Rotary Club of Calgary | Downtown

# COG

**November 2, 2026**
**Volume 44 - Issue 10**

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




Rotary International's theme for the 2026-2027 year

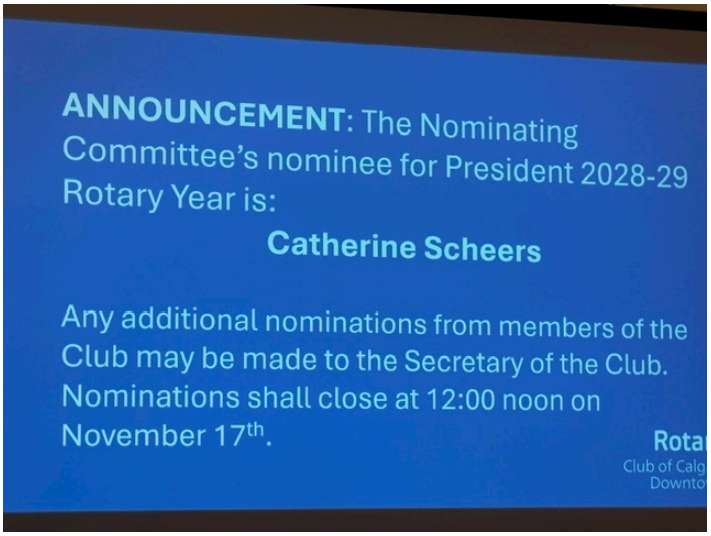
## Club Meeting October 27 – Guest Speaker: Professor Duane Bratt

Madeleine King

President Doug Webb welcomed 53 members and guests to our meeting.

Michael Pierson played O Canada; Trevor Axworthy gave the Invocation focused on the civility of the Referendum coupled with Rotary values; Doug thanked Ron and Deb Hymers for hosting the sign-in table and Franco Savoia as the official Greeter.

Several members took advantage of Happy Bucks to share their “happenings”, including a standing ovation for Manon Mitchell’s recognition for her work with the Civic Symphony as related by Madeleine King through an email from Letha MacLachlan. Michael Broadhurst brought member's birthdays to our attention and George Brookman requested cheques for our Christmas Hampers.



Catherine was unable to attend as she has just left on her honeymoon cruise! Catherine's bio as provided by Club Secretary Andrea Serink was shared:

*Catherine Scheers works at the University of Calgary as a Senior Director in the office of Development and Alumni. With respect to our Rotary Club Catherine was the Communications Director, 2021-22 and a Communications Committee Member, 2020-21; She joined Rotary April 18, 2019.*

*In the community Catherine is known for being a professional speaker, entrepreneur and best-selling author who maximizes employees' potential within corporations.*

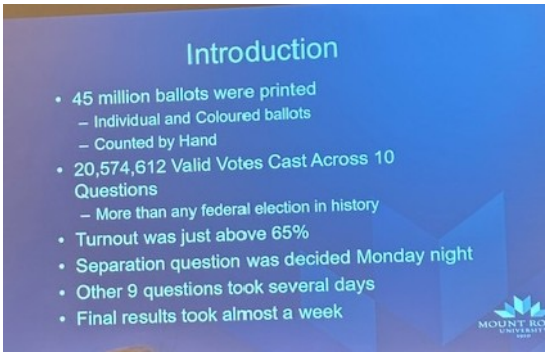
*She is Co-Founder of Success University for Women, Co-Author of Success University for Women in Leadership (2017), Success University for Women in Business (2016), Success University for Women - Wisdom Working for You, (2015) and The Success Secret (2012).*

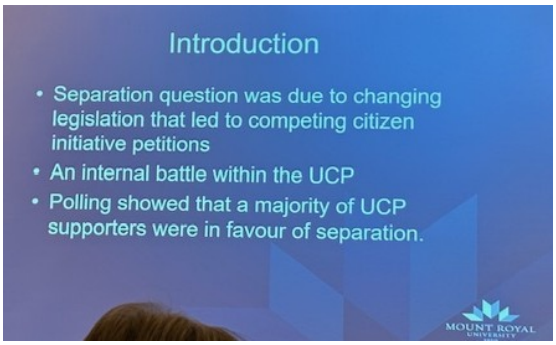
*Catherine has a big heart and one of her many strengths is helping others overcome stress and reach their potential.*

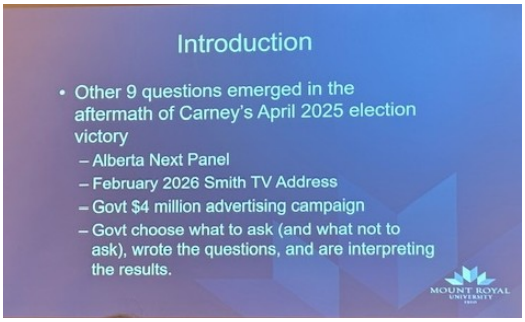
*We are grateful that Catherine is willing to take on the role of President 2028-2029 and we are confident that our Club will benefit from her many skills to meet its full potential under her leadership.*

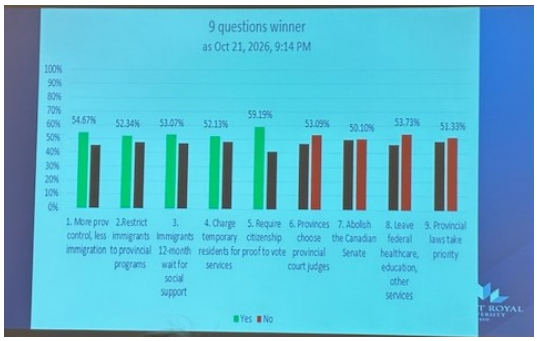
Program Director Terry McMahon introduced our guest speaker, well-known Professor of Political Science Duane Bratt to speak about the recent Referendum, followed by a lively and fascinating Q&A.






Next Meeting: Tuesday November 3 with guest speaker, Ian Anderson about Nation-Building Energy Projects

## BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|---|---|
| Christina Castro | October 29 |
| Manon Mitchell | November 1 |
| Gerard D'Mello | November 2 |

## ROTARY ANNIVERSARIES

| | |
|---|---|
| John Seigner | 30 Years |
| Bob Ermter | 50 Years |
| Gord Graham | 50 Years |

## Upcoming Events







An Art Show to Benefit NStep, an education and nutrition charity founded by Club member Deb Hymers

Ann Haessel




**All profit from this exhibition goes to the Calgary-based NSTEP registered charity.**

This charity has helped children, youth and families build healthy habits since 2002. Its mission is to motivate people to EAT better, WALK more, and LIVE longer. Through practical, culturally diverse, and multilingual programs, NSTEP translates scientific research into simple language to empower communities with lifelong healthy choices.

## Attending the Maya's Dream Annual Gala, October 25th

Madeleine King

Several of our Club members attended this annual fund-raiser last Sunday to support the Maya Devi Hospital in India through the Child Foundation based here in Calgary. This hospital was first supported by our Club some 15 years ago and has, through the World Community Services Committee and Global Grants from The Rotary Foundation, supported several initiatives in the years since then. The Calgary board of directors now includes members from our Club (Bob Taylor), Calgary Centennial, Calgary East and Calgary West Rotary clubs – all of which were represented!

Guests enjoyed delicious Indian cuisine and vibrant multi-cultural performances, as well as hearing about the achievements and the inspiring stories from the hospital.

Dr. Nalini Singhal spoke about developing programs related to newborn care with a demonstration of how to help a mother secure her baby "skin to skin" with a wrap for Kangaroo Mother Care.

Following along from the past couple years, Past District Governors Manon Mitchell and Kurt Kowalchuk brought greetings on behalf of the District, and shared some words of Rotary inspiration. We hope to have even more of our Club members attend next year!







## A Letter of Thanks from Ruth's House

Franco Savoia

*Dear Rotary Club of Calgary Downtown,*

*On behalf of our Board of Directors, staff, and the families we serve, I extend our heartfelt appreciation to the Rotary Club of Calgary Downtown for your generous $40,000 donation towards the purchase of our community van.*

*Your investment has gone far beyond providing transportation. It has given us the ability to respond more effectively to the needs of vulnerable women, children, and families as they rebuild their lives with dignity, safety, and hope.*

*We are delighted to share that your generosity is already making a meaningful difference!*

*Since receiving the van, we have supported over 10 clients with moving into their new homes, while also facilitating donation pickups and transporting essential household items to families in need.*

*For families transitioning from crisis to stability, something as simple as having reliable transportation can make an extraordinary difference. Your partnership has helped remove a significant barrier, making these important life transitions less stressful and more dignified.*

*The attached infographic highlights some of the impact your generosity has made possible.*

*At Ruth's House, we believe that strong communities are built through meaningful partnerships. Rotary Club of Calgary Downtown has demonstrated what it truly means to put Service Above Self into action.*

*Thank you for believing in our mission, investing in our families, and helping us turn compassion into practical, lasting impact.*

*We look forward to continuing this valued relationship and sharing more stories of the lives being transformed through your generosity.*

*With a grateful heart!!* **Dee Adekugbe,** Executive Director *(She/Her)*




## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR! Note our new feature!

Hosted by Doug McMillan

Click here to tell us what's on your mind (regarding Rotary)? We'll get back in touch, asking to share it in COG ( with possible editing) - or to see if we can fix something.

Do give it a try!

## Proudly Presenting Our Corporate Members

## Upcoming Events

Rotary Luncheon -The complexity of Nation Building Projects
*Nov. 03, 2026 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Canada Central Standard Time (UTC-06:00)*

Rotary Luncheon - Calgary Public Library looks to the future: a better tomorrow through stories
*Nov. 17, 2026 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Alberta Daylight Time (UTC-07:00)*

Fellowship Committee Meeting
*Nov. 28, 2026 3:30 p.m.*

Rotary Luncheon: Values, Philanthropy & Entrepreneurship in Home Building
*Dec. 01, 2026 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Alberta Daylight Time (UTC-07:00)*

Rotary Luncheon | Social Connections
*Dec. 15, 2026 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Alberta Daylight Time (UTC-07:00)*

Fellowship Committee Meeting
*Dec. 28, 2026 3:30 p.m.*

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: Doug Webb
District 5360 Governor: Darcy Mykytyshyn
Rotary International President: Olayinka Hakeem Babalola