



April 13, 2026
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"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

Stuart Libin	April 20
Bomo Douglas	April 21
Anne Logan	April 22
Ann Haessel	April 23
Farai Tonzani	April 23
Dan Hays	April 24
Murray Young	April 26
Laurene Wilson	April 26

Anniversaries

Al Corbett	45 year
Sean Baylis	15 year

Special Club Meeting with Premier Danielle Smith

Madeleine King

The meeting was held in the Crystal Ballroom of the Fairmont Palliser Hotel and included 138 guests. President Bill Hamilton opened the meeting offering a Land Acknowledgement which was followed by the singing of "O Canada" led by Michael Pearson. Maxine Morrison provided the invocation. President Bill welcomed the many Rotarians and visitors. He invited those attending their first Rotary meeting to sign up and learn more about Rotary membership today.

He thanked the front-of-house volunteers, Stacey Pinney, Dave Leslie, Murray Young, and today's Greeter, Ian Diaz.

District Governor Manon Mitchell acknowledged the 25th anniversary of the Rotary Employment Partnership highlighting its impact on employment for people with intellectual disabilities. The partnership has provided stability and employment opportunities with Rotary, making close to 1,000 jobs available over 20 years. She commended The Calgary Public Library for employing 13 individuals with intellectual disabilities- a lasting and tangible impact.

The Government of Alberta's long-standing support of Inclusion Alberta, without which the program would not be as effective, was acknowledged; also she emphasized the role of trust, inclusion, and reliability in the partnership's success.

DG Manon promoted attendance at the Rotary Employment Partnership 25th Anniversary Family Conference in Edmonton April 17-18. She also encouraged Rotarians to reach into their personal and business networks to open doors to employment inclusion for people with intellectual disabilities.



Premier Danielle Smith's Address

President Bill introduced Premier Danielle Smith highlighting her background in media, business, and politics.

Premier Smith expressed her appreciation of Rotary noting her past membership and the importance of Rotary's service throughout Alberta.

Premier Smith focused on the good news of Alberta's economic position including high labour productivity, GDP per capita, and job growth. She spoke of the significant reset of Alberta's relationship with Ottawa since the last federal election, especially through the energy agreement which includes the potential for a new pipeline to the West Coast. She described her productive working relationship with Prime Minister Carney.

Premier Smith addressed Alberta's significant population growth, with 600,000 new residents in five years, straining public services.

She explained that in order to meet the needs of this growing population the 2026 budget includes the largest ever investments in education and child care with dedicated operational funding for schools and new school projects. Healthcare investments focus on expanding capacity, training new doctors, and reducing wait times for surgeries. Infrastructure investments include roads, water systems, and LRT upgrades in both Edmonton and Calgary. She also noted the importance of maintaining a high quality of life to attract newcomers with investments in arts, parks, and trails.

Premier Smith spoke of her government's Alberta Youth Initiative supporting employers in hiring youth with incentives to help around 8,750 youth across the province. She asked business people in the audience to look into it and consider hiring youth by subsidizing the first 400 hours at \$10/hour to provide three-month work experience.

Premier Smith indicated that the government invests in nonprofit community organizations to raise awareness of skilled trades opportunities and reduce barriers to apprenticeship education. Also, the Alberta Trades Discovery Centre in Calgary will provide hands-on experience for junior and senior high school students in skilled trades.

Premier Smith discussed the importance of energy security in the global economy with Alberta ready to supply secure, reliable energy products. The state of the province is described as strong with vast resources, a young workforce, and improved cooperation with other governments. She stated Alberta's energy production is on track to reach 8 million barrels a day by 2035 with plans to build new pipelines to supply Asian, European, and American markets, while the government works to forge and strengthen trade partnerships and expand Alberta's access to global markets.

There followed a Fireside Chat Session with Bruce Graham



In response to Bruce Graham's questions, the Premier's answers centred on:

- The purpose of the referendum is to listen to the complaints of those wanting to leave Canada and to give her a mandate on topics including immigration, social programs for non-citizens, citizenship on drivers' licenses, and possible constitutional changes.
- The MOU on energy with Ottawa, highlighting the importance of addressing emissions and expanding production.
- The potential impact of AI data centres on jobs, and the importance of training in AI technology.
- The development of all-season resorts, including Fortress and Kananaskis, and possibly Castle, with the importance of integrating infrastructure to support tourism and government's efforts to attract international visitors and increase tourism.
- The potential for Alberta to host major international events, such as the World Cup of Hockey, as well as the possibility of developing the infrastructure needed to support a possible Calgary bid to host the Winter Olympics in 2038 (50 years after the city's last hosting).
- The importance of having a master plan for a passenger rail system, hopefully including private partners.

Doug Webb, President-Elect, thanked Premier Smith for her engagement.



President-Elect Doug reminded members to register for the District Conference, May 1 - 3 in Red Deer.

President Bill reminded members of the April 14 Lunch and Learn on brain health and mental wellness at U Calgary Downtown Campus with Dr. Julia Rucklidge, Psychology professor.

The tradition of sharing happy stories enabled three members to share current personal highlights.

Next meeting Tuesday April 21 at the Palliser Hotel with guest speaker, Cheryl Bernard, Olympian President and CEO, Canada's Sports Hall of Fame discussing the importance of sports.

Save the Dates - Volunteer for BBQs - NOTE POW WOW BBQ DATE CHANGE

Diane Macdonald

The Pow Wow BBQ Date Correction

Jennifer Lavier-Jancovic contacted us to make a correction on the date of the Pow Wow BBQ that was published in the last COG. It will be held on Sunday, June 21st, not on Saturday, June 20th. Please

make the change on your calendars.

Please mark your calendars and, if at all possible, be ready to put your name on the list when the sign-up sheets come out.

- **Big Book Sale Volunteer Appreciation** - Thursday, May 7th
- **St. Monica School** - Thursday, May 14th
- **West Dover School** - Thursday, June 11th
- **Pow Wow - Saturday, June 21st**

The Lou MacEachern Fund – Building a Video Library with CAREERS: The Next Generation

Al McMillan

Last Fall, our Club partnered with CAREERS to help in their mission to connect youth to high demand skilled trades in Alberta. The Lou MacEachern Fund is now supporting a new digital initiative created by Careers to build the Lou MacEachern Video Library which will be home to a new Day-in-The-Life-of-a-Journeyperson Video Series. The Library is named in honor of long time Rotarian Lou MacEachern, and the video collection will introduce youth to skilled trades through short videos that showcase the working lives of tradespeople. The videos will be used in CAREERS' strong career awareness initiatives, with strong ties to youth career exploration, mentorship, and workforce readiness, and will be promoted locally in the Calgary region on YouTube and Instagram.

Lou MacEachern's journey—from a potato farmer to successful Calgary businessman and lifelong community advocate—embodies the very spirit of what CAREERS strives to achieve: helping young people discover opportunity through hands-on experience and perseverance. A dedicated kickoff video highlights Lou's story and is one of the three videos produced this year. [LINK HERE](#) for the videos included in the 2025 Lou MacEachern Report.

In 2026 we will fund three more videos, and CAREERS will create a new webpage providing linkage to the Lou MacEachern Video Library and the Video Series. On behalf of our Club, Small Donations leads initiatives that fulfill Lou's long-term vision of supporting the education and development of youth and young adults with proceeds donated to our Club by the Lou MacEachern Fund. To learn more about CAREERS, please visit their website at <https://www.careersnextgen.ca/>.



Rotary Investing in Subsidized Housing...

Franco Savoia

On April 8, 2026, Rotarians viewed the renovations of two subsidized housing projects owned and operated by HomeSpace. These major upgrades were made possible by the investment of 11 Rotary Clubs. In 2023, led by Bill Lawless of the Rotary West Club, the clubs submitted a pooled district grant to provide the materials for updating and renovating two buildings. Our Club's Major Donations Committee invested \$25,000 matched by an additional \$7,500 from the District grant for a total of \$32,500. Rotary's dollars provided the materials for the renovations. HomeSpace maintenance staff carried out the work. The buildings were in urgent need of repair. As a result, 31 economically challenged Calgarians are now enjoying and

appreciating apartments that no longer leak and are more secure. High quality materials will ensure a longer life to the upgrades.



Rotarian Connections during International Travel

Patti Dolan

On the first day of our Milford Track trip in New Zealand I met a fellow Rotarian, Jaume Grane, who introduced himself as coming from Andorra — a tiny country of about 80,000 people tucked between France and Spain. He spoke proudly of his homeland and his Rotary membership. When I said I was a Rotarian too we posed for a photo together, both flashing the peace sign — a simple symbol of what Rotary strives for in today's turbulent world.

Throughout the trek I met people from all over the world; I returned from New Zealand feeling very proud to be both Canadian and a Rotarian — reminded that shared values and

friendships can be found on trails halfway around the world.



YOUR VOICE!

[Click here](#) to tell us your ideas, feedback, bouquets and complaints!

Club Meeting Dates

President Bill Hamilton and Program Director Terry McMahon

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

May 5 - Guest Speaker: Jo Pittman, Superintendent Calgary Board of Education

May 19- Evening meeting- President's dinner

June 2- Panel discussion on the subject of homelessness. The panelists are Patricia Jones CEO of the Calgary Homeless Foundation; Dr. Ron Kneebone of the U Calgary School of Public Policy and Bo Masterson of the Calgary Homeless Foundation and formerly with our Community Hubs project

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

June 30- President's final meeting

Proudly Presenting Our Corporate Members



Upcoming Events

[April 9 Club Luncheon – Guest Speaker: Danielle Smith](#)

Apr. 09, 2026 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Mountain Daylight Time (UTC-06:00)

[Lunch & Learn – April 14 with Guest Speaker Dr. Julia Rucklidge](#)

Apr. 14, 2026 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Mountain Daylight Time (UTC-06:00)

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

Apr. 16, 2026

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

[April 21 Club Luncheon – Guest Speaker: Cheryl Bernard](#)

Apr. 21, 2026 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Mountain Daylight Time (UTC-06:00)

[Youth Committee Monthly Meeting](#)

Apr. 22, 2026

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

[Fellowship Committee Meeting](#)

Apr. 22, 2026 4:30 p.m.

[May 5 Club Luncheon – Guest Speaker: Joanne Pitman](#)

May 05, 2026 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Mountain Daylight Time (UTC-06:00)

[Big Book Sale Bar-B-Q](#)

May 07, 2026

11:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

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

May 07, 2026

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

[May 12 Club Luncheon – Guest Speaker: Jennifer Jones](#)

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

[View entire list](#)

COG Staff - July 1, 2024

Editor	Madeleine King: mkingrotary@gmail.com; with Heidi Lacey
Set-up	Diane Macdonald
Publisher	Doug McMillan
Contributors	Club Members ... yes that's you!

Rotary Club of Calgary - Chartered April 1914 as Club #949

Tel: (403) 398-9969 - Fax: (403) 264-2392
 www.rotaryclubofcalgary.org - admin@rotaryclubofcalgary.ca
 President: Bill Hamilton
 District 5360 Governor: Manon Mitchell
 Rotary International President: Francesco Arezzo