

ROTARY NEWS

RCCSP Weekly Bulletin April 23rd, 2026
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Welcome to the April 23rd 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): Michael Ruttan, Carol Rosdobutko, Doug Hood, President Gordon Weicker, Dr. Alex Fitzowich, Jim Fitzowich



**Presentation:
Alex Fitzowich**

**May 7th
WA Ranches**

**Next Week:
April 30th
Sat Parhar**

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

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

Today's Meeting:

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



Carol Rosdobutko our Sgt@Arms had us play a game of true-or-false about unusual chiropractic cases. Participants answer questions for small fines or contributions, with playful rules involving Dr. Alex and his father.

Brenda McKinley came up with a Dream Home minute, A new volunteer signup system is being introduced where volunteers choose a specific day, time, and role (indoor seller, outdoor seller, host, or ticket promoter). This simplifies the process, reduces confusion, sets clear expectations, and makes scheduling more flexible. It also allows better support and placement during shifts.



While efforts will be made to place volunteers together, this isn't guaranteed, and booth sizes are now smaller. The changes reflect the need for Rotary to adapt and evolve. Volunteer registration opens May 6 at 9 am, and new volunteers should be added beforehand. For help, contact shifts@rotarycs.org

Sjoert Zuidhof shares two announcements regarding the Kids at Heart Gold tournament. First, a sponsor appreciation event will take place on May 21 at Lexus of Royal Oaks, featuring live entertainment, a motivational speaker, and a raffle draw. Attendance is by invitation only for sponsors and donors. Second, a wine grab bag will be held at the event, where attendees can purchase a bottle for \$25. Members are also invited to contribute bottles of wine to support the activity.



Sherry Austin provides an update on the Rotary House. Demolition is underway, and we aim to move into a new space before the Stampede, with hopes of hosting a June 11 meeting there featuring the Stampede CEO. The new space will include a larger ballroom, boardroom access, and improved parking, and will now be used as an internal Stampede facility. She also thanks major donors, including the **Martin family** for a lead contribution and the **Richardson family** for a significant gift, and a ribbon-cutting event is planned once the project is complete.



Michael Ruttan thanks all members who contribute to the Rotary Foundation and recognizes several individuals for reaching donation milestones. He highlights a new member of the Polio Plus Society, which honours those who commit to donating at least \$100 annually to Polio Plus.

He also presents Paul Harris recognitions at multiple levels, including initial recipients and those with higher levels of giving. Due to the large number of donors, acknowledgements are being spread across multiple meetings. He closes by thanking everyone for their ongoing support. A picture has been attached to the following page of the members who were recognized at this meeting.



Jim Fitzowich introduces the guest speaker. He outlines Dr. Alex's Fitzowich background as Calgary-born, educated in biomechanics and kinesiology at the University of Calgary, and trained in sports medicine in San Francisco before returning to Canada.

Dr. Alex Fitzowich began in general practice before transitioning into sports and Olympic-level medicine. He previously spoke to the club during the last Olympic cycle and returns to provide an update ahead of the upcoming Games. The speaker then invites the audience to warmly welcome him.



Dr. Alex Fitzowich presents on the reality of high-performance sport in Canada, focusing on his experience working in Olympic bobsleigh and skeleton.

He explains his background in chiropractic and sports medicine and outlines how he became involved with international sliding sports and Olympic teams. He then describes the sport of bobsleigh, its demands, and the high risk and intensity involved for athletes and staff.

A major theme of his talk is the financial and structural challenges in Canadian Olympic sport: limited funding, high athlete costs (including significant team fees and personal expenses), and a system that often requires athletes to self-fund or rely on minimal support despite elite performance levels.

He contrasts Canada's approach with better-funded nations like Germany and the United States, highlighting how equipment, resources, and funding levels directly impact performance outcomes. He also emphasizes how difficult it is even for world-class athletes to win Olympic medals due to timing, funding disparities, and internal team competition. Dr. Fitzowich shares personal stories about athletes facing injuries, financial strain, and career uncertainty, as well as his own professional sacrifices, including losing clinic positions due to Olympic commitments.

He concludes by criticizing declining sports funding in Canada and the lack of public awareness or recognition of athletes' sacrifices. He calls for greater support of Olympic sports and suggests that hosting the Winter Olympics in Calgary again could help strengthen Canadian sport and infrastructure.

Doug Hood thanks Dr. Alex Fitzowich for his passionate and impactful presentation on the realities of high-performance sport in Canada. He praises the energy and clarity of the message and suggests Dr. Fitzowich could even succeed as a professional speaker.

He also lightly jokes about a potential Rotary curling opportunity before emphasizing the seriousness of the talk. Doug highlights the key takeaway that Canada's Olympic results reflect the level of investment and support provided to athletes, reinforcing the importance of understanding funding challenges in sport.

President Gordon Weicker thanked Dr. Alex Fitzowich and announced that we will be making a \$100 donation to CRCF in his name.

Click [HERE](#) for the photo gallery

Announcements



Last Sunday, the Rotary Club of Calgary Stampede Park sponsored the “Feed the Hungry” program. With club volunteers helping prepare, serve, and clean up a family-style meal offered in a safe and respectful environment. The event served over 522 people—significantly higher than the usual average of 325—highlighting the growing need in the community.

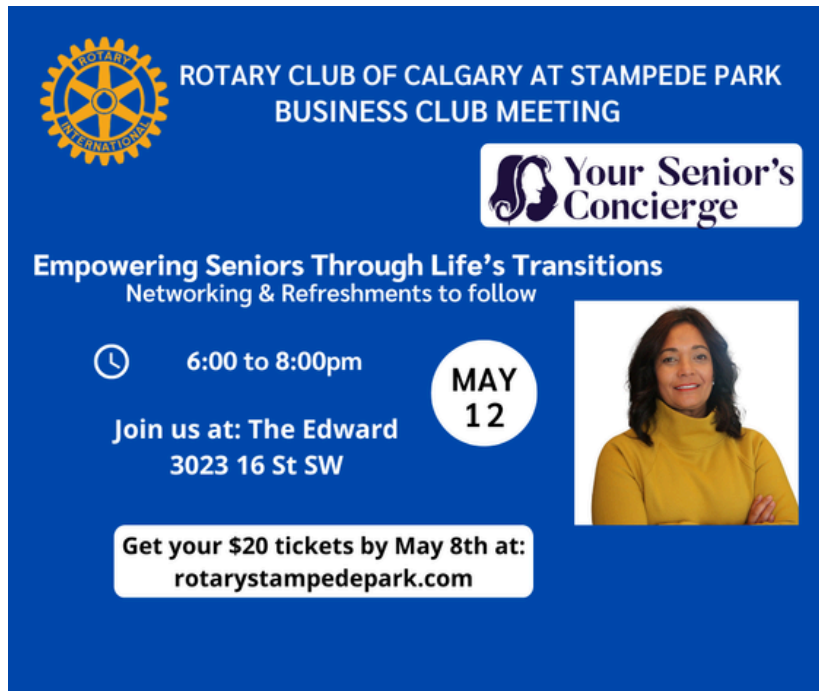
Over the past year, the program has provided more than 17,000 meals and 16,000 care packages, supported by 161 volunteers contributing over 36,000 hours. While club participation was about half of the volunteers, greater involvement is encouraged in the future. Special recognition was given to the Richardson family for bringing 18 volunteers.



Announcements

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/>



The poster features the Rotary International logo on the left. The main text reads "ROTARY CLUB OF CALGARY AT STAMPEDE PARK BUSINESS CLUB MEETING". To the right is the "Your Senior's Concierge" logo. Below this, the title "Empowering Seniors Through Life's Transitions" is followed by "Networking & Refreshments to follow". A clock icon indicates the time "6:00 to 8:00pm". A date circle shows "MAY 12". The location is "Join us at: The Edward 3023 16 St SW". A photo of Lisa Maragh is on the right. A white box at the bottom says "Get your \$20 tickets by May 8th at: rotarystampedepark.com".

On **May 7th**, we will be holding our meeting at the WA Ranch operated by the University of Calgary School of Veterinary Medicine (UCVM). The meeting will include presentations from Dr. Pajor and students from the UCVM, followed by a tour. The ranch is north of Cochrane and West of Airdrie.

We will have a bus to transport members to the ranch, or members can drive on their own. Kindly indicate your preference when you register. Seats on the bus will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. The bus will depart from Stampede Park at 10:30 and return after the meeting and tour. Those who are driving themselves can arrive at WA Ranches at 11:30 AM. You will be required to sign up for the meeting by April 30 on the website.

<https://rotarystampedepark.com/>

Rotary



Club of Calgary
at Stampede Park

Wonderful Fun and Fellowship for All to Enjoy!

2026 Invermere Golf & Social Weekend

June 5th, 6th and 7th

At the Newly Renovated Copper Point Golf Club

Save the date and start planning now!

Friday, June 5th

Golf on The Point

9 Holes

\$65 Including Cart

Dinner Welcome Cocktail Party Reception 6:00 PM

Beef burger with choice of
salad or fries **\$28**

or

Chicken burger with choice of
salad or fries **\$28**

Saturday, June 6th

Golf on The Ridge

18 Holes

\$100 Including Cart

*Afternoon shopping and sightseeing option
for those not golfing is a big hit for your
consideration.*

Evening Dinner Reception 6:00 PM

3 Course Plated Dinner with choice of
Chicken, Fish, or Steak **\$40-48**

Sunday, June 7th

Hosted Brunch at Austin's Cabin

With all the trimmings.
Fresh food, coffee, champagne
and orange juice, etc.

PRESIDENT GORD'S GALA

Dinner and Concert with Soprano Robyn Hauck



MAY 28 | 6:15 PM - 10:00PM
THE WAINWRIGHT HOTEL AT HERITAGE PARK
1900 HERITAGE DRIVE SW
COCKTAIL OR BUSINESS ATTIRE

Price: \$95 per person

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

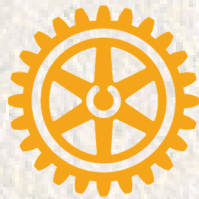
[Rotary Club of Calgary at Stampede Park - Event Ordering Page](#)

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

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

Rotary

Club of Calgary
at Stampede Park



Closing:

Next week: April 30th - Sat Parhar - Police Chief of
the Alberta Sheriffs Police Service

The week following: May 7th - WA Ranches **(OFF SITE
must register by April 30th)**

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