

# ROTARY NEWS

RCCSP Weekly Bulletin April 2nd, 2026  
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Sgt@Arms: Spencer Tonkinson



**Welcome to the April 2nd 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) Spencer Tonkinson, Kim Ward, Stian Rorstad, President Gordon Weicker, Kathy Christiansen, Bill Leclair



**Presentation:  
Grants &  
Endowments**

**April 16th -  
Destiny Whitney**

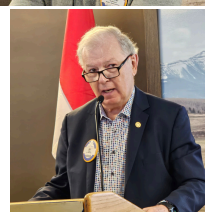
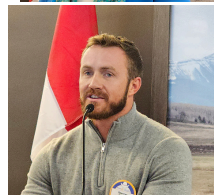
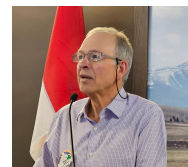
**This Week:  
April 9<sup>th</sup> - Jessica  
Janzen**

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

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

# Today's Meeting:

**Blake Pelham** introduced our guests followed by the welcome song.



**Sharyl Madigan** announced that we have a new opportunity to raise money for the Kids at Herat Golf Tournament. More information can be found on the next page.

Manon Mitchell, District Governor 2025-2026 invites us to the district conference in Red Deer, highlighting a weekend of networking, entertainment, and inspiring speakers. Events include a Friday night party, keynote talks on leadership and personal growth, a new "Pitch and Partner" project session, and club activity showcases.

Key speakers include Chris Cook, Olympic gold medalist Chandra Crawford, and entrepreneur Tareq Hadhad, who will share a story of resilience. The speaker encourages strong club participation and invites members to register. <https://rotary5360.ca/events/dis-con-26>

Our Sgt@Arms for this meeting was **Spencer Tonkinson**. **Spencer** leads a fun, lighthearted fundraising segment, encouraging members to donate "happy bucks" by sharing personal good news, including family achievements and a story about helping a lost elderly woman reunite with her family. They then engage attendees with humorous questions, playful fines, and interactive challenges to raise more money. The session ends with a group activity that gets everyone involved while contributing to the fundraiser.

**Bill Leclair**, chair of the Endowments and Grants Committee, explains how the club raises and distributes funds to support charities, calling it one of the most rewarding parts of their work. He outlines the different endowment funds, noting limited funds this year but larger allocations planned for next year, including a major grant focused on mental health. The committee reviewed many applications, narrowing them down through a structured evaluation process based on need and impact. Most funding from the Stella Endowment supports transportation for people with special needs, such as accessible vans for charities.

Kim Ward from SASS (Society for Autism Support and Services) thanks the Rotary Club for funding a van, calling it a "game changer" for their organization. SASS provides autism services across all ages and levels of need, supporting over 300 individuals annually with programs ranging from early childhood to adult employment support. She explains that transportation is a major barrier for many families, especially those who cannot afford a car or struggle with public transit. The van now allows children to access essential programs they might otherwise miss and is used daily for multiple services. Kim shares a personal story to highlight the impact and expresses sincere gratitude, emphasizing how meaningful the donation has been.

Kathy Christiansen from Alpha House thanks the Rotary Club and the Rosetta and Mario Stella Endowment Fund for funding a new outreach van, calling it essential to their work. Alpha House's HELP team provides 24/7 outreach to people facing addiction and homelessness, offering support, transportation, and connections to services. She highlights the program's growth and impact, including tens of thousands of yearly interactions and significant social value. The van is described as more than transportation—it's a mobile support unit that brings dignity and care directly to vulnerable individuals. Kathy shares a story about helping a father and son move from homelessness into stable housing, illustrating the program's real impact. She expresses deep gratitude and notes the Rotary Club's long-standing support, dating back to their first outreach van 20 years ago.

Stian Rorstad, Executive Director of Recovery Acres Calgary Society, shares his personal journey from client to staff and emphasizes that most of their team are alumni in recovery. Recovery Acres, also known as 1835 House, has been supporting individuals in Alberta since 1973 and recently expanded with 1839 House for women or those identifying as women. He highlights the scale of their operations: serving thousands of meals, making thousands of beds, booking hundreds of interviews, and supporting dozens of new recoveries annually. Door-to-door transportation is identified as a critical barrier to entering and staying in recovery, and the new 15-passenger van funded by the Rosetta and Mario Stella Endowment Fund addresses this need. The van allows Recovery Acres to transport clients to detox, appointments, community events, 12-step meetings, and collaborative programs with other agencies, reducing relapse rates and taxi costs. It also enables community engagement through clothing drives, hikes, and events. Stian concludes by expressing deep gratitude to the Rotary Club and hints at a facility expansion due to current overcapacity.

**Bill Leclair** thanked our three speakers and announced that we will be making a \$100 donation to CRCF in their names. President Gord then closed the meeting.

Click [HERE](#) for the photo gallery

# 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

## Feed the Hungry

April 19<sup>th</sup> 2026, is a Special Day so there will be a busy program. They are cooking the food on site again, thus will need volunteers for the day. The last day to register is April 9<sup>th</sup>.

Volunteers are divided into teams:

- Morning Set Up Team 10:30 - 12:30 pm
- Afternoon Service Stations 12:15 - 4:00pm ( Will Include Kitchen Activities; Dessert Service; Table Service & Beverage Service)
- Other Afternoon Teams: Monitors for Front Door; Monitors for Family Door; Recycling Duties

Please contact **Ken Farn** for questions

Phone: **403-560-6770**

Email: **[kgfarn@telusplanet.net](mailto:kgfarn@telusplanet.net)**

For more information please click **[HERE](#)**  
To volunteer please click **[HERE](#)**



**David Read** has 65 tomato plants ready to go. If you would like a tomato plant, please contact **David. 403-271-5856**

The Invermere Golf tournament is on June 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup>. More information and a link for registration will be coming soon.

# Walk With the Earth

April 18<sup>th</sup>  
2026



## WHY?

- Come together to support HIP youth programs, truth and reconciliation, and environmental action for a stronger brighter future!

## WHO?

- This event will begin with a welcome by Elder Alvin Manitopyes and will be followed by addresses from local youth



## WHERE?

- Starting point: THE SITE (241001 Range Road, 42 Rocky View County, T3Z 3X5, Hwy 22 at Hwy 8)
- 5k walk route and 2.5k Accessibility option



## WHEN?

- registration open 10-11am
- register in advance to save time!
- opening ceremonies commence at 11am walk to follow



**HIP**  
Honouring Indigenous Peoples

# Announcements

## **Walk with the Earth**

HIP is a Rotary led charitable organization with a National Board (Directors are both Indigenous and Non-Indigenous - many are both Rotary members and Indigenous) with District Coordinators in all regions of Canada.

Alumni Youth leaders across the 4 selected cities for 2026, have volunteered and developed this walk to support the future Y2Y camps.

**Rotary Club of Calgary at Stampede Park** in partnership with HIP Y2Y (Honouring Indigenous Peoples, Youth To Youth) and local youth like Bishop Carroll High School Student Alumni Lily Beaton, presents **Walk with the Earth**, a reconnection to the earth, one another and truth and reconciliation action.

All funds raised through this event directly support youth attending the annual HIP Y2Y forum which takes 50 youth (25 indigenous and 25 non indigenous) from across Canada for a week. They will never forget the camp and where they were learning, leading and connecting with others. Students are selected by personal attributes, passion about cultural understanding and adaptability and community engagement and leadership. Applications are circulated to all High schools in each province, including all First Nations High schools.

Register to fundraise or donate online through Canada Helps and support the next generation of youth.

**Walk with Purpose**, Walk with Community,

**Walk with the Earth**. Walk with the Earth will take place on Saturday, **April 18 th at THE SITE – Bragg Creek**

(the former Kiwanis Camp at Hwy 8 and 22), with Opening Ceremonies by Youth Leaders, Honourable Elder, sponsors, and special guests. Opening is at 11 am and the walk will be 2.5 km or 5 km culminating at 1 pm. The route is fully accessible.

Can't walk the route? Volunteers always welcome to help with registration, passing out water and cheering on participants.

Clear your calendars! Register your team. Come out for a wonderful walk in the beauty of nature.

More information is in the link below!

**<https://honouringindigenouspeoples.com/walk-with-the-earth/#sp-rqveza>**

**If you have any questions please contact Pat Neuman**

**[pneuman647@gmail.com](mailto:pneuman647@gmail.com)    416-889-5673**

# Announcements

Dr. Dustin Pearson, who spoke to our club on March 26th regarding Radon and its effects on health, has sent a link to the website for purchasing Radon Test Kits and information about participating in the work that is being conducted by his group. He has also indicated that the new building code (federal building code) now requires all new properties to have a full passive mitigation system. This code needs to be adopted by the province in order to lower the radon burden in all future housing stocks. He has asked if you are interested in considering writing letters to your provincial MLAs to request that the province consider adopting Passive Mitigation Systems to all new residential buildings.

**Here is the link to the website to get the kits: <https://evictradon.org/order-kits/>**

## Veterans Food Bank



## Distress Centre Calgary



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**

**Your Senior's Concierge**

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

🕒 6:00 to 8:00pm

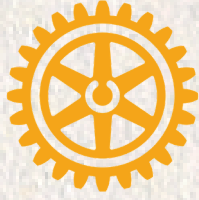
Join us at: The Edward  
3023 16 St SW

**MAY 12**

Get your \$20 tickets by May 8th at:  
[rotarystampedepark.com](https://rotarystampedepark.com)

**Rotary**

Club of Calgary  
at Stampede Park



## **Closing:**

**This week: April 9<sup>th</sup> - Jessica Janzen**

**The week following: April 16<sup>th</sup> - Destiny Whitney**

*Thought of the day!*

*According to Buddha,*

*"If you deeply observe, everything is your teacher!"*

*Please think about this as we as we*

*"Unite for Good!"*

## **SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS**

[Facebook](#)

[Linkedin](#)

[Instagram](#)

# Calendar

## APRIL


**April 2<sup>nd</sup>** - Grants & Endowments

**April 9<sup>th</sup>** - Jessica Janzen

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

**April 23<sup>rd</sup>** - Alex Fitzowich

**April 30<sup>th</sup>** - 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 7<sup>th</sup>** - WA Ranches

**May 14<sup>th</sup>** - International Service Grants Committee

**May 21<sup>st</sup>** - Annual Stay in School Scholarship

**May 28<sup>th</sup>** - Presidents Social



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 8<sup>th</sup>** - International dinner

**April 18<sup>th</sup>** - Walk with the Earth

**April 19<sup>th</sup>** - Feed The Hungry

**April 24<sup>th</sup>** - "The Barber of Seville" Opera

**May 8<sup>th</sup>** - International Dinner

**May 1,2 3** - District Conference

**May 11<sup>th</sup>** - Fireside

**May 23<sup>rd</sup>** - Day of the Races

**May 28<sup>th</sup>** - Presidents Gala

**June 5, 6, 7** - Invermere Golf Weekend

**June 12<sup>th</sup>** International Dinner

**June 21<sup>st</sup>** - Okotoks Dawgs

**July 2<sup>nd</sup>** - Dream Home Kick off party