

**Rotary**

Club of Calgary  
at Stampede Park



# ROTARY NEWS

RCCSP Weekly Bulletin June 11, 2026  
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**Welcome to the June 11th meeting of the Rotary Club of Calgary at Stampede Park. My name is Gordon Weicker, and I am honoured to be your President for 2025/2026.**

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

Head Table (L-R) : Stacey Johnson, Ernie Yaskowich, Murray Flegel,  
President Gordon Weicker, Joel Cowley, Sherry Austin



**Presentation:  
June 11th  
Joel Cowley**

**June 25<sup>th</sup>  
Changing of the  
Guard meeting**

**Next Week:  
June 18<sup>th</sup>  
Community  
Service Grants**

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

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

# Today's Meeting:

**David Field** introduced our guests followed by the welcome song...

**Sherry Austin** introduced guest speaker Joel Cowley, CEO of the Calgary Stampede, noting his leadership since 2021 and the organization's continued growth and transformation. She highlighted the Stampede's long-term vision of creating a year-round gathering place celebrating Western heritage, community, and innovation, and praised the new Master Plan as visionary. She also noted Rotary's continued support at Stampede Park, the nearing completion of the new Rotary House, and enthusiasm for their shared future on the grounds.

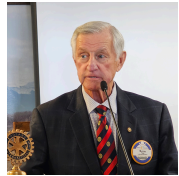


Joel Cowley provided an update on the Calgary Stampede, highlighting its growing economic impact and future vision. A new study found that the Stampede generates \$872 million annually for Canada, including \$664 million for Calgary, with overall impact increasing by about 30% since 2019. The organization also supports more than 10,000 jobs and has seen record attendance over the past two years. Cowley discussed several new attractions and initiatives for this year's Stampede, including the First Nations Rodeo and Relay, new premium seating areas, high-diving performances, sand sculptures, and the return of the Taste of Stampede culinary experience. He also emphasized the Stampede's commitment to youth development through programs focused on agriculture, robotics, veterinary science, culinary arts, and public speaking.



Looking ahead, Cowley outlined the Stampede's long-term master plan, which includes new hotels, improved access to the Elbow River, expanded event and entertainment spaces, upgraded agricultural facilities, and potential future stadium developments. Throughout the presentation, he stressed that while the Stampede continues to grow and evolve, its core purpose remains the same: bringing people together while celebrating agriculture, western heritage, Indigenous partnerships, and community.

**Murray Flegel**, thanked Joel Cowley on behalf of the club, its guests, and **President Gord. Murray** described Joel Cowley's presentation as one of the best Stampede updates the club has received and praised his tireless leadership and commitment. He also thanked Joel for helping keep the new Rotary House project on track and expressed appreciation for his ongoing support of the Rotary community.



**Murray** wished Joel a safe trip to Colorado and looked forward to working together as preparations continued for another successful Calgary Stampede.

**Carol Rosdobutko**, Sergeant-at-Arms, led a lighthearted Stampede-themed fines session following Joel Cowley's presentation. She encouraged members to help fill the remaining Rotary Dream Home volunteer shifts, noting that the schedule was already 95% filled. Through a series of fun questions and Stampede trivia, she engaged members and collected small fines while building excitement for the upcoming Calgary Stampede.



Courtney Kachur from Inclusion Alberta provided a brief update on employment outcomes and partnership activity as the Rotary year wrapped up. She reported that 17 jobs have been created in Calgary since last July, while about 60 job seekers are still being supported and nearly 30 more are on a waitlist. She also highlighted upcoming seasonal employment opportunities and the ongoing partnership with the Calgary Stampede, noting that five individuals have now been hired through that collaboration. She thanked members for their continued support of inclusive employment efforts and invited anyone interested to connect with her to learn more or share ideas.



**Jim Bladon** updated members on Rotary Stampede volunteer shifts, noting most are filled but many Rotarians still need to sign up. He reminded everyone about the upcoming sales training on June 16 and highlighted that Stampede fundraising, including the lottery and Dream Home campaign, supports local community organizations like the Calgary Bridge Foundation for Youth. He closed by thanking members and encouraging continued participation.



**Pat Neuman** shared a bit of information about the Dream Home Kickoff party. More information on page 6

**Sharyl Madigan** introduced a legacy board fundraising initiative, where donations of \$30 or more allow supporters' names to be displayed at the golf course on event day. She provided an update that the campaign has reached about 65% of its \$100,000 fundraising goal. She also noted that Kids at Heart golf tournament registration is nearly sold out, just six weeks out, and encouraged those still interested to sign up soon, thanking members for their support so far.

**Sherry Austin** and **Murray Flegel** provided a brief update on the new Rotary House project. They shared that signage will be installed on multiple sides of the building once city permits are approved, and that interior work is already underway. They also reminded members that donations are still open for the donor wall, where names can be included for a \$1,000 contribution, including family names. They encouraged members—especially newer ones—to consider supporting the project, noting that Rotary House is intended to serve the club for decades to come.

Click [HERE](#) for the photo gallery

# Announcements

## Abigail Mclsaac 9 Month Update

This now marks the end of my 9th month here in Italy. This is possibly my very last update as I only have about a week left before I will be heading on the euro tour and then ultimately back to Canada. However this month and the next week before I leave is packed super full. At the beginning of this may we went to our house in the mountains, I was able to bring a friend with me. In total there were 14 of us there. It was alot of fun we played volleyball, we went hiking and we did some crafts. One day my host dad and I walked all the way to the very top of a mountain which I'm super proud of that was definitely something on my bucket list , so I glast to have been able to cross it off. Then the next weekend we went to Cuneo with some of the other exchange students. The first day while we were there we went walking through some caves, this was really cool to me I enjoyed that a lot, and we ended up with a very good guide you could tell that he really enjoyed his job and was super enthusiastic to get to share with us about caves. Then the next day we went up to the very top point of a church. This was also very interesting, often times here in Italy the whole church has been painted, the walls and the ceiling, it was really cool to be up close and to really see it was a painting. The next weekend I went to my friends house, she lives in the town of cherries so we went cherry picking and collected a huge basket of cherries, we also went to the local basketball game, that was my first ever basketball game and I thought it was pretty fun. Then at the end of this weekend we went me, her and another friend of mine from dance to a 6km fun run here in Casale, it was both of their first times running so we went nice and slow but either way I was glad to get to go out and run with them. My school had asked that I give them a presentation about some of the differences between Italy and Canada. They had also asked if I would make for them a Canadian dessert so I made them Nanaimo bars and I told my host family this and they said You're going to make it for your class but not for us. I said of course not and so I made a double batch and brought half to school and half for my family. I also made especially for my family butter tarts and then I asked which one they preferred more everyone in my family and all of my friends who tried both, agreed that they liked the Nanaimo bars better except for my host mom who preferred the butter tarts. Also, this month my friends and I participated in the side by side for ALS which is an annual run held in Alberta and every year my family goes to the one in Calgary. This year I wasn't going to be home in time to get to participate and I was a little disappointed but my friends agreed to run it here with me in Italy. We told my Grandpa about it, he has ALS, and also the ALS society of Alberta and we ended up getting some shirts made and had a little mini side by side for ALS which I was very grateful that I got to do this. This last weekend I went to my host Brothers concert. He plays the trombone, in the 5 months that I've been at their house, this is the first time I've gotten to go see him play so I was glad to have gone in to go see that. I was very impressed. He's pretty good. On a bit of a sadder note because there's only about a week left before I leave. It's kind of begun time to say goodbye and I've had everybody signing my flag and there's been some tears but my class threw me a surprise goodbye party and they all signed a shirt for me and they wrote me a letter saying they will miss me. They had also bought me some books that are half in Italian half in English to help me continue learning Italian and I was very grateful and very thankful. I can't believe how much I've done and seen in the past 10 months. I can't believe it's over but I'm so grateful for this opportunity. As always, thank you so much. Next time I'll be telling you all my stories in person!



Abigail Mclsaac





## Leave Your Mark for Kids at Heart

This year, Kids at Heart is introducing a special new fundraising initiative that allows every supporter to leave a visible mark of generosity.

For a minimum donation of **\$30 or more**, you will have the opportunity to add your signature to our **Kids at Heart Recognition Board**. This board will be proudly displayed in plain sight as golfers crest the hill and drive down into **Cottonwood Golf Course** on tournament day.

Your signature will represent more than a donation. It will be a symbol of your support for the children, families, and community programs that benefit from Kids at Heart. Every name on the board will help tell the story of people coming together to make a meaningful difference.

As you make your donation, you will be invited to sign the recognition board and become part of this lasting show of community support.

To make your donation, please visit **rotarykidsatheart.ca** and click the **Donation** button. Donations made through the website are eligible for a tax receipt.

To donate by cash or cheque, please contact **Sjoert Zuidhof** at [zuidhofsjoert@gmail.com](mailto:zuidhofsjoert@gmail.com) or **Sharyl Madigan** at [sharylmadigan@shaw.ca](mailto:sharylmadigan@shaw.ca)

# Invermere Golf and Social Weekend Pictures





**The Rotary Club of Calgary at  
Stampede Park**

**Cordially invites you to  
Dream Home Kick Off**

**Thursday, July 2, 2026**

**8:30 am**

**Breakfast at 9 am sharp!**

**Celebration Tent  
Heritage Park  
1900 Heritage Drive SW**

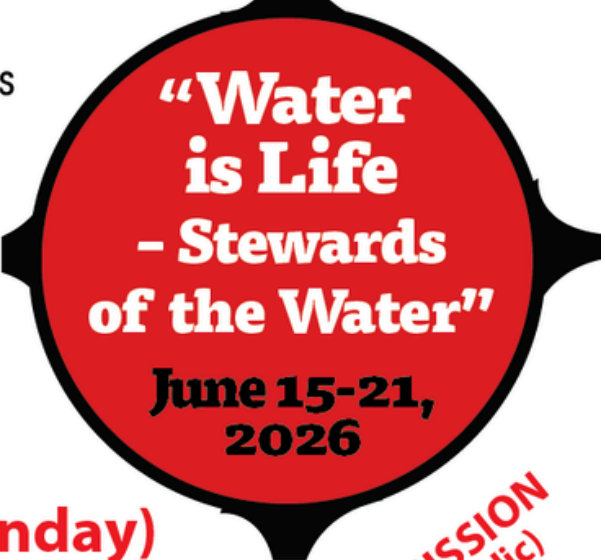
**Program starts at 10 am followed by  
Calgary Fiddlers and Bailey and the Boys**

**\$55 per person**

**Register at [rotarystampedepark.com](http://rotarystampedepark.com) by June 26**

**NO WALK INS!!**

# National Indigenous Family Day & POWWOW



**When:** June 21, 2026 (Sunday)  
10:00am to 6:00pm

**Where:** Enmax Park, Elbow River Camp  
Calgary Stampede Grounds

**FREE ADMISSION**  
(open to public)

**Program Schedule**

- 10:00am - Site Opens
- 10:00am - Children's Corner till 1:00pm
- 11:00am - Traditional Initiation Pow Wow  
Registration till 11:30am
- 12:00pm - Grand Entry
- 1:00pm - Traditional Initiation Pow Wow  
- Hand Games Tournament
- 5:30pm - Closing Ceremonies
- 6:00pm - Site Closes



**Feature Attractions**

- Indigenous Arts & Crafts Market (11:00am-5:00pm)
- Exhibitions of Inuit and Metis (10:30am-5:00pm)
- Children's Corner (10:00am-1:00pm)
- POW WOW (1:00pm-5:30pm)
- Handgame Tournament (1:00pm-4:30pm)

**Drum Groups**

Host Drum - Young Gunz Drum Group  
First 3 Drum Groups Paid



Supported by



Aboriginal Awareness Week Calgary (AAWC) 2026 Circle Team



## **Closing:**

**Next week: June 18<sup>th</sup>** - Community Service Grants

**The week following: June 25<sup>th</sup>**, Changing of the Guard  
meeting

*Thought of the day!*

*"Cowboy Wisdom"*

*The trail is long, the sun rides high,  
Clouds drift slowly through the sky.  
A cowboy knows, come loss or gain,  
You ride through sunshine and through rain.*

*Tip your hat, lend a hand,  
Leave things better than you found the land.  
For at the end of the day,  
It's kindness that lights the way.*

*Please think about this as we as we  
"Unite for Good!"*

## **Social Media Links**



[Facebook](#)

[Linkedin](#)

[Instagram](#)

# Calendar

## JUNE

**June 4<sup>th</sup>** - Valentin Frankenknecht of Germany

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

**June 11<sup>th</sup>** - Joel Cowley

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

**June 18<sup>th</sup>** - Community Service Grants

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

**June 25<sup>th</sup>** - Changing of the Guard meeting

JUNE						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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	4

## JULY

**July 2<sup>nd</sup>** - Dream Home Kick Off Party

**July 9<sup>th</sup>** - No Meeting

**July 16<sup>th</sup>** - No Meeting

**July 23<sup>rd</sup>** - TBD

**July 27<sup>th</sup>** - Kids at Heart Golf Tournament

**July 30<sup>th</sup>** - No Meeting

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

### **DATES TO REMEMBER - SAVE THESE!!**

**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