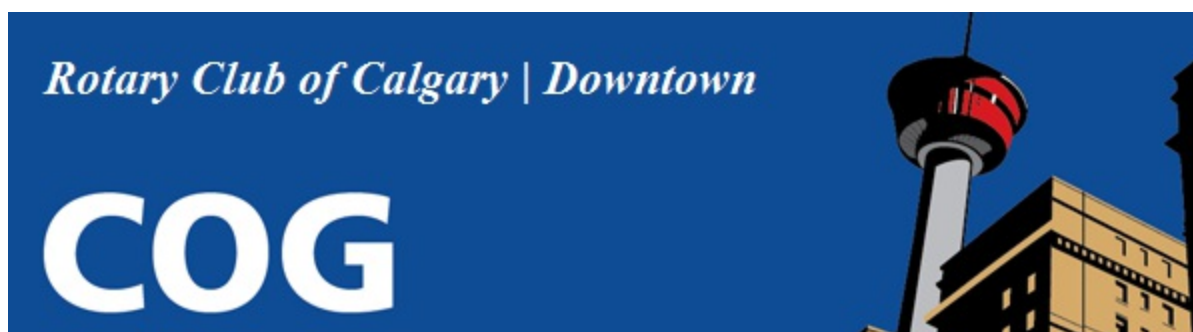




September 28, 2026
Volume 44 - Issue 7

"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.



Rotary International's theme for the 2026-2027 year

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

Rotary Anniversaries

Paul Gagnon	45 Years
Ayodeji Jeje	20 Years

What did we learn at Rotary meeting September 22?

Madeleine King - with photos by Doug McMillan

The meeting was sold out with many guests, including those checking out our club, as well as those who came to hear our guest speaker. President Doug Webb welcomed them and

thanked our volunteers who greeted them (Deb and Ron Hymers and Michael Broadhurst). He especially mentioned guest Rotarian Natat Asdamongkol from Thailand.



Bob Taylor gave an inspirational invocation in gratitude for the opportunity to hear contrasting views with interest and without occasional rancour.

Club eulogies followed for John Boyd and Tom Tait- two long-time active members who recently passed away.

Paul Gagnon told how John Boyd's career was as a successful geophysicist, his Rotary membership dated to 1978, he served as club president and on several committees, he sang in many annual Rotary Balls and served food at many annual Stampede BBQs.

Terry McMahon told how Tom Tait's career had been in Canada's diplomatic service three years in Paris advancing Canadian business interests, followed by assignments in Republic of Congo, Algeria, Morocco, and Libya. On his return to Calgary he owned and edited Galleries West, an arts magazine, winning numerous awards. Tom was an active Rotarian for 34 years. His service to Rotary was recognized with the Paul Harris Award just last year.



Terry McMahon, left, President Doug Webb and Paul Gagnon listening to Michael Pierson honour the eulogies by playing beautiful piano music.

Club members then enjoyed the opportunity to share their personal highlights during “Happy Bucks”.

President Doug read out the following Notice:

NOTICE – as per the By-Laws Article 1 Section 1

The period for nominations for the office of President for the year 2028– 2029 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. (being Oct, 27, 2026)

(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. (being Nov. 17, 2026)

Those eligible for the office of President shall be members of the Club in good standing who have served either as an elected Director of the Club for at least eighteen months, or one year as either Secretary or Treasurer of the Club.

George Brookman asked everyone for \$300 (per couple) to support our club’s heart-warming Christmas Hamper Campaign – whether or not they are club members! George explained that Howie Shikaze works like the heck, while George tags along. We raise about \$50,000 and we have 100 families from our school programs that really need our help. When we go out and deliver those hampers, it's an amazing emotional time.

One person answered George’s call – our new member, John Wilson – who was then welcomed into the club by George.

For upcoming events detailed at the meeting, see below.

Eva Friesen introduced our guest speaker, journalist Diane Francis, a distinguished visiting professor at the Metropolitan University's Business School in Toronto, and a recipient of several honorary degrees and prestigious awards.

Diane Francis described how her presentation would be based on her three-part series on her Substack in the spring, entitled "The Space Age Cometh" about the tech space revolution coming out of the Silicon Valley. Leaders include Elon Musk and Jeff Bezos, with the other leader being Japan. It's about outsourcing power generation from space to bring unlimited electricity back for human beings. The ultimate goal is to provide unlimited clean energy for the

world. The other goal is to mine planets and asteroids that are capable of providing all of the world's metals and minerals. The plans are to build gigantic solar farms on the Moon or in orbit that can replace fossil fuels, hydroelectricity, and massive nuclear plants. This is about changing our existence.

We are in a race to come up with rockets that are reusable, to bring the cost of launch and recovery down in order to be able to get a lot of cargo up there, and bring it back. Japan has a project this year - the first solar power station satellite into orbit that can capture and transmit solar panels on it; the goal is to capture and transmit solar power to a receiving site on Earth for conversion into usable electricity. The Americans have also been able to do that in their laboratories.

Of special interest to Canada, is that getting into space requires control of the Arctic for launches, assembly, and monitoring. It's possible to get up and down in fewer miles at the Arctic, and that's why the Arctic will be at the center of the geopolitical chessboard going forward. The space economy now is roughly 596 billion USD annually, and will double by 2033 .

The questions that followed covered many topics, from the weaponization of space to the Ukraine Russia war and threats to Canadian sovereignty.

President Elect Sean Baylis thanked Diane Francis for her presentation.



Next meeting: Tuesday October 6 noon at the Fairmont Palliser with Peter Bombaci of GenWell on the topic of mental wellness.

President Doug ended the meeting by telling us about how our club initiated the Community Chest (way back when) which became United Way. Our history shows how much impact we have had on this city.

Doug also called up Rob Brookwell who, apart from being the only birthday recipient present today celebrated by Michael Broadhurst and all in the room, received a certificate from Doug recognizing Rob's continuing meaningful contribution to the Board in particular and the Club in general. Well done Rob!

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!

Next Club Meeting - October 6 - [register at website:](#)

Editor Madeleine King



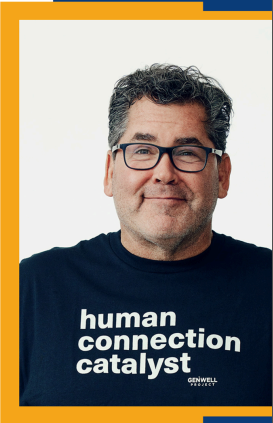
Pete Bombaci
Founder and CEO of GenWell

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

 **DATE**
Tuesday, October 6, 2026

 **TIME**
12:00 Pm - 1:30 Pm

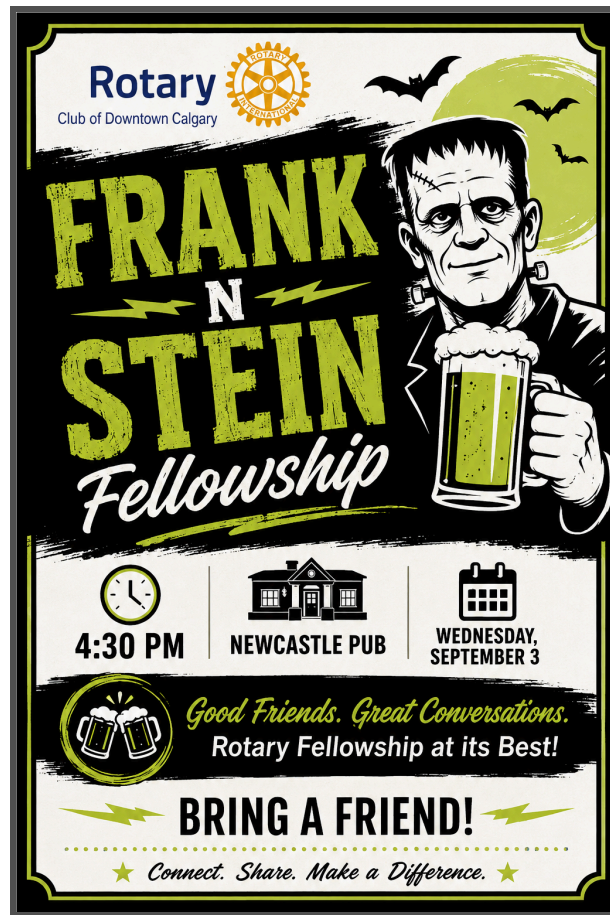
 **LOCATION**
[Fairmont Palliser](#)



REGISTER NOW

AND, join fellow Rotarians and friends at FranknStein - every 2 weeks Thursday afternoons. No need to register.

For dates and locations (they switch from north to south) WATCH FOR EMAILS FROM JOHN SEIGNEUR. We do have fun!



ALSO, every 2nd Tuesday, when there's no official club meeting, join Howie Shikaze and other Rotarians and friends at the Palliser at noon for lunch. No need to register; order and pay for your own lunch when you're there. It's a great chance to chat or introduce yourself to a smaller group of friendly club members.

Save the Date: Rotary Remembers 2026

Editor 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.



Adopt-a-Village Impact Event hosted by our Club September 23

Manon Mitchell - photos by John Seigneur

How do you lift a small community out of poverty and create lasting impact? We heard the stories on Wednesday, the 23rd of September, at the Adopt-a-village event organized by the Adopt-a-Village team under Gerard D'Mello's leadership. Members of the team explained in detail how it all starts with the partnership with a local Rotary club.

Our club has been working with the Rotary Club of Kalisizo for many years now so it is only natural to continue working with them. This follows a comprehensive community assessment of the village with the villagers and their leadership team who select the direct beneficiaries based on their ability to follow instructions and their passion for a particular area. Beneficiaries are trained and then provided with the resource they have picked. Choices included pigs, chickens, cows, coffee beans, honey, and even plain old clean water. The impact is remarkable. Starting with just 1 cow, a villager can then pass on the progeny and this keeps going and going and going til that 1 cow now has impacted 15 more villagers! Villagers learn to sell their products such as eggs, honey and coffee beans. The older women no longer have to collect water from way down at the bottom of the valley. Many now have access to relatively clean water near their home.

Our own member, Rick Castiglione produced an incredible [short video](#) about the project. Click here to view it. The objective of the evening was achieved; we will be working with two (2) more Rotary clubs in our district in supporting them in adopting a village and guiding them through the well established process.

In addition to approximately 50 present, about 10 people joined us online to learn more; some of them were from the Rotary Club of Kalisizo!

Of course, the food at the Ranchmen's was delicious and the conversations were lively. Thanks Adopt-a-Village team for sharing this impactful project.

As President Doug Webb said: "Adopt a Village is much more than a single project or donation. It brings clean water, improved sanitation, sustainable agriculture, clean energy, environmental stewardship, and new economic opportunities together in one coordinated program. Most importantly, it works alongside local communities—building their skills, strengthening their leadership, and helping families become increasingly self-reliant."





Response from a Rotarian in Kalisizo: *Thank you so much for your generosity, love, and continued commitment to making a difference in the lives of our communities. I was honoured to attend the function, and I was deeply touched by the spirit of service and compassion demonstrated by everyone.*

.....I would also like to once again to pledge our commitment to ensuring that the support you generously send to us reaches the communities and makes a meaningful difference in people's lives.

CREATING LASTING IMPACT – WITH OUR SCHOOL BAR-B-Qs

Diane Macdonald - with photos by Dave Macdonald

We're putting Rotary's theme into practice. Several years ago, the teachers at Valley View School told us that only a handful of parents attended the Meet the Teacher Night in September each year. We proposed providing a BBQ dinner for the students and their families on that day.

The first year, we fed about 300. Each year since, the numbers have risen and this year (September 24) we served 1,048 meals!

The school staff tell us that this has made a big difference in their relationship with the parents who are now more comfortable coming to the school and communicating with the teachers.





Some of our club's volunteers served!

The boss getting

Wine and Pizza Event September 25

Dennis Tran

Rotarians and guests gathered for a fun evening of **pizza and wine pairing** enjoying delicious combinations, great conversation, and plenty of fellowship. It was a relaxed and lively night filled with good food, great wine, and even better company!



Kananaski Annual Highway Clean-up September 26

Madeleine King

A big thanks to Dave and Diane Macdonald for their excellent organization of the annual highway clean-up - and apologies for lack of photos! They even arrived early on site so they could let us all know if the weather was good enough - such thoughtfulness!

A warm thank-you to all of those who came out to the mountains and collected trash from the roadside (and enjoyed a picnic lunch and fellowship) on a cool but decent day:
Dave and Diane Macdonald, Bill and Maggie Redmond, Barb Young, Patti Dolan, Lori and Lorne Forand, Philippa and Tom Gear, Stacey and Bryan Pinney, Murray Young, Bob Taylor and Madeleine King.

RCCD Collaborations in the Community Update

Franco Savoia

The Calgary Funders and Foundations Roundtable:

RCCD and 9 other funders hosted a *No Blazers Required*, a consultation with 60 Calgary Not for Profits and charities on June 25, 2026. The full report is in Club Runner.



The report summarizes the input from the 60 participating organizations as follows:

- *Need for operational funding.*
- *Living wage concerns.*
- *Collaboration – how are funders supporting the needed leadership and work for real collaboration?*
- *Alignment of application questions and decision-making criteria in funding process.*
- *Shared reporting and outcome consolidation possibilities between funders.*

The report is being shared with our Club's community service committees.

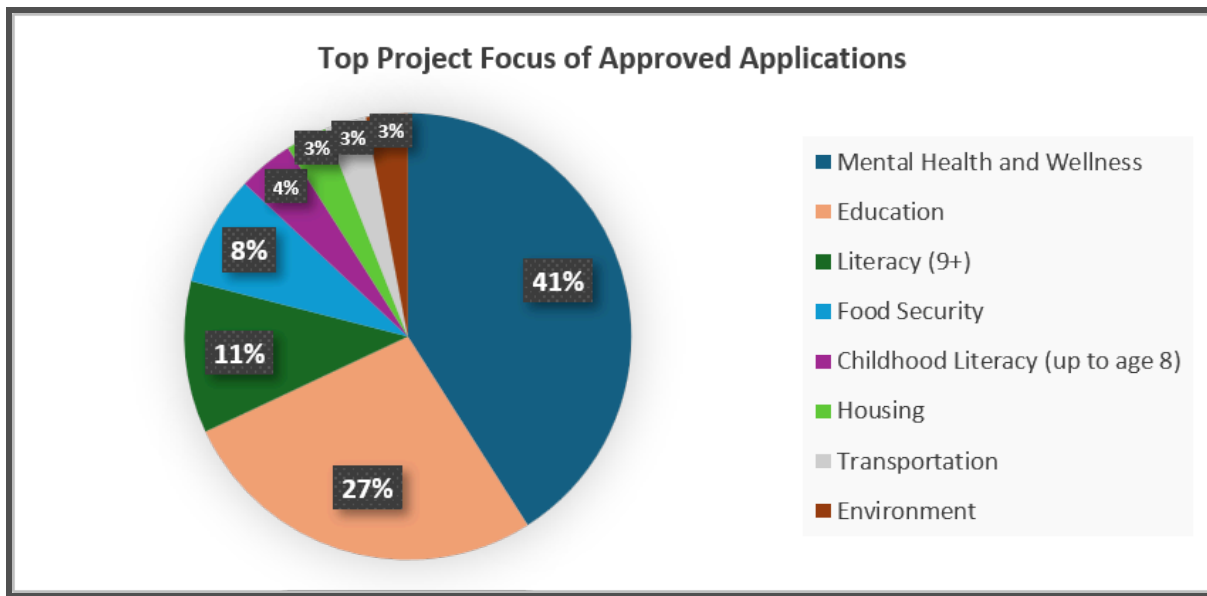
YYC Food Collaborative: RCCD has been a member of the YYC Food Collaborative, a community collaborative for the past 4 years. The focus is the reduction of food insecurity in our City through knowledge sharing and trust building among emergency food providers. It has procured funding from the Calgary Foundation and has engaged Habitus Consulting to develop the governance and sustainability of the collaborative. RCCD is serving on the Collaborative's Stewardship Group.

The funding summary

Year 3: (July 1st, 2025 - June 30th, 2026)

- 72 applications received with requests totalling to \$1,572,211

- 37 applications were approved for a total of \$384,200 distributed in funding. 6-10 applications are still being considered at the time of this report
- 7 applications had 2-3 clubs combining their contributions



The Calgary Funders and Foundation Roundtable: RCCD is a member of the Roundtable. P. Dolan and F. Savoia participated in the quarterly meeting on September 16. The focus was on the October 19th referendum and the role that charities can play within CRA guidelines. Under CRA, charities can encourage and educate (in a non-partisan way) people to vote.

For more information contact fsavoia@shaw.ca

New Playground supported by our Club

Farai Tonzani

I recently attended the celebration of the opening of a new playground at Marion Carson Elementary School.

I was the Club's Small Donations Committee member who vetted the application from the school's parents group for some funds. These are my photos.

The parents all signed releases for their children to be photographed.





Proudly Presenting Our Corporate Members



Upcoming Events

[Community Leaders Workshop](#)

Oct. 05, 2026 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Mountain Daylight Time (UTC-06:00)

[Rotary Luncheon -how human connection builds healthier communities.](#)

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

[Join Or Die](#)

Oct. 06, 2026 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Mountain Daylight Time (UTC-06:00)

[Lead Foundation Bar-B-Q](#)

Oct. 08, 2026
2:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

[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)

[Rotary Luncheon - Club Assembly: Explore, Connect, and Enjoy Lunch with Fellow Members](#)

Oct. 20, 2026 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Mountain Daylight Time (UTC-06:00)

[Fellowship Committee Meeting](#)

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

[Rotary Luncheon -The complexity of Nation Building Projects](#)

Nov. 03, 2026 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Mountain Standard Time (UTC-07:00)

[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. Mountain Standard Time (UTC-07:00)

[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: Bill Hamilton
District 5360 Governor: Manon Mitchell
Rotary International President: Francesco Arezzo