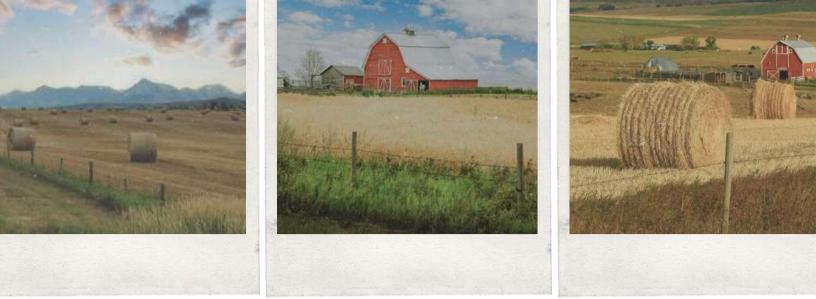
Issue No. 5 - Welcome to 2025

January 2025 Megan Stokke

ALBERTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION





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WELCOME To 2025

It's hard to believe that 2025 is "finally" here. When Calgary won the bid to host the Rotary International convention in 2017, it felt like a distant dream—eight conventions stood between us and this incredible opportunity. Yet, here we are, ready to welcome the Rotary world to our vibrant city in June 2025.

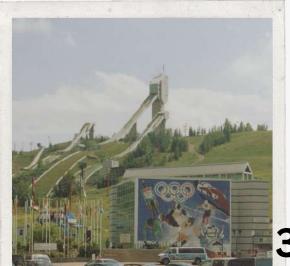


Over the years, much has changed—not just in our city but across the globe. Calgary has grown remarkably, both in population and diversity, embracing the challenges and opportunities that come with transformation. Through it all, one constant remains: the impact of Rotary in District 5360. Rotarians and Rotaractors in our district have consistently risen to the occasion, offering financial support, time, and talent to those in need. Beyond that, we have also been catalysts for economic growth and innovation, helping our city and region thrive.

Now, with the new state-of-the-art BMO Centre on Stampede Park, Calgary has evolved into not just a world-class city, but a world-class tier-one convention destination. And this June, we have the opportunity to showcase everything Calgary and Southern Alberta have to offer on a global stage.

Together, we will set a new benchmark for what a successful Calgary convention looks like. We will inspire attendees and organizations to (re)discover our city and region, and encourage them to consider Calgary as their convention destination of choice. We will do this by ensuring our event is fun, organized, and remarkable.

The energy and vibrancy we'll bring to this convention will be unparalleled. For many, it will be their first taste of Calgary's legendary Western hospitality and volunteer spirit. For others, it will be a chance to reconnect with the city's rich history of hosting unforgettable events—like the 1988 Winter Olympics and the 1996 RI convention. Together, we have the opportunity to inspire a new generation, setting a benchmark for future Rotary conventions and letting the world know that Calgary is "open for business".



This is more than just a week long party—it's a celebration of our community, our resilience, and our vision for the future. Let's show the world why Calgary is not just the perfect place for a convention but a place where Rotary's mission truly comes to life.

To the Rotarians and Rotaractors of District 5360; please do not let this once in a generational opportunity pass. Register for the convention. Make connections. Get involved. Volunteer for a four hour shift.

Let's make history together!

CRAIG STOKKE & PDG MARK STARRATT

Co-Chairs 2025 Rotary International Convention Host Organizing Committee



MAKE SOME NOISE

We want to hear from you! We know the wheels are turnin' across Alberta as Rotarians plan for their Convention experience. We want to share your stories each month and highlight the creativity, ingenuity, and hospitality that Rotarians are known for. Send your stories to us at promotions@rotarycalgary2025.org.



Stephen Avenue



HOST HOSPITALITY has been warmly ombraced by District 5360 clubs

warmly embraced by District 5360 clubs. We sincerely thank you for your dedication in ensuring our guests have a memorable experience in Calgary!

Here's what guests can look forward to: Home dinners with anywhere from 4 to 50 other guests at members' homes, a pig roast overlooking the Rocky Mountains, Beef BBQs, calf roping, western games, dinners at local restaurants and golf clubs, a Western shoot-out, line dancing lessons, live music, tours of facilities and Rotary Parks, and most of all, good food and Western Hospitality at its best!"



Wintergreen Golf & Country Club

All functions with over 50 guests will have coach buses to transport your guests to the venue. Members are encouraged to host home dinners! Many guests have requested placement at smaller dinners in someone's home, and dinner can be casual—there's no need for formality. Our guests look forward to getting to know you, as food isn't the main attraction!"



Banff Avenue





Telus Spark Science Center

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Are you excited about creating a family-friendly experience at the 2025 Rotary International

Convention? We are looking for a champion and committee members to lead an initiative that will enhance the convention experience for families and youth.

This project is all about making the convention inclusive and engaging for every member of the Rotary family. Help us develop memorable programs and activities that encourage families to participate and create lasting connections.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

We're looking for a champion and committee members to work with clubs across District 5360 to bring the energy and spirit of the 2025 Rotary International Convention to every corner of our district.

This is a unique opportunity to strategize and collaborate on ideas that will showcase Rotary's incredible work and ensure local clubs in rural communities benefit from the convention being hosted in Calgary. Ideas could include: Liaising local service projects, partnering with existing community events, coordinating parades, flag ceremonies, or other community celebrations.

Let's raise awareness and create connections that extend the impact of the convention far beyond Calgary, bringing value and inspiration to every community in District 5360.

If you're ready to help with either initiative, we'd love to hear from you. Contact <u>linda.morris@rotarycalgary2025.org</u>



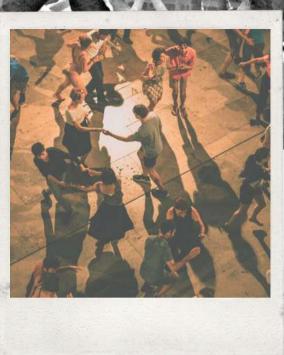
Telus Spack Science Center



TWO-STEPS FORWARD

We are aware of some individuals looking to co-host dinners. If you'd like to team up with someone to host or are interested in being a driver for the night, contact

hosthospitality@rotarycalgary2025.org.



Complimentary transportation on LRT and buses is available for that night too!

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

Now that the calendar has turned to 2025 we are a little over 5 months away from

the Calgary 2025 Rotary International Convention. Wow!! Paid attendance has already surpassed Singapore's numbers from last year.

We know your Club Champions are doing an amazing job keeping you updated but the Co-chairs of the 2025 Host Organizing Committee (HOC), Craig Stokke and Mark Starratt, wanted an opportunity to speak to District Rotarians first hand to provide a planning update and to answer any questions you may have.

Please join us on <u>Wednesday January 29th from 7 -8:30pm</u> for a Calgary 2025 update from Craig and Mark followed by a live Q & A session. The webinar will be recorded to be added to our YouTube Channel afterwards.

The event will get added to the Area Calendar on the District calendar but you can also register <u>HERE</u>

Yours In Rotary,



Learning & Development Committee Chair



PLAN YOUR CONVENTION

	JUNE 20	JUNE 21	JUNE 22	JUNE 23	JUNE 24	<u>JUNE 25</u>
MORNING	YOUTH Exchange Officers pre- Convention	YOUTH EXCHANGE OFFICERS PRE- Convention & House of Friendship Opens At Noon	OPENING Ceremonies (group A)	GENERAL Session	GENERAL Session	GENERAL Session
MID-DAY			HOUSE OF Friendship	BREAK OUT Sessions	BREAK OUT Sessions	BREAK OUT Sessions
AFTERNOON			OPENING Ceremonies (group B)	BREAK OUT Sessions	BREAK OUT Sessions	CLOSING Ceremonies
EVENING	YOUTH Exchange Officers Banquet	GRANDSTAND Spectacular	NEW BLOOD OR Rockin' The Roadhouse	HOST Hospitality Night	WESTERN Showcase	DISTRICT 5360 Celebration

TRAVEL DISCOUNTS

We are happy to announce that Westjet is offering discounted rates of up to 25% off select fares for travel to Calgary, Alberta between June

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1st, June 2025 and July 15th,2025. <u>Click here</u> for details and booking instructions.



TIDBITS AND REMINDERS

- 1. New Blood with the Calgary Civic Symphony has been moved to the Jubilee Auditorium, offering excellent seating and exceptional acoustics for this remarkable production
- **2.** Our evening concert will be held in the Big Four Roadhouse. This production is guaranteed to get your boots moving and your feet tapping!
- **3.** Plans for RV parking on the Stampede grounds are nearing completion, with limited spaces available. Stay tuned for upcoming announcements.
- **4.** Pre and Post Tours ranging from 1 day to 2 weeks are gaining momentum. See offerings on <u>rotarycalgary2025.org</u>.
- **5.** Consider Mount Royal University dorms as a \$60-per-bedroom alternative to hotels, with around 300 rooms available through District 5360.
- 6. HOC Club Champions Connection: Look on the <u>district website</u> under "HOC Club Champions Connection" for updates
- **7.** Volunteer recruitment continues. Click <u>HERE</u> for more info.
- **8.** Registration increases on April 1, 2025, with the full registration price changing to USD \$695.00. *Register now and save!*
- **9.** Below is a list of Host Organizing Committee emails for information on specific topics:

info@rotarycalgary2025.org volunteer@rotarycalgary2025.org hosthospitality@rotarycalgary2025.org sponsors@rotarycalgaray2025.org events@rotarycalgary2025.org

- **10.** Work on Food offerings on the Convention Campus during the convention are underway. Don't worry you will not go hungry (or thirsty)!
- **11.** Entertainment is being organized for the House of Friendship. We expect to hear more details about the program, speakers and General sessions this month.