

Rotary

Club of Calgary
at Stampede Park



ROTARY NEWS

RCCSP Weekly Bulletin June 25, 2026
Volume Number 71, Issue No. 43

Administrative Assistant: Grayce Glassford

Bulletin Editor: Grayce Glassford

Photography: John Shields

Videographer: Steve Mason

Sgt@Arms: Spencer Tonkinson



Welcome to the June 25th 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) : Maureen Hutchens, Sharyl Madigan, President Gordon Weicker, Lynda Weicker, Sherry Austin, Larry Kennedy



**Presentation:
Changing of the
Guard meeting**

**July 9th
No Meeting**

**Next Week:
July 2nd
Dream Home Kick
off Party**

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...

Rick Jakubec gave us an update on the Saint Mary's parking. More information on the following page.

Pat Neuman made an announcement regarding the Dream Home Kick-Off Party on July 2nd. Registration for the Dream Home Kick-Off Party is now closed. Please note that there will be no walk-in registrations accepted on the day of the event. An email containing parking information will be sent out in the next few days. Once you receive it, please ensure you share the parking details with your volunteers.



Jim Bladon came up and gave the Dream Home minute. The Dream Home is a key fundraiser supporting our club's charitable work. Members were reminded that each Rotarian is responsible for completing their eight volunteer shifts and finding a replacement if they are unable to attend a scheduled shift. There are still 16 shifts available, and members are encouraged to sign up and check the schedule regularly.



Sjoert Zuidhof gave us an update on the Kids at Heart gold tournament. The Golf Tournament is just over a month away, and preparations are going well. Thanks were extended to the charity partners for their ongoing support and generous donations to the auctions and "Make Rotary an Offer" board. Members are encouraged to continue donating auction items or unique experiences. Although the tournament is sold out, a limited number of spots may become available due to cancellations, so interested golfers should check with **Dale or Spencer**.



Spencer Tonkinson led a lighthearted Sergeant-at-Arms session celebrating the club's leadership transition. Members participated in Happy Bucks and friendly fines related to Stampede, Rotary involvement, and club activities. The session concluded with members expressing their appreciation for outgoing President **Gordon Weicker's** leadership and welcoming incoming President **Larry Kennedy**.



Sherry Austin thanked President Gourd on behalf of herself and **Murray** for his leadership, vision, and support over the past year, particularly in relation to Rotary House and other legacy initiatives. She shared that recent discussions with the Stampede Foundation confirmed that club contributions toward Rotary House are making a meaningful impact. As a result, members who have donated \$1912 or more will be recognized through the 1912 Society, an initiative linked to the Calgary Stampede's founding year. Membership in the 1912 Society includes access to a range of community events and experiences throughout the year, such as concerts, receptions, Stampede Park activities, and parade seating. This is presented as a recognition opportunity rather than a fundraising request, with no obligation for further contributions. For more information, please watch the meeting video linked on page 1



President Gord provided a summary of the club's charitable impact, focusing on where funds are distributed and the overall scale of giving. Over the past year, the club donated approximately \$1.4-\$1.6 million to various local and community initiatives, including scholarships, bursaries, and programs supported through community service, international service, and legacy projects. Over the past four years, total giving has reached over \$6 million, supporting more than 100 projects and 40+ charities locally, along with international initiatives and major donations such as Ukrainian relief and the Ronald McDonald House expansion. The international program alone has supported dozens of projects globally, with additional matching contributions significantly increasing overall impact. Click [HERE](#) for more information



President Gord provided a brief history of Rotary House, highlighting the club's long association with the Calgary Stampede and its evolution since 1955 through several name changes and relocations. As the club prepares to move into the new Rotary House, members were encouraged to reflect on the legacy of the original space while looking forward to the next chapter. Commemorative pins were distributed, and historical photos were shared to celebrate the club's history at the site

Sharyl Madigan delivered a message of thanks to **President Gord**, recognizing his leadership during a challenging year marked by major transitions for the club, including post-convention recovery and the move from Rotary House.

She highlighted his calm, steady, and thoughtful approach, noting that he helped maintain club unity, support membership engagement, and guide important decisions and negotiations. His leadership was credited with helping the club remain focused and resilient through uncertainty and change.

Sharyl concluded by expressing appreciation for his dedication, patience, and quiet strength throughout the year.



Next was the Changing of the Guard ceremony, featuring the exchange of presidential pins between **Larry Kennedy**, President-elect **Jim Hutchens**, and outgoing **President Gordon Weicker**. The symbolic transition marked the passing of leadership responsibilities for the upcoming Rotary year.

Past President **Jim Bladon** recognized **Gordon Weicker** for his service and presented him with a past president's pin and commemorative acknowledgment of his year leading the club. Speakers highlighted his steady leadership, humour, and ability to guide the club through a year of major transition and change.

The ceremony concluded with appreciation for **Gordon Weicker's** contributions and support for the incoming leadership team.

Our new President, **Larry Kennedy** offered brief closing remarks, thanking Past President **Gordon Weicker** for his leadership over the past year and for his support and guidance during the transition. He acknowledged the strength of **Gord's** leadership and expressed appreciation on behalf of the club.



Click [HERE](#) for the photo gallery

Announcements

International Dinners - Salvador

Last dinner for 25-26 was held on June 12 at Bravo, 3603-17 Ave. SE. 17 Rotarians and guests enjoyed dinner of Jarritos, Chips and Salsa, Tosdados, Pupusas, Tacos (pulled chicken or pork), Con Crema. Our host Dora was thrilled to have our group enjoy (every dish freshly made) her little diner.

A fine dinner to polish off the year!

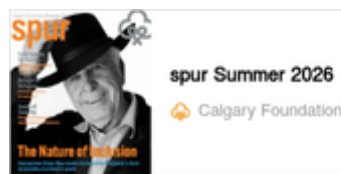
We are doing a casual dinner in August at the one and only "real" Italian pizza restaurant.

Reviews are great!!

Hopefully we'll have patio weather!! Stay tuned for the date and registration.

Next year will be filled with some new spots, some favs and lots more!

Please take a moment to read this inspiring article featuring **Greg and Joanne Martin**. We're fortunate to have them as part of our club, and we congratulate them on this well-deserved recognition. Enjoy the read!



https://calgaryfoundation.org/publications/spur-summer-2026/?mc_cid=57284bfdcf&mc_eid=6ed4e20d23#pdfflip-PDFF/28/

Announcements

Stan Cichon and **Kathy Demorest**, of the Stay-in-School Scholarship Committee, together with **President-Elect Larry Kennedy**, were proud to attend the Year-End Awards Ceremonies at Sherwood School and St. John XXIII School. During the ceremonies, we recognized our 2026 Stay-in-School Scholarship recipients by presenting them with commemorative keepsake plaques. We were also pleased to acknowledge the ten Distinguished Interview Finalists, each of whom received a letter of recognition and a \$100 cash award in appreciation of their outstanding achievements and participation in the scholarship process. We were especially pleased that Valentin, our inbound Youth Exchange Student, was able to join us for the presentations. His participation provided **President-Elect Larry Kennedy** with an excellent opportunity to highlight Rotary's Long-Term Youth Exchange Program and share with students the life-changing experiences and cultural connections it offers. Congratulations to all of these remarkable students for their dedication, perseverance, and commitment to their education. Photos from the presentations are included below.



IMPORTANT

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A reminder to all Rotarians, especially those working at the Stampede or those attending events. Remember your Rotary club offers convenient parking at Saint Mary's School. Please support your club and St Mary's School!

ROTARY HOUSE DONATIONS

Minimum \$1000 donation for name on Donor Wall
E-transfer at donations@rotarycs.org

Closing:

Next week: July 2nd Dream Home Kickoff Party

The week following: July 9th, No 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 4th – Valentin Frankenknecht of Germany

June 5, 6, 7 – Invermere Golf Weekend

June 11th – Joel Cowley

June 12th – International Dinner

June 18th – Community Service Grants

June 21st – Okotoks Dawgs

June 25th – 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 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 No Meeting	10	11
12	13	14	15	16 No Meeting	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30 No Meeting	31	1

DATES TO REMEMBER – SAVE THESE!!

May 28th – Presidents Gala

June 5, 6, 7 – Invermere Golf Weekend

June 12th – International Dinner

June 21st – Okotoks Dawgs

July 2nd – Dream Home Kick off party