

Rotary

Club of Calgary
at Stampede Park



ROTARY NEWS

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Sgt@Arms: Blake Pelham



Welcome to the December 11th 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) : David Bissky, Stan Cichon, Terry White, President Gordon Weicker, Sjoert Zuidhof, Jim Fitzowich



**Presentation:
Jim Fitzowich:
Solar Physics**

**December 25th
No Meeting**

**Next Week
December 18th
Christmas Social &
Cleven Awards**

Click [HERE](#) to register for the January 8th Meeting.

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

Today's Meeting: **David Field** introduced our guests followed by the welcome song.

Neill Mage had **Terry White** draw the lucky ticket. The pot was \$135. **Jim Fitzowich** had the winning ticket!!!. **Jim** donated the money to the Calgary Food Bank!!

Blake Pelham was out Sgt@Arms for this meeting. **Blake** starts off by quizzing a member, **Kaelin Mol**, with a literary quote, which **Kaelin** answers correctly. **Kaelin** gets to choose a table to pay a small fine. **Blake** asked the Business club to stand, he also asked anyone who attended the December 8th Business club meeting to stand. If you did not stand you can add \$2 to the pot. **Blake** then asked all past president's to stand, and each of them pay \$2.



Stan Cichon introduced **Dr. Terry White**. **Terry** was born in Ottawa, raised in Sarnia, and moved to Calgary, where he graduated from Western Canada High as student council president. He studied at the University of Manitoba, playing football, and later earned his master's degree at the University of Wisconsin, where he met his wife, Susan. They have two daughters. **Terry's** academic career included serving as Chair of Social Science at the University of Windsor, President of Brock University, and President of the University of Calgary. He has been a Rotarian for 53 years, most recently with the Calgary Downtown and Canmore clubs. **Stan** welcomes **Dr. Terry White** to the Rotary Club of Calgary at Stampede Park.

President Gordon Weicker formally welcome **Dr Terry White** to our club before giving him his welcome package.

Dr Terry White says despite looking young, he has been a Rotarian for over 55 years. He praises Rotary's global impact but highlights that club fellowship is equally important. Though he hasn't attended this club for very long, he commends its strong sense of community and ambitious plans. He expresses gratitude for becoming a new member, pledges to contribute where he can, and looks forward to getting to know everyone.

David Bissky was up next to give his classification talk. David is originally from Winnipeg, he shares that his family moved frequently due to his father's Air Force career. He later worked for companies like Eaton's, Hudson's Bay, RGO in Calgary, and eventually spent 30 years with Investors Group, where he loved his career. He offers three pieces of financial advice: spend less than you earn, save as much as possible, and don't do anything stupid.

He has been married to his wife Wendy for 47 years, has one daughter who brought the family to Calgary, and now enjoys two grandchildren. His pastimes have included hockey, baseball, football, sailing, and especially pickleball until an Achilles injury ended his play. He also enjoys chess and invites fellow players to connect. He's happy to be in Calgary and grateful to be a Rotarian.

Sjoert Zuidhof asked everyone from the Kids at Heart Selection Committee to stand and be recognized for the work they do. He then announced the three charities selected for the Kids at Heart 2026 Golf Tournament. Below are the charities along with links to their websites.

More information on each project will be shared soon!
Calgary Firefighters Burn Treatment Society - [Website Link](#)
Cerebral Palsy Association - [Website Link](#)
Calgary Counselling Centre - [Website Link](#)

Terry Allen invited **Bryan Walton** and **Murray Flegel** to come up and be presented with certificates for their support to the Peace Garden Project in Waterton. Click [HERE](#) to see the report of the Waterton Peace Garden Project. Below is a link to the Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park Association website for more information on the work of the Waterton-Glacier Peace Park Association does.
<https://www.watertonglacierpeacepark.org/>



Click [HERE](#) to see **Terry Allen's** Presentation

ROTARY
House

update

Murray Flegel reported on the New Rotary House

Approximately \$170,000 raised so far. All donations are eligible for tax receipts, we encouraging contributions of any amount. The goal is to wrap up the campaign by the end of December, and members can submit their checks to **Grayce, Penny Leckie, Sherry Austin, or Murray Flegel**. Donations over \$1000 will get their name on the builders wall in the new Rotary House.

Continue on next page.....



Jim Fitzowich our speaker today came up to tell us about Solar Physics.

The Solar Physics presentation by **Jim Fitzowich** explained how the sun's 11-year activity cycles and visible sunspots are tied to the amount of energy and radiation reaching Earth. At the same time, Earth's magnetic field—which normally protects us—is weakening and its poles are shifting, allowing more of that energy through. Together, these trends closely match recent warming and raise risks for our power grids, satellites, and navigation systems.

Click [HERE](#) to see **Jim's** presentation.

Click [HERE](#) for the photo gallery

President Gordon thanked **Jim Fitzowich** for this presentation before announcing that we will be making a \$100 donation the CRCF in recognition of his educational presentation.

Announcements

A trip to taste Peruvian Cuisine...

What a fantastic time we had at SUMAQ, a small family owned restaurant at 1424 17 Ave SW.

The owners served us a beautiful full course menu of typical Peruvian food. From appetizers to dessert, it was yummy! Fellowship was amazing as always!

A great place to stop by for a delicious meal! Be sure you tell them you are from Rotary!!



Next dinner is a Cheese Fondue at City and Country Winery on Dec 12. Think warm and cozy!

Join us any month for "International Dinners" as we explore the many fabulous Ethnic restaurants we have in Calgary!



2025 2026 Rosters

If you have not received your 2025-2026 Club Roster, you can pick up a copy from the office during business hours. If you have any questions regarding the Roster, please reach out to **Kathy Demorest** at Kathyllynne@shaw.ca. A huge THANK YOU to BURNSWEST Corporation for sponsoring our Club Rosters AGAIN!

Health and Wellness

Hugh Delaney has been moved into the Hillcrest Extended Care facility.

Announcements

Stampede Designated Fund

Board Resolution unanimously recommended by the Legacy and Stampede Liaison Committees and approved unanimously by the Board of Directors:

In recognition of the long-term relationship and collaborative partnership the Rotary Club of Calgary at Stampede Park has shared with the Calgary Stampede, the Board resolves to establish a designated fund in the Rotary Club of Calgary at Stampede Park Community Service Fund, a registered charity. The purpose of the Designated Fund is to accumulate receipts from donors, bearing the notation "Stampede Designated Fund", with the goal of accumulating \$250,000 by December 31, 2025. Once \$250,000 has been accumulated, the balance in the "Stampede Designated Fund" will be donated to The Calgary Stampede Foundation and the "Stampede Designated Fund" will be closed.

STAMPEDE DESIGNATED FUND (FOR NEW ROTARY HOUSE DONATIONS)

To conclude December 30, 2025

- **Tax receipts will be issued by our Club.**
- **Our Club will establish a Donor Wall in our new Rotary House to recognize donors.**
- **CanadaHelps website: <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/Rotary-club-of-Calgary-at-Stampede-Park-community-service-fund/campaign/rotary-house-designated-fund/>**
- **E-transfers need to be sent to Donations@rotarycs.org. Notation must be made: To be applied to the Stampede Designated Fund.**
- **Cheques should be made payable to Rotary Club of Calgary at Stampede Park. They should bear the notation, for "Stampede Designated Fund"**



Abigails 3 month check in from Italy

My third month in Italy has been full of new experiences and a lot of personal growth. I've started training for a 10K race that I'll be running in March, and I also joined a team for the Run4Rome marathon relay. The event partners with the Rotary district in Rome to support polio eradication, so I'm excited to be part of something athletic that also contributes to such an important cause.

At home, my host sister and I picked up a new hobby together: badminton. On our first day we only managed six rallies in a row, but now we've gotten up to twenty-one and we've only hit the birdie into the neighbor's field twice, which feels like a big win for us.

We've started decorating for Christmas, even though it still doesn't fully feel like the holiday season to me without snow or the usual Halloween and Thanksgiving celebrations. But my host family has lots of plans throughout December, and I'm excited to experience everything and share more next month.

The highlight of this month was our Rotary district trip to Savona on the Mediterranean Sea. We toured the city, learned about its incredible history, and discovered why the streets were built so narrow to protect the town during wars. We also took a pottery class, since Savona is known for its ceramics, and saw artifacts dating back to the 16th century before making our own pieces.

A fun moment from the trip was when one of the Brazilian exchange students found a drink she used to love back home. We all tried it, and it was delicious and then we turned the cans into pins as a little souvenir.

Overall, it's been an exciting and meaningful month, thank you so much!

Pictures from the December 4th Christmas Party with Partners





Closing:

Next week: December 18th - Christmas Social & Cleven Awards

The week following: December 25th - No Meeting

Closing words:

Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson were going camping. They pitched their tent under the stars and went to sleep. Sometime in the middle of the night Holmes woke Watson up and said: "Watson, look up at the sky, and tell me what you see." Watson replied: "I see millions and millions of stars." Holmes said: "And what do you deduce from that?" Watson replied: "Well if there are millions and millions of stars, and even a few of those have planets, it's quite likely there are some planets like Earth out there. And if there are a few planets

like Earth out there, there might also be life." And Holmes said: "Watson, you idiot, it means that somebody stole our tent."

Please think about that as we

"Unite for Good"



Calendar

DECEMBER

December 4th - Christmas Party at Silver Springs

December 11th - Jim Fitzowich: Solar Physics

December 18th - Christmas Social

December 25th - Christmas Day (no meeting)



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JANUARY

January 1st - No Meeting

January 8th - Martha Findley

January 15th - AGM

January 22nd - Robbie Burns Day

January 29th - Colin Knoll



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