

ROTARY NEWS

RCCSP Weekly Bulletin June 4, 2026
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Welcome to the June 4th 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) : Miguel Kanafany, Todd Richardson, Sharyl Madigan, President Gordon Weicker, Valentin Frauenknecht, Dorothea Schaab



**Presentation:
 Valentin
 Frauenknecht**

**June 18th
 Community
 Service Grants**

**Next Week:
 June 11th
 Joel Cowley**

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...



Sjoert Zuidhof thanked members for supporting the Royal Oak event and volunteering their time and energy. He emphasized that fundraising is a marathon, not a sprint, and that Rotary's impact depends on members leading by example through their own participation and support. More information on **Sjoert's** talk on page 4.



Spencer Tonkinson filled in for **Chad** as Sergeant-at-Arms and entertained members with a series of humorous fines. The playful "Chad Fine" kicked things off, followed by light-hearted fines for various experiences and habits, encouraging participation and laughter throughout the room. During Happy Bucks, a member expressed gratitude for the support received during a recent hospital stay, thanking fellow Rotarians for their card and well wishes.



Brenda McKinley reminded members about the upcoming Stampede volunteer training session at the Horton Road Legion on June 16. The session is designed for new members, volunteers, and anyone needing a refresher on using the iPads, selling Dream Home, Kinsmen Millions, and 50/50 tickets, as well as learning about parking, gate access, and volunteer procedures.



She highlighted several organizations that benefit from Dream Home fundraising efforts, including the Prep Society, Project Warmth, and Senior Secret Service, emphasizing the positive impact these programs have in the community.

Brenda reported that 91 volunteer shifts had been filled but noted that additional volunteers were still needed. Members were encouraged to sign up for shifts or contact the committee for assistance with scheduling. She concluded by encouraging everyone to participate and help make the Dream Home fundraising campaign a success.

Todd Richardson shared a bit about **Miguel Kanafany** and how they came to know each other before removing **Miguels** red stripe! **Miguel** shared a few words with the club.



Michael Ruttan provided an update on the Calgary Rotary Clubs Foundation (CRCF) and the club's endowment funds, emphasizing their role as a reliable, long-term source of charitable funding. The CRCF manages nearly \$75 million in assets, with the club's share exceeding \$13 million. Strong investment performance continues to generate significant annual income that supports the club's charitable activities. For 2026, the club is receiving approximately \$541,000 in distributions from the fund, with an estimated increase to \$635,000 next year. These funds support a variety of initiatives, including scholarships, community programs, and other charitable projects.



Michael highlighted the value of endowment giving, noting that donations remain invested in perpetuity while providing ongoing annual support to the club. He then presented a cheque for \$541,000 to **President Gord** on behalf of the foundation. The presentation concluded with the recognition of members who achieved new donor milestone levels and a thank you to all contributors whose generosity continues to grow the fund and strengthen the club's impact in the community.



Dorothea Schaab introduced Rotary Youth Exchange student Valentin Frauenknecht, who has spent the year in Calgary through the Rotary International Youth Exchange program. Originally from Munich, he has been hosted by both the downtown Rotary Club and the Rotary club of Calgary at Stampede Park, and is currently in his fourth host family placement, with thanks given to host parent **Kathy Demorest**.

Valentin was described as enjoying acting, movies, gaming, and spending time with friends. He is currently a Grade 11 student at Henry Wise Wood High School, where he is active in the arts and drama program and recently performed in a school production of Mamma Mia!

He came to Canada eager to experience new cultures and was especially excited about the Calgary Stampede and local experiences. **Dorothea** noted that this will be the club's last inbound long-term exchange student for the foreseeable future, making his visit particularly meaningful as the program concludes for now.

Valentin Frauenknecht, a Rotary Youth Exchange student from Munich, Germany, shared a detailed reflection on his year in Canada. He arrived in August 2025 and began adjusting to Canadian life, including jet lag, new host families, and early experiences such as hiking in Fish Creek Park and seeing local wildlife. Throughout the year, he stayed with multiple host families and participated in a wide range of activities, including trips to Canmore, Banff, Lake Louise, Drumheller, Edmonton Oilers games, skiing and snowboarding, dog sledding, and cultural exchanges with other international students. He also attended orientation camps and explored Alberta with fellow exchange students from around the world. At school, he was actively involved in drama and musical theatre at Henry Wise Wood High School, performing in productions such as Mamma Mia!. He shared that his experience in Canada helped him grow in independence, improve his English, and deepen his appreciation for cultural differences. Valentin also reflected on differences between Canada and Germany, such as transit pricing, traffic systems, and pedestrian signals, as well as personal growth during his exchange year. He highlighted poutine as a favourite Canadian food and emphasized his passion for acting, which he plans to continue pursuing professionally. He concluded by expressing gratitude for the exchange experience, his host families, friends, and Rotary support, noting that the year was life-changing and that he will carry the memories with him as he returns to Germany.

Sharyl Madigan thanked Valentin Frauenknecht for sharing his experiences and reflections on his year in Calgary. She acknowledged the effort it takes to be an exchange student—adapting to a new country, culture, and community while stepping outside of one's comfort zone. She noted that hearing his story gave members a fresh perspective on their own city and country, highlighting the beauty and everyday qualities that are often overlooked. **Sharyl** expressed appreciation for his openness and the connections he built during his time with the club. She concluded by wishing him continued success in his future studies and acting pursuits, and hoped he would carry his Canadian experiences and friendships with him as he returns to Germany.



President Gord Weicker finishes off today meeting by announcing that on behalf of the club we will be making a \$100 donation to CRCF in the Valentin Frauenknecht name in recognition of your time with us today.

Click [HERE](#) for the photo gallery

Announcements

Dinner Club May 30 at **Pat (Neuman)** and Harold's home. Such a lovely evening with fellow members and partners! Great conversation and fellowship with **Bryan (Walton)** and Joan, **Wendy (Giuffre)** and Peter, **Craig (Stokke)** and Teresa. Dinner Club is the ultimate event to get to know our members in a smaller, intimate setting. Dinner Club sign ups for next year will be open shortly.





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 or **Sharyl Madigan** at sharylmadigan@shaw.ca

Just a reminder that our Rotary Club partners with St Mary's School to manage parking during the Stampede. We still have morning and afternoon shifts to be filled. Thank you for volunteering and assisting in raising funds for our Rotary club and St Mary's School.

Thanks **Rick Jakubec**

Rick Jakubec rjakubec@shaw.ca

403 620-5713



Calgary Stampede

JULY 3 – 12, 2026

COMMUNITY ROUND UP

PRESENTED BY



SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 2026
9 A.M. – NOON

7 CHIEFS SPORTSPLEX &
CHIEF JIM STARLIGHT CENTRE

19 BULLHEAD ROAD, TSUUT'INA NATION, AB, T3T 0A6

FEATURING A **FREE** PANCAKE BREAKFAST
AND **FREE** FAMILY FUN!





**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!**

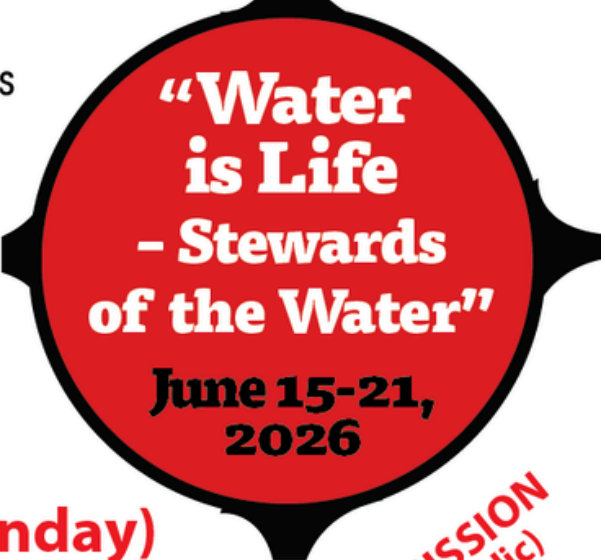
**Celebration Tent
Heritage Park
1900 Heritage Drive SW**

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

**\$55 per person
Register at rotarystampedepark.com by June 26
NO WALK INS!!**

Registration for this event will be open soon!

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 11th – Joel Cowley

The week following: June 18th - Community Service Grants

Thought of the day!

*“The happiness of your life depends upon the quality of your thoughts”
- Marcus Aurelius*

*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 - Deborah Yedlin

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 - TBD

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