

**Rotary**



Club of Calgary  
at Stampede Park

# ROTARY NEWS

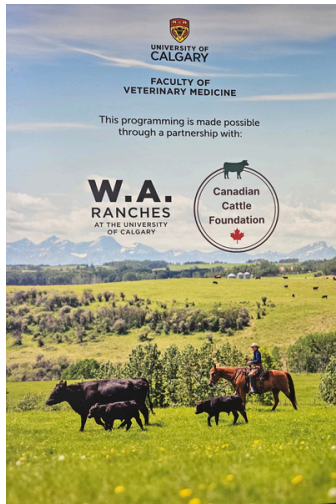
RCCSP Weekly Bulletin May 7, 2026  
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Videographer: Steve Mason



**Welcome to the May 7th 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.**



<b>Presentation: WA Ranches</b>	<b>May 21st Annual Stay in School Scholarship</b>	<b>Next Week: May 14<sup>th</sup> International Service Grants Committee</b>
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Click [HERE](#) to register for upcoming Meetings.

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

# Today's Meeting:

A group from the club attended the district conference in Red Deer, which was well attended by more than 450 Rotarians from across the district. The event featured a busy but well-organized agenda with engaging speakers throughout the weekend. The club received two awards: one for best public relations promoting Rotary in the community, and another for the top financial contribution to the polio eradication initiative. A special highlight was **John Fitzsimmons** receiving the Dr. Monty Utten Inspirational Award for his outstanding achievements in Rotary and the community, both locally and internationally. The award recognizes individuals whose actions inspire fellow Rotarians, and he was highly deserving of the honour.



**Bryan Walton** welcomed attendees with a humorous story about his ranch experience during field research at Willow Creek before introducing Dr. Ed Pajor.

Dr. Pajor is an internationally recognized expert in animal behaviour and welfare, with more than 300 scientific publications covering livestock, laboratory animals, and wildlife. He has contributed to Canada's farm animal codes of practice and advised organizations including A&W Canada, McDonald's Canada, and JBS Foods Canada.

He earned degrees from the University of Waterloo and McGill University and previously worked with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and Purdue University before joining the University of Calgary.

Dr. Ed Pajor welcomed attendees to W.A. Ranches at the University of Calgary and thanked supporters for their fundraising efforts toward student bursaries, noting the significant impact the financial support has on students.

He introduced several guests involved with the veterinary medicine program and W.A. Ranches, including fundraising and community engagement representatives, who spoke briefly about their roles in supporting students, outreach, events, and programming.

Julia shared her path to veterinary school, shaped by growing up in rural Alberta and early exposure to livestock and veterinary work. She studied zoology at the University of Calgary, completed veterinary technology training after an initial rejection from vet school, and later gained admission to the program's inaugural class.

She also acknowledged a scholarship from the Rotary Club of Lethbridge East and expressed appreciation for Rotary's focus on service and community.

Dr. Ed Pajor introduced W.A. Ranches at the University of Calgary as a 19,000-acre commercial black Angus cow-calf operation and teaching/research ranch donated to the University of Calgary in a major philanthropic gift. He explained that the ranch operates as a working agricultural enterprise with about 1,000 mother cows, 65 bulls, and roughly 1,500 acres of crops spread across multiple sites near Cochrane. The system includes calving areas, grazing leases, and seasonal movement of cattle to manage land health and productivity.

He highlighted its unique role as both a commercial ranch and an academic platform used by veterinary medicine, agriculture, engineering, and environmental science programs. Students participate in hands-on learning such as cattle handling, low-stress livestock management, and reproductive and health-related procedures.

Dr. Pajor also noted ongoing research projects involving livestock systems, wildlife interactions, soil and water monitoring, and sustainable practices like swath grazing and cover cropping. He emphasized future development plans for expanded teaching facilities that will integrate classrooms directly with live cattle environments.

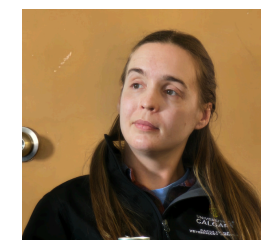
Dr. Vinicius Camargo presented research from W.A. Ranches at the University of Calgary on using GPS collars, sensors, and AI to monitor cattle behaviour and health in real time.

He showed how these tools can detect early lameness in bulls, predict reproductive success based on activity and social behaviour, and improve understanding of breeding performance. Overall, he highlighted how precision livestock technologies can improve animal welfare, productivity, and decision-making in beef production systems.

Rachel presented research on using wearable sensors and AI to remotely monitor cattle behaviour. She focused on newborn calves, aiming to detect early illness through changes in activity such as reduced movement, lying, and nursing. She noted the technology is effective for common behaviours but is still improving for more complex ones, like walking.

Her second project examined how fly infestations affect cattle behaviour and explored using camera systems to estimate fly numbers and guide pest control strategies.

Overall, her work highlights how technology can improve early disease detection, welfare monitoring, and herd management in beef production systems.



**Continue on the next page,,,,,,**

Emma's research focuses on mismothering in beef cattle, where some cows fail to care for or bond properly with their calves, leading to neglect or harm and causing welfare and economic issues. She identified four types of mismothering, from simple neglect to severe aggression. A possible risk factor is udder shape, which may make nursing and bonding more difficult. Common interventions like isolating pairs or assisting nursing showed no clear short-term difference in effectiveness, suggesting outcomes depend on context and time. A tested prevention strategy using windbreaks had little effect on cow behaviour, though calves often used them for group care. Overall, mismothering has multiple forms and likely requires different, targeted management strategies rather than one universal solution.



**Sjoert Zuidhof** thanks the speakers and audience, highlights the importance of data-driven decision-making in animal agriculture, and reflects on how real-world experience often matters more than theory in veterinary work. He also emphasizes the idea of "One Health", pointing out that humans and animals share common behavioural themes like competition and maternal care. He briefly references practical challenges in livestock management and acknowledges issues like misinterpreting animal deaths without careful evidence. Finally, he formally thanks the presenters again and announces a \$100 donation to the Calgary Rotary Club Foundation in appreciation of their participation.



Following the presentations, the group toured the W.A. Ranches to see the cattle operations and facilities in practice, connecting the research discussions to real-world ranch management.

Click [HERE](#) for the photo gallery

## Announcements

Do You Like Giving Wine Away?  
OK – A Rephrase.

Do You Like Giving Wine Away for 3 Great Causes?

The Rotary Partners are excited to initiate a new way to help raise funds for the Kids At Heart (KAH) Golf Classic in support of three great community charities: Firefighters Burn Treatment Society, CP Kids & Families, and Calgary Counselling Centre. The Partners volunteer extensively on tournament day, but this is a way Partners can contribute financially – and it's so fun!

Partners have been invited to donate a bottle of wine that will be wrapped and sold at the KAH Leader Event on May 21. It's not a raffle. It's not an auction. It's the good old-fashioned "grab bag" for \$25, and inside will be a lovely bottle of wine.

The Partners are organizing this: collecting wine, wrapping, decorating, and selling each wrapped bottle for \$25. This is an important evening for KAH, and Partners would like to contribute. As a new fundraiser, the sales are matched 100% by a donor, and all proceeds go directly to the charities.

If you have a spouse in Partners, please don't worry about donating – Partners are not trying to "double dip" ☐. But if you don't, we didn't want to leave you out if you'd like to participate. You can bring wine to a Thursday meeting, or I can pick it up from you. For the next 2 Thursdays, please give Your wine to **Sharyl Madigan**.

Some of you may remember my "ungraceful" setup of a wine tree at a Rotary Stay in School auction. My strong metal tree collapsed. Only a few bottles were lost after several of us performed Olympic-worthy gymnastics to avoid every bottle hitting the ground. It was a scene! Trust me, this is a MUCH safer, more affordable, and more enjoyable way to "get involved with wine".

Thank you for reading about this Rotary Partner project!

**Corinne Wilkinson**

# Rotary



Club of Calgary  
at Stampede Park

Wonderful Fun and Fellowship for All to Enjoy!

# 2026 Invermere Golf & Social Weekend

## June 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>

At the Newly Renovated Copper Point Golf Club

Save the date and start planning now!

### Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup>

#### Golf on The Point

9 Holes

**\$65** Including Cart

**Dinner Welcome Cocktail Party  
Reception 6:00 PM**

Beef burger with choice of  
salad or fries **\$28**

or

Chicken burger with choice of  
salad or fries **\$28**

### Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup>

#### Golf on The Ridge

18 Holes

**\$100** Including Cart

*Afternoon shopping and sightseeing option  
for those not golfing is a big hit for your  
consideration.*

**Evening Dinner Reception  
6:00 PM**

3 Course Plated Dinner with choice of  
Chicken, Fish, or Steak **\$40-48**

### Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>

#### Hosted Brunch at Austin's Cabin

With all the trimmings.  
Fresh food, coffee, champagne  
and orange juice, etc.

# PRESIDENT GORD'S GALA

*Dinner and Concert with Soprano Robyn Hauck*



MAY 28 | 6:15 PM - 10:00PM  
THE WAINWRIGHT HOTEL AT HERITAGE PARK  
1900 HERITAGE DRIVE SW  
COCKTAIL OR BUSINESS ATTIRE

*Price: \$95 per person*

# KinFest

## Music Festival

MILLARVILLE RACE TRACK ISLAND CAMPGROUND

June 19-21st 2026

CELEBRATING SUMMER SOLSTICE

15 BANDS!  
CAMPING,  
FOOD AND  
MORE!

FATHER'S DAY  
FREE PANCAKE  
BREAKFAST  
LIVE MUSIC!

A COMMUNITY FUNDRAISER HOSTED BY:  
KINSMEN CLUB OF CALGARY



SCAN ME!



GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY AT:  
[CALGARYKINSMEN.CA](http://CALGARYKINSMEN.CA)

# Announcements

## **Ultimate Mountain Getaway Raffle** **WIN THE ULTIMATE ROCKY MOUNTAIN ESCAPE**

The Experience

Morning walks along the river. Open roads through the mountains. Iconic bike rides through breathtaking landscapes. Evenings in a quiet alpine setting. This isn't just a getaway — it's a story waiting to be lived.

### **What You Win**

- ✓ One-week stay in a private Canmore home
- ✓ Two-week use of a Lexus GX 550
- ✓ Unforgettable access to the Canadian Rockies

♥ In Support Of

Rotary Kids at Heart

Every ticket purchased helps support children and families in our community.



### **Get Your Tickets**

**One ticket \$50.00**

**Three Tickets for \$100**

**Draw May 21, 2026 7:30 pm**

### **Your Private Canmore Retreat**

Tucked into the trees on a sunny southwest corner lot, this warm and inviting South Canmore home captures the essence of mountain living. Thoughtfully renovated to offer modern comfort while preserving its alpine character, the three-bedroom, three-bathroom home features open beam ceilings and a timeless, rustic ambiance. Expansive outdoor spaces — including a wraparound main floor deck and two private upper balconies — invite you to fully embrace the beauty of the surroundings. Ideally located, this home offers immediate access to Canmore's renowned trail system, parks, and pathways, and is just a short stroll to Main Street and the Bow River. From local cafés and restaurants to galleries, festivals, and mountain adventures — everything that makes Canmore special is right at your doorstep.

### **Your Luxury Driving Experience**

Experience the all-new 2026 Lexus GX 550. One of the most in-demand luxury SUVs today, the GX 550 has quickly become one of the hardest vehicles to acquire, with waitlists stretching years — making this a truly rare opportunity. Boldly redesigned, it combines refined luxury with true capability. Whether cruising through Canmore or exploring the winding roads of Banff and Kananaskis, every drive becomes part of the experience. 🏔️ Your Two-Week

### **Rocky Mountain Escape**

This exclusive package brings together the best of relaxation and adventure. Spend one week unwinding in your private South Canmore retreat — enjoying peaceful mornings by the Bow River, scenic walks, and the charm of downtown just steps away. Then, take full advantage of your second week behind the wheel of the GX 550, exploring some of the most breathtaking landscapes in the world — from Banff to Lake Louise and beyond. License #777211

### **Full Details and ticket purchases at:**

[Ultimate Rocky Mountain Escape | Rafflebox DRIVE FOR FIVE](#)

Double the Impact. Double the Healing. Double the Hope.  
The DRIVE FOR FIVE continues with this new raffle,

**A generous anonymous community leader will MATCH every NEW and INCREASED sponsorship dollar raised up to \$100,000.**

That means when we push beyond last year's total, your support doesn't just help — it doubles.

### **Your Sponsorship Makes Possible:**

Life-changing youth mental health counselling.  
Recovery and healing for young burn survivors.  
Mobility programs that transform a child's daily life.

### **This is not a hard ask. It is a heartfelt invitation.**

An invitation to stand with us. To lead with purpose. To demonstrate that when business leaders lead with heart, communities grow stronger.

In our **Drive for Five**, every new dollar carries twice the impact. Twice the healing. Twice the hope. Let's drive this across the finish line — together. With your sponsorship. With your donation. With your leadership.

Sponsorship Packages information is available on the website

**[Rotary Club of Calgary at Stampede Park – Event Ordering Page](#)**

Let's Drive for Five — and make it count.

**Contact: Sjoert Zuidhof, Chair: Sharyl Madigan, Co-Chair: Kim Hickson, Sponsorship**

**Grayce** will be away from May 14<sup>th</sup> to May 19<sup>th</sup>.  
For urgent matters, please contact **Gail Williams.**

**[gailwi45@telus.net](mailto:gailwi45@telus.net)**

**403-270-2763**



**Closing:**

**Next week: May 14<sup>th</sup> - International Service Grants Committee**

**The week following: May 21st - Annual Stay in School Scholarship**

*Thought of the day!*

*The greatest compliment you ever receive from another person is that you made a positive impact on their life.*

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

**SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS**

[Facebook](#)

[Linkedin](#)

[Instagram](#)

# Calendar

## MAY

**May 7<sup>th</sup>** - WA Ranches **(Off-Site)**

**May 14<sup>th</sup>** - International Service Grants Committee

**May 21<sup>st</sup>** - Annual Stay in School Scholarship

**May 28<sup>th</sup>** - Presidents' Social **(Off-site)**



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
26	27	28	29	30	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	5	6

## JUNE

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

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

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

**June 25<sup>th</sup>** - Deborah Yedlin



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

## DATES TO REMEMBER - SAVE THESE!!

**April 8<sup>th</sup>** - International dinner

**April 19<sup>th</sup>** - Feed The Hungry

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

**May 8<sup>th</sup>** - International Dinner

**May 1,2 3** - District Conference

**May 11<sup>th</sup>** - Fireside

**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