



August 31, 2026
Volume 44 - Issue 5

"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.

CREATE LASTING IMPACT



Rotary International's theme for the 2026-2027 year

Birthdays

Trevor Ironside	September 2
Bill Avery	September 4
Roy Boettger	September 5
Angeline Hayes	September 7

Rotary Anniversaries

Keith Visser	35 Years
Tom Keenan	30 Years

RCCD Meets August 25, 2026

Doug McMillan

Highlights of the meeting chaired by President Doug Webb included:

- Thanks to Michael Pierson leading O Canada on the piano, Rosemary Crawford and Madeleine King at the Sign-In table and Barb Young assisted by Ann Haessel as Sergeants-at-Arms.
- After the Invocation by George Brookman recognizing the need to work together and the power of Rotary in this respect, over 50 members and guests were welcomed, including Peter Harrison and his baby son Ambrose.



- Happy Bucks were somewhat limited perhaps by the news that Patti Dolan's husband had passed away.
- Birthdays announced by Michael Broadhurst are above.
- Doug Webb acknowledged reception of a certificate of thanks related to our club's helping fund generators and a Ukrainian orphan's camp.





Thank you from the recipients in Ukraine for the club's generator donation and Ukrainian Orphans Summer Camp – provided by Peter Chabursky, Chair ICC Canada-Ukraine

- Barb Young asked members (and their friends) to plan to attend the Adopt a Village Fundraiser Sept 23, 2026 at the Ranchman's Club- an informative video is included with the reception. **(See following info piece).**



Madeleine King presented President Doug with the Club's banner highlighting the annual Rotary theme as Assistant Governor on behalf of District governor Darcy Mykytyshyn

Guest speaker Gerry Darichuk (Rotary Club of Calgary North) recognized the significant assistance of Sonny Belenkie related to “Humanitarian Missions to Ukraine”.

His presentation included:

- Attending meetings of other groups assisting in Ukraine including the Blue Yellow Cross partnership and the effectiveness of partnership with Swedish Rotary Clubs, including the Rotary Club of Hjo
- Pictures of various Rotary supported activities including hospitals, acknowledging contributions from RCCD as well as the Rotary Clubs of Canmore and Medicine Hat
- The resilience of Ukrainians in the face of immense adversity resulting in destruction, many deaths, and many orphaned children (and 20,000 “relocated “ by Russians to Russia). Particularly impressive was a video of a young ballerina with an artificial leg.
- Future activities include Gerry’s visit to Ukraine to help consolidate many Rotary activities, a planned Ukraine booth for the House of Friendship in Barcelona next June and the need for continuing support building upon current activities such as music in bomb shelters to reduce mental trauma, especially of children
- Individual donations are welcome at the Calgary Rotary Charitable Trust (CRCF) or the charitable foundations of the Rotary Clubs of Calgary North and our Rotary Downtown Club our Community Service Fund).



- President Doug recognized Ann Haessel for her considerable contributions to our club both as a volunteer and through her generous donations.





- The next club meeting is WEDNESDAY September 9, 2026 at the Glencoe Club with guest speaker Mayor Jeromy Farkas.
- Prior to adjournment, President Doug indicated we would be hearing more about the 138 kilometers of the Rotary Mattamy Greenway in the future.

Sad News

President Doug Webb

Dear Rotary Family,

It is with profound sadness that I share the passing of two of our dear members, Tom Tait and John Boyd. Tom and John were valued members of our Rotary family, and each contributed to the fellowship, spirit and service that make our Club so special. Their presence will be deeply missed.

On behalf of the entire Club, we extend our heartfelt condolences to the families and friends of Tom and John. Please keep them in your thoughts during this incredibly difficult time.

We will share information regarding memorial arrangements and opportunities to honour Tom and John as those details become available.

Rest in peace, Tom and John. Thank you for your friendship, your service and the difference you made in our Club and our community. You will both be greatly missed.

With deepest sympathy,
Doug

--

Doug Webb
President

Fundraising Event for Adopt A Village - September 23, 2026

Barb Young, Doug McMillan and the WCS Team

Tickets are now available for the fundraiser to be held at the Ranchmen's Club on September 23.

Club members, guests and members of other clubs are encouraged to attend and learn more about what we are doing to build sustainable communities in other countries.

Perhaps buy a pig or goat as a gift for a family member or decide to become directly involved; at the least, enjoy companionship and a light meal in relaxing surroundings with great people who are making a difference in the world.

[CLICK HERE](#) to sign up --- OR: <https://rotaryclubofcalgary.org/adopt-a-village>

SAVE THE DATES

Diane Macdonald

We have several service/fellowship activities that will require your help. Watch for the sign-up lists which will be coming out at the beginning of September.

Valley View School BBQ – September 24

Highway Clean-up in Kananaskis – September 26

Lead Foundation School BBQ -- October 8



The BBQ Crew
Crew



The Highway Clean-up

Big Book Sale Summary

Steady Pinney

One spine at a time at our giant community book sale, Calgarians raise thousands of dollars in support of programs that help get kids reading. Find out which organizations have been named 2026 proceeds recipients—and how they're making a difference in the learning lives of children in Calgary.

Folder of photos is [here](#)

Book Sale Proceed Recipient News! How We're Getting Kids Reading This Year

Last May, nearly 16,000 readers took home books from Calgary Reads Big Book Sale—and that raised nearly \$584,000 for early childhood reading initiatives. As steward of the sale, our club's Early Childhood Literacy Committee (ECLC) collaborates with our community partner, Kids Literacy Collective, to determine how best to distribute proceeds.

With a focus on multi-year investments that build momentum across the early literacy ecosystem, we're supporting organizations as they add resources and capacity where it's needed most.

Our committee and community partner have met, and we're excited to share the first group of 2026 sale recipients.

Kids Literacy Collective – \$250,000

KLC exists to strengthen the early literacy ecosystem in Calgary. As a network of changemakers intentionally collaborating to ensure children can read by Grade 3, and love it. KLC's focus is prevention and early intervention. KLC connects partners, advocates for better conditions, curates trusted resources and practical tools, and shares evidence and stories to support families, educators and organizations rather than direct program delivery

2026-2027 activities include:

- * **netWORDing free PD sessions** for educators on the science of reading, with renowned early literacy experts sharing insights and resources
- * **Childhood Unplugged** panel featuring Katherine Martinko and other screen time experts
- * Quiet kick-off of Calgary's unofficial 2026 Year of Reading (inspired by the UK) and working nationally to influence Canada's Year(s) of Reading
- * **Words in the World campaign** to inspire young Calgary families to read anything and everything together as they move through their day, coming soon!

Little Red Reading House Book Bank - \$100,000

Children spend more time reading and see themselves as readers when they have books of their own at home. That means they can start school with literacy skills and other skills that last a lifetime.

The Book Bank—stewarded by the Owerko Centre at the University of Calgary and located at ShedPoint—collects and distributes gently used children's books via Little Red Reading House, Little Red Reading Van and partner agencies serving vulnerable families.

Calgary Public Library Foundation – \$30,000

We're helping some of Calgary's youngest learners become readers through Calgary Public Library programs, including:

- *My First Bookshelf
- *The Story Truck
- *The Kindergarten Book Bag Program

Children's Picture Book – \$15,000

Picture books help children explore not just the worlds that live in their imaginations, but also big feelings, empathy and other perspectives. Big Book Sale's annual picture book publication now has its author and illustrator selected, and it's heading to print soon. Stay tuned!

Seeding Reading Grants – Announced in October

Remaining funds will support Seeding Reading applications. These are small grants for initiatives that bring books and reading help to children from infancy to age 8. Deadline to apply is Sept. 25. [Learn more and apply via Rotary Helps YYC.](#)

Thank you once again, club members, for the important role you play supporting Calgary Reads Big Book Sale to help make it possible to raise these funds and get kids reading!

Polio Eradication Update

Madeleine King

Polio Eradication Update - For The Week Ending 8/29/26

No new Wild Polio paralysis cases were reported this week. We are now 6 weeks since the most recent report of a child being paralyzed by the Wild Polio Virus in Afghanistan.

World Polio Day! October 24, 2026

Over 3 billion Children Immunized

Over \$3 billion raised by Rotary for Polio Eradication

21,000,000 Children Saved from the Paralysis of Polio

1.6 Million lives saved thanks to the Polio Vaccines

Together, We End Polio!

Terry Ziegler, Polio Update Newsletter Editor, Rotary Region 36 **END POLIO**

NOW Coordinator 2024-27 updates from Terry Ziegler <bigzlumber@aol.com>

YOUR VOICE! Please do tell us what you would like more of?

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

Proudly Presenting Our Corporate Members



Upcoming Events

[September 9th - Mayor Jeromy Farkas](#)

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

[September 22nd - Diane Francis](#)

Sep. 22, 2026 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Mountain Daylight Time (UTC-06:00)

[Adopt a Village Fundraiser](#)

Sep. 23, 2026 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

  [You're Invited: Rotary Wine & Pizza Pairing – Sept 25](#)

Sep. 25, 2026 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Mountain Daylight Time (UTC-06:00)

[Community Leaders Workshop](#)

Oct. 05, 2026 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Mountain Daylight Time (UTC-06:00)

[October 6th - Pete Bombaci](#)

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

[Documentary Screening about Human Connection and Loneliness](#)

Oct. 06, 2026 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Mountain Daylight Time (UTC-06:00)

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

Oct. 15, 2026 3:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Mountain Daylight Time (UTC-06:00)

[View entire list](#)

COG Staff - July 1, 2024

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