

ROTARY NEWS

RCCSP Weekly Bulletin November 20th, 2025
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Photography: Glen Godlonton
Videographer: Steve Mason
Singer: Vitaliia Vash



Welcome to the November 20th 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) : John Shield, Russ Kane, Bob Brawn, President Gordon Weicker, Dr. Kyle Burks, Sherry Austin



**Presentation:
Dr. Kyle Burks President
& CEO, Wilder Institute /
Calgary Zoo**

**December 4th
Christmas Party
with Partners**

**Next Thursday
November 27th
Alan Tennant**

Click [HERE](#) to register for the December 4th Christmas Party.

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

Today's Meeting: David Field introduced our guests followed by the welcome song.



Neill Magee asked our guest speaker, Dr. Kyle Burks to pull the \$195 50/50 draw. Mel Gibson had the winning ticket!!!

Next week is Hugh Delaney's 95th Birthday!!! Vitalia Vash led the club in the singing of happy birthday!



Steve Mason updated us on the Clevel Awards. The nominations are now open. The nomination forms can be found on our club website ([Click HERE](#)). All nominations must be submitted to Steve by December 3rd!

Wendy Giuffre spoke on the upcoming Business Club meeting on December 8th . This is a great opportunity for network so bring family, friends, and anyone who would be interested in Rotary or talking business. More under [Announcements](#).



Christmas Party Sjoert Zuidhof updated us on the December 4th Christmas Party with the Partners.



We will be supporting the Food Bank, Salvation Army, and In From The Cold with this event. If you have troubles getting to the Sliver Springs Golf and Country Club please contact Sjoert and he will help find you transportation to and from the event. Please register for this event ASAP!!!

Sjoert also told us about the amazing video Steve Mason made of our Kids at Heart 2025 Golf Tournament. The video can be found on the Kids at Heart website linked [HERE](#). Sjoert asks us to think about sponsors for the 2026 Golf Tournament, please contact Sjoert Zuidhof or Sharyl Madigan with information regarding potential sponsors.

ROTARY HOUSE update



Murray Flegel reported on the New Rotary House The goal is to raise \$750,000, we are currently at \$530,000 (27% remaining) if you donate \$1000 you get your name on a plaque as a builder. The deadline for pledges is December 30th.

Carolyn Ferguson shared a little bit about the Rotary Foundation. The endowment goals was \$2,025,000,000, that goal was not only achieved but surpassed with a total of \$2,078,000,000. That is a split goal. So what that means is they've got about 950 million in assets that are helping to do the great things we need to do today.



Stampede Lotteries



Russ Kane, Chair of the Stampede Lotteries, thanked Rotary for its long-standing partnership and praised the Dream Home project as one of the most successful and consistent fundraising initiatives in the entire Rotary world. He highlighted how the Dream Home draws visitors, inspires community involvement, and fuels significant charitable impact year after year. Russ also announced that future Stampedes will feature the Dream Home in a more central location to increase visibility and engagement.

Russ asked President Gordon Weicker and John Shield to come up and be presented with a cheque for \$750,444!!!! John Shield thanked everyone who volunteered and asked the Dream Home Committee to stand and be recognized for all there hard work!

Continue on next page.....

Tracey Zehl came up to say a few words on behalf of the Calgary Stampede. Tracey Expressed gratitude for Rotary's dedication and community impact and celebrated the Dream Home program's ability to fuel community investment 365 days a year.



ON TO THE MAIN PROGRAM....



Sherry Austin introduced guest speaker Dr. Kyle Burks, highlighting his extensive background in animal behavior research and leadership roles at top institutions including the Walt Disney Company, the Audubon Nature Institute, and several major zoos. She described him as a strong business leader, a dedicated conservationist, and someone who brings both scientific expertise and passion to his role as President & CEO of the Wilder Institute/Calgary Zoo.

Dr. Kyle Burks, President & CEO of the Wilder Institute/Calgary Zoo, spoke about the Zoo's evolution into a modern conservation organization and why Calgary's facility is one of the strongest in North America. With a background in animal behavior research and leadership roles at major zoos and Disney, he emphasized that the Zoo's mission goes far beyond exhibiting animals—its goal is to connect people emotionally with wildlife so they are inspired to protect it.



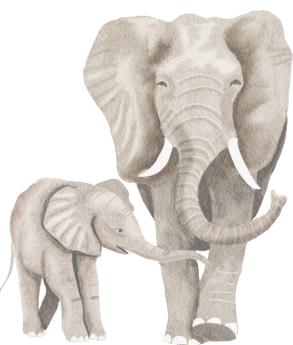
He highlighted Calgary's global reputation for exceptional animal welfare, naturalistic habitats, and strong conservation science, noting achievements like the "Ban the Bars" transformation, Penguin Plunge, and the new Wild Canada habitat. Dr. Burks also underscored the importance of community involvement, explaining how everyday decisions—such as choosing local, sustainable food—directly support wildlife and ecosystems. He closed by expressing enthusiasm for Calgary's passionate community and the Zoo's potential to lead nationally and internationally in conservation, education, and immersive guest experiences.



Bob Brawn expressed warm appreciation to Dr. Kyle Burks, welcoming him to Calgary and praising his inspiring presentation about the Wilder Institute/Calgary Zoo. He acknowledged the strong legacy he is building upon and emphasized their enthusiasm for partnering with him in future conservation efforts.

President Gordon thanked Dr. Burks, the Calgary Stampede Lotteries team, and Russ Kane for their contributions and the generous cheque supporting Rotary charities. He also thanked the House Committee and Stampede staff for quickly accommodating the meeting setup.

Click [HERE](#) for the photo gallery



Announcements

Community Kitchen Volunteers

Rotary and Community Kitchens in (NE Calgary) are looking for volunteers for December 2nd from 1PM to 4PM.

This three-hour shift requires a volunteer to be on their feet three hours and to fill food hampers. Over the years our rotary club has contributed 3-5 volunteers per shift to this charity. Your help will be greatly appreciated. If you can make it, please respond to rjakubec@shaw.ca and I will put your name on the list. Thanks,
Rick Jakubec

Business Club



ROTARY CLUB OF CALGARY AT STAMPEDE PARK
BUSINESS CLUB MEETING

The Ammonite & Ammolite Business Networking & Refreshments to follow **KORITE**

🕒 6:00 to 8:00pm **DEC 8**

Join us at: Unit 167, 3953 112 ave SE

Get your \$20 tickets by Dec 4th at: rotarystampedepark.com



Amarjeet Grewal will be discussing the Ammonite and Ammolite business. We'll hear **Amarjeet's** story, get a peak at the showroom (Christmas is coming!) and enjoy networking time along with some snacks and refreshments.

On Friday, November 14th, Dream Home Committee members **Stacey (Kathy) Johnson, Brad Brewster, and Troy Fredeen** attended the **60th Anniversary Celebration of Calgary Meals on Wheels**. As one of their proud Community Partners, we were honoured to join in marking this milestone. For the past **15 years**, Meals on Wheels has generously provided meal packages for our Dream Home volunteers, helping keep our team energized through Stampede. We're grateful for our long-standing relationship with their wonderful staff—**Karen, Priscilla and Chantel**—and look forward to many more years of partnership.

In the Past Meals on Wheels has been a recipient of our grants and most recently We gave them \$10,500 for a new shrink wrap machine.

In 2025 as of Oct 1st Meals on Wheels has:
4,720 students fed each month in partnership with 53 Schools, ensuring children have the energy to learn and grow.
2,627 unique clients fed through their Home Delivery Program, supporting independence and wellbeing for those in need.
6,635 community members fed through their Community Program, strengthening connection and access across Calgary.
In total, they provided 971,076 nutritious, safe, and affordable meals, each one representing a moment of care, dignity, and hope for someone in the community.



Announcements

Stampede Designated Fund

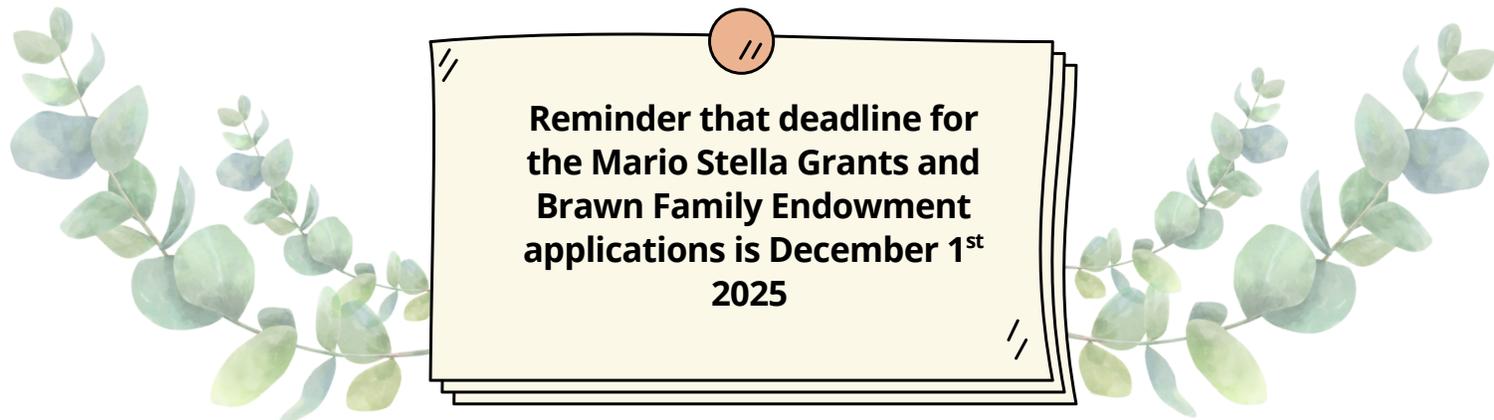
Board Resolution unanimously recommended by the Legacy and Stampede Liaison Committees and approved unanimously by the Board of Directors:

In recognition of the long-term relationship and collaborative partnership the Rotary Club of Calgary at Stampede Park has shared with the Calgary Stampede, the Board resolves to establish a designated fund in the Rotary Club of Calgary at Stampede Park Community Service Fund, a registered charity. The purpose of the Designated Fund is to accumulate receipts from donors, bearing the notation "Stampede Designated Fund", with the goal of accumulating \$250,000 by December 31, 2025. Once \$250,000 has been accumulated, the balance in the "Stampede Designated Fund" will be donated to The Calgary Stampede Foundation and the "Stampede Designated Fund" will be closed.

STAMPEDE DESIGNATED FUND (FOR NEW ROTARY HOUSE DONATIONS)

To conclude December 30, 2025

- Tax receipts will be issued by our Club.
- Our Club will establish a Donor Wall in our new Rotary House to recognize donors.
- CanadaHelps website: <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/Rotary-club-of-Calgary-at-Stampede-Park-community-service-fund/campaign/rotary-house-designated-fund/>
- E-transfers need to be sent to Donations@rotarycs.org. Notation must be made: To be applied to the Stampede Designated Fund.
- Cheques should be made payable to Rotary Club of Calgary at Stampede Park. They should bear the notation, for "Stampede Designated Fund"



Reminder that deadline for
the Mario Stella Grants and
Brawn Family Endowment
applications is December 1st
2025

NEW MEMBER PROPOSAL

Terry White has been proposed for active membership in the Rotary Club of Calgary at Stampede Park, as sponsored by **Stan Cichon** and seconded by **Terry Allen**, with a proposed classification of University President.

If any Member objects to **Terry White** 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 **November 22nd**.

Rotary

Club of Calgary
at Stampede Park



Rotary Foundation Month

Doing Good in the World – Locally and Globally



The Rotary Foundation
La Fondation Rotary du
Canada

The Rotary Foundation (TRF) (Canada)

Mission: To enable Rotarians to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through the improvement of health, the support of education, and the alleviation of poverty.

The Rotary Foundation (TRF) is the charitable arm of Rotary International and the primary provider of funds to further Rotary's mission. Founded more than 100 years ago, TRF has invested over \$4 billion in sustainable, life-changing projects. Together, we are winning the fight against polio! TRF has also raised more than \$75 million for humanitarian aid in Ukraine.

The Rotary Foundation is funded by:

- Annual Fund – main source of club and district grants
- PolioPlus Fund – fighting to eradicate polio worldwide
- World Fund and Global Grants which have received approval from RI

TRF supports both international and local projects. Each year our club receives \$4,000 for scholarships, \$4,000 for youth programs, and has funded many projects through District Grants. Through Global Grant leveraging, our contributions multiply many times over.

☑ Recognition: All donations receive a Canadian tax receipt and count toward Paul Harris Fellow awards.

How to Donate to The Rotary Foundation (TRF):

Go to <https://www.trfcanada.org/> and then click on **Ways to Give**

- **Donate Online:** By credit Card. Link in this section will take you to TRF donation page. Various Funds are explained and if unsure as to your choice select Annual Fund
- **Donate by Cheque:** Payable to The Rotary Foundation (Canada). Either download form and mail it or simply drop cheque off at the front desk during November.
- **Donate Public Securities:** Download the information sheet provided. Contributing appreciated securities to The Rotary Foundation (Canada) will benefit you in two ways:
 - You may avoid paying capital gains taxes
 - You will receive a charitable tax deduction
- **For Help :** call 1-866-976-8279. Or talk to Foundations Committee members who will be at the front desk throughout November to assist you.



Calgary Rotary Clubs Foundation (CRCF)

Established in 1972, CRCF is unique to Calgary. It manages the funds donated by members of the 12 Calgary Rotary Clubs. Funds are invested professionally, and each year 5% of the average balances are distributed back to the clubs. CRCF operates with minimal overhead, apart from investment management fees. Three of our members sit on the Board.

At February 2025, CRCF managed \$68.3 million, with \$12.4 million being held for our club. Your Donations go to the General Fund or can be directed to the following designated funds.

- Stella Fund - for Special Needs Transportation.
- Brawn Family Fund - for Mental Health
- Austin Fund - for Animal Welfare
- ASB Fund- for Education

Last Year the Club donated over \$500,000 of CRCF funds to various local community organizations. Some of the notable ones include.

- Hospice Calgary \$110,000
- Alex Community Health Centers \$52,850
- Foothills Hospice \$27,950
- And from Stella Designated funds - Step by Step Intervention Society \$74,555.

In June 2025 we received \$377,000 and the expected distribution in June 2026 is \$541,000

How to Donate to CRCF:

- **Online:** Visit <https://www.calgaryrotaryfoundation.ca/contribute> ☑ Contribute online. Add Club name & designation if desired (Stella, Brawn, Austin, or ASB).
- **By Cheque:** Payable to CRCF. Drop at the front desk in November, or mail to PO Box 34040, Westbrook PO, Calgary T3C 3W2.
- **E-Transfer:** Send to calgaryrotaryclubsfoundation@gmail.com. Include your address (for tax receipt), Club name and any fund designation.
- **Donate Public Securities:** Visit <https://www.calgaryrotaryfoundation.ca/contribute> ☑ Download the Transfer of Securities Form
- Ask any Committee member for help. We will be at front desk during November.

🙏 **Thank You for Your Ongoing Support**

Together, through TRF and CRCF, we make a difference — locally and globally.



Closing:

Next week: November 27th - Alan Tennant

The week following: December 4th - Christmas Party with Partners

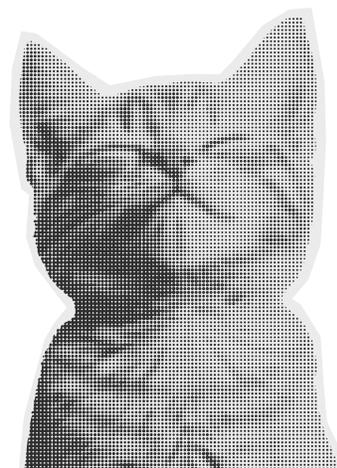
Closing words:

There's a Japanese proverb that says:

"If you feel like you're losing everything,
remember that tress lose their leaves every year,
yet they still stand tall and wait for better days to come"

Please think about that as we

"Unite for Good"



Calendar

NOVEMBER

- November 6th** - Cheryl Bernard
- November 11th** - Rotary Remembers
- November 13th** - No Meeting
- November 20th** - Kyle Burks
- November 27th** - Alan Tennant



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DECEMBER

- December 4th** - Christmas Party at Silver Springs
- December 11th** - TBD
- December 18th** - Christmas Social
- December 25th** - Christmas Day (no meeting)



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DATES TO REMEMBER - SAVE THESE!!

- November 7th** - Peruvian Dinner
- November 14th** - Candlelight Theatre
- November 22nd** - A Winter's Night
- December 4th** - Club Christmas Party at Silver Springs Golf Club
- December 12th** - Cheese Fondue at City and Country Winery