

# ROTARY NEWS

RCCSP Weekly Bulletin March 5th, 2026  
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**Welcome to the March 5th 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) : Sjoert Zuidhof, Shamira Wallace, Stan Cichon, President Gordon Weicker, Dr. Kirby Pentilla, Penny Leckie



**Presentation:**  
International Women's Day - Dr. Kirby Pentilla - Give to Gain

**March 19th**  
4-way speech competition

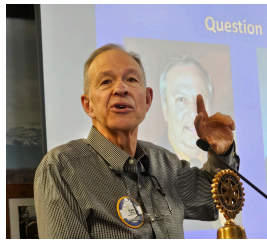
**Next Week:**  
March 12<sup>th</sup>  
St Patrick's Day

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

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

# Today's Meeting:

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



**Blake Pelham** was our Sergeant-at-Arms for this meeting. **Blake** shared a humorous cartoon about pilots mistaking an intercom light for a fuel warning, which led into a game asking members which pilots they would want flying if a plane lost engine power. After a few humorous options and fines, the correct answer referred to the famous 1983 Air Canada incident where pilots successfully glided a powerless jet about 80 km and landed safely at a former air force base in Gimli, Manitoba. Despite complications—including a race taking place on the runway—the pilots used a forward slip maneuver to land the aircraft safely, stopping just short of spectators.

**Stan Cichon** introduced our newest member, **Shamira Wallace**. Stan shared a bit about **Shamira's** upbringing, her family, and her career before inviting **Jim Bladon** to come forward and formally induct **Shamira** into the club.



**Past President Jim Bladon** said a few words before inducting **Shamira Wallace** into the Rotary Club of Calgary at Stampede Park

**Shamira** shared her deep gratitude to Canada and to the club for welcoming her.



**Penny Leckie** welcomed Rotarians and guests to the club's International Women's Day celebration, themed "Give to Gain." **Penny** thanked the granting committees and **Steve Mason** for compiling information highlighting the club's efforts to support women locally and globally.

**Penny** explained that the goal of the event is to inspire women and young girls to pursue their dreams by sharing successful female role models. **Penny** then introduced Dr. Kirby Pentilla, a performance horse veterinarian and co-owner of Burwash Equine Services. In addition to being a wife and mother of two, she also qualified as one of only twelve contestants for Ladies Barrel Racing at the Canadian Finals Rodeo. The audience was invited to welcome Dr. Pentilla as the guest speaker



Dr. Kirby Pentilla thanked the audience and shared her story about the power of intention and perseverance. Growing up on a small farm near Chase, British Columbia, she developed a passion for horses while helping a neighbor who was a professional barrel racer.

After deciding at age 15 to become a veterinarian, she worked hard in school, attended the University of Alberta for her pre-veterinary studies, and later completed her veterinary degree at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine. She eventually returned to the Calgary area and became the owner of Burwash Equine Services, building it into a modern equine hospital.

Although she paused her rodeo dreams while pursuing her career, she later returned to barrel racing and eventually qualified for the Canadian Finals Rodeo. She concluded by encouraging others to pursue their dreams, emphasizing that success comes from setting clear intentions, persevering through challenges, and taking small steps forward every day.



**Sjoert Zuidhof** thanked Dr. Kirby Pentilla for her inspiring presentation, noting that her success was not just luck but the result of creating opportunities through determination and hard work. **Sjoert** reflected on how veterinary medicine was once a male-dominated profession and praised Kirby's passion for horses and her contagious enthusiasm. **Sjoert** highlighted her determination, grit, and ability to dream, calling her a true role model for women and thanking her for sharing her story.

Click [HERE](#) for the International Women's Day Slide show

**President Gordon** finished off the meeting by announcing that we will be making a \$100 donation the CRCF in Dr. Kirby Pentilla name in recognition of her time with us today.

Click [HERE](#) for the photo gallery

# Announcements

## Chinese New Year Pictures



## Rotary Youth Alumni Scholarship Application Now on the website



Apply for Scholarship | Rotary Club of Calgary at Stampede Park

Introduction Rotary believes in investing in young leaders— not only while they participate in our programs, but long aft...

 [rotarycs.org](http://rotarycs.org)

# 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](mailto:pneuman647@gmail.com)    416-889-5673**

# Announcements

**Rotary**  
Club of Calgary  
Heritage Park



# 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

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FOR LARGE DONATIONS, PLEASE CONTACT [ROTARYARTSALE@GMAIL.COM](mailto:ROTARYARTSALE@GMAIL.COM)



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

SPONSORED BY



**CALGARY CO-OP**



**Rotary**

Club of Calgary  
at Stampede Park



**Closing:**

**Next week: March 12<sup>th</sup> - St Patrick's Day**

**The week following: March 19<sup>th</sup> - 4-way Speech Competition**

*Thought of the day!*

*A woman walks into a pharmacy one day and says to the pharmacist, "I'd like a poison that'll kill my husband but make it look like he died of natural causes.*

*The pharmacist says, "Ma'am, not only can I not do that for you, but I'm also going to have to call the police and report you."*

*The woman removes something from her pocket and hands it to him. He looks at it and discovers that it's a picture of her husband making love to the pharmacist's wife.*

*The pharmacist says, "Oh, you should have told me that you had a prescription."*

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

# Calendar

## MARCH

**March 5<sup>th</sup>** - International Women's Day

**March 12<sup>th</sup>** - St Patrick's Day

**March 19<sup>th</sup>** - 4-way speech competition

**March 26<sup>th</sup>** - Rotary Profile



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 2<sup>nd</sup>** - Grants & Endowments

**April 9<sup>th</sup>** - St Marys High School 4 way speeches

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

**April 23<sup>rd</sup>** - Alex Fitzowich

**April 30<sup>th</sup>** - New Members Celebration



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 20<sup>th</sup>** - International Dinner (MARKOS KITCHEN)

**April 24<sup>th</sup>** - "The Barber of Seville" Opera

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

## SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS

[Linkedin](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)