



September 14, 2026
Volume 44 - Issue 6

"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

Helen Graham	September 15
Paul Gagnon	September 17
Randy Borisenko	September 17
Robert Brookwell	September 23
Barbara Tolevski	September 24
Sid Mark	September 26

Rotary Anniversaries

Keith Visser	35 Years
Tom Keenan	30 Years

RCCD Meeting Recap, September 9th, 2026

Heidi Lacey

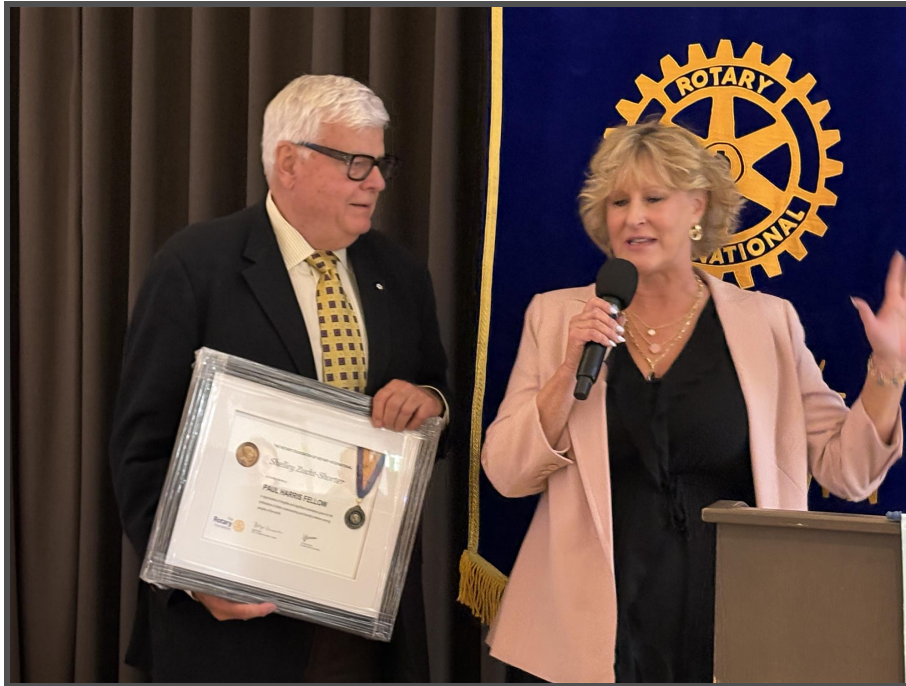
President Doug Webb welcomed a strong turnout of Rotarians and guests to the Glencoe Club for a luncheon featuring Calgary Mayor Jeromy Farkas. Madeleine King opened the meeting with an invocation centred on gratitude, appreciating the opportunity to gather safely, enjoy good conversation and continue Rotary's tradition of service. She also shared a favourite Rotary tradition learned in Uganda: after a hard day of service, gathering together to quench your thirst is known as "swallowship."

A special thank you to our front-of-house volunteers: Ann Haessel, Barb Young, Bridget Fox Luzny and Angeline Hayes at the sign-in table, and Dorothy Loucks, our Greeter/Sgt at Arms. We appreciate you being there to welcome our members and many guests.

Club business began with a special edition of Free Happy Bucks, with members sharing an anniversary, a birthday and some especially good Rotary news: the District received the **Doug Logan District Growth Award**, recognizing two years of growth.

The Club also paused to remember longtime Rotarians Tom Tait and John Boyd, whom Doug described as two of the kindest people he had known through Rotary and an important part of what makes the Club special. Club eulogies honouring their lives and service will be shared at the September 22 luncheon.

A special highlight was the presentation of a **Paul Harris Fellowship** to Shelley Zuck-Shorter, Vice-President at Tourism Calgary. George Brookman recognized Shelley's extraordinary contribution to bringing the 2025 Rotary International Convention to Calgary and helping make it such a success. In accepting the honour, Shelley credited the many partners and Rotarians who helped "roll out the blue carpet" for the convention, which she noted generated approximately \$100 million in economic impact for Calgary.



Coming Up at Rotary:

September 23 — Adopt A Village

More than a fundraiser, the evening will offer an opportunity to hear firsthand stories about the impact of the Adopt A Village program in Uganda and efforts to extend the model to communities in other countries. Dave Leslie, Barb Young, PDG Manon Mitchell and Michael Broadhurst (pictured below) each shared examples of how access to wells, beekeeping and other opportunities can help create sustainable sources of income.



September 24 — Valley View School BBQ

Volunteers are still needed for the BBQ at Valley View School, one of the Club's Stay in School schools. Members were encouraged to pick a shift and lend a hand.

September 25 — Pizza & Wine

Fellowship continues with a pizza and wine pairing evening at Market Wines in University District. Members interested in attending can register through ClubRunner.

October 5 & 6 — GenWell

Members were encouraged to watch the COG for more information about upcoming GenWell activities (see info below).

Mayor Farkas on Calgary's Growth

Introduced by Joe Fras, Calgary Mayor Jeromy Farkas described his visit to the Club as something of a Rotary "homecoming." A former U of C Rotaractor and current member of the Rotary Club of Heritage Park, he drew a natural connection between Rotary's commitment to service and the responsibility of building strong communities.

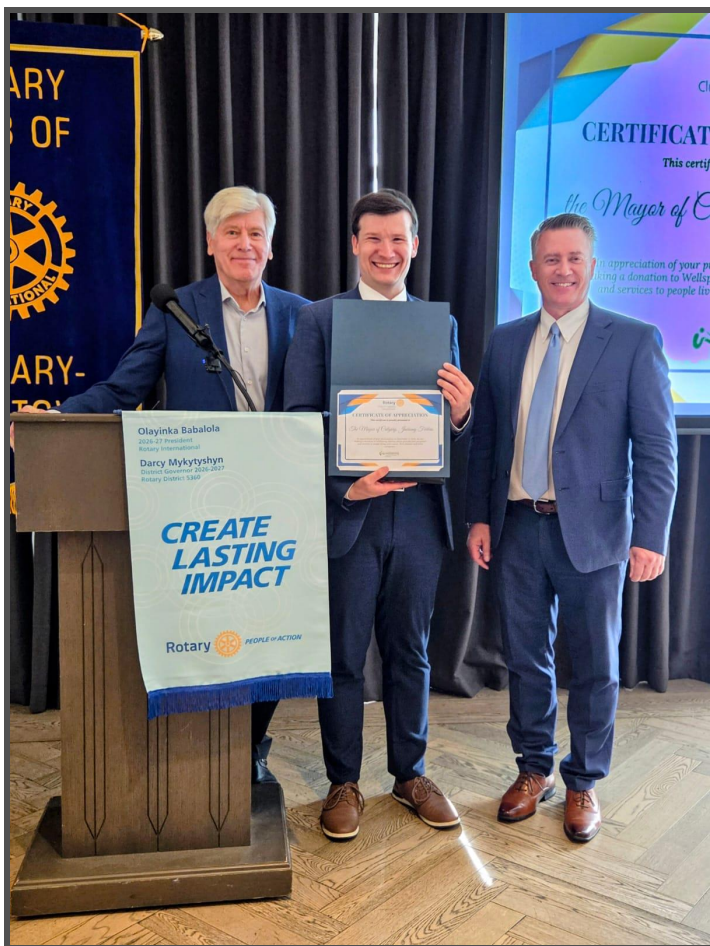
Among the themes Mayor Farkas addressed was the challenge of preparing Calgary for continued growth. While acknowledging pressures including affordability, public safety, economic uncertainty and aging infrastructure, he expressed optimism about Calgary's future, pointing to continued population growth, business investment and families choosing to build their lives here.

Infrastructure was a particular focus. The Mayor spoke about the need to plan not simply for the Calgary of today, but for a wider region approaching two million residents and eventually beyond. He cited an infrastructure deficit approaching \$50 billion over the next decade, saying Calgary cannot continue to grow with infrastructure designed for a much smaller city.

He pointed to the Bearspaw South Feeder Main as an example of the urgency he wants Calgary to bring to major projects. According to the Mayor, work initially expected to take four years is being delivered in approximately 11 months, on time and on budget. He argued that Calgary must make difficult decisions, establish priorities and invest earlier rather than allowing necessary work to become more costly through delay.

At the same time, Mayor Farkas emphasized that infrastructure investment must be accompanied by financial discipline, particularly when families themselves are carefully watching their spending.

Perhaps the theme most closely aligned with Rotary was the Mayor's emphasis on service and personal responsibility. Strong communities, he reflected, do not happen by accident. They are built by people who see a problem, take responsibility and are willing to roll up their sleeves to help solve it—a fitting message for a room full of Rotarians.



President Doug Webb ended the meeting with a lively presentation to George Brookman celebrating his many accomplishments and contributions to our club.



Next Meeting

Join us Tuesday, September 22 at the Palliser.

The Club will welcome **Diane Francis** for political and economic commentary and will share eulogies honouring the lives and service of Tom Tait and John Boyd.

New to Rotary? Start Here (New Member Orientation)

Heidi Lacey

Whether you've recently joined Rotary or simply want a refresher, New Member Orientation is a great opportunity to learn more about Rotary's story, values, impact and the many ways to get involved.

Hosted by Rotary Zone 28 & 32 representatives, who support clubs across Canada and the northern United States, these online sessions are designed with newer members in mind, but all Rotary and Rotaract members are welcome.

Upcoming sessions:

- Monday, September 28 — 4 p.m. ET
- Tuesday, November 10 — 8 p.m. ET
- Wednesday, February 10 — 9 p.m. ET

- Thursday, April 8 — 10 p.m. ET

Please note: Times shown above are Eastern Time. Be sure to confirm the corresponding local time before joining.

Interested in attending? Register [HERE](#).

A graphic for a New Member Orientation event. It features a blue background with a pink wavy line at the bottom. The text is in white and blue. The title "NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION" is in large, bold, white letters on a blue background. Below it, the dates and times are listed in black text on a light blue background. The text "Open to all Rotary and Rotaract members" is in black, followed by "— whether you've joined in the past year or just want a refresher!". Below that, "Explore Rotary's story, values, and impact" is in black, followed by "— and the many ways to get involved.". The Rotary logo is in the bottom right corner. The text "Rotary Zones 28 & 32" is in white. The bottom of the graphic has a blue background with the text "CONNECT, LEARN AND BE INSPIRED!" in white, bold, italicized letters.

**NEW MEMBER
ORIENTATION**

Monday, September 28th - 4 pm EST
Tuesday, November 10th - 8 pm EST
Wednesday, February 10th - 9 pm EST
Thursday, April 8th - 10 pm EST

Open to all Rotary and Rotaract members
— whether you've joined in the past year
or just want a refresher!
Explore Rotary's story, values, and impact
— and the many ways to get involved.

Rotary 
Zones 28 & 32

CONNECT, LEARN AND BE INSPIRED!

Help Us Return a Borrowed Projection Screen

Heidi Lacey

Our late fellow Rotarian Walley Temple had borrowed a projection screen from someone, and his wife is hoping to return it to its owner.

If the screen belongs to you, or you know who it belongs to, please contact:

Sonny Belenkie at 403-243-6766.

GenWell, Canada's Human Connection Movement

Heidi Lacey

Many of the challenges facing our communities, from rising mental health concerns and substance use to community disengagement and polarization, share a common root: disconnection.

On October 5 and 6, the Rotary Club of Calgary is partnering with GenWell, Canada's Human Connection Movement, for a series of events exploring the importance of social health and how stronger human connections can help build healthier, more resilient and engaged communities.

Monday, October 5 — Community Leaders Workshop

9:00–11:30 a.m. | The Confluence | \$10

Designed specifically for community leaders, this interactive workshop will explore the impact of social health on individuals and society, barriers to connection in our communities, and practical, evidence-based ways to bring people together. It will also provide an opportunity to connect and collaborate with fellow civic leaders.

Tuesday, October 6 — Luncheon with Pete Bombaci

12:00–1:30 p.m. | Fairmont Palliser Hotel

Join us for a luncheon with Pete Bombaci, Founder and CEO of GenWell, exploring human connection and how stronger social connections can help build a healthier community.

Tuesday, October 6 — Documentary & Community Conversation

6:00–9:00 p.m. | Cardel Theatre | \$5

The conversation continues that evening with a documentary screening focused on human connection and loneliness, followed by a panel discussion featuring Pete Bombaci (GenWell), Meaghan Reid (Converge Mental Health), Suzanne Tough (University of Calgary) and John Pentland (Hillhurst United Church).

Together, these events offer opportunities to learn, reflect, connect and consider the role each of us can play in building a more connected community where everyone can thrive.

Registration and additional details are available through the individual event notices.



Pete Bombaci

**Pete Bombaci is a visionary business
and the Founder & CEO of GenWell**

luncheon on human connection and
explore how stronger social
connections can help build a
healthier community



DATE

Tuesday, October 6th



TIME

12:00 PM - 1:30 PM



LOCATION

Fairmont Palliser Hotel



REGISTER NOW

Let's strengthen our community through connection.

Dear Fellow Community Leaders,

Many of the challenges we face — from rising mental health concerns and substance use to community disengagement and polarization — share a common root: **disconnection**.

That's why we'd like you to save the date for an important conversation — one that introduces a powerful and often overlooked pillar of community well-being: **social health**.

In partnership with GenWell, Canada's Human Connection Movement, the Rotary Club of Calgary is hosting a **Community Leaders Social Health Workshop** designed specifically for leaders like us. It's a chance to learn, reflect, share ideas, and collaborate on building a more connected community where everyone thrives.

- **event** Community Leaders Workshop
- **date** Monday, October 5th, 2026
- **time** 9 AM - 11:30 AM
- **location** The Confluence
- **tickets** [Purchase Here](#)



Research indicates that social health is crucial in our post-pandemic world, as highlighted by studies from the World Health Organization and Canada's Social Connection Guidelines. Social isolation and loneliness not only impact emotional well-being but also increase risks of chronic diseases, depression, and early death.

On the flip side, strong human connections improve well-being, resilience, engagement, and even economic and public safety outcomes.

When communities are better connected, we see stronger social cohesion, improved public health outcomes, more inclusive neighbourhoods, and a more engaged, compassionate, and resilient population.

This workshop will offer a practical and inspiring experience for civic leaders to:

- Understand the impact of social health on individuals and society.
- Explore how actions, programs, and community spaces can foster or hinder connection.
- Discover evidence-based strategies to build connections across ages and cultures.
- Reflect on your leadership practices to inspire a culture of connection.
- Network and collaborate with fellow civic leaders.

More info to come!



Let's strengthen our community through **connection.**

Calgary Community Members,

Many of the challenges we face—from rising mental health concerns and substance use to community disengagement and polarization—share a common root: *disconnection*.

That's why we'd like you to save the date for an important conversation introducing a powerful and often overlooked pillar of community well-being: **social health**.

In partnership with GenWell, Canada's Human Connection Movement, the Rotary Club of Calgary is hosting a documentary screening about human connection and loneliness, and we invite you to join us.

It's a chance to learn, reflect, share ideas, and collaborate on building a more connected community where everyone thrives.

The documentary will be followed by an engaging conversation with a group of amazing panelists:

Pete Bombaci – Founder of GenWell
Meaghan Reid – Converge Mental Health
Suzanne Tough – University of Calgary
John Pentland – Hillhurst United Church

- | | | |
|--------------------|---|--|
| • event: | Documentary Screening about Human Connection and Loneliness | Tickets: \$5 |
| • date: | Tuesday, October 6th, 2026 | 
 |
| • time: | 6–9 pm | |
| • location: | Cardel Theatre – 180 Quarry Park Blvd, Calgary, AB T2C 3G3 | |

More info to come!

Save the Date: Rotary Remembers 2026

Madeleine King

Join Calgary Rotarians and guests for Rotary Remembers 2026, a special gathering to honour and show our respect for Canada's veterans.

Wednesday, November 11 | 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.
Carriage House Inn
9030 Macleod Trail, Calgary

Proceeds from the event will be directed to the Veterans Food Bank of Calgary.

Please save the date.



ROTARY REMEMBERS

— LEST WE FORGET —



WHAT: ROTARY REMEMBERS 2026

WHY: HONOUR AND RESPECT OUR VETERANS

WHO: CALGARY ROTARIANS AND GUESTS

WHEN: WEDNESDAY, NOV 11 10:00 A.M. — 1:00 P.M.

WHERE: CARRIAGE HOUSE INN

9030 Macleod Trail, Calgary, AB T2H 0M4

** Proceeds will be directed to the Veterans Food Bank of Calgary.*



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 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.

[Valley View/ Ian Bazalgette Schools BBQ](#)

Sep. 24, 2026

1:30 p.m. - 6:30 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)

[Kananaskis Highway Clean-up](#)

Sep. 26, 2026

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

[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)

[Fellowship Committee Meeting](#)

Oct. 28, 2026 3:30 p.m.

[View entire list](#)

COG Staff - July 1, 2024

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