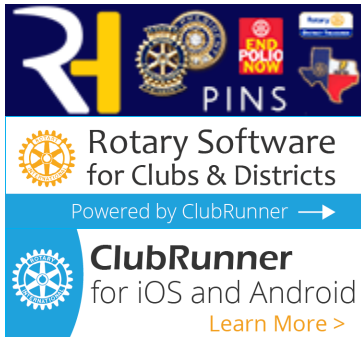


March 18, 2025

Volume 42 - Issue 20

"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.



Birthdays

Vern Kimball	March 18
Brian Guichon	March 20
Dorothy Loucks	March 21
Doug Webb	March 22
George Edworthy	March 24
Ralph Lundberg	March 24
Terry McMahon	March 26
Sean Bayliss	March 27
Julie Visser	March 29
Jennifer Lavier Jankovic	March 29
John Boyd	March 30

Anniversaries

Forry Angus	35 years
Bruce Graham	20 years
John Riddell	15 years

President Joe's Inspirational Quote

"No amount of evidence will ever persuade an idiot."

- Mark Twain



Another Great Club Meeting March 11, 2025

President Joe Fras welcomed approximately 70 club members and guests. Following O Canada and an invocation by Franco Savoia, club members ratified the following members to sit on the CRCF Board- Christina Castro, Bob Taylor, Brian Pinney and David Holden.

Daudi Kawooya was introduced as our newest club member (see related article in this edition of COG). Michael Broadhurst introduced club members with recent birthdays (see also this COG).

Deputy Premier of Alberta, Mike Davies, was introduced to present the "State of the Province Address".

Highlights (including discussion) related to increased support for refurbishing and building new schools (18 in Calgary) to assist Alberta's expanding population including many new families.

In the area of healthcare, the province is expanding funding and is promoting a smoother registration process for healthcare professionals from out of Alberta. Endeavours are being made to better assess impact (results for individual people) of government actions.

During discussion related to "tariffs", the Deputy Premier indicated that the Premier was meeting with a wide variety of people (some of whom have ideas and principles

contrary to her own beliefs) to help arrive at solutions for all. This is a time of increased importance for Albertans and all Canadians, to work together.

Following thanks to Deputy Premier Davies by Bruce Graham, President Fras closed the meeting with advice from Mark Twain (earlier in this COG).

Attend the next RCCD meeting March 25, 2025 to participate in the collegiality and hear Mayor Jyoti Gondek speak on "The State of the City".

Doug McMillan

Welcome New Member - Daudi Kawooya

The Calgary Foundation has added a new face to their Rotary Club of Calgary Downtown membership portfolio. Daudi Kawooya is a Grant associate with the Foundation. He proactively develops and maintains relationships with charities and other community-based organizations, so he has a broad understanding of community and voluntary sector issues and priorities.

Daudi is originally from Uganda. His mother, Berti, was a diplomat so Daudi had the opportunity to live in different areas of the world – Denmark, England, Kenya and Uganda – and experience various diverse cultures. He came to Canada at the age of 12 and has lived here for 22 years, becoming a Canadian citizen in 2023. He is a graduate of Royal Roads University with a degree in Professional Communications. He also studied Public Relations and Communications and has led numerous successful fund raising campaigns as well as community outreach projects.

Outside of work, Daudi starts his day at the gym, where he started a men's group called the Spartans in Training, to create a community in which men support one another in their exercise efforts and in their challenges in life. Through his work and personal knowledge, he realized that the number one killer of men in western culture is suicide and as men grow older, it can be harder for them to develop friendships. He also enjoys reading and spending time with his friends. Now, he would like to volunteer more in the community.

Welcome to our Club, Daudi. We're so pleased to have you with us.

Diane Macdonald



Our Gratitude to George Edworthy

Many thanks are due to long-time member George Edworthy. For the past several years, he has been calling members wishing them “happy birthday”. This act of service is so much a part of making us all feel we are part of a caring community.

George has let us know that he is ready to pass this particular torch - and we look forward to welcoming the next generous incumbent. Anyone who may be interested in this role should contact [Craig Henderson](#).

Wishing you all the best George!

Madeleine King

Rotaract Spring Fling

We are excited to invite you to the University of Calgary Rotaract Spring Fling 2025 on Friday, April 4th, from 6:00pm to 9:30pm at the Cardel Theatre! This event will be a fantastic evening featuring a talent show, guest speakers, a silent auction, hors d'oeuvres, raffle prizes, and a 50/50- all in support of the Trellis Society.

Purchase a Ticket:

- We are offering a Rotarian/Rotaract Buddy Deal for \$58, which is designed to encourage mentorship and networking between Rotarians and Rotaract students. This ticket provides admission for a Rotarian and a student, fostering connections and shared experiences.
- Standard General Admission is \$35.

Purchase Your Tickets Today: [Rotaract Spring Fling 2025](#)

Join the Talent Show:

- Do you have a special talent? We are looking for volunteers to perform at the event! Whether it's music, comedy, magic, or another skill, we'd love to see you on stage.
- If you or someone you know is interested, please reach out!

Thank you for your ongoing support, and we hope to see you at Spring Fling!

Lindsay Marczak

Adopt a Village video

Adopt a Village is a project of RCCD under the direction of the World Community Service (WCS) committee. Working with the Rotary Club of Kalisizo in Uganda and expanding on past success (WCS annual report for 2023-2024 related to the Ugandan village of Kabasumba), the newest project is in the village of Luwawulo- and discussions, involving Garth Toombs prior to his death are occurring for the next village.

Rick Castiglione and Gerard D'Mello have put together a very instructive 9 minute video describing this program. To see this highly recommended video, just click on [Adopt a Village](#).

Doug McMillan for Rick Castiglione and Gerard D'Mello

Big Book Sale Volunteering

Let's roll up our sleeves for childhood reading!

As stewards of [Calgary Reads Big Book Sale](#), we get to play several key roles in ensuring a successful sale—and more proceeds that bring books and reading help to children who need it most.

That includes:

1. Distributing proceeds to evidence-based early literacy initiatives in Calgary, such as Book Bank and YW's Early Start program.
2. Organizing the Stuff-a-Truck events that help make it possible for hundreds of Calgarians to donate pre-loved books
3. Directing parking lot traffic on sale days (led by our friends at the Chinook Club).
4. Volunteering to help sort and set up books for sale days
5. Spreading smiles from behind the BBQ at the volunteer appreciation event May 8th

Right now, we're ready for members to sign up to be a part of team volunteer days led by Dennis Tran!

Please consider joining us for one of these two team volunteer events:

Stuff-a-Truck at Melcor YMCA

Saturday, April 26

9:30 am – 1:30 pm

Sign up [here](#)

Sorting & Setting Up Books at Calgary Curling Club

Sunday, April 27

1-5 pm

Sign up [here](#)

We've got room for 10 volunteers for each event. If you'd like to be a part of the fun and the impact, please add your name via the clubrunner links above and [sign this waiver](#).

Thank you Dennis for leading these two team volunteer events!

To learn more about volunteering, donating books and shopping the sale, visit www.bigbooksale.ca. We'd be so grateful if you could help spread the word so others know how they can treasure hunt for pre-loved books while helping children become stronger, thriving readers.

Steady Pinney

Major Donations Report for March

RCCD's Support for [CARYA](#) and [Ruth's House](#)...(Major Donations Committee)

RCCD invested \$22,000 in two projects by CARYA and Ruth's House. The projects came through Rotary Helps YYC. The Major Donations Committee reviewed both applications and recommended that the Club support these projects.

CARYA's \$25,000 project installs a chairlift in its Bowmont Commons. The request falls under the mental wellness education area of focus.

This project was supported by the Centennial, North Club and RCCD: \$2,000, \$4000 and \$19,000 respectively. This project will make the facility accessible to all as CARYA offers its mental wellness and education programs to families and individuals in the Bowness community.

The site is an old building that was once the Bowness City Hall before being annexed by the City of Calgary. Carya leases the building from the city and conduct a series of programs at four locations in the Montgomery and Bowness communities – the Awaken Church, the Bowness Community Association building, the Montgomery Community Association building and this building.

There are two programs delivered there -Elder Friendly Communities which focuses on Aging with Purpose 60+ and Families in Community which has programs including childcare, counselling for people facing many problems, unpacking emotions (dealing with feelings), building resilience, dealing with hoarding and relationships with your adult children.

Ruth's House's request for \$10,000 is to develop a "Garden of Hope" at its shelter for women and their children fleeing domestic violence. The program serves primarily African Canadian families. The program falls under the mental wellness area of focus. This project was supported by North Club (\$2,000), the Heritage Club (\$5,000) and RCCD (\$3,000)

The Garden of Hope Renovation at Ruth's House Emergency Shelter is an initiative aimed at providing women and children escaping domestic violence with a serene and restorative outdoor space. The vision for this project is to create an inviting garden that facilitates both physical and emotional healing, enabling residents to reconnect with nature and find peace amidst challenging circumstances.

This renovation will feature a carefully curated selection of furniture, play equipment, plants, and decorative elements- each chosen to contribute to a soothing and safe environment. The garden will include comfortable seating areas, child-friendly play structures, and vibrant plant life,- all strategically placed to foster a sense of tranquility and safety. Sensory elements, such as fragrant flowers, calming sounds, and tactile materials, will be incorporated to engage residents with their surroundings in ways that promote relaxation and mindfulness.

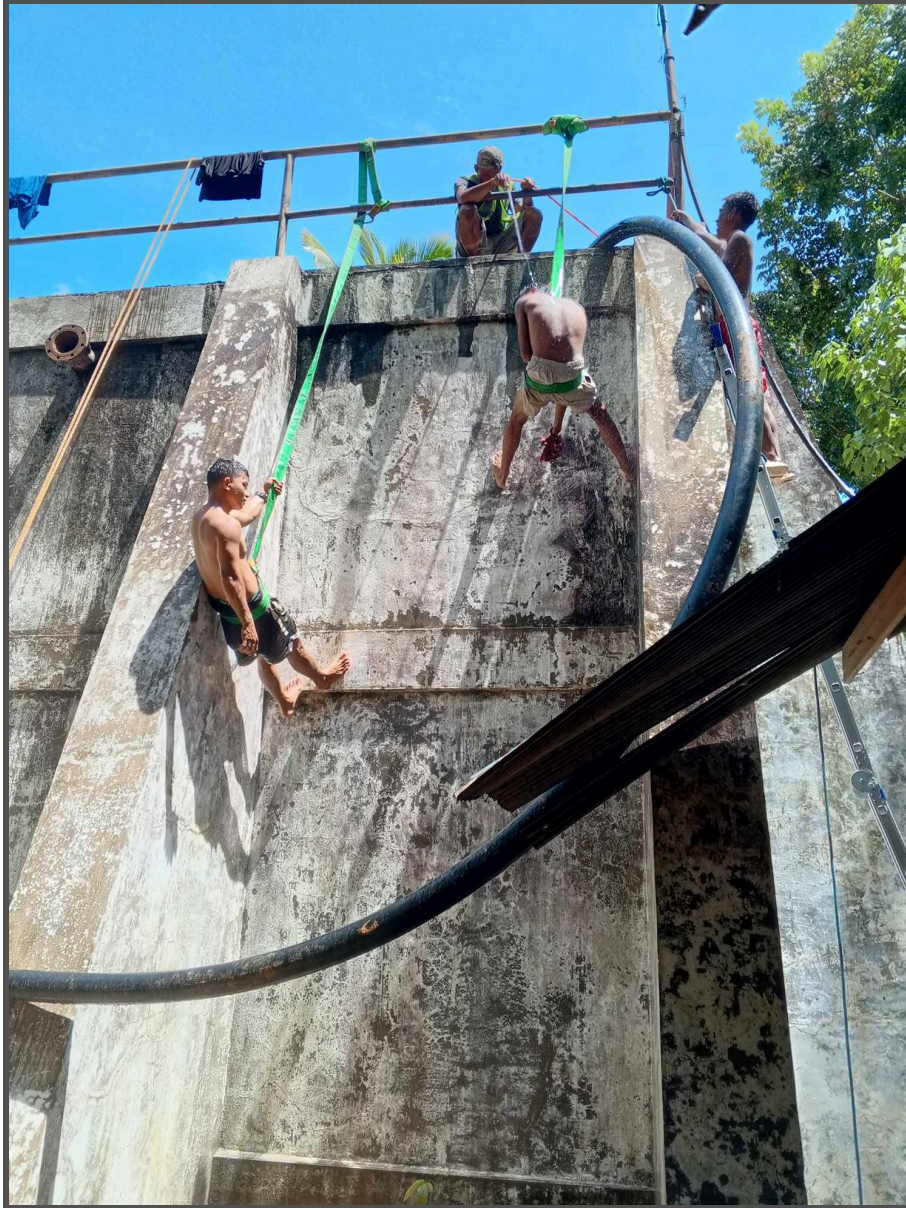
Franco Savoia

A Water Project of Our Club's WCS Committee

Dr. Israel Belenkie (Sonny) and William Friedson have been overseeing a water project in the South Phillipines for the Marangan Elementary School of Zamboanga City. This project is an ongoing WCS activity that Dr Belenkie started with Mr. Fernando Yu of the Rotary club in Zamboanga.

It is a small project with \$4000US input from us and the Rotary club there is putting in \$1000. The amount of engineering for maintaining the fresh water filtration system is fairly simple and we hope that this project can be a permanent source of clean water for this struggling issue in the second largest city on the island of Mindanao.

William Friedson





Commonwealth Day and Rotary

For the Second year in a row we (Bob & Madeleine, as members of the Royal Overseas League) have had the opportunity to attend Commonwealth Day at Westminster Abbey in London.

The "Day" is amazing with performers from across the Commonwealth, poems, motivational statements and prayers from our diverse community. Pomp and circumstance at its best!

Also for the second time, the RI President (Stephanie Urchick 2024-25) has been staying at the ROSL Clubhouse in London. So not only were we in the same space as the King (plus 1,500 others) but at the Club with Rotary "royalty".

Next morning, during a chat with Stephanie at breakfast, she shared that during her team's time "at Parliament" they were urging the UK government to continue their funding of Polio Plus. She also reminded me of the importance of individual Rotarians to contribute. Hmmm. Did she mean me?

And did you know that Rotary has a permanent "ambassador" to the Commonwealth?

Finally, here is a portion of the Affirmation we all read aloud at the Abbey:

"We affirm our desire for peace among all peoples and nations, and our belief in justice for everyone, everywhere..."

We affirm our commitment to empowering young people in every part of our Commonwealth...

United in kinship and common purpose, we cherish the rich tapestry of thought, culture, tradition, and experience which strengthens our bonds..."

The full transcript will follow next month.

Bob Taylor



When is the COG published?

You can find past issues on our website under [Members > COG Bulletins](#)

If you'd like to have us publish an article or have an idea about what we should be publishing, please forward your ideas to Madeleine by the FRIDAY before the Tuesday publication date. You are also welcome to contact either Madeleine, Doug or Diane to discuss any idea you may have.

Here are the remaining publication dates for the first half on 2025:

Mar 18
Apr 1, 15, 29
May 6, 20
June 3, 17

If you enjoy reading the COG, [let us know](#) because your comments are the only way we know we are hitting the mark and it is our reward!

Proudly Presenting Our Corporate Members



Upcoming Events

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

CHECK YOUR EMAIL

Mar. 18, 2025

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

[Pickleball Night & Fellowship!](#)

1108 53 Avenue Northeast

Mar. 19, 2025 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Mountain Daylight Time (UTC-06:00)

[Luncheon - Guest Speaker Mayor Jyoti Gondek](#)

133 9 Avenue Southwest

Mar. 25, 2025 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Mountain Daylight Time (UTC-06:00)

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

CHECK YOUR EMAIL

Apr. 01, 2025

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

[Luncheon - Guest Speaker Duane Bratt](#)

Apr. 08, 2025 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Mountain Daylight Time (UTC-06:00)

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

CHECK YOUR EMAIL

*Apr. 15, 2025
4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.*

[Luncheon - Guest Speaker Trevor Tombe](#)

Apr. 22, 2025 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Mountain Daylight Time (UTC-06:00)

[Stuff-a-Truck at Melcor YMCA](#)

8100 John Laurie Blvd NW

Apr. 26, 2025 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Mountain Daylight Time (UTC-06:00)

[Big Book Sale Set Up](#)

720 3 St NW

Apr. 27, 2025 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Mountain Daylight Time (UTC-06:00)

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

CHECK YOUR EMAIL

May 06, 2025

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

[View entire list](#)

COG Staff - July 1, 2024

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