chartering a second Club in the City of Calgary.

The area allotted to this new Club to obtain members was defined as "EAST of Macleod Trail and south of both the Bow and Elbow Rivers"; - an area generally noted as the Manchester Industrial Area, hence the "Manchester" Club. The President of the Calgary Rotary Club at this time was Leishman McNeill, father to those famous twins in our Club, Marion Magee and Don McNeill. Chairman of the extension was Ron Jenkins, son of the founder of the pioneer Jenkins Groceteria chain. While Ron is generally considered the Grandfather of our Club, Leishman was certainly a backup force that got things started.

February 1955: The first formal meeting of Manchester Rotary where the Charter night took place on April 7th at the Palliser Hotel. Also the 50th Anniversary of the formation of Rotary in Chicago.

Harry Cleven was our Charter President. Harry was a whirlwind of energy, and had come here from Winnipeg to open and operate the new Hilton Bros. corrugated shipping container factory. He had been active in Rotary for 10 years in Winnipeg, as well as the Better Business Bureau, which he also helped establish in Calgary. Tragically he was killed in the TCA Northstar crash on Mount Schlesse, B.C. while returning from the Shrine All Star football game in Vancouver on Sunday the 9th of December 1956.

While the fore mentioned people were responsible for the successful club formation, perhaps one of the greatest contributions was made by our Executive Secretary, Mrs. Jackie Howland. She was persuaded to temporarily take on the job to help get us started and came with more than 20 years' experience as Secretary of the Calgary Club. Widow of Rotarian Jim Williams who died in the 20's, she later married Doug Howland. Doug had followed in the footsteps of Calgary's most famous Rotarian, Jim Davidson. Jim had formed some 40 clubs including the first in Australia and many countries in the FAR EAST. Doug also worked for Rotary for 5 years doing the same thing, returning to Calgary to be President in 1938. Jackie had Rotary in her blood, and to have her at hand guaranteed success. She had a profound effect on getting our Club going in the right direction.

Our 34 Charter Members quickly grew to 40 and the average makeup attendance from the Calgary Club exceeded 20 each week. We weren't just chartered, we were "launched" and became a big club from the first meeting!

Continue on next page....

I still remember the support and influence provided by this great makeup group who no longer had to drive to Banff or High River. You could see a Calgary Club Member attending a Manchester Club meeting with a new Rotarian on each side of him obtaining Rotary information.

As Rotary expanded throughout the world to be consistent with Club names in:

1968 Name changed to Rotary Club of South Calgary, and

1991 Name changed to Rotary Club of Calgary South

For the first 2 years the Club met at the top floor of the Palliser Hotel. It then moved to Fort Calgary House on the Stampede Grounds. The old fort had to be moved to make way for the L.R.T. and was replaced by a new building a few feet east and renamed ROTARY HOUSE. The old fireplace remains as a memory.

We had the honour of having 3 District Governors from our Club:

Bob Dawson 1979-1980

Gardie Shaw 1984-1985

Ken Copithorne 2004-2005

Our Club was responsible for 4 new Clubs: Calgary West, Calgary Chinook, Kindersley, Sask and Calgary Millennium.

We had many different fundraising schemes in the early days, including our famous mammoth garage sale. We spread our money throughout the city and even managed to contribute some funds offshore. A lot of our community contributions in the first few years were work parties such as helping to build ball diamonds and helping community associations as labourers. Our last garage sale took place in the spring of 1977. With a tremendous amount of time and hard work, we realized a profit of \$10,000.00.

1977: We had our first Dream Home sale, which put us in the big leagues at \$42,000.00! This project, now in its 35th year, involves a dedicated support of Members and friends to fill approximately 1200 shifts and provide the support promised to the Calgary Stampede Lotteries Committee.

1987: the first women were admitted to Rotary. Our Club inducted our first 2 women on October 29, 1998. We have come a long way, and next Rotary year 2012-2013, we have elected our first female President, Dr. Sherry Rainsforth.

Since 1955, Calgary South has had an active Partners group. They first called themselves the Inner Wheel, then Rotary Anns and in 1998 Calgary South Rotary Partners. This organization has had a long history of community service, including 45 years of working with Carewest Sarcee. They have also made contributions to many other philanthropic organizations throughout Calgary. Over the years, they have also put in a lot of volunteer hours for our Dream Home Project.

Thanks to people like **GARDIE SHAW**, we entertained the world at the 87th Annual ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION in Calgary in June, 1996. What a tremendous show and what a boost for Calgary! It was the largest convention ever held in the City (25,000) and also the largest ROTARY CONVENTION ever on this continent.

****Of course, we have proudly hosted the 2025 RI Convention. More than 15,000 Rotarians and participants from over 120 countries gathered in Calgary from June 21 to 25, 2025. Guest speakers such as Bill Gates, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus (WHO Director), the Premier of Alberta, Pulitzer Prize-winning authors, etc., were just a small part of the experience.**

CALGARY SOUTH is one of the most vibrant and exciting clubs that you will find in the Rotary world. The size is very conducive to great camaraderie, which the décor of the building adds to the ambiance.

by George Adam (Charter Member)

December, 2011



You're Invited

Rotary Partners Blooming Friendships Spring Luncheon **Celebrating the freshness of Spring and the joy of gardening**

Date: Monday, April 27, 2026

Location: Calgary Golf & Country Club, 919 – 50th Avenue SW

Registration: 11:00 am | Lunch: 12:15 pm **Cost:** \$50.00 per person

Featured Speakers

Merle Coombs — Owner, Garden Centre Spruce It Up

Lisa — Nursery Manager, Container Gardening & New Plants for Containers

Menu

Roasted Chicken Thighs · Orange Soy Glaze, Potato & Fresh Vegetables
Lemon Posset Dessert · House Baked Rolls · Freshly Brewed Coffee & Tea

Prizes & Giveaways

Door Prizes | Jewelry Giveaway

*Cash donations gratefully accepted in support of the Hearts & Flowers and Lavender Teas
(in place of 50/50 and jewellery raffle tickets)*

RSVP by April 20th

Confirm attendance, payment and any dietary restrictions or allergies

Karen Grant 403-239-8987 partners@rotarycs.org

We encourage you to bring a guest!



Announcements

Ultimate Mountain Getaway Raffle **WIN THE ULTIMATE ROCKY MOUNTAIN ESCAPE**

The Experience

Morning walks along the river. Open roads through the mountains. Iconic bike rides through breathtaking landscapes. Evenings in a quiet alpine setting. This isn't just a getaway — it's a story waiting to be lived.

What You Win

One-week stay in a private Canmore home
Two-week use of a Lexus GX 550
Unforgettable access to the Canadian Rockies
In Support Of

Rotary Kids at Heart

Every ticket purchased helps support children and families in our community.

Get Your Tickets

One ticket \$50.00

Three Tickets for \$100

Draw May 21, 2026 7:30 pm

Your Private Canmore Retreat

Tucked into the trees on a sunny southwest corner lot, this warm and inviting South Canmore home captures the essence of mountain living. Thoughtfully renovated to offer modern comfort while preserving its alpine character, the three-bedroom, three-bathroom home features open beam ceilings and a timeless, rustic ambiance. Expansive outdoor spaces — including a wraparound main floor deck and two private upper balconies — invite you to fully embrace the beauty of the surroundings. Ideally located, this home offers immediate access to Canmore's renowned trail system, parks, and pathways, and is just a short stroll to Main Street and the Bow River. From local cafés and restaurants to galleries, festivals, and mountain adventures — everything that makes Canmore special is right at your doorstep.

Your Luxury Driving Experience

Experience the all-new 2026 Lexus GX 550. One of the most in-demand luxury SUVs today, the GX 550 has quickly become one of the hardest vehicles to acquire, with waitlists stretching years — making this a truly rare opportunity. Boldly redesigned, it combines refined luxury with true capability. Whether cruising through Canmore or exploring the winding roads of Banff and Kananaskis, every drive becomes part of the experience. Your Two-Week

Rocky Mountain Escape

This exclusive package brings together the best of relaxation and adventure. Spend one week unwinding in your private South Canmore retreat — enjoying peaceful mornings by the Bow River, scenic walks, and the charm of downtown just steps away. Then, take full advantage of your second week behind the wheel of the GX 550, exploring some of the most breathtaking landscapes in the world — from Banff to Lake Louise and beyond. License #777211

Full Details and ticket purchases at:

[Ultimate Rocky Mountain Escape | Rafflebox DRIVE FOR FIVE](#)

Double the Impact. Double the Healing. Double the Hope.
The DRIVE FOR FIVE continues with this new raffle,

A generous anonymous community leader will MATCH every NEW and INCREASED sponsorship dollar raised up to \$100,000.

That means when we push beyond last year's total, your support doesn't just help — it doubles.

Your Sponsorship Makes Possible:

Life-changing youth mental health counselling.
Recovery and healing for young burn survivors.
Mobility programs that transform a child's daily life.

This is not a hard ask. It is a heartfelt invitation.

An invitation to stand with us. To lead with purpose. To demonstrate that when business leaders lead with heart, communities grow stronger.

In our **Drive for Five**, every new dollar carries twice the impact. Twice the healing. Twice the hope. Let's drive this across the finish line — together. With your sponsorship. With your donation. With your leadership.

Sponsorship Packages information is available on the website

[Rotary Club of Calgary at Stampede Park – Event Ordering Page](#)

Let's Drive for Five — and make it count.

Contact: Sjoert Zuidhof, Chair: Sharyl Madigan, Co-Chair: Kim Hickson, Sponsorship

Announcements



WORKSHOP
THEATRE

&

Rotary
Calgary Millennium



PRESENT



Adapted by
Teresa Maille

Directed by
Jeremy MacKenzie

An Exclusive Night at the Theatre

Tuesday May 5 Reception 6:00 Show 7:30 PM

Special Treats from  **Calgary Chocolatier**

Tickets \$60 via e-transfer to - rotaryclubofcalgarymillennium@gmail.com

Message Emma Tickets on e-transfer

E mail president@rotarymillennium.com for queries

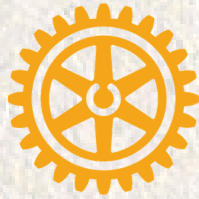


PUMPHOUSE THEATRE 2140 PUMPHOUSE AVE SW CALGARY T3C 2P5



Rotary

Club of Calgary
at Stampede Park



Closing:

Next week: April 23rd - Alex Fitzowich

**The week following: April 30th - Police Chief of the
Alberta Sheriffs Police Service**

Thought of the day!

*The greatest compliment you ever
receive from another person is that you made a positive
impact on their life.*

*Please think about this as we
"Unite for Good!"*

SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS

[Facebook](#)

[Linkedin](#)

[Instagram](#)

Calendar

APRIL

April 2nd - Grants & Endowments

April 9th - Jessica Janzen

April 16th - Destiny Whitney, General Manager of the 7 Chiefs Sportsplex on the Tsuut'ina Nation.

April 23rd - Alex Fitzowich

April 30th - Police Chief of the Alberta Sheriffs Police Service



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
29	30	31	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	1	2

MAY

May 7th - WA Ranches (Off Site)

May 14th - International Service Grants Committee

May 21st - Annual Stay in School Scholarship

May 28th - Presidents' Social (Off-site)



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
26	27	28	29	30	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	1	2	3	4	5	6

DATES TO REMEMBER - SAVE THESE!!

April 8th - International dinner

April 19th - Feed The Hungry

April 24th - "The Barber of Seville" Opera

May 8th - International Dinner

May 1, 2, 3 - District Conference

May 11th - Fireside

May 28th - Presidents Gala

June 5, 6, 7 - Invermere Golf Weekend

June 12th International Dinner

June 21st - Okotoks Dawgs

July 2nd - Dream Home Kick off party