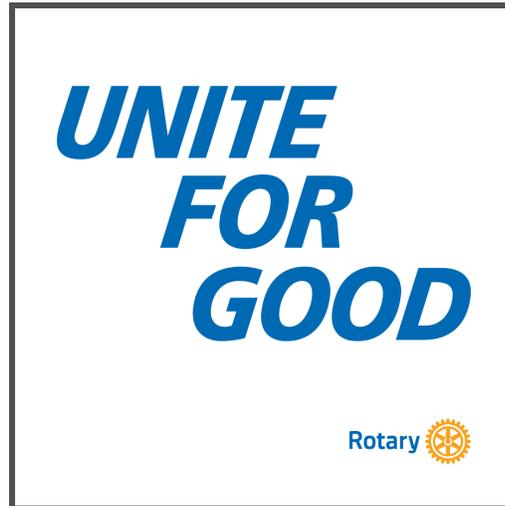




February 16, 2026
Volume 43 - Issue 17

"Together we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change - across the globe, in our communities and in ourselves!"

The Rotary Club of Calgary comprises professional and community leaders brought together in fellowship to make a better future.



Rotary International's theme for the 2025-2026 year

Birthdays

Helen Dang-Vu	February 19
Michael Broadhurst	February 22

Anniversaries

Lawrence Bates	40 years
Bruce Fenwick	40 years
Charles Pratt	30 years
Joe Fras	30 years
Madeleine King	25 years
yegana Allard	15 years
Manon Mitchell	15 years
Kurt Kowalchuk	15 years
Ryan Tizzard	5 years
William Friedson	5 years

Hello All - Help us make the COG more responsive to you!

Use this link to give us feedback and ideas! [link](#)

Club Meeting Feb 10

Doug McMillan

President Bill Hamilton welcomed just under 75 members and guests – a very full house!

Bill thanked the “Front of House” volunteers- Deb and Ron Hymers, Brian Guichon and Madeleine King plus William Friedson for our music and Brian Guichon for the invocation. During “Happy Bucks” moments, Peter Harrison announced he and his wife were expecting their first baby while Deb Hymers indicated she enjoyed working with 5 Interactors preparing over 400 food bags for needy recipients.

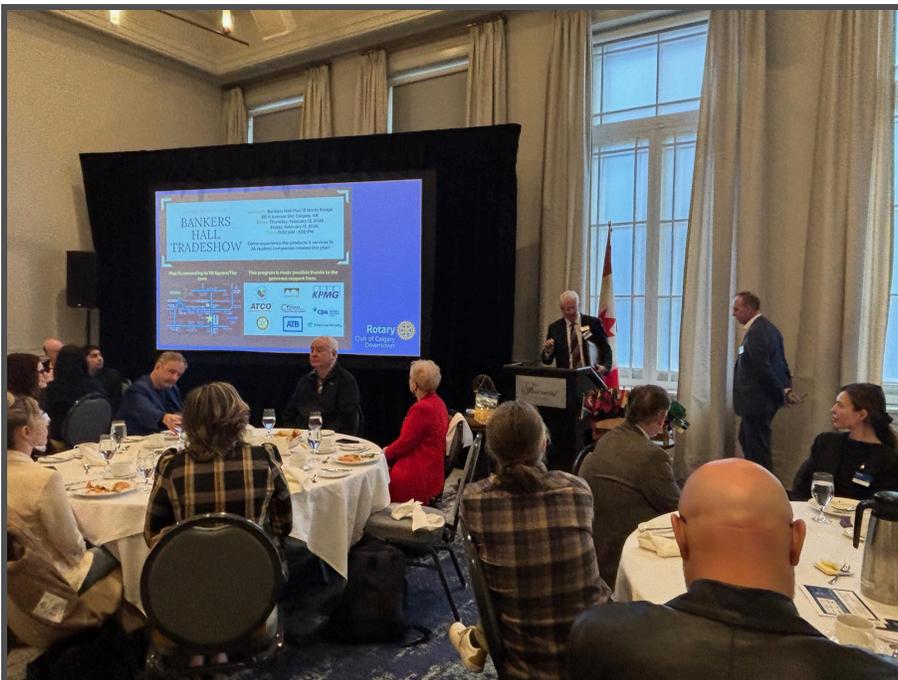
Peter (the club’s Youth Director) also announced there is an exceptional Rotaractor leader seeking additional funding to attend the Rotary Convention in Taipei; anyone interested in assisting could contact him.

Michael Broadhurst wished “Happy birthday” including to himself (see elsewhere in this COG and next week’s special edition for birthday wish recipients).

District Governor Manon Mitchell asked every member to register for the **May 1-3 District Conference**

- Feb 15 is the last day for early-bird discount
- 30% discount for first time attendees continues until the conference begins
- excellent speakers include Chris Koch <https://www.ifican.ca> and Chandra Crawford <https://olympic.ca/team-canada/chandra-crawford>
- Bob Taylor indicated club members should attend in strong numbers for their own benefit AND to show support for our own DG Manon Mitchell.

Michael Pierson, Chair of Small Donations Committee, explained about their management of the late Lou MacEachern's Fund, how it has grown over the years and how it benefits local youth. In particular he highlighted its support of the Junior Achievement event at Bankers Hall February 12 & 13.



Dennis Tran introduced Dr. Gina Cherkowski and Drew Bowman with a slide show on Supporting Mental Health and Wellbeing in Schools – Summit to be held in Banff May 17-18. <https://www.mentalhealthinschoolsummit.com>



Membership Director Craig Henderson introduced new joint members, Kriti Kapoor and Komal Dewan. (See following article for more details about them). President Bill explained the value of Rotary membership and warmly welcomed them to our club.



Catherine Scheers introduced Guest Speaker Dr. Robert Huebert, Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Calgary. He spoke on "The Security and Defence of Canada's Arctic" in a thought-provoking (and possibly anxiety-provoking) presentation. He held the audience spell-bound. There was so much of interest in his presentation, and it was such a full meeting agenda, that there was no time left for the

audience's many questions. President Bill indicated: "maybe next time he presents to the club..."



REMEMBER Next week, Feb 17, 2026 is the Club Assembly. All RCCD members are strongly urged to attend.

This is a meeting focused on our club – and it's the chance to learn, bring new ideas, provide your feedback and to ask questions!

Please Welcome Kriti and Konal, Our Newest Joint Members

Diane Macdonald

Kriti Kapoor

Kriti is currently an AI and Data Consultant with Ernst and Young (EY) and holds a Master's degree in Computer Science with a focus on Artificial Intelligence. She is interested in the ethical and equitable use of technology to help make everyday systems work a little better and improve productivity in thoughtful, secure, and sustainable ways. Kriti has volunteered with national-level organizations in India that support the education and development of children from underprivileged and marginalized communities, as well as other social initiatives. Outside of work, she enjoys spending time in nature through hiking, camping, and swimming, and is an avid reader and comic-book enthusiast.

Konal Dewan

Konal is a Senior Manager in Infrastructure Advisory at EY where he works on public and private infrastructure projects across transportation and energy. Outside of work, he has been involved in animal welfare initiatives, including helping rescue and re-home stray dogs in India. His personal interests include music production, science fiction, technology, and he is also an enthusiastic cook and baker. Konal and Kriti enjoy spending time outdoors with their dog,

Heera, a rescued mixed-breed. He is particularly interested in Rotary's youth programs and mentorship opportunities.

Welcome to Festus Omogiate

Diane Macdonald

Festus, who joined our club last October and was born and raised in Nigeria, relocated to Canada about 15 years ago with his wife and children. It was a move that marked the beginning of a dynamic and impactful professional journey across multiple sectors. He has degrees in Electrical and Electronic Engineering as well as training in Business Administration, Immigration Law and Procedures, has designation as a Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultant and is a Real Estate Associate in Alberta. He has owned and operated businesses across various industries and has guided numerous families through the Canadian immigration process.

Festus has contributed in many ways to the social services sector. He has worked with Winnipeg Child and Family Services, Community Living Alternative Services and Calgary Scope Society, which supports individuals with developmental disabilities.

Festus has made Alberta his home. Outside of his professional life, he enjoys listening to music, watching movies and spending quality time with family and friends. Festus, Welcome to the Rotary Club of Calgary Downtown! We're so happy you are willing to use your many talents with us.

Club Meeting Dates - Note NEW changes!

President Bill Hamilton and Program Director Terry McMahon

Feb. 17 - Special Meeting - Club Assembly

Feb. 24 - Guest Speaker: John Brown, Dean of the University of Calgary School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape

Mar. 10 - Guest Speaker: Chief of Police Katie McLellan

Mar. 24 - Guest Speaker: Lara Murphy, Calgary Wild women's soccer team CEO

Apr. 9 Thursday - PREMIER DANIELLE SMITH

Apr. 21 - Guest Speaker: Cheryl Barnard, Olympian and CEO Sports Hall of Fame

May 5 - Jo Pittman superintendent Calgary Board of Education

May 19 evening meeting: President's dinner

June 2: tbd

June 16: Alice de Kooning, Haskayne School of Business on entrepreneurship and innovation

June 30 President's final meeting

A Resource for RCCD members who are employers

Franco Savoia

RCCD is a member of the Calgary Funders and Foundations Roundtable. The Carthy Foundation is a member. It has invested in developing OY Works, a tool kit for employers to effectively work with young employees. We are sharing this toolkit for RCCD members who are employers.

[Read more...](#)

Proudly Presenting Our Corporate Members



Upcoming Events

[February 17 Club Luncheon – Club Assembly](#)

133 9 Ave SW,

Feb. 17, 2026 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Mountain Standard Time (UTC-07:00)

[Frank n' Stein \(3rd Thursday\)](#)

CHECK YOUR EMAIL

Feb. 19, 2026

4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

[February 24 Club Luncheon – Guest Speaker: John Brown](#)

133 9 Ave SW

Feb. 24, 2026 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Mountain Standard Time (UTC-07:00)

[Youth Committee Monthly Meeting](#)

Feb. 25, 2026

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

[Frank n' Stein \(1st Thursday\)](#)

CHECK YOUR EMAIL

Mar. 05, 2026

4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

[March 10 Club Luncheon – Guest Speaker: Katie McLellan](#)

133 9 Ave SW

Mar. 10, 2026 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Mountain Daylight Time (UTC-06:00)

[Volunteer Event - Home for Dinner - Ronald McDonald Cagary House](#)

111 West Campus Place

Mar. 12, 2026 3:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Mountain Daylight Time (UTC-06:00)

[Frank n' Stein \(3rd Thursday_\)](#)

CHECK YOUR EMAIL

Mar. 19, 2026

4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

[March 24 Club Luncheon – Guest Speaker: Lara Murphy](#)

133 9 Avenue Southwest

Mar. 24, 2026 12:00 p.m. Mountain Daylight Time (UTC-06:00)

[Youth Committee Monthly Meeting](#)

Mar. 25, 2026

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

[View entire list](#)

COG Staff - July 1, 2024

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