

MAY 2016

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**BANNER**

THE OFFICIAL BEDDINGTON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



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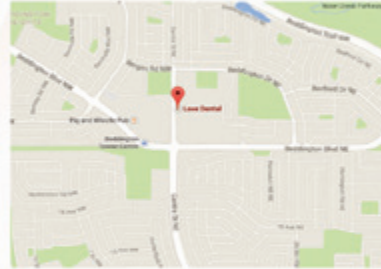


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\*Served with Wild Alaska Pollock. Expires June 15, 2016.  
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## Beddington Community Association

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## NEWSLETTER AD SALES



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# BEDDINGTON HEIGHTS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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 Follow Us on Twitter @BeddingtonCA and Facebook

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

President	Alexis Rivett
Vice President	Jessica Martin
Secretary	Mary Urquhart
Treasurer	Jacques Botha
Directors at Large	Roy Alexander
Directors at Large	Michael Sokolowski
Directors at Large	Bobbi Collins
Directors at Large	Tura Adam
Directors at Large	Ilna Dezentje

## COMMITTEES

Casino Coordinator	VACANT
Rink Coordinator	VACANT

## BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

BASP Manager	Heather McKie	403 295 8837	bhca.basp@shaw.ca
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## Beddington Heights Community Association Membership Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Family Member's Names / Ages:

Name	Age
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Send to: 375 Bermuda Drive NW, Calgary AB T3K 2J5 or purchase online at [www.beddingtoncommunity.ca](http://www.beddingtoncommunity.ca)  
 Membership: \$20

## BOARD UPDATE

- There has been lots of activity starting to take place regarding the Greenline LRT that will be coming through our community. Open houses and Station Area Workshops have both taken place and members of the Community Association have been participating to keep current on discussions. For the most up-to-date information from the City or to sign up to be informed, visit [calgary.ca/greenline](http://calgary.ca/greenline).
- The list of potential projects from This is My Neighbourhood is being finalized and we should be able to report back with more details next month. Projects that are rising to the top include a Green Space Strategy (which we have already begun discussions about), Community Flags, Community Cleanup (also already in the works), a Community Play Day, and Fun Bus (to bring families to local recreation facilities), and potential adult programming. If you are interested in helping the Board to bring some of these projects to life, please email [bhca@beddingtoncommunity.ca](mailto:bhca@beddingtoncommunity.ca).
- We have applied to be a participant in the Federation of Calgary Community's Building Safer Neighbourhoods program. More information will be made available once details are finalized, but if you are interested in helping to keep our community safe, please email.
- A big THANK YOU to our team of volunteers who helped out with this year's Casino. Funds raised from the event help us to enhance programming and keep costs low for our Before and After School Program as well as many other things.
- The Board is ramping up for a busy spring and summer with lots going on in the community including our fourth Annual Garage Sale Parade and Community Clean Up, Neighbour Day BBQ, and lots of other great events that make our community a great place to live. We are always looking for volunteers to help out!



## MAY BASP UPDATE

Our summer camp registration is now open to the public! Visit our website ([www.beddingtoncommunity.ca](http://www.beddingtoncommunity.ca)) or come down to the Beddington Community Arts Center to get registration forms.

Our camps run on a weekly basis so you can pick and choose care based on what works for your family and your vacation times! Visit our website for our cost and hours. Our cost includes all before and after care as well as all two to three fieldtrips we go on each week. We also offer an afternoon snack. We are a very active summer camp that believes kids should be kids and have fun outdoors as well as doing things they may not usually do on their own such as crafts, science experiments, group games and activities. We are also offering Before and After Care for Storybook Theatre's Summer Camp! So if you are doing any of their camps and require before or after care, visit our website, e-mail, or call us today! We have great flexible pricing depending on your care needs.

We have also already started the process of registering families from our waitlist to join us for the next school year. If you have not done so yet and would like to get on our waitlist, please e-mail us at [bhca.basp@shaw.ca](mailto:bhca.basp@shaw.ca) or call us at 403-295-8837x104.

As for April updates, we had an early Spring/Easter break with the kids the prior month, which really allowed us to enjoy April and the mild weather we had!

Have a fantastic May and we will check back in June!



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**Matt 403 816 8324 Josh 403 827 5185**

Now that is  
some serious  
Calgary soccer  
pride.

AND WE'RE PROUD  
TO BE IN THE GAME.



It's the start of another outdoor soccer season. And this year, it's fully public — the way it should be.

That's because Calgary council has asked your city workers to take over management and maintenance of the the Calgary Soccer Centre from private organizations.

And here's our commitment to you:

- A clean, efficient facility — where you feel comfortable taking your family.
- Saving you money — city council saw a public solution as the most cost effective; there will be no more spectator fees.
- A community asset — open and welcoming to clubs, players and families from across the city.

**We think this is a pretty good game plan moving forward: Let's keep city recreation facilities public and working for all Calgary families.**

**CUPE**

Calgary's city employees

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work for you



## Community Garage Sale: June 4

The Beddington Heights Community Association is hosting our fourth Annual Community Garage Sale Parade on June 4. We will be advertising all registered homes as well as having a central sale spot (location TBD).

Time: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Location: the many participating homes as well as central sale location. Central location is the park behind Safeway: Bergen Rd and Centre St

Cost: Event is free to participate in for members or \$10 per table/home for non-members.

A parade map and advertisements will be arranged through the Community Association.

For more information or to register for the sale, visit [www.beddingtoncommunity.ca/garage-sale-parade-june-4-2016/](http://www.beddingtoncommunity.ca/garage-sale-parade-june-4-2016/).

Please note: We will also be joining Sandstone/Macewan for their Community Clean Up on June 5. More details to follow.



## BOARD MEETINGS

**Fourth Tuesday of the month (except Dec/July).**  
7 p.m. start in upper board room at Community Theatre Building (former Community Centre)  
Open to all BHCA members and the Beddington community.  
Upcoming Meetings: May 24

Like Us on Facebook  
[www.facebook.com/BeddingtonHeightsCommunityAssociation](http://www.facebook.com/BeddingtonHeightsCommunityAssociation)



## SHAW RENOVATION & CONSTRUCTION

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A Safety Management System (SMS) is all about managing the safety interaction you have with your workers. It's an overall strategy to help you communicate information on hazards and best practices in your workplace so you can develop a stronger, lasting culture of safety within all stakeholders in your organization.



In response to concerns in our community, we hope you will attend 3 community meetings facilitated by the Federation of Calgary Communities. We will share community concerns, learn about community led crime prevention then, together we will develop a plan of action to help address identified community concerns.

**Building Safe Communities meetings:**



**Wednesday May 11 from 7:00-8:30pm-** Meet your neighbours, discuss community concerns and community assets

**Thursday May 26 from 7:00-8:30pm-** Learn about community engagement and crime prevention, then develop ideas to address community concerns

**Wednesday June 8 from 7:00-8:30pm-** Develop a plan of action for dealing with community concerns

To RSVP please email [ilonadezentje@hotmail.com](mailto:ilonadezentje@hotmail.com)

Meetings will be held at the Beddington Heights Community Arts Centre (375 Bermuda Dr NW) and hosted by the Beddington Heights Community Association (BHCA)



Learn more about Building Safe Communities at [calgarycommunities.com](http://calgarycommunities.com)

**SUMMER EVENTS**



**Neighbour Day BBQ: June 18**

Did you know that Mayor Nenshi has declared the third Saturday in June "Neighbour Day" to recognize and celebrate the great community strength and cooperation exhibited during the flood in 2013? Neighbour Day will take place this year on June 18, 2016 - so save the date! The Beddington Heights Community Association wants to take this opportunity to celebrate our neighbours and get to know you all in a fun way!

What: Neighbour Day FREE Community BBQ  
 When: Saturday June 18 12:00 – 2pm  
 Where: The green space on Berwick Dr. and Berwick Rd. NW

Questions? View our website [www.beddingtoncommunity.ca](http://www.beddingtoncommunity.ca) or email [bhca@beddingtoncommunity.ca](mailto:bhca@beddingtoncommunity.ca). You can also follow us on Twitter @BeddingtonCA or like us on Facebook for up to date information and news!

**Park and Play: July 11-15**

Beddington has been selected to host a FREE City of Calgary PARK AND PLAY  
 Dates: July 11-15  
 Time: Stay 'n Play 10 a.m. - noon for 3-5 yrs (adult must stay)  
 Park 'n Play 10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. for ages 6-12  
 Location: behind the Community Arts Building.

**Lawn Chair Theatre: July 14**

The City of Calgary is bringing Lawn Chair Theatre to Beddington on July 14, 2016. Bring your lawn chair, enjoy great snacks and live entertainment for the entire family.  
 Location: 333 Bermuda Drive NW (park by St. Bede School)  
 Time: starts at 6 p.m.



**"It's where I'd live."**

*Ken,  
 Teacher, music lover and golfer.*



Home. It's where we live. It's the feeling we get from freshly folded laundry in our bedroom. It's playing the piano and singing with friends and it's shared moments over dinner with family. It's feeling healthy, eating well and enjoying the community we savour with other great people. It's looking forward to a little exercise and some laughter at the pub afterwards.

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# Customer Appreciation BBQ & SALE

**SATURDAY JUNE 11TH** 11am-3pm 2016  
**4921 Skyline Way NE**  
**Deerfoot & McKnight**

Meet our team of pet experts & vendors. Check out our photobooth, face painting, raffle prizes, giveaways & lots of family fun!

**PIJAC** BD 5/16

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 F 403.275.4613

**mcithedoctorsoffice.com**

## YOUR COMMUNITY/CITY EVENTS AT A GLANCE...

- **May 18 to June 1 - Ginapalooza:** This spring, it's all about gin. The festival celebrates local gin distillers as well as internationally renowned gin brands. [www.ginapalooza.com](http://www.ginapalooza.com)
- **June 2 - 12th Annual Evening of Wine and Wishes:** This food and fundraiser event is an entire evening of culinary festivities. Proceeds support the Rainbow Society of Alberta, a charity that helps Alberta kids with life-threatening or severe chronic medical illnesses. [www.rainbowsociety.ab.ca](http://www.rainbowsociety.ab.ca)
- **June 2 to 4 - Revv52: California:** Calgary's own vocal energy group, Revv52, celebrates its 64th season by exploring the music of California at the River Park Auditorium. [www.revv52.com](http://www.revv52.com)
- **June 3 and 4 - As Heard On TV:** This concert celebrates some of the most memorable music from popular TV shows of the past and the present, as performed by singer and comedian Nicole Parker and conducted by Steven Reineke. [www.calgaryphil.com](http://www.calgaryphil.com)
- **June 4 - 2016 Eddies Short Film Festival:** The 2016 Eddies Short Film Festival this year is themed "trailblazer." Filmmakers can interpret that theme in any way they wish, and create any kind of film they like that reflects this theme. [www.bigrockbeer.com](http://www.bigrockbeer.com)
- **June 4 and 5 - Calgary Ukrainian Festival:** The annual Calgary Ukrainian Festival pays tribute to Ukrainian immigrants and showcases all aspects of their heritage. [www.calgaryukrainianfestival.ca](http://www.calgaryukrainianfestival.ca)
- **June 4 to August 28 - Afternoon Tea on the Verandah:** Enjoy a traditional afternoon tea on the verandah of Heritage Park's newest exhibit, the Famous 5 Centre of Canadian Women. [www.heritagepark.ca](http://www.heritagepark.ca)
- **June 17 and 18 - Vintage With Flair:** Find hand-designed, re-purposed and curated creations. The market sells everything from home decor to garden items to jewellery. [www.vintagewithflair.blogspot.ca](http://www.vintagewithflair.blogspot.ca)
- **June 22 to 26 - Sled Island:** The festival includes performances, installations and artwork by more than 250 bands, artists, filmmakers and comedians. The festival takes place in more than 30 venues across the city. [www.sledisland.com](http://www.sledisland.com)

### JUNE 1 AND 2 POPS IN THE PARK

Celebrate the arrival of warmer weather and longer days with a picnic and concert in the park. This annual light-hearted, musical evening includes a western barbeque and plenty of music. [www.calgaryphil.com](http://www.calgaryphil.com)



### JUNE 5 LILAC FESTIVAL

The festival kicks off with a parade down 4th Street S.W., and afterward, Mission plays host to more than 500 vendors, street performers and musicians. [www.lilacfestival.net](http://www.lilacfestival.net)



### JUNE 24 TEDXYC

Bringing Calgary's largest and most well-attended, independently-organized TED event to stage, we are thrilled to announce TEDxYYC is returning to Calgary. [www.tedxyc.ca](http://www.tedxyc.ca)



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Stacey Ennig  
403-233-8329  
sennig@telus.net

## Beddington Heights mybabysitterlist

Name	Age	Contact	Course
Angeline	14	403-275-0344	Yes
Bella	15	403-969-2072	Yes
Brittney	18	403-464-0213	Yes
May	54	587-968-0782	Yes
Nikkita	24	403-826-8917	Yes
Rebecca	13	587-223-6730	Yes
Sabrina	16	403-512-3171	Yes
Winner	17	587-893-2935	Yes
Zara	23	587-703-9212	Yes

**Calling All BABYSITTERS**  
Enroll free at [mybabysitter.ca](http://mybabysitter.ca) and choose the Calgary communities you would like to babysit in.

**Calling All PARENTS**  
Visit [mybabysitter.ca](http://mybabysitter.ca) and find available babysitters in and around your community.

**Disclaimer:** We recommend for your own peace of mind that references be checked when choosing your babysitter. This babysitter list is provided as a service to the community and is governed by the terms & conditions outlined at [mybabysitter.ca](http://mybabysitter.ca).

MAY 1-31

# FREE

## FITNESS MONTH


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Facebook.com/Jazzercise.Robyn



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# Insects and Technology

*The brilliant color on the wings of the butterfly some birds like the peacock have been the inspiration for a new technology that will render crystal clear images on screens, no matter what the lighting.*



Discovery Magazine



# Four Tooth Brushing Myths

Stephanie McIntyre

You know you’re supposed to brush your teeth, but how and how often? Make sure you don’t fall into these common tooth-brushing myths.

**Myth 1: Brushing Bleeding Gums is Bad**  
Sometimes when you’re brushing or flossing your teeth, you may notice blood in your saliva when you spit. Does this mean you should stop brushing to give them time to heal? Not necessarily. Gum bleeding is a sign that you may be experiencing gingivitis or other gum disease. This is caused by plaque build-up, which is the result of insufficient brushing and flossing. So when you see bleeding, that means you need to brush *more*, not less. If the bleeding persists, you may need to see your dentist and/or get a professional cleaning. If your gums are sensitive, use a soft toothbrush on an angle and don’t brush too vigorously. Make sure to brush your gums and tongue as well as your teeth.

**Myth 2: The dentist won’t notice if I only brush before my dental appointment**  
Too often we forget to do our proper daily hygiene until just a few days before our dental appointment, when suddenly out come the brushes and floss. Maybe if you brush enough in the time leading up to the appointment, your dentist won’t notice that you just started? Unfortunately, your dentist *will* notice, since there will still be a build-up of plaque or tartar. So, keep up that two minutes twice-daily habit and impress your dentist next visit!

**Myth 3: More brushing is always better**  
Ok so we just said that you should brush regularly, even if your gums are bleeding...but over-brushing can be a problem too. Toothpaste is abrasive, and if you brush

too much it could wear down enamel. Don’t eat too much sugary food that stays stuck in your teeth, drink plenty of water, and stick with twice a day!

**Myth 4: You should brush right after eating**  
While it’s true you should brush after meals, brushing too soon post-meal can hurt more than it helps. Particularly after eating acidic foods like oranges, your tooth enamel is often soft. Wait half an hour so that it has time to harden up again before brushing.

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**NEIGHBOURHOOD CONFLICT?** Community Mediation Calgary Society (CMCS) is a no cost mediation and conflict coaching service that can help you resolve problems and restore peace! We help neighbours be neighbours again! www.communitymediation.ca, 403-269-2707.

**YARD BUSTERS LANDSCAPING:** Weekly lawn mowing \$36, power-rake \$100, aeration \$45. Some conditions. Landscape construction and yard renovation: stone patios, walks, raised beds and rock walls, synthetic grass, sod and trees and shrubs, landscape lighting, water features and decks and fences and superhero window cleaning. Licensed. Insured. Seniors discount. Phone: 403-265-4769. yardbusterslandscaping.com.



**The Pathway Church**  
375 Bermuda Drive NW  
Beddington Heights  
Community Arts Ctr.  
Ph: 587-581-1858  
www.thepathwaychurch.ca

Sunday Services at 11am and Bible Study at 10am

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**MLA CALGARY-MACKAY-NOSE HILL**  
**KAREN MCPHERSON**

Current Member  
(403) 215-7710  
calgary.mackay.nosehill@assembly.ab.ca

As we all welcome spring, your Government continues its Spring sitting as we debate the Budget which was introduced on April 14th, 2016. Our caucus is working very hard to do the best we can for all Albertans; we recognize the challenging economic times we continue to face both personally and financially. My office hears from a number of constituents who are definitely struggling, and I want to assure the residents of Calgary-Mackay-Nose Hill that these issues remain of paramount importance to me.

At the beginning of April, I am proud to say that the Minister of Human Services Irfan Sabir repealed the Person with Developmental Disabilities (PDD) Safety Standards Regulation in response to the input from Albertans. During the public consultation on the standards of safety for Albertans receiving supports through the PDD program, participants said Regulation was confusing and caused undue stress in the community. The Minister accepted the consultation team's Phase One recommendations in their entirety, to implement a coordinated approach across relevant ministries which includes working with municipalities to ensure safety and to extend the Team's mandate to oversee Phase Two of the consultation. This issue is of vital importance to many of my constituents, and it is crucial that it be addressed.

The Government has established a new structure to improve the province's environmental monitoring and reporting system and this new model will replace the Alberta Environmental Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Agency (AEMERA). An independent review concluded that AEMERA is not the right delivery model to ensure effective and accountable oversight of environmental monitoring on behalf of Albertans and found that the private model diverted overhead costs away from monitoring, led to confusion around roles and responsibilities, and limited resources. This government continues to be committed to building standards based on international best practices and a renewed partnership with Indigenous communities; as a part of those commitments, the new structure will improve the province's environmental monitoring and reporting system and will retain an independent science advisory panel and a traditional ecological knowledge advisory panel. The government is also committed to do-

ing the best job possible of monitoring the environmental impacts of industry and resource development as we build a more resilient, diversified economy.

On April 6th the Government introduced proposed legislation to help seniors stay safe and independent in their homes. The proposed 'Seniors' Homes Adaptation and Repair Act' (Bill 5) enables a new low-interest home equity loan program that helps seniors improve the safety and sustainability of their homes. The program allows senior homeowners who qualify to finance essential home repairs and adaptations, such as widening doorways or hallways, installing walk-in tubs, roof replacements, and electrical repairs. About 145,000 senior households could be eligible for the loan program; under the provisions of the Bill, seniors would not be required to pay monthly loan payments as they would with traditional loan programs. Low-income seniors who do not qualify under the loan program may still be eligible for a grant to help finance necessary home repairs. Consumer protection measures will also be offered, including provisions to review the reasonableness of the costs of the home repair as well as the right to cancel contracts. Keeping seniors in their homes for as long as possible is so important, and this program would address the needs and priorities of an aging population.

## BRAIN GAMES SUDOKU

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7								
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FIND SOLUTION ON PAGE 17





# News from the Friends of Nose Hill

by Anne Burke

International Migratory Bird Day is on May 8. Continual monitoring is required to maintain accurate, current information on their status around the world. Go to [www.naturealberta.ca](http://www.naturealberta.ca) for Alberta birds at risk.

Ordinary people with an interest in wildlife, plants or species can help. Citizen science programs combine learning, field work, and volunteer research. Projects can be about insects, frogs and toads, birds, mammals, plants, water, and more.

There are local clubs and annual count events, such as the species count of birds during May at various locations around Alberta. The flower blooming count is the last week of May. Everyone is welcome to participate. For botany details, email [svisser@ucalgary.ca](mailto:svisser@ucalgary.ca).

Our Facebook group is busy reporting on wildlife sightings, identifying plants, and how early the crocus appeared on the John Laurie side, off the 64 Avenue entrance, and near the top above Charleswood Drive. Alberta Plant Watch is part of the national Canada Watch program. By reporting when certain plants bloom, volunteers contribute vital information for climate change studies. We now have almost 3 decades of information.

Go to [www.plantwatch.naturealberta.ca](http://www.plantwatch.naturealberta.ca).

Participation can be as easy as just looking for flowers in bloom and recording information about it on a data sheet and taking a picture; or go online to identify unusual or difficult plants.

Full colour photos are on our website. You can now report your observations and locations easily online. You can also use your smart phone to report data by your phone's GPS, and/or to send a photo of your plant. Please submit count results by June 30, 2016 for the May Flower Count -May 25-31.

**Mark your calendars now for Nose Hill clean-ups on Saturday, June 18 and July 30 at the Edgemont parking lot (Edgemont Blvd. & Shaganappi Tr.) 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. where pick-up bags are given out to park users. Parks staff and Bylaw officers will be on hand. Individuals and groups are welcome for this PUPPY program.**

**You can volunteer to be a Park Interpreter for Nose Hill from June to October if you love to tell a story and have an interest in environment, natural history, local plants, and wildlife. Must be 18 years of age or older. Training provided. Call 311 or apply online at [www.calgary.ca](http://www.calgary.ca).**



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Greetings Residents!

### How safe is your backyard fire pit?

Backyard fire pits are great places to gather and share good times in Calgary's summer months, but these great times can quickly become tragic if you aren't safe.

The City of Calgary has bylaw standards to help minimize some of the dangers of your backyard fire pit, or outdoor fireplace, wood burning oven or chimneys. The Calgary Fire Department also has a number of tips to help prevent anyone from getting hurt.

### Safety tips and bylaw regulations

- Backyard fire pits should be built into the ground, on brick or stone, or in a fire-resistant container.
- Portable fire pits may be used on a deck as long as they sit on brick or stone, and not directly on your wooden deck.
- Fire pits must be at least two metres away from your property line, house, garage, or fence.
- Fire pits must not be under any trees, branches, plants or other materials that can catch fire.
- Always have a way to put out the fire close to your fire pit. Easy options are your watering hose or a bucket of water.
- All fires in your fire pit must be kept to a reasonable size; under 1 metre high and wide. This helps ensure the fire's embers, sparks or smoke do not harm anyone or cause a nuisance to neighbouring properties.
- All fires in your fire pit must be continually supervised.
- Fires may only be burned in fire pits from 10 a.m. to 1 a.m., unless prohibited in a fire ban.
- Do not burn:
  - Painted, treated or lumber containing glue or resin
  - Wet, or green/fresh cut wood
  - Yard waste (cut grass or leaves)
  - Garbage
  - Rubber
  - Plastic
  - Furniture



Always check [www.calgary.ca/firebans](http://www.calgary.ca/firebans) to ensure no fire bans are in effect, which may caution against or forbid using fire pits. Remember, you can be fined from \$500 to \$5,000 for not following Calgary's fire pit bylaws (5M2004) or the instructions of fire bans. Learn more about Calgary fire pit safety and Bylaws by visiting [calgary.ca](http://calgary.ca) and searching the term 'fire pits'.

# IMPORTANT NUMBERS

ALL EMERGENCY CALLS	911
Alberta Adolescent Recovery Centre	403.253.5250
Alberta Health Care	403.310.0000
AHS Addictions Hotline	1.866.332.2322
ATCO Gas – 24 Hour Emergency	403.245.7222
Calgary HEALTH LINK 24/7	811
Calgary Police – Non Emergency	403.266.1234
Calgary Women's Emergency Shelter	403.234.7233
Child Abuse Hotline	1.800.387.5437
Kids Help Line	1.800.668.6868
Child Safe Canada	403.202.5900
Distress/Crisis Line	403.266.4357
ENMAX – Power Trouble	403-514-6100
Poison Centre - Alberta	1-800-332-1414
HOSPITALS / URGENT CARE	
Alberta Children's Hospital	403.955.7211
Foothills Hospital	403.944.1110
Peter Lougheed Centre	403.943.4555
Rockyview General Hospital	403.943.3000
Sheldon M. Chumir Health Centre	403.955.6200
South Calgary Urgent Care Health Centre	403.943.9300
South Health Campus	403.956.1111
OTHER	
Calgary Humane Society	403.205.4455
Calgary Parking Authority	403.537.7000
SeniorConnect	403.266.6200
Calgary Kerby Elder Abuse Line	403.705.3250
Alberta One-Call Corporation	1.800.242.3447
City of Calgary	311
Kerby Centre for the 55 plus	403-265-0661
Community Mediation Calgary Society	403.269.2707
RNR Lockworks Ltd.	403.479.6161
Road Conditions – Calgary	511
Weather Information	
Gamblers Anonymous	403.237.0654

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# COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Deadline – 1<sup>st</sup> of each month for the next month's publication**

**Contact [news@great-news.ca](mailto:news@great-news.ca)**

- ◆ Free announcements: lost/found, household items for sale, wanted, garage sale, student/senior services, etc.
- ◆ Forty word limit

## BRAIN GAMES

## SUDOKU

9	3	4	5	6	1	2	7	8
2	6	7	8	9	4	1	3	5
5	1	8	2	3	7	4	6	9
8	4	5	3	2	6	9	1	7
1	7	6	4	5	9	8	2	3
3	2	9	7	1	8	5	4	6
4	5	2	9	7	3	6	8	1
7	8	1	6	4	5	3	9	2
6	9	3	1	8	2	7	5	4

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Article by J. Turner  
Photo by Andrea S. H. Hunt

# Muskrats Hardy Little Creatures

The muskrat (*Ondatra zibethicus*) is a fairly large rodent which has adapted to life in and around water. Their name comes from their two musk (anal) scent glands, the odour used in communication, especially during breeding season. Musk rats are found in North American wetlands and waterways and are considered to be an important creature in their freshwater environments.

These animals have a round, portly body covered with rich waterproof fur made up of a short dense silky under coat and a longer, coarse glossy guard coat. Their fur covers small ears and provides buoyancy in the water. Fur colour ranges from a dark brown head to a light grey belly. Their feet are mostly hairless; the hind feet acting like paddles during swimming and described as semi-webbed, with the four longest toes of each foot having a fringe of specialized hairs along each side, giving the foot a paddle like effect in use. The front feet are used like hands to build lodges, hold food and dig burrows and channels. There are five toes on all feet but the inner toes of front feet are small so rarely show in tracks. Full grown large adults can weigh from 1 – 2 kgs (2 – 5 lbs) and are up to 60 cm (24 in) long (including the tail). Their tail is slender, flattened vertically (to act as a rudder when swimming) and covered with scaly skin to protect it from damaging easily. The muskrat has special teeth that protrude ahead of the cheeks and lips, which can close behind them, permitting the animal to

chew on stems and roots under water “with its mouth closed.” Its four front teeth are chisel like (two upper, two lower incisors), each up to 2 cm long, used for cutting stems and roots of plants.

Musk rats typically live in freshwater marshes, marshy areas of lakes, slow-moving streams, dugouts, ponds, and watery areas controlled by beaver dams. The water must be deep enough to not freeze to the bottom during winter, but shallow enough to allow for the growth of aquatic vegetation. Areas with good food sources such as bulrushes, cattails, pondweeds, or sedges are preferred.

Muskrat homes are compact mounds of partially dried and decayed plant material scattered among cattails, reeds or bulrushes, looking much like dead heaps of plants. If these materials are not available, muskrats dig burrows in firm banks of mossy soil or clay. They still need quick access to deep water for escape from predators and food access in the winter. Their construction of open-water canals through reeds, and floating houses of aquatic vegetation, creates habitats for many species of waterfowl and aquatic plants which could not survive among dense areas of cattail and sedges.

After freeze up muskrats chew through the ice, and push up plant matter to cover the hole with a dome to make a miniature lodge, which is used as a feeding station and resting place when searching for food underwater. They can remain underwater up to 15 minutes by reducing their heart rate and relaxing their muscles when submerged, thus reducing oxygen use by their body.

What’s unusual about the muskrat?

- They are more widely dispersed across North American (north to south, east to west) than any other mammal.
- They were introduced to Europe in 1905 and are now common there too.
- If normal plant food is not available, and animal food is abundant, they are known to become carnivorous (eating fish, frogs, clams)!
- Numbers decrease dramatically every 7 to 10 years. This is believed to be the result of cyclical health declines, deaths and reproductive failure.
- Musk rats appear to thrive even when harvested heavily for fur, impacted by agricultural draining of wetlands and increases in industrial activity! They can even adapt to brackish (salty) water. Hardy little creatures aren’t they?

If you find an injured or orphaned muskrat, or other wild animal or bird, please contact the Calgary Wildlife Rehabilitation Society for further instructions.



## Get Involved in the Charrette!

The Green Line project team needs your input

It’s time to talk about Transit Oriented Development (TOD) in the north! Last year, we hosted three workshops called “Charrettes” with communities in southeast Calgary to plan TOD on the south leg of the line.

We are now starting this process for the north section of the Green Line, and we hope you’ll join us in the discussion.

### What is a Charrette?

A multiple-day, collaborative workshop led by a consultant team that brings together citizens, developers and policymakers to create a feasible and supported community plan based on four feedback loops: **Issues, ideas, concepts, and solutions.**

### Upcoming Charrettes

#### 96 Avenue North Charrette

May 2-7, 2016

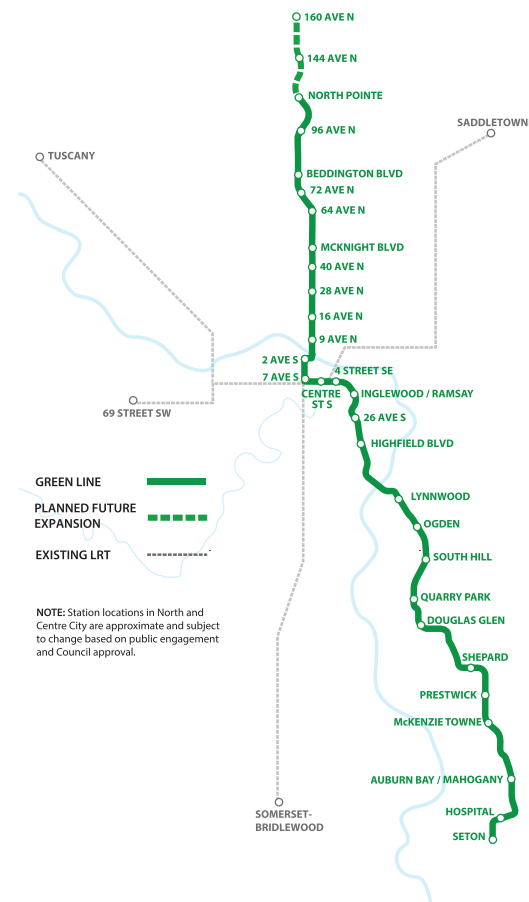
Visit [calgary.ca/greenline](http://calgary.ca/greenline) for more details.

#### 9 Avenue/16 Avenue/28 Avenue North Charrette

June, 2016\*

\*More details and confirmed dates will be released on [calgary.ca/greenline](http://calgary.ca/greenline).

Follow the Green Line conversation on Twitter: [#yyctransport](https://twitter.com/yyctransport) [#GreenLineYYC](https://twitter.com/GreenLineYYC)



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