



September 30, 2025
Volume 43 - Issue 7

"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.

UNITE FOR GOOD



Birthdays

Bill Manarey	October 4
Bruce Fenwick	October 4
John Fisher	October 5
John Seigner	October 5
Bill Clapham	October 9
Chris Ward	October 9
Peter McKeen	October 10
Diana Aspe Ayer	October 12
Garry Moyes	October 13

Update on the Local Discretionary Granting Strategic Directions

Randy Topolnitsky

Your granting committees have been busy behind the scenes working to integrate the granting strategy into their work. We have not communicated to you for quite a while, so I just wanted to recap some of the highlights of the Granting Strategy.

How we got here!

The Rotary Club of Calgary Downtown (RCCD) has a long, proud history of community service. In fact, community service is at the core of its mission. The Club has generously contributed millions of dollars, countless volunteer hours, and rich expertise to make positive impacts locally in the Calgary community. In doing so, our Club has developed a reputation as a community leader worthy of admiration and emulation. We proudly support Calgarians in need and are working to make a meaningful impact in their lives.

In the spirit of continuous improvement, many Club members felt that RCCD could have an even bigger community impact by being more strategic in our local granting. So, in 2023-24, the Granting Strategy Task Force (GSTF) was pleased to hear from Club members through the largest consultation and engagement process in the Club's history. It aimed to be inclusive and accessible to all. The Club's input resulted in a Local Discretionary Granting Strategy that the Board approved in July 2024. Thank you again to all who took the time to participate!

Why do we need a Local Discretionary Granting Strategy?

Taking comments from one of our Past-Presidents, Eva Friesen, "We need to ask: How is Rotary's purpose unique? How might that purpose still have relevance? Our sizable endowment (approximately \$50 million) affords us the luxury of continuing to exist whether we are relevant or not. We need to be cognizant of the need to stay relevant, and the temptation to fall into comfortable cruise control fueled by the endowment. To stay relevant requires listening, looking, identifying shifts in the environment, shifts in people's behavior, shifts in people's and community's needs, and shifts in our own thinking. It's hard work."

With the many changes that have occurred in our society, community, and Club, RCCD's approach to local granting also needs to change so the Club can deliver better on its mission. This has become abundantly clear to many Club members as they've observed such trends as a decrease in Club membership, greater demands on volunteers, fewer hours available for volunteering, greater and more complex community needs, a more competitive fundraising environment, and growing requirements for accountability, collaboration, and sophistication among granting and charitable organizations.

Objectives of the Local Discretionary Granting Strategy:

The Local Discretionary Granting Strategy aims to improve and enhance RCCD's local granting programs, structures, and processes. Transparency, efficiency, a bottom-up approach to decision making, sustainability, and collaboration are just some of the objectives of the Strategy. It aims to build on the Club's rich history and traditions, while also wisely investing to encourage community impact, a sense of Club purpose and pride, public profile, and Club member recruitment, engagement, and retention. Develop a platform for Members to work together supporting common causes and Building Community.

What is the Local Discretionary Granting Strategy?

The Strategy outlines the following for RCCD's local discretionary granting approach:

1. What we do and why we do it (RCCD's mission and vision)
2. How we do it (we pursue our mission and vision through our roles in granting, convening, learning, club member engagement, and fundraising)
3. What we focus on (our local priorities or focus areas, include: Early Childhood Literacy, Food Security, Education, Mental Wellness)
4. What guides our local discretionary granting work (our principles such as transparency, integrity, alignment, collaboration, sustainability, engagement, accountability, and impact)
5. How we help (through our granting programs, including Small Donations, Major Donations, Legacy Donations, and Early Childhood Literacy Donations, and through activities that support the Club to convene, Learn, engage members, and fundraise in its priority areas).

The Strategy also outlines many specific "Strategic Directions" for RCCD to undertake from 2024-25 through 2026-27 that will help the Club to achieve the objectives of its local discretionary granting work.

Stay Tuned!

Stay tuned to future issues of the COG and other Club Communications to learn more about the Strategy, the Club's focus areas, investments and activities the Club has undertaken in these priority areas, and the community impact we're having!

Were You at the Sept 23, 2025 Rotary Meeting?

Doug McMillan

Ann Haessel delivered a eulogy remembering Anne Toombs who recently passed away following death of her husband, Garth, earlier this year. Anne was active in the Canadian Cancer Society and was an honorary member of the Rotary Club of Calgary where she was an important contributor to setting up the Educating African Youth program (initiated in memory of Curley Galbraith). A moment of silence was observed by approximately 50 members and guests in attendance.

Following the usual introductory activities, "Happy Bucks Moments" were highlighted by mention that Randy Topolnitsky was a recognized "Conkers" Champion. Those not in attendance who do not know about Conkers knowledge will need to use Google or another search engine.

The following information related to club presidency was presented by Current President, Bill Hamilton

Announcement – As per by-laws the period for nominations for the office of President for the year following the next ensuing Rotary year is open and that:

- a. The nominating committee for President will be meeting for the purpose of choosing a nominee to serve as Club President, and any eligible members of the Club who would like to be considered for the nomination may advise any member of the nominating committee for President of their interest.
- b. The nominating committee for President will advise the Club of their nominee for President at the last regular meeting of the Club during October of that year.
- c. Any additional nominations from members of the Club may be made to the Secretary of the Club. Nominations shall close at 12:00 noon on the day of the second regular meeting of the Club in November of that year.

DG Manon Mitchell announced the November 1st "Twin the Win for Polio" as being sponsored by Rotary District 5360 with tickets available on the District website

<https://rotary5360.ca/events/twin-the-win-for-polio/> (Mentioning that Nov 1st was also her birthday may have given away how the cost of \$19.55 was derived).

Our Club President Elect, Doug Webb, is the Emcee, and our Club Musician, William

**END
POLIO
NOW**

Rotary
District 5360



**TWIN THE WIN FOR POLIO
WITH RAMESH FERRIS**

SATURDAY, NOV 1 2025
7 - 9 PM

\$19.55
+GST (\$20.95 TOTAL)
*1955 honors the
release of the
Polio vaccine*


We are the close to ending polio

**Alexander Centre
Society Dance Hall**
922 9 Ave SE
Calgary, AB
T2G 0S4

RAMESH FERRIS
District Governor 5370 & Polio Survivor
*Polio Update from Mike McGovern,
RI Polio Plus Chair*



Serving Iron Lung Ale



**Let's double our district's Polio Plus
Society members!**



William Friedson and his jazz band



Friedson will be providing the music!

Wellspring Alberta's Jill Miller was welcomed as her organization is a recipient of our Club's



donations.

Our guest speaker, Allan Klassen, (introduced by Maxine Morrison) spoke on “Living a life of Intention and Clarity”.



Recounting how his life took a dramatic turn for the better at age 35, he mentioned previous work related to home construction, founding a charity related to Alzheimers disease and his current work in leadership coaching. Understanding personal priorities is important to develop clarity in one's life to develop good habits which drive good behaviour. As we all try to "make a difference in some small way", Allan 10 key attributes to changing/improving your life:

1. Clarity of purpose
2. Growth mindset
3. Healthy habits
4. Effectiveness
5. Self awareness
6. Discipline and time management
7. Resilience and grit
8. Positive relationships
9. Continuous learning and curiosity
10. Gratitude and mindfulness

Allan's image of not achieving work / life balance



For more on improving ourselves through Rotary, please plan on attending October 7, 2025 when the Guest Speaker will be Martha Findlay from the U of C School of Public Policy speaking on "Where Public Policy Hits the Road- And Why it's More Important Now than Ever".

Highway Clean-up Service Project

You never know what you might find in the ditch along Highway 40 in Kananaskis. This year, the “treasures” included the insignia medallion off the front of a Mercedes, a piece of a bumper from a vehicle and a brand new gallon plastic jug. Bill and Maggie Redmond, Madeleine King and Bob Taylor, Lori and Lorne Forand, new member Farai Tonzani, and Dave and Diane Macdonald met on a beautiful Saturday morning, September 13th (see the picture!), each spent an hour walking a one kilometer stretch of the highway collecting various items that didn't belong in the ditch. Then met back at Wedge Pond for a picnic.

It was a great way to spend a short time on a worth-while service project and a fun fellowship opportunity.



Crew plus Bill & Maggie



Redmond

Back to School

Diane Macdonald

Last Thursday, on a beautiful day for a barbeque, about 35 Club members, family, friends and Western Canada High School Interact Club members met at Valley View School to cook and serve a variety of 800 hamburgers and hot dogs (beef, veggie, chicken, Halal).

It was Meet the Teacher night at the school and what used to be a handful of parents arriving to meet their child's new teachers has evolved into a event. The first year we offered a barbeque on that evening, we fed about 300 folks; this year, it was closer to 800. The school staff are so pleased to be able to meet the parents face to face; the families are happy to find that the school is a welcoming place.

Deb Hymers and her NStep group were there as well, interacting with the children and their families with information about nutritious eating and healthy activity. As well, Deb had arranged with a local optometrist to meet the families and do eye exams on the children. Many parents were not aware that eye exams on little ones are free.

KidSport arrived as well, with soccer balls, so the school field was a busy place!

Thus ends another successful BBQ season. We will ramp up again in May and will be looking forward to more fellowship participation. It's a great way to volunteer and visit with your fellow Club members.





Rotary Wine and Pizza Pairing - Friday September 26

Madeleine King

Our Club's social committee scored a huge win with the first Wine and Pizza Pairing at Market Wines in the University District!



Invitation to Annual Gala Indian Dinner and Entertainment for Maya Devi Hospital - Saturday October 18

Bob Taylor

Once again the CHILD Foundation is hosting its annual celebration and fund-raiser in support of the Maya Devi Charitable Hospital in Sarurpur, India. Of note, the hospital has been the recipient of multiple Rotary grants to help build its capacity and expand its service offerings.

As many Rotarians from our club and other clubs (as well as our district leadership) experienced last year, participants will enjoy delicious Indian food, be treated to an Indian dance performance, hear from a panel of avid supporters and learn about our new youth-focused Computer Lab / Library initiative.

Once again, the cost of the banquet has been covered by a generous sponsor so there is NO COST to attend. As a result, 100% of you and your guests' donations will go towards work at the hospital.

Following is the link to the Eventbrite registration page **or you can simply e-mail rwbobtaylor@shaw.ca with your list of attendees.**

[Read more...](#)

RCCD Connecting and Engaging with the Community

Franco Savoia

Not for Profit Chamber: RCCD has joined the [Not for Profit Chamber](#). Formerly known as the Calgary Chamber of Voluntary Organizations, it has rebranded under this new name. The association provides a voice to the voluntary and charitable sector in our city. As Rotarians we are able to access information and data.

Calgary Funders and Foundations Roundtable: RCCD has joined this Roundtable. It is convened by the Calgary Foundation and the United Way. The Roundtable serves as a platform for funders, foundations, and community investment practitioners to collaborate, share knowledge, and enhance their collective impact in the non-profit/charitable community in Calgary and Treaty 7 Territory. It meets quarterly. Patti Dolan and Franco Savoia will be attending. Other RCCD members are able to attend,

Rotary Helps YYC: This platform is in its third year. Eight of the 12 Calgary Rotary Clubs (Centennial, Chinook, Downtown, East, Fish Creek, Heritage Park, North, West) are participating. Launched in February 2023 in response to community feedback, it is a “one window” to reach out for Rotary support. The Steering Committee in its year 2 reported the following:

Year 2: (July 1st, 2024 - June 30th, 2025)

- 70 applications received with requests totalling to \$2,913,959
- 31 applications were approved for a total of \$551,600 distributed in funding. 10-15 applications are still being considered at the time of this report.
- 7 applications had 2-3 clubs combining their contribution

The [link](#) for applications. RCCD members are asked to share the link with potential community partners.

Club Meeting Dates - updated

The Board has confirmed that our in person meetings will occur on alternate Tuesdays, so enter the following dates in your 2025 calendar:

Oct. 7 and 21 plus a Club Assembly Oct 28

Nov. 4 and 18

Dec. 2 and 16

Proudly Presenting Our Corporate Members



Upcoming Events

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

CHECK YOUR EMAIL

Oct. 02, 2025

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

[Club Luncheon: Where Public Policy Hits the Road and Why It's More Important Now Than Ever](#)

133 9 Avenue Southwest

Oct. 07, 2025 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Mountain Daylight Time (UTC-06:00)

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

CHECK YOUR EMAIL

Oct. 16, 2025

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

[Club Luncheon: Building an Adaptive Workforce for Calgary's Tomorrow](#)

133 9 Avenue Southwest

Oct. 21, 2025 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Mountain Daylight Time (UTC-06:00)

[Rotary Oct 28 2025 \(Palliser\) - Club Assembly](#)

133 9 Avenue Southwest

Oct. 28, 2025 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Mountain Daylight Time (UTC-06:00)

[Rotary Nov 4 Luncheon \(Palliser\) - Guest Speaker Jason Kenny](#)

133 9 Avenue Southwest

Nov. 04, 2025 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Mountain Standard Time (UTC-07:00)

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

CHECK YOUR EMAIL

Nov. 06, 2025

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

[Rotary Nov 18 Luncheon \(Palliser\) - Guest Speaker Greg van Tighem](#)

133 9 Avenue Southwest

Nov. 18, 2025 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Mountain Standard Time (UTC-07:00)

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

CHECK YOUR EMAIL

Nov. 20, 2025

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

[View entire list](#)

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

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