



August 17, 2026
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"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

Ginny Sparks-Kellough	August 17
Rick Castiglione	August 20
Philip Libin	August 22
William Friedson	August 22
Tom Loucks	August 23
John Wilson	August 25

Rotary Anniversaries

John Fisher	40 Years
Stuart Libin	30 Years

Rotary Lunch Meeting August 11, 2026

Diane Macdonald

Forty-five members and their guests gathered in the lovely Crystal Ballroom for a very nice buffet meal (including dessert!); Michael Pierson on the piano led us in O Canada and Madeleine King offered a fitting Rotary invocation.

President Doug Webb introduced our several guests and thanked our front of house volunteers – Dorothy Loucks, Ann Haessel and Franco Savoia. There were some very happy “Happy Bucks”, including a photo of Peter and Liz Harrison’s brand new son, Ambrose.



Future Rotarian

Ambrose Harrison

Born July 24, 2026

Proud Parents
Rotarian Peter Harrison & Elizabeth



Michael Broadhurst sadly announced that his very good friend John Phillips, a previous member of this Club, had recently passed away in Toronto. Michael also announced the current Birthdays.

President Doug let us know that the recent Club survey that was done has been reviewed and that, overall, members are pretty happy with the Club. The Board is looking at what the members are asking for and what we, as a Club, want to take on this year. A link to the survey results will be sent out to all members.

Emery Varga spoke about a fundraiser coming up on September 23rd for the Adopt-A-Village initiative, which has started in Uganda. The fundraiser will feature presentations including a video by Rick Castiglione and speakers talking about the success of the villages that we have supported to date. We are encouraged to buy a ticket for ourselves and two for others. Registration is now open on the Club website. (see following article with link).



Joe Fras introduced our guest speaker, Mark Berry, who is a Rotarian and a Pediatric Orthopedic Surgeon. Since 2014, Mark has been pursuing his passion of training surgeons in developing countries where there is a huge unmet need. Prior to that, he went to third world countries to do surgery on children with a variety of orthopedic conditions. He decided that an extension of the old adage "Give a man a fish and he eats today; teach a man to fish and he will eat for the rest of his life" had real-world surgical implications. He set up a program with the help of Rotary Vocational Training grants. He sent multiple volunteer experts (often recently retired surgeons from North America and Europe) to Tanzania over 1 to 3 years to train local surgeons to be pediatric orthopedic surgeons. They worked in three domains: education, surgical skills and leadership. Over half the population of Tanzania is under 17 years of age, so the need is great. Tanzania now has three accredited surgical fellows who have in turn trained three of their own in this specialty field. Because they have been trained in-country, the likelihood of workforce loss to other countries is much less than if they had left their country to train. Mark has programs currently operating in Uganda and Rwanda as well as Tanzania – and Nairobi, Kenya is soon to be added to the list.

He showed us several slides of children from Tanzania before and after procedures to correct some horrendous deformities – it was a visual teaching of what a tremendous difference the surgery would make in the life of each of those children.



Mark was thanked by Joe with our traditional certificate and a donation to Wellspring. (Picture shows Joe Fras thanking Dr. Mark Berry, with President Doug Webb).

Doug's Club History minute focused on James Wheeler Davidson and his contribution to Rotary and our Club. He then presented Service Above Self awards to Gord Graham (for all his work on Club BBQs), Catherine Scheers (for what she does to strengthen our ties with the University of Calgary) and Dave and Diane Macdonald (for helping make our BBQs happen).

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, August 25th. The guest speaker will be Gerry Darichuk, speaking about his Humanitarian Mission to Ukraine.

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

Report from CAWST to Gene Wasylichuk for WCS

We at CAWST are excited to share that in 2025, **47 million people in 92 countries** were reached with clean water, safe sanitation, and hygiene through CAWST's network. This is more than double the year prior and the largest single-year impact in our history.

The Rotary Club of Calgary Downtown's and our [global community of Wavemakers'](#) support have created a ripple effect that reaches far beyond a single year, project or community.

The global water challenge remains urgent. CAWST and our network are taking steps to reach more people faster.

We have set an ambitious target of reaching **230 million people by 2030**. We will continue to expand the number of people globally who are trained to take action in their communities, add new training partners, and leverage digital technology.

We are inviting everyone to see their role in this movement as a Wavemaker to explore our [2025 Annual Report](#) and celebrate everything **the Rotary Club of Calgary Downtown** has helped make possible.

Thank you for being part of our journey. With gratitude,

The CAWST Team

P.S. [Watch](#) an enthusiastic thank you from our CAWST team!

Light Up the World (LUTW) Solar Power Installation in the Peruvian Alps

Bob Taylor for WCS

LUTW thanks the Rotary Clubs of Calgary Fish Creek, Calgary Stampede Park, Calgary West, and the Calgary Downtown Club for their funding support for LUTW's 2026 SAIT student volunteer Solar Project In the May.

15 SAIT student volunteers and their professors helped LUTW install a 4.4 KW (12 panel) solar electrification system complete with storage batteries, inverter and satellite internet at a pre-school and a high school in the remote Peruvian Community, of Pedregal – located at an elevation of 4150 m and 8 hrs on bad roads from the nearest city. Classrooms are now illuminated with electricity enabling computers & internet access!!

The solar and satellite equipment was funded by total of \$20,000 in contributions from the four Calgary Rotary Clubs and a grant from District 5360.

SILFAB Solar and S-5! generously donated the solar panels and mounting equipment required for the project.

The outcome of this project extends beyond the village with reports that "participation had a transformative impact on the SAIT students".

[LINK](#) here for Report - AND TO SEE PICTURES.

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

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

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Upcoming Events

[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.

[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.

[View entire list](#)

COG Staff - July 1, 2024

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