

**June 2, 2025**  
**Volume 42 - Issue 27**

**One day earlier than usual  
 reminding all to attend the  
 Special Club Meeting June 3rd**

***"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**

Jayme Williams	June 3
Kimball Lacey	June 3
Eric Bennett	June 3
Ron Hymers	June 4

### **Anniversaries**

Eva Friesen	30 years
Howie Shikaze	20 years

### **President Joe's Inspirational Quote**

"Cities are an immense laboratory of trial and error,  
 failure and success in city building and city design"

- Jane Jacobs

## Another Great Club Meeting - May 27, 2025

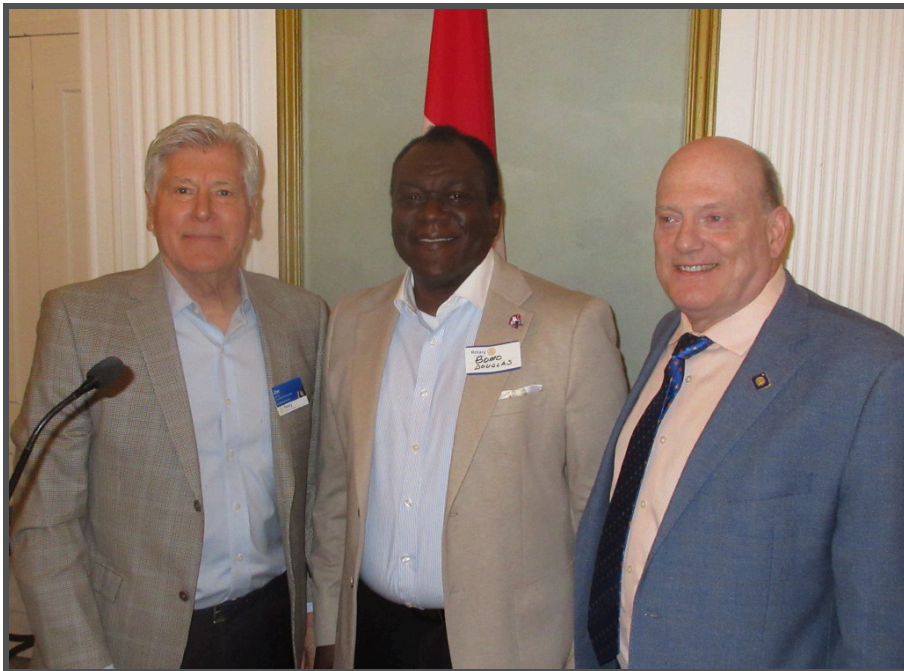
Doug McMillan

President Joe Fras welcomed the 65-70 members and guests noting that the Rotary Club of Calgary had been meeting in the Palliser Hotel for 111 years. Following the patriotic tones of O Canada, Franco Savoia's invocation reminded us to "Do good now" with the upcoming Rotary convention being a good opportunity for this.

Joe indicated that, with the Rotary Club at Stampede Park and the Calgary Flames, our club contributed to increasing the capacity of Ronald MacDonald House from 27 to 91 rooms and suites making this the largest in Canada (there are 287 Ronald MacDonald Houses in 62 countries).

He reminded those present of the James Wheeler Davidson event June 26, 2025 at the University of Calgary and the Special Club Meeting June 3, 2025 to discuss, and hopefully ratify, the anticipated new Legacy Project. **Please read previously circulated information and plan on attending!**

New member Bomo Douglas (with lineage as a Nigerian prince) was introduced by Craig Henderson. Look for further biographic information in a future COG.



Sonny Belenkie gave a brief report on the generators provided for Ukraine. Calgary Rotary Clubs funded 140 of the 310 generators donated (The country of Sweden narrowly beat contributions from the city of Calgary). No club funds were used thanks to generous donations!



Doug Webb spoke about our club's BBQ for the Convention: There is a need for a few more volunteers (bus hosts and clean up) for the June 23, 2025 "home hospitality" barbecue at Bill Redmond's Bucars RV World. They were thanked for their space donation along with the Redmans and Macdonalds for their organizational support. There will be a Stampede mobile stage with a band and attendance by a Stampede princess. It will be a fun event!

Introducing the mini auctions, Frank Hall indicated funds raised support enhanced activities in the areas of Membership, Program, Fellowship and Communications (which previously had the support of an annual donation of Lou MacEachern). The items auctioned off raised \$2,300 for these "operations". **If you want to see who is bidding on the much appreciated donated items, attend future meetings. Even better, come to bid.**





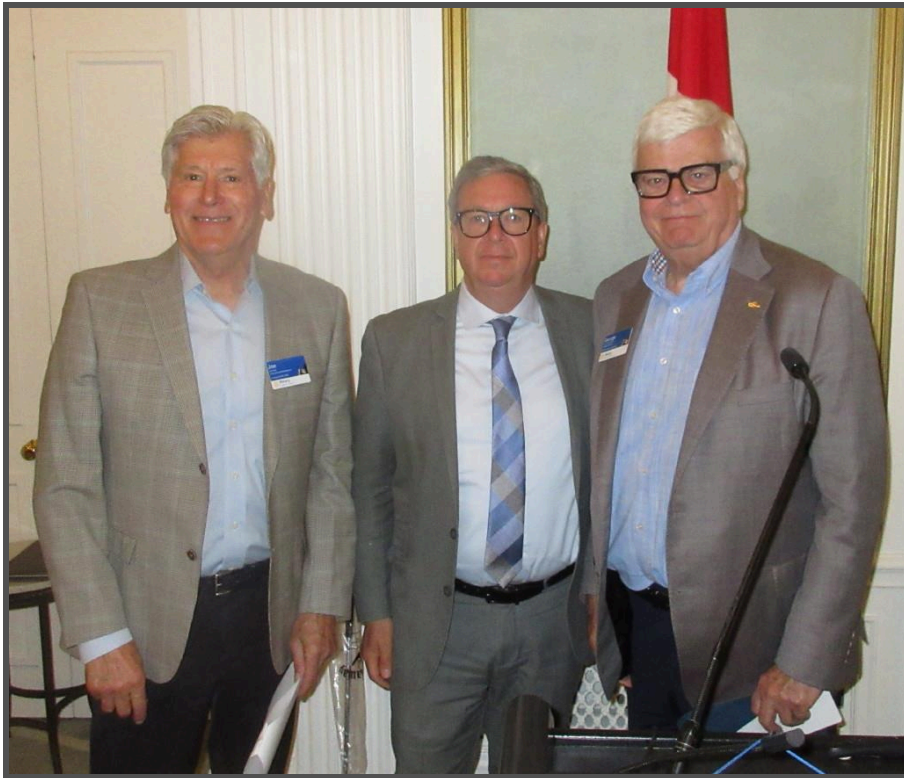
Guest Speaker Mark Garner, Executive Director Calgary Downtown Business Association, spoke on the Business Improvement Area (BIA) model.



This program was first in Toronto (from where Mark moved in 2022) but Calgary Downtown is now the largest covering 102 square blocks. With 2976 members, the Calgary Downtown BIA:

- keeps streets clean and safe (e.g. Green Alley project)
- sponsors festivals and special events
- is involved with marketing and decoration including for the Rotary Convention
- contributes to keeping Calgary one of the world's beautiful cities
- supports business and development projects (e.g. River Walk, Green Line, Olympic Plaza)
- monitors transportation trends (e.g. Stephen Ave)
- advocates for mental health, housing and building to keep Calgary a great place to live and to visit

There was obvious interest among those present as there were many questions before Mark was thanked by George Brookman, indicating that, as our usual practice, donations were being made to CAWST and the Rotary Community Hub in recognition of this address to club members.



Joe Fras closed the meeting with his quote which linked with the theme of our speaker- see above for the Jane Jacobs quote.

We hope to see a big turnout for both the Special Club Meeting June 3 and the Club Assembly June 17, 2025.

## James Wheeler Davidson Symposium June 26

Bob Holland





# HOW THE DAVIDSONS SPANNED THE WORLD FOR ROTARY

Register Online at  
[www.jameswheelerdavidson.com](http://www.jameswheelerdavidson.com)



Thursday, June 26, 2025  
8:30 am to 5:30 pm

The University of Calgary  
Accessible by Light Rail Transit

Ticket Price: 150 USD  
Includes Lunch

**Rotary**   **CALGARY 2025**

Breakfast Invitation from Melbourne Club - a James Wheeler Davidson Rotary Club

G'day again Madeleine.

Given the connection between your club, my club Rotary Melbourne and Australia more broadly, I'd love to invite members of your club to join us for a special Down Under Breakfast

being held on Monday 23 June, 6.30am at the Marriott Downtown:

<https://events.humanitix.com/down-under-breakfast>

We haven't done one for a few years so we're excited to be kicking this back off again in Calgary – seems fitting!

Regards,  
Amanda



## Serving Dinner at the Drop In Centre

Manon Mitchell

On Wednesday May 21st, a few of us convened at the Calgary Drop In Centre to serve dinner to their guests. Organized by Greg Stephenson, the group helped put food on plates and plates on tables. We served about 300 guests in 1 hour so things were going fast! Greg had to leave early so we were unable to get him in a photo. Look at the happy faces of club members in attendance: Rollie Cyr, Manon Mitchell, Lori Forand, Kurt Kowalchuk, Doug McMillan and Charles Pratt. Thanks Team and thanks Greg S. for organizing this impactful service project.



## Ferdinand Welcomed in his new home in Guatemala

Barb Young





Gifted to volunteer fire brigade. Note how they painted his name!

## Look at What We Started....

Diane Macdonald

We have had a previous article in the COG about our World Community Service Committee providing funds to build a kitchen in a secondary school in the Kibera Slum in Nairobi, Kenya. This was prompted by a small group of mothers who were previously cooking over a small pot set in the dirt of a courtyard at the school to provide lunch for the students. They felt that this was one way to keep their children in school and learning. The kitchen was completed in 2023 and, sure enough, enrollment has increased by 40% and grades have improved.

A Rotarian from San Diego, who was originally from Uganda and spent time as a refugee in Kenya, heard of our project and convinced his Club to fund an addition to the kitchen building to create a classroom for the school. With foresight on the part of the local Rotarians, the

structure was built in such a way as to support a second storey. The San Diego Rotary Club has just funded the addition of a library and a fully equipped lab in that space.

We received a note and some pictures from Dan Munyori, Rotarian from Nairobi who has worked with us on our projects: "Today we handed over a fully equipped laboratory at the little Shammah secondary school... all falling into place after your club sponsorship of the Kitchen project".

Well done, WCS!











**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:

- June 10, June 20

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

## Proudly Presenting Our Corporate Members



CALGARY  
PUBLIC LIBRARY  
FOUNDATION

## Upcoming Events

### [Luncheon - Special Club Meeting - Legacy Grant](#)

133 9 Avenue Southwest

*Jun. 03, 2025 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Mountain Daylight Time (UTC-06:00)*

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

CHECK YOUR EMAIL

*Jun. 03, 2025*

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

### [Order New Club Aprons - \(From May 27 to June 10\)](#)

*Jun. 09, 2025 Mountain Daylight Time (UTC-06:00)*

### [West Dover School Bar-B-Q](#)

West Dover School

*Jun. 12, 2025*

*1:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.*

### [President Joe Fras - Club Annual General Meeting](#)

*Jun. 17, 2025 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Mountain Daylight Time (UTC-06:00)*

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

CHECK YOUR EMAIL

*Jun. 17, 2025*

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

[June 26 2025 Club Mtg - Calgary Addiction & Mental Health Event](#)

133 9 Avenue Southwest

*Jun. 26, 2025 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Mountain Daylight Time (UTC-06:00)*

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

CHECK YOUR EMAIL

*Jul. 01, 2025*

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

[Sneak - A - Peek](#)

2200 Stampede Trail Southeast

*Jul. 03, 2025 5:00 p.m. - Jul. 04, 2025 Mountain Daylight Time (UTC-06:00)*

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

CHECK YOUR EMAIL

*Jul. 15, 2025*

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

[View entire list](#)

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## **COG Staff - July 1, 2024**

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