

Rotary

Club of Calgary
at Stampede Park



ROTARY NEWS

RCCSP Weekly Bulletin October 15th, 2026
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Welcome to the October 15th meeting of the Rotary Club of Calgary at Stampede Park. My name is Jim Hutchens, and I am honoured to be your President Elect for 2027/2028.

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

Head Table (L-R) : Penny Leckie, Frances Schwartz, Kim Hickson, Brad Brewster, Stan Cichon, Dr. Debbie Thompson, Jim Hutchens



Presentation:
Dr. Debbie Thompson,
President and CEO of
Olds College

October 29th
Halloween

Next Week:
October 22nd
Field of the Crosses

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...

Pat Neuman announced that our Halloween meeting will take place on October 29th! 🎃👻 Come dressed in your Halloween costume for a chance to win prizes for the best costumes! We'll also have a Halloween trivia contest with prizes, plus goodies for everyone!



Gordon Weicker, Murray Flegel and Sherry Austin gave us an update on the new Rotary House.

New exterior signage identifying Rotary House is currently in production. Plans for the interior include a Rotary recognition wall featuring Paul Harris Fellows and CRCF supporters, along with monitors for displaying changing content. The committee also hopes to incorporate logs from the former Rotary House and display donor names to preserve the club's history. An illuminated metal Rotary wheel is being designed for the exterior, as a canopy is no longer permitted. Construction continues to experience delays due to contractor availability, scheduling, and permitting issues, but work is progressing. For more information please watch the meeting video on page 1.



Past President Gordon Weicker talked to us about the Election process. More information on the following pages.



Kim Hickson introduced **Frances Schwartz** as a new member of the Rotary Club of Calgary at Stampede Park. **Frances** is the Executive Director of Foothills Country Hospice and brings extensive leadership experience in nonprofit and government organizations across Ontario, British Columbia, and Alberta. She has been a Rotarian in several communities, including Calgary, and is passionate about community service. **Kim** warmly welcomed **Frances** and expressed excitement about the friendships, service opportunities, and contributions she will bring to the club.



Penny Leckie welcomed **Frances Schwartz** to the Rotary Club of Calgary at Stampede Park, highlighting the club's support for Foothills Country Hospice. She emphasized Rotary's values of fellowship and service above self, encouraging Frances to participate in club activities, share her nonprofit leadership experience, and build lasting friendships.



Frances Schwartz expressed her excitement about rejoining the Rotary family, sharing that she missed being a Rotarian and felt welcomed by every club she had been part of. After visiting and getting to know the club, she knew Rotary Club of Calgary at Stampede Park was the right fit for her.



Stan Cichon introduced Dr. Debbie Thompson, President and CEO of Olds College of Agriculture and Technology. Raised in Sundre, Alberta, Debbie has deep roots in Central Alberta, where she and her husband have raised their three children. She brings more than 20 years of experience in education, having worked as a teacher, curriculum coordinator, vice-principal, and principal before moving into post-secondary leadership.

Since joining Olds College in 2014, she has held several executive positions, including Dean of Animal Sciences and Horticulture and Vice-President of Academic and Student Experience, before becoming president and CEO in May 2025. Her leadership emphasizes teamwork, agricultural education, student success, and strong partnerships with the community and industry.



Continue on next page.....

Dr. Debbie Thompson, President and CEO of Olds College of Agriculture and Technology, shared the college's mission of advancing agriculture for a better world. Founded in 1913, the college focuses on hands-on education, applied research, workforce training, and agricultural innovation. All programs offer work-integrated learning opportunities, and 93% of graduates find employment within six months.

She highlighted the college's 3,300-acre Smart Farm, which supports agricultural research, precision farming, robotics, and emerging technologies. She also emphasized partnerships with the Calgary Stampede, Calgary Economic Development, the University of Calgary, and the Rotary Club of Calgary at Stampede Park. The Rotary Club has committed \$10,500 over three years toward awards for agriculture management students focused on food sustainability.

Dr. Thompson discussed agriculture's significant economic contribution to Canada and Alberta, stressing the importance of food security, skilled workers, and sustainable practices. She also highlighted a \$70-million campus training hub expansion, supported by the Government of Alberta, to strengthen education, research, and industry collaboration. She concluded by encouraging members to visit Olds College, explore its Smart Farm, and support agricultural education and innovation.

President Elect Jim Hutchens thanked Dr Debbie Thompson and announced that we will be making a \$100 donation to CRCF in her name.

Brad Brewster thanked Dr. Debbie Thompson for her insightful presentation and shared his family's longstanding connection to Olds College, dating back more than a century. His grandfather graduated in 1924, his great-granddaughter currently attends the college, and his partner graduated from the agricultural business program in 2002. He recognized the college's significant contributions to agricultural education, innovation, and community leadership in Alberta.



Click [HERE](#) for the photo gallery

Health & Wellness

Don Bacon is currently in Rocky View Hospital for reasons yet to be determined. He has requested NO visitors at this time.

Lorna Hamm had surgery on Tuesday; they are optimistic. They have requested no visitors at this time.

It Is Election Time!!!

Past President Gordon Weicker
Speaking Notes for Club Election Process
October 2026

According to the bylaws of the Rotary Club of Calgary at Stampede Park, the election process for President-Elect/Nominee and Directors is declared open today, October 08, 2026. Secretary Gail Williams is in her 2nd year of her 2-year term and as such, the position of Secretary is also open for Nomination.

For the newer members, on the first day of an election, the Chair of the Nomination Committee must inform the Club of the nomination process. So here we go:

- The nomination process will be open for candidates from the club membership from today, closing at 12:00 pm on Thursday October 29, 2026. At that time, acceptance of additional nominations will cease.
- Nominations from Rotary Club of Calgary at Stampede Park members can be submitted for each of the following positions: President-Elect Nominee, Secretary, and four (4) Director positions.
- Nomination forms for all positions will be posted in the weekly bulletin and are posted on our Club website. Members are requested to prepare a nomination form for each nominated candidate, and the form must be signed by the nominee showing their willingness to serve, if elected.

Again, these forms must be dated and submitted to the Club Secretary, Gail Williams no later than 12:00 noon on October 29, 2026.

- In the event we have more nominations submitted than there are positions to fill, we will then have an election. Ballots will be electronically mailed to Club Members with a response requested within two (2) days. Ballots must be sent to the attention of myself (PP Gordon Weicker).
- All candidates involved in the election process will have a short profile published in the bulletin prior to the election.

Here are the qualifications for the open positions:

- 1) The **President-Elect Nominee** must meet all the following criteria:
 - (a) Has been a Member of the Club for at least five (5) years and a Rotarian for at least nine (9) years,
 - (b) Has served on the Board of Directors for at least one term,
 - (c) Has demonstrated a strong commitment to the objects of Rotary throughout their tenure in the Club,
 - (d) Is a "Member" in good standing of the Club having maintained 70% attendance in the previous two (2) years prior to his or her nomination and,
 - (e) Has demonstrated a strong commitment to all Club expectations for involvement in Club activities such as committee work and fund-raising activities and in particular, completion of Dream Home shifts as required by the Club.

2) A **Director Nominee** must meet all the following criteria:

- (a) Has been a Member of the Club for at least three (3) years,
- (b) May not have served on the Board in the previous three (3) years in any position,
- (c) Must have demonstrated a strong commitment to the objects of Rotary throughout their tenure in the Club,
- (d) Is a “Member” in good standing in the Club having maintained seventy (70) % attendance in the previous two (2) years prior to his or her nomination and,
- (e) Has demonstrated a strong commitment to all Club expectations for involvement in Club activities such as committee work and fund-raising activities and in particular, completion of Dream Home shifts as required by the Club.

3) A **Club Secretary Nominee** must meet all the following criteria:

- (a) Has been a Member of this Club for at least five (5) years.
- (b) Must have demonstrated a strong commitment to the objects of Rotary throughout their tenure in the Club,
- (c) Is a “Member” in good standing in the Club having maintained 70% attendance in the previous two (2) years prior to his or her nomination and,
- (d) Has demonstrated a strong commitment to all Club expectations for involvement in Club activities such as committee work and fund-raising activities and in particular, completion of Dream Home shifts as required by the Club.
- (e) Should have an understanding of Board governance.

The current Club Vacancies are as follows:

President-Elect Nominee
Four (4) Directors
Club Secretary

The Club Secretary and Four (4) Directors will serve for a two-year term commencing on July 1, 2027 until June 30, 2029.

The President-Elect Nominee will serve in that capacity until July 1, 2027. At that time; they will assume the role of President-Elect and serve for one year from July 1st 2027 to June 30, 2028. On July 1, 2028 until June 30, 2029 they will serve their term as President of our Rotary club.

As Chair of the Nominations committee, I have convened a meeting of the Past Presidents of our Club, Wednesday afternoon - October 14, 2026.

It is the custom of the Club that Past Presidents select their own candidate for **President-Elect Nominee**.

Once a President Elect Nominee has been confirmed by the Past Presidents, I will report same back to the Club.

As well, following our Club's bylaws, the "President-Elect" is entitled to nominate from the Membership, their candidates who meet the stated criteria for the positions of **Secretary and Director**.

Our current President-Elect Jim Hutchens has advised that he will submit his nominees for Club Secretary, and the vacancies of Club Directors prior to the October 29 th deadline.

As a reminder, any announced nominees are not intended to exclude any nominations from the general membership. Our Club bylaws provide for an open election wherever there are more nominations than vacancies to fill. Each

week until October 29th, I will announce the names of any additional nominees that are put forward from the general membership.

So, if you want to find out what happens in a Past Presidents meeting, here is the journey you must take. First, you must become a "Director", next you need to be President. One you have completed your term as President, then you are a shoo-in for the Past President club. So now is that opportunity or what!

I know this is a lot to take in and I thank you for your attention today. All this information is outlined in our RCCSP Bylaws and of course you can reference them again if you wish.

Now lastly, I offer a sincere thank you to any members who are willing to allow their name to stand for any position...Thank you, and have a great Rotary Day.



Announcements

Rotary Casino 2026

Please consider being a volunteer for the Rotary Club of Calgary at Stampede Park
Last year our 2 day take away was over \$ 82,000.00

Dates:

Thursday, December 17th

Friday, December 18th

Place: cowboys Casino @ Stampede Park

Shift Times Available:

11:00 AM to 7:00 PM (cash cage & chip runner)

6:30 PM to 3:30 AM (cash cage & chip runner)

11:00 PM to 3:30 AM (count room)

5 volunteers are required per shift

30 shifts are required in total

Contact: **Lynn Grant** @ 403 819 8786 or Lynngrant3927@gmail.com
Please respond ASAP as I have to admit names to ALGC

Announcements

OPERA NIGHT - ADD A LITTLE MAGIC TO YOUR FALL!

Presented by Ukrainians of Calgary Association. Join us for a beautiful evening of opera, music, and Ukrainian spirit - while supporting a cause that matters.

November 6 | 6:30 PM
St. David United Church | 3303 Capitol Hill Cres NW, Calgary

Tickets: \$20 | Purchase your ticket by e-transfer to donate@uoca.ca

Come for the music. Stay for the magic. Give hope through your support. Every ticket helps provide medical supplies to hospitals and frontline responders in Ukraine.

<https://www.facebook.com/100002069949339/posts/28440775288908090/?rclid=7mTOIKr1IoR34XdU#>

Cleven Award and Nomination Form

[Cleven Award](#) nominations are open until November 6th.
[Nomination Form](#) Please send nominations to Carol Rosdobutko at rcarol@telus.net

The 2026/27 Rotary Roster is currently being updated. Members, please check your contact information. If any changes are required, please reach out to **Kathy Demorest**. kathylynnne@shaw.ca

Rotary Calgary East

Youth and Vocational Service



D5360 Mentorship Program

The Mentorship Program pairs a **Rotarian** mentor with a **Rotaract** mentee to provide opportunities to learn and grow both ways!



**ARE YOU READY TO SERVE THROUGH
YOUR VOCATION?**

FOR ROTARIANS — *MENTORS*

- Share your career & life experience
- Connect with the next generation of leaders and see fresh perspectives!
- Build relationships across the Rotary family

FOR ROTARACTORS — *MENTEES*

- Explore careers and possibilities
- Gain guidance from real-world experience
- Build confidence & meaningful connections



SMALL TIME COMMITMENT BIG IMPACT!

ONE CONNECTION CAN OPEN A WORLD OF POSSIBILITIES



EXPOSURE

See careers and pathways
they may not have known
existed

GUIDANCE

Learn from someone who
has already navigated the
path

CONFIDENCE

Ask questions, explore
interests & recognize
their potential

OPPORTUNITY

Build skills, networks &
access to new
experiences

**APPLY to the
mentorship program
using this QR Code:**



OR EMAIL:
rotaract5360mentorship@gmail.com

Interested in Youth and Vocational Service?



... Join the Youth and Vocational Service Committee!

Contact Rhea Graham for further details:
rheagrahamd@gmail.com

NEW MEMBER PROPOSAL

Graham Carstairs has been proposed for active membership in the Rotary Club of Calgary at Stampede Park, as sponsored by **Kevin MacLeod** and seconded by **Jon Monk**, with a proposed classification of Commercial Insurance.

If any Member objects to **Graham Carstairs** 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 **October 22nd**

For the next few weeks the main entrance to the new Rotary House will not be accessible do to some construction. We ask everyone to use the entrance on the north side of the building for the time being.

This also mean the chair lift will not be available during this time. If you require help up the stairs, please let us know so we can ensure someone is there to assist you.



Closing:

Next week: October 22nd - Field of the Crosses

The week following: October 29th - Halloween

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

OCTOBER

October 1st - Kids At Heart Charity Presentation

October 8th - The Palmer Institute

October 15th - Dr. Debbie Thompson, President
and CEO of Olds College

October 22nd - Field of the Crosses

October 29th - Halloween



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
				X	X	X
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
X	X	X	X	X	X	X
11	12 Columbus Day	13	14	15	16	17
X	X	X	X	X	X	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 Halloween

NOVEMBER

November 5th - Ryan Copithorne

November 11th - Rotary Remembers

November 12th - No Meeting

November 19th - TBD

November 26th - TBD



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					