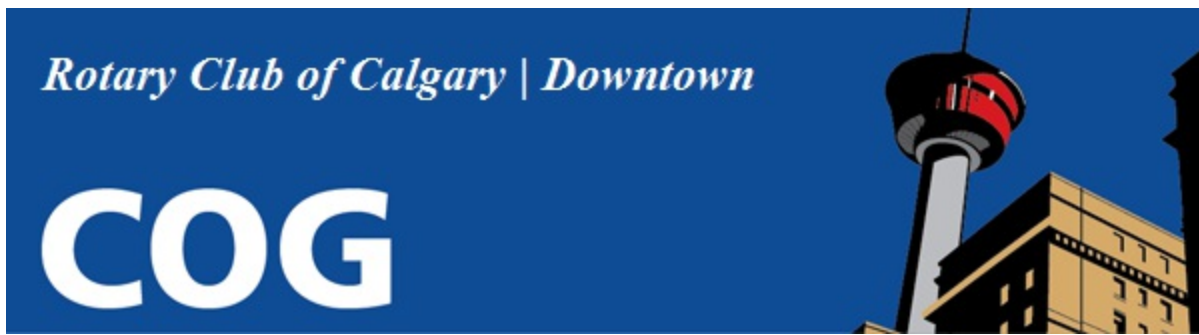




July 20, 2026
Volume 44 - Issue 2

"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 2026-2027 year

Birthdays

Michelle DeCecco	July 21
Yegana Allard	July 29
Nadia Maarouf	August 1
Bertie Kawooya	August 2

Rotary Anniversaries

John Fisher	40 Years
Stuart Libin	30 Years

July 14th, 2026 - President Doug Opens the 2026-27 Rotary Year

Heidi Lacey

The Rotary Club of Calgary Downtown officially launched the 2026–27 Rotary year on July 14 with President Doug presiding over his first meeting as Club President. Members gathered at the Fairmont Palliser to celebrate the beginning of a new Rotary year and look to the months ahead.



The meeting opened with *O Canada*, led by Michael Pierson on the piano, followed by an invocation from Franco Savoia. President Doug welcomed members, visitors, and guests, while also recognizing the volunteers who helped ensure the meeting ran smoothly, including the sign-in team of Angeline Hayes and Fatima Pirbhai-Illich as well as Greeter and Sergeant-at-Arms Dorothy Loucks.



Fellowship provided members with an opportunity to reconnect before the afternoon's program began.

Club business was followed by birthday celebrations recognizing twelve members, before the ever-popular Happy Bucks gave Rotarians a chance to share personal updates and celebrations.

Members also heard from Reyhan Habib, who reflected on his inspiring experience with Rotary's Adventure in Citizenship Program in Ottawa. The visit gave participants meaningful insight into Canada's government and democratic institutions while encouraging greater civic engagement and leadership. Through visits with elected officials, the program encouraged young people to deepen their understanding of public service while fostering an appreciation for active citizenship and leadership.

The meeting also celebrated the continued growth of the Club with the introduction of new members Philippa and Tom Gear, presented by Craig Henderson.



President Doug then shared his inaugural remarks, offering members an opportunity to hear his vision for the year ahead before opening the floor for questions and discussion. As his first meeting at the helm of the Club, the session marked the beginning of a new chapter in Rotary leadership while reinforcing the Club's commitment to service, fellowship, and community impact.

The meeting concluded with a reminder that the Club's next gathering will take place on **July 28 at TELUS Spark Science Centre**, featuring a tour and lunch. Before President Webb adjourned the meeting, members also enjoyed another instalment of **"Celebration of Rotary – Did You Know?"**, highlighting moments from the Club's history alongside something noteworthy from that day.

Rotary Employment Partnership: A Story of Successful Hiring and Inclusion

Al McMillan

Twelve years ago, Rotarian David Hood and his company, Geologic Systems, partnered with the Rotary Employment Partnership to explore hiring individuals with intellectual disabilities. The result was more than just a new hire - it was the beginning of a very successful working relationship. This July, their Data Entry Technician, Davy, proudly celebrates his 12-year anniversary with the company.

This is the Rotary Employment Partnership at its best: Rotarians opening doors of opportunity, while the Partnership provides expert guidance and support to ensure every hire is set up for long-term success. Since 2001, the Partnership has helped create 988 meaningful jobs across Alberta - including 203 jobs in Calgary since Rotarian Mike Colborne introduced the program here in 2011.

These are not just numbers. They represent lives enriched through meaningful work, greater independence, and the dignity that comes from being valued for one's contributions.

If you know business owners or managers in your network who value inclusive hiring, please introduce them to the Rotary Employment Partnership. Contact Mike Colborne to learn more or to connect a business with the Partnership.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read about Davy celebrating his 12-year anniversary with Geologic.



No Blazers Required: A Consultation with Charities & Not-For-Profits

Franco Savoia

RCCD is a member of the Calgary Funders Table. RCCD, with nine other members of the group, hosted "No Blazers Required", a consultation with 60 community charities and not-for-profits. The Not-for-Profit Chamber facilitated two 90 minutes sessions. The discussions focused on deepening understanding of the needs, pain points, and questions that community organizations have about funders.

The sessions were organized so that the ten funders were able to meet with all 60 community organizations. Franco Savoia participated on behalf of RCCD. Steacy Pinney was present representing childhood literacy organizations.

Two overall impressions:

- The diversity of community organizations in terms of size, focus and unique needs being addressed.
- As well as, the diversity of funders and approaches and processes.

Some key take aways for community organizations are:

- They overwhelmingly appreciated the opportunity to meet with funders. Many sought to better understand funders' priorities, processes and evaluation criteria.
- They are stretched, under resourced and have limited capacity. With pressure from funders to reduce costs, they are challenged to pay a living wage.
- They are frustrated by some funders' hesitation to pay for administration- who is expected to pay for administration?
- They welcome and appreciate funders' focus on outcomes. However it is difficult for projects to achieve impact on a one-year funding cycle. They would welcome multi-year funding.
- Community organizations would welcome greater coordination among funders: similar application forms, the reporting formats, etc.
- They are interested in greater collaboration in the delivery of services. However, for this to be successful it needs financial support from funders.

A report of the consultation to indicate learnings and to suggest next steps will be shared with all RCCD committees and other Rotary Clubs in Calgary.



YOUR VOICE!

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

Club Meeting Dates

President Doug Webb and Program Director Terry McMahon

Summer lunch meeting dates: July 14 and 28
August 11 and 25

September 9- Mayor Jeromy Farkas guest speaker (note corrected date)

Proudly Presenting Our Corporate Members



Upcoming Events

[Youth Committee Monthly Meeting](#)

Jul. 22, 2026

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

[Fellowship Committee Meeting](#)

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

[July 28 - Club luncheon](#)

Jul. 28, 2026 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Mountain Daylight Time (UTC-06:00)

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

Aug. 06, 2026

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

[August 11 - Guest Speaker DR Mark Berry](#)

Aug. 11, 2026 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Mountain Daylight Time (UTC-06:00)

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

Aug. 20, 2026

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

[August 25 – Club Luncheon - Guest Speaker \(Gerry Darichuk \)](#)

Aug. 25, 2026 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Mountain Daylight Time (UTC-06:00)

[Rotary Stay-in-School Charity Golf Classic](#)

Aug. 26, 2026

12:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

[Youth Committee Monthly Meeting](#)*Aug. 26, 2026**12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.*[Frank n' Stein \(1st Thursday\)](#)*Sep. 03, 2026**4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.*[View entire list](#)

COG Staff - July 1, 2024

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