

ROTARY NEWS

RCCSP Weekly Bulletin August 13th, 2026
Volume Number 72, Issue No.3



Administrative Assistant: Grayce Glassford
Bulletin Editor: Grayce Glassford
Photography: Miguel Kanafany
Videographer: Steve Mason
Sgt@Arms: Blake Pelham

Welcome to the August 13th meeting of the Rotary Club of Calgary at Stampede Park. My name is Larry Kennedy, and I am honoured to be your President for 2026/2027.

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

Head Table (R-L) : Dorothea Schaab, Abigail McIsaac, Gail Williams, Neill Magee, Jim Hutchens, President Larry Kennedy



**Presentation:
Abigail McIsaac**

**August 27th
AGM**

**Next Week:
August 20th
Miguel Kanafany**

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...

Dorothea Schaab highlighted the Rotary Club's commitment to supporting outstanding young people in the community. She noted that the club awarded more than \$60,000 in scholarships and bursaries over the past year, in addition to supporting 40 students through its Stay in School program. She then introduced four of this year's scholarship recipients. Click [HERE](#) to learn more about each student! Below is a bit about each student.



Daphne Yip, a graduating student from St. Mary's High School. Daphne has demonstrated strong academics while being actively involved in athletics, the arts, leadership, and community service. Her volunteer work includes serving as a lector and gift booth volunteer at St. Mary's, as well as participating in Feed the Hungry and other community initiatives.

Daphne will attend the University of Calgary to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry. She was recognized with the Leadership and Service Scholarship for exemplifying Rotary's motto, "Service Above Self."

Devon Fleming, the first recipient of a new Rotary bursary created specifically to support neurodivergent students pursuing post-secondary education. The initiative was developed in partnership with North Point School.

Devon attended North Point from Grade 7 and was involved in basketball, wrestling, track and field, and community volunteering. He volunteered with the Mustard Seed, Calgary Food Bank, and Kids Sport, and also mentored younger students at North Point.

He plans to attend NAIT and apprentice in the Off-Road Heavy Duty Mechanics program. His parents expressed how meaningful the bursary is, saying it has made it possible for Devon to pursue his plans for post-secondary education.

Jonathan Greco, the first recipient of the new Rotary Youth Alumni Scholarship, which recognizes young people who have participated in Rotary-sponsored youth programs.

A graduate of Western Canada High School and a former RYLA delegate, Jonathan has been passionate about coding and robotics since age 11. He has used his technical skills to serve others, including founding a Hack Club chapter where he and his team modify electronic toys to make them more accessible to children with motor impairments. They work with Renfrew Educational Services to distribute the adapted toys. Jonathan has also taught coding and robotics to more than 300 students at Mount Royal University and was named one of Avenue Magazine's Top 20 Under 20. He will study Systems Design Engineering at the University of Waterloo.

Jennie McDonald, recipient of the Ronald Prokosch Memorial Rotary Youth Exchange Scholarship. The scholarship honours former Rotary president Ronald Prokosch and his strong support for Rotary's international youth exchange program.

Jennie graduated from Bowness High School after completing a Rotary Youth Exchange year in Chile in 2024-25. She described the lifelong friendships and connections she made with people around the world as the highlight of her exchange experience.

Later this year, Jennie plans to study Film Production at Vancouver Film School. She has already given back to Rotary by volunteering with the club and selling lottery tickets at the Calgary Stampede.

Janet Matthews came up and read us a note we received from the Scottsdale Sunrise Rotary Club. I have attached the note on the following page for your review.



Gail Williams welcomed Abigail McIsaac and her parents, Chris and Theresa, thanking them for serving as Rotary Youth Exchange host parents.

Gail explained that Abigail was selected for the 2025-26 Rotary Youth Exchange after an interview in December 2024. She began her Rotary training in January 2025, preparing to represent Rotary as a young ambassador. During this time, she balanced Toastmasters training, school, figure skating, baseball, and Italian studies.

Gail praised Abigail for being organized and committed throughout her preparation and expressed appreciation for the monthly videos and written reports Abigail provided during her exchange. She then invited Abigail to share her experiences from the exchange year.



Abigail McIsaac shared highlights from her 10-month Rotary Youth Exchange in Italy. She was based near Casale Monferrato, between Milan, Turin, and Genoa, and lived with two host families. She described her experiences with both families, including trips to the Italian Riviera and the mountains, hiking, skiing, cooking traditional foods, and building lasting friendships.

She discussed differences between Italian and Canadian schools, noting the shorter school day, students remaining in the same classroom while teachers moved between classes, and the opportunity to specialize in areas such as languages, science, arts, or humanities. She also talked about Italy's extensive public transportation system and shared several humorous observations from her time abroad.

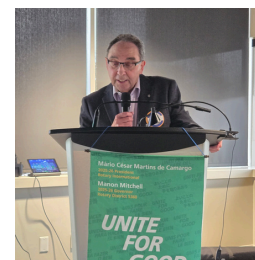


Abigail highlighted some of the connections between Italy and Calgary, including seeing Canadian flags and learning about Olympic skier Alberto Tomba, who won gold medals at the 1988 Calgary Olympics. She also compared the landscapes of Canada and Italy through a photo-guessing game.

Travel was a major part of her exchange. She travelled with her host families, participated in school and Rotary trips, and visited many parts of Italy. Through Rotary, she toured cities including Milan, Venice, Florence, Pisa, Pompeii, Naples, Rome, and Vatican City. She also participated in a European tour visiting Austria, Germany, France, Belgium, Slovenia, Hungary, Czechia, and the Netherlands, with the Netherlands being her favourite country on that trip.

Abigail concluded by thanking the Rotary Club for making her exchange possible. She also highlighted her friendship with Valentine, the German exchange student who had spent his exchange year in Calgary, and brought back Rotary banners from her Italian club and district!

Max Feldman thanked Abigail McIsaac for her engaging presentation and praised her speaking skills, visuals, maturity, and wide range of interests. He recalled meeting Abigail before her exchange and noted her enthusiasm for sports, art, volunteering, baking, and learning Italian.



President Larry Kennedy thanked Abigail and announced that we will be making a \$100 donation to CRCF in her name.

Blake Pelham led a humorous Sergeant-at-Arms segment featuring Rotary trivia, member recognition, and playful fines. He reminisced about **Neill Magee's** time as Dream Home chair, discussed the history of the Big Four building and its 32 curling sheets, and quizzed members on Rotary and Dream Home history. The segment ended with **Blake** joking about his own poor committee attendance and contributing \$10 to the Sergeant-at-Arms fund.

Click [HERE](#) for the photo gallery

Dear Rotary Club of Calgary at Stampede Park

It was with great sorrow that we heard about the passing of Glen Richardson.

Glen was a beloved honorary member of our Scottsdale Sunrise Rotary Club and a veteran volunteer at our yearly Special Day for Special Kids event.

A kind and generous person, Glen was the definition of a Service Above Self Rotarian.

Glen will truly be missed by our Rotary family.

Many blessings to Glen's family and your Rotary Club.

Yours in Rotary Service

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bryce".

Bryce Klassen
Scottsdale Sunrise Rotary Club

Announcements

25.05.24

Opinion Piece for Calgary Herald

In the weeks ahead you will be hearing more about the Rotary International Convention that is coming to Calgary on June 21-25, 2025. Up to 20,000 Rotarians from around the world will descend on our great City.

Given the current times, several Rotary members thought it would be appropriate for Calgarians to learn more about a peace initiative with our friends in the US that was conceived, promoted, and is nurtured to this day by Rotarians on both sides of the border. It all began when a group of Rotarians from Cardston, Alberta invited fellow Rotarians to the Prince of Wales Hotel in Waterton Lakes National Park on July 4-5, 1931 for a good will meeting. Over 100 Rotarians from Montana, Saskatchewan and Alberta attended the meeting. At that meeting there was a consensus to advocate for the creation of an International Peace Park that would encompass both National parks. It was resolved, "that the proper authorities be petitioned to commence negotiations to establish the two parks indicated as a permanent International Peace Park, which will be definitely set aside for this laudable purpose, pledging our loyalty and allegiance to foster all international relationships". Canadian and American Rotarians reached out to their respective federal governments and in the days when things could get done expeditiously, the Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park, a first in the world was commemorated on June 18, 1932!

It's worth noting the words of our leaders of the day. Prime Minister Bennett said, "It is my earnest hope that this great International Peace Park stretching across our common frontier and in which citizens of both our countries may seek recreation, may forever remain a permanent memorial of all that neighbourly relations should be between adjoining nations". And from President Hoover: "Dedication of the Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park is a full gesture of the good will that has so long blessed our relations with our Canadian neighbours, and I am gratified by the hope and the faith that it will forever be an appropriate symbol of permanent peace and friendship".

Authorized by the U.S. Congress and Canada Parliament, the designation of the peace park combines the 203-square-mile Waterton Lakes National Park in Canada with the 1,600-square-mile Glacier National Park in the United States. The arrangement allows both national parks to operate as separate entities under the peace park mantle. Thereafter, the Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park Association was created to perpetuate the message of peace and good will inspired by this monumental achievement. Rotarians agreed to meet annually at a Peace Park Assembly which alternates between each country. Rotarians from over

200 clubs across four districts partake in the Assembly, usually on a September weekend which culminates with the Hands Across the Border Ceremony. The ceremony which normally takes place over a long white ribbon and sometimes at the border, includes Rotarians, members of the indigenous community, park staff, politicians and other government officials. After the speeches the groups form an East-West line, with Americans on the South side and Canadians on the North side who embrace with a handshake and recite the Peace Pledge: In the name of all we hold sacred, we will not take up arms against each other. We will work for peace, maintain liberty, strive for freedom, and demand equal opportunities for all. May the long existing peace between our nations stimulate other peoples to follow this example.

This Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park Association endures and stands to promote the creation of Peace Parks around the world with a message of Peace and Understanding. In a world that seems in constant turmoil the pursuit of Peace is something we can all strive for because the alternative is not the solution for humanity. May Peace Prevail on Earth!

Bryan Walton is the Past President of the Rotary Club of Calgary at Stampede Park and a former Director of the Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park Association.

Announcements

Waterton Glacier International Peace Park

Club members, please read the attached article penned by Past President Bryan Walton about the Waterton Glacier International Peace Park. For many years our club has participated in the Annual Assembly of the Peace Park Association that is composed of the four Rotary Districts 5360, 5390, 5370 and 5080. This year the Assembly will be held in Kalispell, MT. September 25 th to 27 th. The program is outlined below. Please note the organizers have arranged a special rate of \$99.00 US/night. The link is in the Registration information below.

[Register NOW](#) for WGIPPA 2026 Assembly-Kalispell

Jeff Mow, former Glacier National Park Superintendent, is the Chair of the Organizing Committee and is putting together a wonderful program for us.

SCHEDULE of EVENTS

Friday September 25

- 2:00 - 4:00 - Peace Conversation at the Wheeler International Peace Park
Center in Glacier National Park.
- 3:00 - 5:00 - Registration Opens at the Red Lion Hotel, Kalispell
- 3:00 - 5:00 - Shopping and Historic Walking Tour of Downtown Kalispell
- 5:00 - 8:00 - Welcome Reception at the Glacier Art Museum
(walking distance from the Red Lion)

Saturday, September 26

- 8:00 - Registration Opens (Morning Coffee)
- 8:30 - 12:00 - Hands Across the Border Golf Tournament (9-Hole Scramble)
- 9:00 - Assembly Opening, Land Acknowledgement, Introductions
- 9:15 - 10:30 - Mariah Gladstone, Food Sovereignty on the Blackfeet
Reservation
- 10:30 - 11:00 - Break
- 11:00 - 12:00 - ShinNaasha Pete, Conserving Whitebark Pine on Native lands
- 12:00 - 1:00 - Lunch with an Update on Yellowstone to Yukon Initiative
- 1:00 - 1:45 - Carmen Hancock, Waterton NP Update
- 1:45 - 2:30 - Dave Roemer, Glacier NP Update
- 2:30 - 3:00 - Break
- 3:00 - 5:00 - Assembly General Meeting
- 5:00 - 6:00 - Happy Hour
- 6:00 - 10:00 - Gala Buffet Dinner with Keynote Speaker Diane Boyd

Sunday, September 27

- 9:30 - Non-Denominational Church Service, Apgar Campground
Amphitheater, Glacier NP
- 11:00 - "Hands Across the Border" Ceremony, Apgar Campground
Amphitheater, Glacier NP
- 1:30 - Tour the Waterton Glacier International Peace Park Center
at the Wheeler Property

Hope to see you in September!!



For the next few weeks the main entrance to the new Rotary House will not be accessible do to some construction. We ask everyone to use the entrance on the north side of the building for the time being.

This also mean the chair lift will not be available during this time. If you require help up the stairs, please let us know so we can ensure someone is there to assist you.



Closing:

Next week: August 20th - Miguel Kanafany

The week following: August 27th - AGM

As we leave today, let us remember that even small acts of service can result in lasting impact. Together through Rotary, we have the opportunity to strengthen our communities and make the world a better place.

Social Media Links



[Facebook](#)

[Linkedin](#)

[Instagram](#)

Calendar

AUGUST

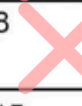
August 6th - Mark Barry

August 13th - Abigail McIsaac

August 20th - Miguel Kanafany

August 27th - Annual AGM Meeting



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
26	27	28	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	31	1	2	3	4	5

SEPTEMBER

September 3rd - Judy Riege

September 10th - Wayne Meikle The Fish Creek
Park story

September 17th - Calgary Opera. Sue Elliot. CEO &
GM

September 24th - TBD



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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	3