



ROTARY NEWS

RCCSP Weekly Bulletin September 17th, 2026
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**Welcome to the September 17th
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 O Canada and Rotary Grace.

Head Table (L-R) : Corinne Wilkinson, Jim Hutchens, Vince Vavrek, David
Field, Sue Elliott, President Larry Kennedy



Presentation:
Calgary Opera. Sue
Elliot. CEO & GM

October 1st
Kids At Heart
Charity
Presentation

Next Week:
September 24th
Jim Fitzowich

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 introduced Vince Vavrek, the new Assistant Governor for the district's "Parks" area, which includes the Stampede Park and Heritage Park Rotary Clubs.

Vince welcomed **President Larry**, fellow Rotarians, and guests. He explained that although he had only been in his new role for six days, he was looking forward to supporting the clubs and getting to know the members. He then presented **President Larry** with the club's new Rotary banner. Vince also announced that **Shondell Sabad** is the new District Treasurer!!!



Carol Rosdobutko spoke about the Cleven Award, a special honour established in 2006 by the Rotary Club of Calgary at Stampede Park. The award recognizes members who demonstrate exceptional commitment to the club through significant responsibilities, meaningful contributions, sustained service, and leadership.

The award is named in honour of Harry Cleven, the founding president of the Manchester Club in 1955.

Carol reminded members that nominations for the Cleven Award are due by November 6. Further information, including the award guidelines and nomination form, is on page 4. Nominations should be emailed to **Carol**.



Sharyl Madigan spoke to us about the 2027 Kids at Heart Applications. The applications are linked on page 4 of this bulletin as well as on the clubs website.



President Larry announced that the Rotary Curling League starts on October 6th. There are a few spots available. They curl on Tuesdays at 4:30 pm at the Garrison Curling Club in Calgary. If you are interested, please contact **Doug Hood** or **Jim Fitzowich**.

John Fitzsimmons our Sergeant-at-Arms for this meeting, humorously engages with members of the Rotary Club, welcoming guests and teasing various attendees while collecting small fines for things like wearing jeans, being late, or failing to answer questions.

A series of trivia questions follows, highlighting notable members and their connections to the club and Calgary. **John** mentions Rotarians who were athletes, club presidents, long-time members, and community contributors. Stories include a member who played for the New York Giants and Calgary Stampeders, another who helped launch the "Stay in School" program, and a former club member who was the voice of the Calgary Flames and the Dream Home.

Throughout, the tone is lighthearted, interactive, and focused on Rotary Club history, member recognition, and fundraising through playful fines.



David Field highlights Calgary Opera as an important part of Calgary's arts community and describes it as a "secret gem."

He introduces Sue Elliott, Calgary Opera's General Director and CEO. He briefly outlines her extensive leadership experience with major arts organizations in Canada and the U.S., along with her background in music and arts education.

David concludes by welcoming Sue and handing the presentation over to her.



Sue Elliott thanks **David Field** and the Rotary Club and introduces her talk about "artistic and civic alchemy" and Calgary Opera's next chapter.

She explains that opera combines music, storytelling, performers, design, production, and—most importantly—the audience to create powerful emotional experiences. She emphasizes that opera can also contribute to a stronger, more connected society by bringing people together around meaningful stories.



Drawing on her previous work in Houston and Seattle, Sue describes commissioning operas based on contemporary issues such as immigration, refugees, Japanese American incarceration, and cultural identity. She believes opera should tell both timeless stories and stories that reflect the communities of today. She then asks the audience what Calgary stories could become operas, mentioning ideas such as Ukrainian immigration, the Famous Five, residential schools, the Calgary flood, and Stampede Wrestling. Sue concludes by sharing some of Calgary Opera's upcoming work and inviting the audience to attend future performances and events. Here is a link to the Calgary Opera website <https://www.calgaryopera.com/>

Jim Hutchens thanked Sue for her amazing presentation!

President Larry Kennedy thanked Sue Elliott and announced that we will be making a \$100 donation to CRCF in her name.



Click [HERE](#) for the photo gallery

Announcements

NEW MEMBER PROPOSAL

Yaseen Idris has been proposed for active membership in the Rotary Club of Calgary at Stampede Park, as sponsored by **Jill Conroy** and seconded by **John Shield**, with a proposed classification of Real Estate – Residential.

If any Member objects to **Yaseen Idris** 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 1st**



NEW MEMBER PROPOSAL

Cesar Ernesto Angulo has been proposed for active membership in the Rotary Club of Calgary at Stampede Park, as sponsored by **Shondell Sabad** and seconded by **Jim Fitzowich**, with a proposed classification of Business Consultant.

If any Member objects to **Cesar Ernesto Angulo** 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 1st**



NEW MEMBER PROPOSAL

Frances Schwartz has been proposed for active membership in the Rotary Club of Calgary at Stampede Park, as sponsored by **Kim Hickson** and seconded by **Sharyl Madigan**, with a proposed classification of Non-Profit Leadership.

If any Member objects to **Frances Schwartz** 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 **September 24th**

Comments: Former Rotary Member of the Nechako, Orillia, Calgary Downtown and Sherwood Park Clubs

Announcements

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

Kids at Heart 2027 Charity Application is now available.
Click [HERE](#) for the application

The Poppy Fund is desperate for volunteers as they only have
about 10 days available for sales.

If you can spare 3 or 4 hours to help out, the veterans would
be most appreciative...(as would I!)

Shifts start right after Halloween and are at major malls and
grocery stores.

To sign up, or if you have any questions, please contact
Kristen @ (403) 561 -7832.

Registration for the 2027 Rotary International conference in
Barcelona is now open.
Click [HERE](#) for more information

The Campus of
Currie Green
— ♥ SENIORS ♥ —
BAKE SALE

♥ *Delicious treats. Stronger community.* ♥



550 Bishop Dr SW



October 4th, 2026



1:00PM–3:00PM



Location:

Outdoor Courtyard



All proceeds will be
given to

*Calgary's
Women's Shelter.*



Open to Everyone!



Thank you for your support and generosity!

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: September 24th - Jim Fitzowich

**The week following: October 1st – Kids At Heart
Charity Presentation**

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

SEPTEMBER

September 3rd - Judy Riege

September 10th - Wayne Meikle The Fish Creek
Park story

September 17th - Calgary Opera. Sue Elliot. CEO
& GM

September 24th - Jim Fitzowich

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

OCTOBER

October 1st - Kids At Heart Charity Presentation

October 8th - The Palmer Institute

October 15th - Chris Johnson, Old College
External Relations

October 22nd - Field of the Crosses

October 29th - Halloween

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