Rotary Club of Calgary at Stampede Park

ROTARY NEWS

RCCSP Weekly Bulletin November 19th, 2026
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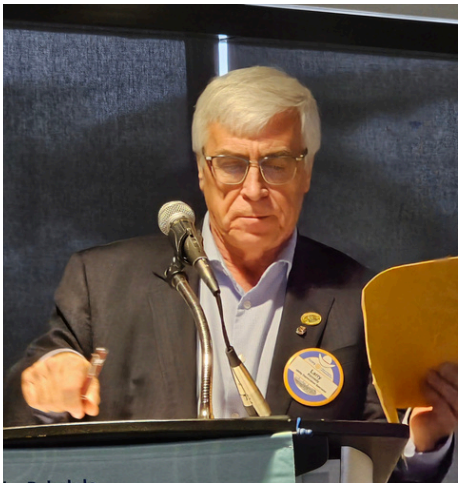


Welcome to the November 19th meeting of the Rotary Club of Calgary at Stampede Park. My name is Larry Kennedy, and I am honoured to be your President for 2026/2027.

Please join me in the singing of 0 Canada and Rotary Grace.

Head Table (L-R) : Sandy Dougall, Michael Ruttan, Gordon Weicker, Jim Gibson, Jim Burns, Larry Kennedy





Presentation: Rotary Foundation and CRCF	December 3rd Christmas Party	Next Week: November 26th Kim Moody

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...







Kathy Demorest came up to thank **Jim Burns** and Burnswest for sponsoring our new member rosters for this year!!

Dale Struksnes reminded us of the deadline for the Mario Stella Endowment Fund and the Brawn family Endowment. The Deadline is November 30th 2026

Ken Farn was recognized as an esteemed member of the PolioPlus Society. In recognition of his contributions, he received a Certificate of Achievement along with two commemorative pins. Congratulations were extended to **Ken** on this accomplishment.



César Angulo shared his personal and professional journey, highlighting his belief that success comes from being prepared, pursuing opportunities, and never giving up.
Originally from Mexico, **César** achieved several accomplishments at a young age, including playing basketball for Mexico's national team and studying in Wisconsin as an exchange student, where he first experienced Rotary.
After earning a degree in finance administration and an MBA from the University of Arizona, **César** worked with an international consulting firm, improving business processes across 10 Latin American countries. He later moved to Calgary with his wife, Paola, and their three children,
Today, **César** operates a digital marketing company and two consulting firms focused on AI development and strengthening business connections between Mexico and Canada. He expressed his gratitude for the life his family has built in Calgary and for the opportunity to be part of Rotary.



Jim Burns introduced **Jim Gibson** as the club's newest member, sharing highlights of his personal and professional life. Originally from Winnipeg, **Jim** was raised in Calgary and spent 33 years working in education with the Calgary Board of Education as a teacher, assistant principal, and principal before retiring in 2006.
In 2007, **Jim** became the founding principal of a Canadian international school in Singapore. Over his 10 years there, the school grew from 57 to 675 students.
Jim and his wife, Sharon, have been married for 48 years and have two sons and three grandchildren. His interests include gardening, fitness, golf, cycling, cross-country skiing, and travelling. **Jim** was warmly welcomed as the club's newest member.





Past President Gordon Weicker officially welcomed **Jim Gibson** into the Rotary Club of Calgary at Stampede Park, sharing his personal connection and nearly 30-year friendship with **Jim** and Sharon.
Gordon highlighted Rotary's five avenues of service: club, vocational, community, international, and youth service, emphasizing the importance of community involvement, fellowship, integrity, and service above self.
Jim was encouraged to get involved in club activities and committees, support community projects, and participate in the club's major fundraiser, Dream Home ticket sales. **Gordon** also reminded him that while volunteering is rewarding, it is important to recognize personal limits and learn when to say no.
Gordon shared stories of their long-standing friendship, including their years as neighbours and their families' connections through education and travel. He concluded by welcoming **Jim** to the club and wishing him a rewarding Rotary experience filled with meaningful friendships and opportunities to make a difference.

Jim Gibson shared his appreciation for the warm welcome he received throughout his visits to the Rotary Club of Calgary at Stampede Park. He explained that his interest in joining Rotary began after reconnecting with Past President **Gordon Weicker**, who invited him to attend a Thursday luncheon as his guest. Following that visit, **Jim Smith** quickly provided him with an application to join.
Jim described becoming a Rotarian as a meaningful gift, recalling how **Jim Burns** had spent two and a half hours with him sharing stories and getting to know one another. He expressed gratitude for the kindness and fellowship shown by members during his guest visits and graciously accepted the opportunity to become part of the club. He closed by promising to do his best to live up to the expectations and values of Rotary.



Sergeant-at-Arms Evan Strong shared several pieces of good news and lighthearted remarks with the club. Members were invited to share their own good news, followed by a few personal updates.
Evan also quizzed members on recent events and Grey Cup trivia, including the Calgary Stampeders championship history, the team with the most Grey Cup wins, and the Canadian Snowbirds final flight of the season. A few friendly fines were collected, including for missing the club's recent Mexican dinner and for the guest speaker's attendance. The segment wrapped up with plenty of laughter and good humour.



President Larry Kennedy shared that the club's Board of Directors approved the annual budgets last week, and directors will be reaching out to members with their respective allocations.

Larry also provided an update on the recent Rotary Remembers meeting, which welcomed more than 250 attendees and raised approximately $11,000. He described the event as a tremendous success and a wonderful gathering for the Rotary community.

Michael Ruttan provided an overview of The Rotary Foundation (TRF), highlighting its history, purpose, and impact on communities around the world. Established in 1917, the Foundation now supports projects in more than 160 countries, focusing on areas such as peacebuilding, disease prevention, clean water, education, and environmental protection.
Michael explained how donations are distributed through grants to support local and international projects, noting that contributions to PolioPlus are matched two-to-one by the Gates Foundation.



He also highlighted the club's generous history of giving, with approximately $2.7 million contributed to The Rotary Foundation over the years. Last year alone, the club donated approximately $60,000 and has recognized 499 individuals as Paul Harris Fellows.
Michael encouraged members to consider regular contributions, reminding them that even modest donations can make a meaningful difference. He closed by inviting one more member to become a Paul Harris Fellow, bringing the club's total to 500.

Sandy Dougall provided an overview of the Calgary Rotary Clubs Foundation (CRCF), explaining its history, purpose, and the lasting impact of members' contributions. Established in 1972, the Foundation has grown to approximately $70 million, including a significant $22 million estate donation in 2007.



Sandy explained how the Foundation distributes funds to local Rotary clubs and supports community projects, scholarships, and charitable initiatives. He emphasized that all CRCF funds remain in the local community and are separate from the club's operating funds.

He also highlighted the club's impressive contributions, noting that in the past year the club and its Community Service Fund made 79 donations totalling more than $1.45 million to organizations throughout the community. **Sandy** concluded by recognizing the members whose generosity and dedication have helped build this lasting legacy and encouraged members to consider future contributions.

President Larry Kennedy closed the meeting

Click HERE for the photo gallery

Announcements

Over the past few years the RCCSP has provided two $2,500 awards at the College, supporting students within the School of Health and Wellness and the School of Community Studies in Justice Studies. The awards are annually renewed to leverage matching capabilities with Bow Valley's Giving Day! This means we have four awards, instead of two to support students.





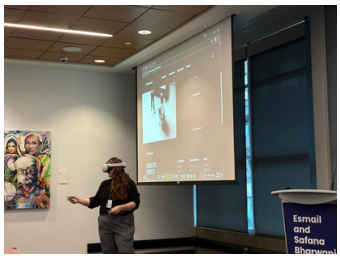












Dream Home Winners!!!!











YOU ARE INVITED TO

OLD TIME CHRISTMAS

December 3 at 11am

Wainwright Hotel at Heritage Park



$75 per person

Bring your partner, spouse or a guest
Lunch is turkey with all the fixings
Open bar

Register at rotarystampedepark.com

Please bring warm clothing items for Inn from the Cold, non-perishable food items for the Calgary Food Bank or children's toys for The Salvation Army



Rotary
Club of Calgary
at Stampede Park

Closing:

Next week: November 26th - Kim Moody

The week following: December 3rd - Christmas Party

Rotary is a place where strangers quickly become friends, and friends become teammates in service. For all you guys do, thank you for your service.

Social Media Links

Facebook Linkedin Instagram

Calendar

NOVEMBER

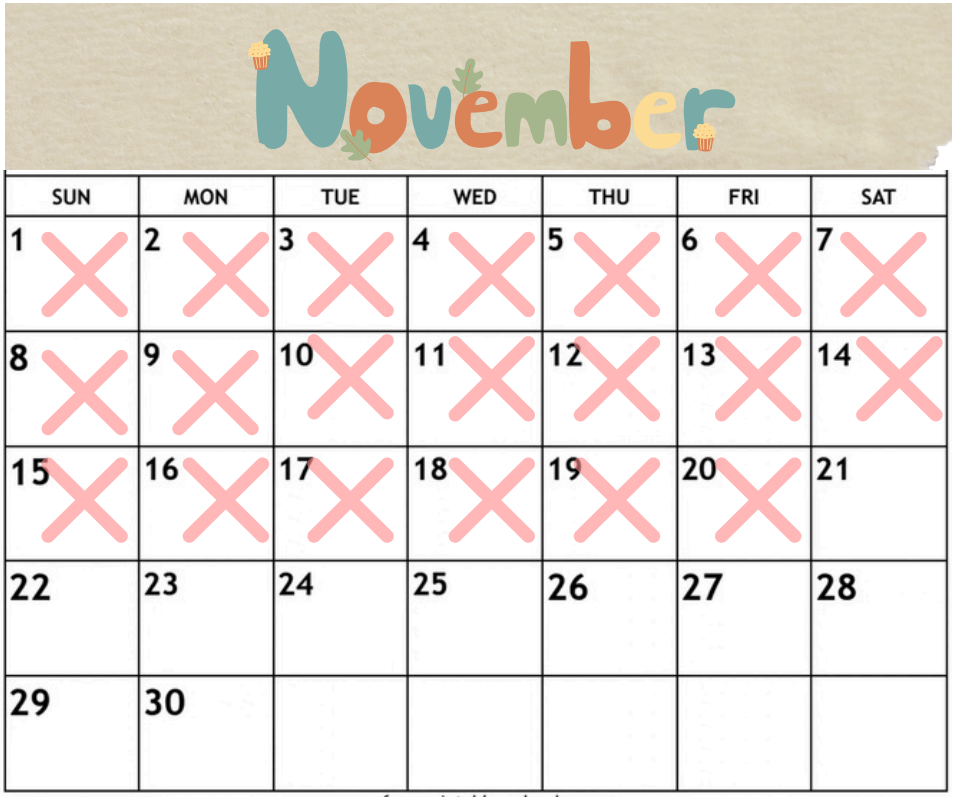
~~**November 5th** - Ryan Copithorne~~

~~**November 11th** - Rotary Remembers~~

~~**November 12th** - No Meeting~~

~~**November 19th** - Rotary Foundation and CRCF~~

November 26th - Kim Moody



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					

DECEMBER

December 3rd - Christmas Party

December 10th - Jim Burns

December 17th - Christmas Social/St. Mary's Choir

December 24th - No Meeting

December 31st - No Meeting



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 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26
27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve		

DATES TO REMEMBER

~~**October 24th** - Oktoberfest at the Austrian Canadian Club~~

~~**October 29th** - Halloween Lunch at Rotary House~~

~~**November 6th** - International dinner~~

~~**November 11th** - Rotary Remembers at Carriage House~~

December 3rd - Club "Old Tyme Christmas" party at Heritage Park

December 17th - Club Social - Grandstand

January 10th - Brunch at Stage West