



ROTARY NEWS

RCCSP Weekly Bulletin July 23, 2026
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Welcome to the July 23rd 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 (L-R) : Sherry Austin, Murray Flegel, Jim Hutchens, Dale Struksnes, President Larry Kennedy, Jillian Demorest, Kathy Demorest



**Presentation:
Jillian Demorest**

**August 6th
Mark Berry**

**Next Week:
July 30th
No Meeting**

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

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

Today's Meeting: We started off the meeting with a moment of silence for **Bob Brawn** and **Glen Richardson**....

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

Jim Fitzowich, serving as Sergeant-at-Arms, opened with a few lighthearted jokes before welcoming the club's guests. Instead of issuing fines, he invited members to contribute Happy Bucks in recognition of **Bob Brawn** and in memory of **Glen Richardson**, then returned the meeting to the regular program.



Brenda McKinley thanked **President Larry**, fellow Rotarians, and guests for making this year's Dream Home campaign a success. On behalf of the Dream Home Committee, she expressed appreciation to everyone who volunteered their time, fulfilled their shifts, and helped create a welcoming experience for visitors. She emphasized that the event's success was made possible by the dedication and generosity of volunteers, whose efforts supported an important cause in the community.



Sharyl Madigan thanked members for their enthusiastic support of the online auction for the Kids at Heart Golf Tournament, noting that bidding had been temporarily interrupted due to a server issue with the Elevate platform. She encouraged everyone to keep checking back as the problem was being resolved.

Sjoert Zuidhof thanked members for their support of the Kids at Heart Golf Tournament fundraiser, emphasizing that every contribution, whether large or small, helps the club achieve its fundraising goals. He expressed appreciation for the club's commitment and reminded members that their efforts help make Calgary a better community and support local youth.



President Larry Kennedy shared highlights from the Rotary International Convention, which he and Donna Kennedy attended in June. With more than 37,000 participants, he praised the event's organization and enjoyed attending educational sessions, including presentations by members of their own district. He noted Rotary International's strong focus on membership growth, particularly in response to declining membership in many regions outside Asia, and said the club would hear more about the organization's new mission, "Create Lasting Impacts," throughout the year.

Kathy Demorest introduced her daughter, Jillian, as the club's guest speaker. She reflected on Jillian's Rotary Youth Exchange to Paraguay, describing it as a challenging but life-changing experience that built her resilience, perseverance, and adaptability. **Kathy** highlighted Jillian's academic journey, including studies at Vancouver Island University and Stockholm University, followed by a teaching career in French immersion. After a decade on Vancouver Island, Jillian accepted a teaching position in Gjoa Haven, Nunavut, where she has embraced new challenges and personal growth. Kathy expressed her pride in Jillian and thanked Rotary for helping launch a journey that continues to shape her life before welcoming her to speak.



Jillian shared her experiences teaching in Igloolik, Nunavut, a remote Arctic community north of the Arctic Circle. She described adapting to the high cost of living, limited resources, transportation challenges, and learning from Inuit traditions, including hunting, sewing, and sharing food. She spoke about building relationships with her students by embracing their culture and learning from them. She explained that the school became much more than a classroom, providing students with food, safety, support, and a sense of belonging. Jillian highlighted the resilience of the community, the importance of connection to the land, and the lessons she learned through traditional activities and experiences. She concluded by sharing that her year in the Arctic taught her about patience, teamwork, humility, and the importance of relationships.



Dale Struksnes thanked Jillian for sharing her experiences teaching and living in Igloolik, Nunavut. He acknowledged the challenges and beauty of the remote Arctic environment and expressed appreciation for her willingness to serve the community for a year and bring her insights and experiences back to the club.



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

Jenn Lau introduced herself, sharing her Calgary roots, family, love of the outdoors, and passion for architecture. She spoke about her education, experience working on major projects including the Calgary International Airport, and her journey to founding Denisen Group, which focuses on creating meaningful spaces for people.

Jenn highlighted her company's values of positivity, relationships, excellence, and doing the right thing, noting their connection to Rotary's values. She expressed her excitement to be part of the club and contribute to the community.



Click [HERE](#) for the photo gallery

Announcements

2026 DreamHome Winners Presentation



Health & Wellness

Earl Huson is adjusting to his new home at Wentworth Manor. The family has requested no visitors at this time.

Health and Wellness Contacts: * To update Health and Wellness reports *
Needing transportation assistance to Rotary events Contact **Dorothea Schaab**
403 660 6232 or email schaabd@gmail.com
For Health and Wellness updates, please contact **Dorothea Schaab 403 660 6232 or email schaabd@gmail.com**

I did the walk in honour of **Bob Brawn**, proudly wearing my Wilkinson Rotary jersey and Smithbilt hat **Bob** gave me a few years back.

I walked with Rotarians and Rotoract members, as well as Rotary International Director Marty Helman in the parade.

Marty was then met by our own RCCSP **President Larry Kennedy** and whisked away for a jam-packed day celebrating our amazing Calgary Stampede.

-Corinne Wilkinson



Closing:

Next week: July 30th No Meeting

The week following: August 6th - Mark Berry

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

JULY

July 2nd - Dream Home Kick Off Party

July 9th - No Meeting

July 16th - No Meeting

July 23rd - Jillian Demorest

July 27th - Kids at Heart Golf Tournament

July 30th - No Meeting

JULY						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
				No Meeting		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
				No Meeting		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
				No Meeting		

AUGUST

August 6th - Mark Barry

August 13th - Abigail McIssac

August 20th - Miguel kanafany

August 27th - TBD

August						
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