

**Rotary**

Club of Calgary  
at Stampede Park



# ROTARY NEWS

RCCSP Weekly Bulletin December 18th, 2025  
Volume Number 71, Issue No. 18

Administrative Assistant: Grayce Glassford  
Bulletin Editor: Grayce Glassford  
Photography: Kim Hickson  
Videographer: Steve Mason



**Welcome to the December 18<sup>th</sup> 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) : Murray Flegel, Don Mintz, Carol Rosdobutko, President Gordon Weicker, Blake Pelham, Sherry Austin



**Presentation:  
Christmas Social &  
Cleven Awards**

**January 1st  
No Meeting**

**Next Week  
No Meeting**

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

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



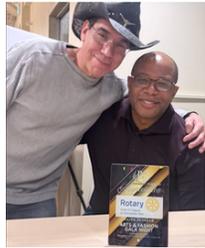
# Today's Meeting: **David Field** introduced our guests followed by the welcome song.

**Jim Hutchens** had **Murray Flegel** draw the lucky ticket. The pot was \$181. **Kim Hickson** had the winning ticket!!! She donated the money to the Kids at Herat Golf Tournament!!



Antonio Laraia, a visiting Rotarian from District 4480 in São Paulo, Brazil, introduced himself and his wife Claudia and shared highlights of his Rotary journey, including helping found a Rotary club and remaining actively connected as an honorary member. He spoke proudly about his hometown of Olímpia, known as Brazil's capital of folklore, its major cultural festival, renowned hot-spring water parks, and its proximity to Barretos, home to Latin America's largest rodeo, often compared to the Calgary Stampede. He warmly invited members to visit Brazil and his Rotary district.

**David Read** shared a brief update on the Salvation Army kettle campaign, thanking Rotary volunteers for 15 years of dedicated service. He highlighted the Salvation Army's year-round support for people in need and noted that the campaign has reached approximately 60% of its goal, conveying their sincere appreciation to the club.



**Hermann Logsend** shared good news from the Indigenous community, highlighting Ross Henderson, an Indigenous artist from the Kwakwaka'wakw community who moved to Calgary three years ago and has spent 39 years creating art and carvings. Welcomed and supported by the club, Ross and his wife recently launched a fashion design business and showcased a new clothing line at an event on November 30. Ross presented the club with a plaque in appreciation for its support of his work, his family, and the Indigenous community.

**Michael Vandezande** shared positive news and thanked the St. Mary's Choir for attending. He highlighted the club's long-standing relationship with St. Mary's High School and described innovative learning spaces that help bridge the gap between high school and the workforce. On behalf of the club, he presented St. Mary's High School with a cheque for \$22,300 to support academic programs, the choir, and athletics.



**President Gord** invited Stampede staff to be recognized and thanked them for their continued support throughout the year. Members expressed appreciation for their hard work and hospitality, especially during the Christmas season, and presented them with cards and small gifts as a gesture of thanks.

## **ROTARY** **House** update

**Sherry Austin** and **Murray Flegel** provided updates on Rotary House, sharing positive progress on the new build, including architectural plans that thoughtfully incorporate elements from the original house, with construction hoped to begin in March pending permits and trades. **Murray** also reported that fundraising is nearing the \$250,000 mark, encouraging members to confirm their commitments by January

**Carol Rosdobutko** opened the annual Cleven Awards by welcoming members and explaining the significance of the award, which was established in 2006 to honor outstanding service and leadership within the club. Named after Harry Cleven, the club's first president, the award recognizes members who demonstrate exceptional commitment and active involvement in all areas of club life. She thanked the Member Recognition Committee and supporters for their work and announced this year's Cleven Award recipients, **Blake Pelham** and **Don Mintz**, before inviting **Sherry Austin** to speak about **Blake**.



**Sherry Austin** spoke in tribute to **Blake Pelham**, highlighting his quiet but extensive contributions to the club since joining in 1999. She recognized his long-standing leadership, including board service, major legacy projects, youth exchange and youth protection work, 11 years on the Dream Home Committee, support during the Rotary House transition, and 26 years on the Registration Committee—10 as chair. **Sherry** also acknowledged **Blake's** family support, particularly from his wife Coreen, and praised his calm leadership, integrity, and unwavering commitment to Service Above Self, making him a truly deserving recipient of the Cleven Award.



**Carol Rosdobutko** next presented **Blake Pelham** with his Cleven Award. Congratulations!!!

**Continue on next page.....**

**Blake Pelham** thanked the club collectively, expressing deep appreciation for the friendships, support, and meaningful experiences he has shared over his 26 years in Rotary. He acknowledged his wife Coreen, his family, mentors, and fellow Rotarians who guided and encouraged him, and reflected on how simply showing up led to lasting involvement in projects like the Dream Home, Youth Exchange, and Registration. Through humorous stories and heartfelt remarks, Blake emphasized gratitude, service, and the joy of long-term commitment, sincerely thanking the club for the Cleven Award.



**Carol Rosdobutko** invited **Murray Flegel** to introduce **Don Mintz**.



**Murray Flegel** spoke in tribute to **Don Mintz**, recognizing his exceptional dedication and service since joining the club in 2008. He highlighted **Don's** professional background as a Chartered Accountant, his long-standing leadership on key committees, and his pivotal role in strengthening the club's financial position, including serving as treasurer for seven years under seven presidents. **Murray** also acknowledged **Don** and his wife Donna's ongoing commitment to Dream Home shifts, Rotary Partners, and club initiatives, praising **Don's** integrity, generosity, and steadfast embodiment of what it truly means to be a Rotarian.

**Carol Rosdobutko** next presented **Don Mintz** with his Cleven Award. Congratulations!!!



**Don Mintz** thanked the club for the Cleven Award, sharing personal reflections on his move to Calgary, his years of service as treasurer, and the opportunity to work with many different presidents and leaders. He spoke about the financial restructuring that helped stabilize club dues, the friendships formed through Rotary, and the enjoyment found in stepping up wherever help was needed. With humor and gratitude, **Don** emphasized how Rotary filled an important place in his life and expressed his hope to remain involved for years to come.

Click [HERE](#) for the photo gallery

## Announcements

Thank you to everyone for your generous donations to the Salvation Army and the Calgary Food Bank. Below are photos of **Allan Johnson** delivering the cheques on behalf of our club.

### Salavtion Army



### Calgary Food Bank



# 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](mailto: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"

## Stay in School Program

In November, **Susan** and I (**Paul Brick**) attended the UofC graduation ceremony for our Stay-in-School student, Gaurav Sangha. He has completed his Arts degree in Media & Communication Studies. Gaurav's invitation to us included the following: "I wanted to personally thank you for your mentorship. The Rotary Scholarship truly made a meaningful difference in helping me reach this milestone." Congratulations Gaurav!! Rotary wishes you all the best in your future endeavours.



# Announcements

It was Cheese Fondue with wine and non alcoholic drinks at City and Country Winery, the only urban winery in Calgary (544 38a Ave SE) on Friday Dec 12.

25 Members and Partners enjoyed the feast along with great fellowship.  
Great venue...thanks to Chris Fodor, Marissa and team for a lovely evening!!  
Next Dinner is Asian Korean Fusion at Asian Bistro.. January 9.



## Kids at Heart 2026

**Below is some information on the three charities we will be supporting through the 2026 Kids at Heart Golf Tournament.**

**Calgary Firefighters Burn Treatment Society** – the project is working with the Alberta Children's Hospital over 3 years to enhance their pediatric burn program, ensuring continued excellence in care, comfort, and rehabilitation. Through these efforts, CFBTS helps children not only recover from burn injuries but also rediscover their strength, resilience, and sense of belonging.

**Cerebral Palsy** - Mission is creating opportunities that support children with neuromotor disabilities, including cerebral palsy (but not limited to), face hurdles in mobility, learning, communication, and social participation. At CP Kids & Families, they meet these challenges holistically by offering programs that address not only the physical needs of the child but also the emotional, social, and family dimensions of their development. Their program supports approx. 1000 children per year.

**Calgary Counselling Centre** – Children can access subsidized one-on-one counselling to help with emotional challenges (anxiety, sadness, stress, low self-esteem), behavioral issues (anger, attention, peer conflict), dealing with trauma, family changes (divorce, loss), or life transitions (moving, school changes). Counselling is adapted to the child's age, personality, and needs, using play, art, crafts, and other expressive approaches to help them feel comfortable and able to express their feelings. 40% of their clientele is under the age of 24 years and does not receive any Government funding for the delivery of their treatment. No child is turned away and all are seen within 7 days.

**Grayce** will be out of office from December 24<sup>th</sup> to January 5<sup>th</sup>

Please make sure you are emailing **Admin@rotarycs.org** when contacting **Grayce**. Any email sent to admin.rotarycs.org@clubrunner.email will **NOT** be received as this is an outgoing email only.



## **Closing:**

**Next week: December 25<sup>th</sup> - No Meeting**

**The week following: January 1st - No Meeting**

## **Closing words:**

At Christmas, we're reminded that the brightest light often begins in the smallest places – a candle, a kind word, a helping hand.

Rotary is at its best when we “Unite for Good” – when different backgrounds, ideas, and talents come together in service of something bigger than ourselves.

This season, may we keep uniting: in friendship, in generosity, and in hope – not just at Christmas, but throughout the year ahead.

From our Rotary family to yours, Merry Christmas, and thank you all for the good we do together.

Please think about that as we

“Unite for Good”



# Calendar

## DECEMBER

**December 4<sup>th</sup>** - Christmas Party at Silver Springs

**December 11<sup>th</sup>** - Jim Fitzowich: Solar Physics

**December 18<sup>th</sup>** - Christmas Social

**December 25<sup>th</sup>** - Christmas Day (no meeting)



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	<del>1</del>	<del>2</del>	<del>3</del>	<del>4</del> 	<del>5</del>	<del>6</del>
<del>7</del>	<del>8</del>	<del>9</del>	<del>10</del>	<del>11</del> 	<del>12</del>	13
14	15	16	17	18 	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 	26	27
28	29	30	31			



## JANUARY

**January 1<sup>st</sup>** - No Meeting

**January 8<sup>th</sup>** - Martha Hall Finley

**January 15<sup>th</sup>** - AGM

**January 22<sup>nd</sup>** - Robbie Burns Day

**January 29<sup>th</sup>** - Colin Knoll



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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