Rotary Club of Calgary | Downtown

COG

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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!"



Rotary International's theme for the 2026-2027 year

Club Assembly Oct 20, 2026

Doug McMillan and Madeleine King

President Doug Webb opened the meeting in the Crystal Ballroom welcoming the 58 members and guests.

Meeting helpers: Registration table: Steacy Pinney, Franco Savoia, Greeter: Manon Mitchell, Musician: William Friedson, Invocation: Charles Pratt, Hampers donations for 110 families: George Brookman, Birthdays: Michael Broadhurst (see below).

Returning Rotary Exchange Student Abigail McIsaac presented highlights of her year at school in Italy.



FOUNDATIONS

Annual income from the Calgary Rotary Clubs Foundation (CRCF) is what enables our Club to achieve so much in this city and around the world, as explained by Rick Erven and Manon Mitchell as co-chairs of the Club's Foundations Committee. CRCF was founded by this club in 1972 with $20,000; some years later it received a huge boost with $28 million from the estate of our late member Ev Mayhood in 2005. It has been so well managed by Rotarians that it now handles endowment funds of many of the Calgary Rotary Clubs and has grown to over $70 million dollars.

As an illustration from the donations provided by our world Community Services Committee, Lori Forand spoke about a cervical cancer program in Guatemala through which 2,500 women were vaccinated to prevent the disease, 17,000 were screened and 800 were given early treatment. This program was initiated by our late member Dr. Walley Temple, and partially funded by The Rotary Foundation, which receives from us 50% of the annual disbursements of the Mayhood estate as per his will.

Franco Savoia spoke about the Mandela House in Calgary first as a refuge from domestic violence and then as a focus for prevention programs as just one example of how the donations of the Major Donations Committee make a significant impact in Calgary.

Legacy projects have included the Alberta Children's Hospital Hospice and the more recent pledge towards all season sports courts for 4 Calgary youth communities in association with the Calgary Flames and the City of Calgary.

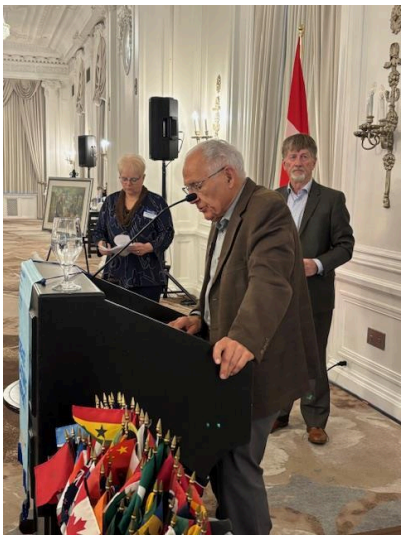
All this has been facilitated by the CRCF: Manon Mitchell used a "heart model" to demonstrate how funding works and reminded us that:

1. There is a real need for our Club to increase the level of our donations both here and internationally to fulfill real needs
2. Without continuing generous personal donations from our members, we cannot grow into the impactful leadership called of us.

Much of our Club's impact around the world is made possible through grants from The Rotary Foundation (TRF). It is what enables 1.2 million Rotarians globally to continue to be such a very strong force for good in the world. The drive to eradicate polio is a very significant aspect of TRF's work, as well as financial support for clubs everywhere working to improve conditions for everyone in health, education, peace, sustainability and economic development.

TRF (like CRCF) can only achieve all it does through the donations of Rotarians like us. Your monthly or annual donations really do make a difference.









MEMBERSHIP

Tyson Schmidt spoke about club membership (presently 124) with an attrition rate of 13.2% per year (slightly less than the District average). Members who had completed the survey about why they joined RCCD were thanked by Craig Henderson as this will assist in development of the Membership Success Model.

Our Club's goal is to increase membership this year, with the involvement of all members. Everyone knows someone who would benefit from joining. All suggestions can now be input on Clubrunner – and the personal connection will be made by the Membership team who will handle the follow-up diligently.



Doug Webb brought the meeting to a close by noting that the club has a lot to offer in terms of volunteer opportunities. Examples: The 1922 project which helped bring the first kangaroo to the Calgary zoo as “a great leap forward” (groan!) and was preceded by a minstrel show at the old Grand theatre in 1919 (which members noted would not be considered culturally appropriate today).

The next club meeting is Tuesday, October 27 at the Palliser Hotel when Duane Bratt PhD will speak on referendum results, Hope to see you there!

BIRTHDAYS

Bryan Pinney	October 23
Lorne Larson	October 25
Andrea Serink	October 25
Robert Lampard	October 27

ROTARY ANNIVERSARIES

Paul Gagnon	45 years
Ayodeji Jeje	20 years

Rotary Service in Action at Ronald McDonald House

Diane Macdonald

On a recent Thursday evening, a group from our Club gathered at the Ronald McDonald House, adjacent to the Alberta Children’s Hospital, to make dinner for the families who are

temporarily living at the House. They are there because their children are patients at the Hospital – and Ronald McDonald House is their home away from home.

We had the head Chef and his two assistants to guide us in making the meal: spaghetti and meatballs, Caesar salad and garlic bread, with Crave cupcakes for dessert! We made 480 meatballs, cut multiple heads of Romaine lettuce and put garlic butter on dozens of buns, then served the food to the families and did the dishes.

One of the staff took those of our group who hadn't been there before on a tour of the House. Since a recent expansion, there are a total of 91 rooms to accommodate parents, siblings and in some cases the young patients if they are there for out-patient treatments. Seeing the facility and interacting with some of the families made us realize how very fortunate Calgary is to have this wonderful House as part of our community.





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!

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. TICKET LINK HERE

Please save the date.



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Upcoming Events

Rotary Luncheon - What's Next After the Alberta Referendum?

Oct. 27, 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)

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. Mountain Standard Time (UTC-07:00)

View entire list

COG Staff - July 1, 2024

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

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