

ROTARY NEWS

RCCSP Weekly Bulletin March 12th, 2026
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Welcome to the March 12th 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) : Jim Hutchens, John Fitzsimmons, Joe Connelly, President Gordon Weicker, Evan Strong, Jon Monk



**Presentation:
 St Patrick's Day**

**March 26th
 Rotary Profile**

**Next Week:
 March 19th
 4-way speech
 competition**

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.



President Gord reminded everyone that the district conference is coming up on May 1-3 2026. Please consider registering for this conference! Click [HERE](#) for more information!



Jon Monk had his red stripe removed by **Kevin MacLeod**.

Joe Connelly started off our program by asking those who decorated the clubhouse for our St. Patrick's Day celebration to please stand and be recognized for their hard work and amazing decorations. 🍀

Joe Connelly shared some story's relate to St Patrick's Day before inviting **Jim Hutchens** to the podium.



Jim Hutchens told us a joke before inviting the band to come up and play us a song. The band was made up of a few of our members. **Roselyn Jack, Steve Austin, Todd Richardson, Susan Lasher, and Peter Lafontaine**. They played us a song!!! Watch the meeting video to hear more!



John Fitzsimmons came up next and had everyone stand up and sing along to a song called "The Unicorn". **John** then shared some jokes with us.

Evan Strong came up and shared some Irish stories and jokes with us before sharing a piece of advice that our late member **Hugh Delaney** had given him shortly before he passed. This was followed by a video of **Hugh** singing a song for the club a few years ago at a St. Patrick's Day celebration.



Joe Connelly then announced the winners of the costume contest. In the women's category, **Brenda McKinley** won! In the men's category, Past President **Jim Bladon** took the prize.

Next, all members who had a token were invited to come up and pull a key from the Irish piñata. One of the keys would release all the candy, and the lucky person who unlocked it got to take the candy home! **Penny Leckie** won!!



The meeting was closed with a few more jokes and a thank you to everyone who helped put this celebration together!



Click [HERE](#) for the photo gallery

Announcements

Feed the Hungry

Easter Sunday, April 19th 2026, is a Special Day so there will be a busy program. They are cooking the food on site again, thus will need volunteers for the day.

Volunteers are divided into teams:

- Morning Set Up Team 10:30 - 12:30 pm
- Afternoon Service Stations 12:15 - 4:00pm (Will Include Kitchen Activities; Desert Service; Table Service & Beverage Service)
- Other Afternoon Teams: Monitors for Front Door; Monitors for Family Door; Recycling Duties

For more information please click [HERE](#)
To volunteer please click [HERE](#)

Please contact **Ken Farn** for questions
Phone: **403-560-6770**
Email: kgfarn@telusplanet.net

Our RCCSP members and partners were delighted to support the Scottsdale Sunrise Rotary Club this past Saturday at their wonderful "Special Day for Special Kids." Each year, Rotary hosts this special event for families with children who have special needs, offering a day filled with games, train rides, face painting, pony rides, and plenty of good food and smiles.

It was a tremendous success — and especially nice that several visiting Rotarians and partners were in town to help, along with Jim Burns, Glen Richardson, and Janet Matthews, who are honorary members of the Scottsdale Sunrise Rotary Club.



Glen Richardson, Corinne Wilkinson, Jeanette Richardson, Rick Matthews, Janet Matthews, Jim Burns, Jeanette King, and Pat Burns.

Announcements

Abigail Mclsaac's Monthly Recap

February went by so fast and I honestly didn't even notice it had come to an end, however this means that I have a lot to update on because I've been so busy. To start the month off we had a rotary meeting in Cuneo, a mountain town in Italy. We spent the weekend playing in the snow and cross country skiing where I was able to show off some of my skills as this is the type of skiing I do with my family in Canada. For lunch and dinner we ate at restaurants that were serving traditional food from the region of Italy that we were staying in which of course was absolutely delicious! The Monday after this weekend we had an activity day at school where I tried ribbon dancing, it was a bit difficult but lots of fun. For Valentine's Day I made my host family heart shaped tea buns with a recipe from Newfoundland that I got from my grandma. The next day we visited a town near Milan and went to Queen Margherita's old castle which was very interesting. The next evening we celebrated my host brother's birthday party, where we went out for supper. There were almost 20 people I think which to me felt like a lot but it's good he has lots of friends I suppose. He also chose a burger place to go to eat at which was perfect because it had been a while since I'd eaten a good burger. The day after this we went to turin. This was now my second time going to Turin. In the morning we visited an Egyptian museum, which was the second largest Egyptian museum after the one in Cyro which I thought was very interesting. In the afternoon we visited two more museums, one of these museums had a room with a glass floor where you could see the ruins of the old city, I found this very cool, it was definitely my favourite room of all the museums we went to that day. The next weekend we went to the mountains again because my host family owns a second house there. On Saturday my host dad and I went snowshoeing, for 8 hours, the whole day, over 20km and over 30,000 steps, It was a lot of fun, however.... I forgot to put on sunscreen, and received the worst sunburn I have ever had before in my life, so I spent the next four days on the couch because my face was very sore and swollen, I think it's safe to say a lesson was learned and I will never forget to put on sunscreen again. Then the next weekend we all went together with the inbound and outbound students of rotary districts 2031 and 2032 to welcome next year's outbound students. It was nice to talk to the outbound and answer any questions they had about the exchange, we also got to introduce them to pin trading and give them their first pins which was very exciting. After this meeting two of the exchange students came home with me and we spent the rest of Saturday, Sunday and Monday together. I really enjoyed this because we all live really far from each other in Italy so it was nice to get to spend the weekend together. Now everybody is getting ready for the Italy tour in 5 days, I can't wait! Again thank you so much for everything you do, and I can't wait to tell you all about my adventures through Italy next month, until next time!



Abigail Mclsaac



WALK WITH THE EARTH: BRINGING COMMUNITY TOGETHER FOR SUSTAINABILITY AND INDIGENOUS YOUTH EMPOWERMENT.

DO YOU WANT TO SUPPORT INDIGENOUS INITIATIVES, CARE FOR THE EARTH, AND MAKE A REAL IMPACT IN YOUR COMMUNITY? WALK WITH THE EARTH LAUNCHES APRIL 2026, AND YOU'RE INVITED TO BE PART OF ITS FIRST YEAR!

WHAT IS WALK WITH THE EARTH?


WALK WITH THE EARTH IS AN ANNUAL, YOUTH-LED FUNDRAISING WALK HOSTED IN ROTARY PARKS AND COMMUNITY TRAILS ACROSS CANADA.


MORE THAN A WALK, IT'S A CHANCE TO RECONNECT WITH LAND, REFLECT, AND MOVE WITH PURPOSE. EACH EVENT IS PLANNED WITH ROTARY CLUBS, HIP, ELDERS, AND Y2Y YOUTH ALUMNI, CENTERING COMMUNITY, RELATIONALITY, AND RECONCILIATION.

 WHITBY, ON • LOWER MAINLAND, BC • CALGARY, AB • WINNIPEG, MB

 5KM WALK AS AN ACT OF CEREMONY, ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP, & RECONCILIATION

YOUTH PARTICIPANT EXPERIENCES

 "I THINK I'D BE A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT PERSON IF I DIDN'T GO TO HIP, MEET THE PEOPLE I DID, AND LEARN THE LESSONS THAT I LEARNED." - DAVID HORN; PARTICIPANT FROM 2023 HIP EVENT HOSTED IN WINNIPEG

 "100% OF PARTICIPANTS WOULD RECOMMEND HIP'S IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCE TO OTHERS, SHOWCASING THE PROGRAM'S EFFECTIVENESS AND IMPACT" - HIP IMPACT REPORT 2024

LOOKING AHEAD

ORGANIZERS HOPE WALK WITH THE EARTH BECOMES AN ANTICIPATED ANNUAL DAY OF LEARNING, WALKING, AND COMMUNITY ACTION. AS THE EVENT GROWS, MORE FAMILIES, STUDENTS, LOCAL GROUPS, AND ROTARIANS WILL WALK SIDE BY SIDE IN SUPPORT OF SUSTAINABILITY, RECONCILIATION, AND YOUTH LEADERSHIP.

GET INVOLVED

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT SUSTAINABILITY RESOURCES OR TO SUPPORT HIP'S Y2Y PROGRAM, VISIT THE WALK WITH THE EARTH WEBSITE OR THE HONOURING INDIGENOUS PEOPLES WEBSITE. TO REGISTER, DONATE, OR JOIN A TEAM, SIMPLY SCAN THE QR CODE.




WHERE YOUR SUPPORT GOES

FUNDS DIRECTLY SUPPORT THE HIP Y2Y PROGRAM, BRINGING 25 INDIGENOUS AND 25 NON-INDIGENOUS YOUTH TOGETHER FOR A WEEK OF CULTURAL LEARNING, LAND-BASED EDUCATION, AND RELATIONSHIP-BUILDING.

 COST PER YOUTH: ~\$5,000

THIS COVERS TRAVEL, FOOD, ACCOMMODATION, AND PROGRAMMING, ENSURING YOUTH CAN PARTICIPATE AT NO COST, REGARDLESS OF LOCATION OR FINANCIAL BARRIERS.

WHY THIS EVENT MATTERS

-  ROOTED IN INDIGENOUS TEACHINGS OF RECIPROCITY AND RESPONSIBILITY TO LAND, HIP PRIORITIZES SUSTAINABILITY.
-  AT THE 2024 Y2Y GATHERING, PARTICIPANTS PRODUCED ONLY 19 LBS OF WASTE IN SIX DAYS, NEARLY 100X LESS WASTE PER PERSON THAN THE CANADIAN AVERAGE.
-  THIS EVENT DOESN'T JUST RAISE FUNDS, IT BUILDS AWARENESS, RELATIONSHIPS, AND LASTING IMPACT.

WALK WITH PURPOSE. WALK FOR COMMUNITY. WALK WITH THE EARTH.

WRITTEN BY EMMA WARD

Announcements

Walk with the Earth

HIP is a Rotary led charitable organization with a National Board (Directors are both Indigenous and Non-Indigenous - many are both Rotary members and Indigenous) with District Coordinators in all regions of Canada.

Alumni Youth leaders across the 4 selected cities for 2026, have volunteered and developed this walk to support the future Y2Y camps.

Rotary Club of Calgary at Stampede Park in partnership with HIP Y2Y (Honouring Indigenous Peoples, Youth To Youth) and local youth like Bishop Carroll High School Student Alumni Lily Beaton, presents **Walk with the Earth**, a reconnection to the earth, one another and truth and reconciliation action.

All funds raised through this event directly support youth attending the annual HIP Y2Y forum which takes 50 youth (25 indigenous and 25 non indigenous) from across Canada for a week. They will never forget the camp and where they were learning, leading and connecting with others. Students are selected by personal attributes, passion about cultural understanding and adaptability and community engagement and leadership. Applications are circulated to all High schools in each province, including all First Nations High schools.

Register to fundraise or donate online through Canada Helps and support the next generation of youth.

Walk with Purpose, Walk with Community,

Walk with the Earth. Walk with the Earth will take place on Saturday, **April 18 th at THE SITE – Bragg Creek**

(the former Kiwanis Camp at Hwy 8 and 22), with Opening Ceremonies by Youth Leaders, Honourable Elder, sponsors, and special guests. Opening is at 11 am and the walk will be 2.5 km or 5 km culminating at 1 pm. The route is fully accessible.

Can't walk the route? Volunteers always welcome to help with registration, passing out water and cheering on participants.

Clear your calendars! Register your team. Come out for a wonderful walk in the beauty of nature.

More information is in the link below!

<https://honouringindigenouspeoples.com/walk-with-the-earth/#sp-rqveza>

If you have any questions please contact Pat Neuman

pneuman647@gmail.com 416-889-5673

Announcements



DONATE ART FOR CHARITY!

**DROP OFF BINS AT SELECT CALGARY
CO-OP STORES UNTIL MARCH 30, 2026**

Donated artwork is sold and proceeds support Rotary community investment projects focused on youth, women and seniors.

Look for the marked donation bin near the checkouts at participating Calgary Co-op locations: Macleod Brentwood · Forest Lawn · Richmond · Dalhousie · Oakridge Shawnessy · Crowfoot · West Springs · Auburn Bay

FOR LARGE DONATIONS, PLEASE CONTACT ROTARYARTSALE@GMAIL.COM



[BIT.LY/SECONDCHANCEARTSALE](https://bit.ly/secondchanceartsale)

SPONSORED BY



CALGARY CO-OP

If you have any artwork to donate to the Second Chance Art Sale please bring it to next week's meeting (March 19th) or to the drop of locations on the flyer above.

NEW MEMBER PROPOSAL

Jenny Lau has been proposed for active membership in the Rotary Club of Calgary at Stampede Park, as sponsored by **Jill Conroy** and seconded by **Lisa van Hemert**, with a proposed classification of Architect.

If any Member objects to **Jenny Lau** joining our Club or to HIS/HER proposed classification, an objection must be filed in writing with the Club Secretary, **Gail Williams**: secretary@rotarycs.org prior to **March 21st**.

Rotary
Club of Calgary
at Stampede Park



Closing:

Next week: March 19th - 4-way Speech Competition

The week following: March 26th - Rotary Profile

Thought of the day!

As we have enjoyed today's program celebrating St Paddy's Day,

*"All you need is a little foolishness to enjoy life
and a little wisdom to avoid the errors."*

Please think about this as we as we

Unite for Good!

Calendar

MARCH

March 5th - International Women's Day

March 12th - St Patrick's Day

March 19th - 4-way speech competition

March 26th - Rotary Profile

Márch☘						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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

APRIL

April 2nd - Grants & Endowments

April 9th - St Marys High School 4 way speeches

April 16th - Destiny Whitney, General Manager of the 7 Chiefs Sportsplex on the Tsuut'ina Nation.

April 23rd - Alex Fitzowich

April 30th - New Members Celebration

April						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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	1	2

DATES TO REMEMBER - SAVE THESE!!

March 6 - Tribute to George Strait - Gil Grand

March 20th - International Dinner (MARKOS KITCHEN)

April 24th - "The Barber of Seville" Opera

June 21st - Okotoks Dawgs

SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS

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