

MAY 2019

DELIVERED MONTHLY TO 2,400 HOUSEHOLDS

MCA MONTGOMERY MESSENGER

THE OFFICIAL MONTGOMERY COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



◀ **BIKE SKILLS?**
SEE PAGE 11 FOR DETAILS!

COMMUNITY GARDEN! ▶

▶ **MARK YOUR CALENDAR! JOIN US
ON NEIGHBOUR DAY!**
SEE PAGE 8

**OOPS!! THE VOLUNTEER MONTH
ARTICLE INTENDED FOR THE APRIL
ISSUE WAS MISSED!** ▶
PLEASE SEE MACKENZIE OWEN'S
ARTICLE ON PAGE 10



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10,000+ participants, spectators and volunteers will take to the streets of Calgary on Sunday May 26. Visit calgarymarathon.com to register, to volunteer and for road closures that may impact your community.



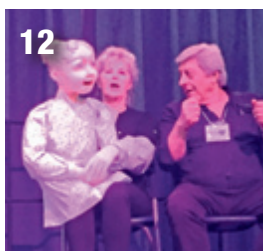
REGISTER TODAY AT **CALGARYMARATHON.COM**

50K ULTRA | MARATHON | HALF MARATHON | 10K | 5K WALK & RUN | KIDS MARATHON



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Working Together for a Better Community



Montgomery Messenger - Designed, manufactured, and delivered monthly to 2,400 Households by:

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LEADERS IN COMMUNITY FOCUSED MARKETING 

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MONTGOMERY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

MCA DIRECTORY

Executive

President	VACANT
Vice-president	Rhonda Zander
Treasurer	George McMullen
Secretary	Ron Aubrey

Staff

Facility Manager	JanineMcAuliffe
Assistant to the Manager	David Hoskyn
Community Engagement Coordinator	Leaha Owen

Directors

Director	David Baker
Director	Gideon Ong
Director, Planning Chair	Janice Mackett
Director	Trevor Dreher
Director	Jason Sokolosky
Director	Jewel Spangler
Director	Debra Jepson

Elected Representatives

City Councillor	Druh Farrell	403-268-2430
MLA Calgary Bow		
MP	Len Webber	587-885-1596

Contacts

Community	David Down	
Liaison Officer	pol3847@calgarypolice.ca	403-428-6200

School Board Trustees

Public	Lisa Davis	403-817-7918
Catholic	Pamela Rath	403-500-2761

Stay Connected With Montgomery

- www.mcapeople.ca
- [MontgomeryCA](https://www.facebook.com/MontgomeryCA)
- [@mcapeople](https://twitter.com/mcapeople)
- montgomeryenews@gmail.com

Community Centre Hall

The main hall at the community centre is available for rent for large and small functions, from big weddings to simple birthday parties for kids.

Active members of the community association will receive a 10% discount on full rentals.

Rental Rates:

Main Hall

Full rental- \$550.00

Damage Deposit \$550.00

Prime Time hourly

Fri-Sun. - \$65.00 per hour (5 hours or less)

Off-Peak Hourly Mon-Thurs. - \$35.00 / hr.

Board Room

The boardroom is approx. 14'x22' in size.

Capacity in a meeting-room setting is 25.

White board and pull down screen available.

Rental rate: \$25.00 per hour.

For Further information please visit www.mcapeople.ca, call 403-247-3116, or email manager@mcapeople.ca.

Community Newsletter

The Montgomery Messenger is a publication of the Montgomery Community Association and Great News Publishing.

Published year round for mail delivery in the middle of every month. Content from the public is welcome and invited. To inquire about submitting content please email manager@mcapeople.ca or phone **403-247-3116**.

All advertising inquiries should be directed to Great News Publishing.

Editorial Deadline for content submissions is the first of month, for the following month's issue. All submissions should be as Word documents, and sent to montgomerymessenger@gmail.com. High quality photos are also welcome.



MEMBERSHIP

MEMBER NAME(s)
(first and last names of adults)

PLEASE COMPLETE ALL SECTIONS AND PRINT NEATLY.

Thank You!

ADDRESS				EMAIL	
POSTAL CODE		RES PHONE	MOBILE PHONE	Community of Residence (if not Montgomery)	
MEMBERSHIP TYPE					
Single / Family	\$30.00				
Senior	\$15.00				
Assco. Non-voting	\$35.00				
PAYMENT \$					
Visa / MasterCard / Debt / Cash					
MEMBERSHIP #					



Working Together for a Better Community

PLEASE INDICATE ANY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES YOU MAY BE INTERESTED IN

*It should be noted that some categories may not have openings at this time,
however individuals may be interested in the following possibilities:*

COMMITTEES	COMMUNITY PROGRAMMES AND EVENTS
COMMUNITY GARDEN	CHILDREN'S EVENTS (Winterfest, Jellybean Dances)
PLANNING	SENIOR'S PROGRAMMES (Seniors Social, Triple-A)
COMMUNITY SAFETY INITIATIVE (CSI)	SPECIAL EVENTS
HISTORY - COMMUNITY PRIDE & REVITALIZATION (CPR)	SPORTS PROGRAMMES (Soccer, Soccer Banquet)
	COMMUNITY CLEANUP
	HISTORY PROJECT
	FUNDRAISING (MCA Casio)

**Thank You For Supporting
YOUR Community Association!**

Please mail along with your cheque
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or drop off with your payment.

MONTGOMERY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
5003 - 16 Avenue NW
Calgary, AB T3B 0N2

MONTGOMERY GOINGS-ON

Business Memberships

As part of vibrant Montgomery, our local businesses and the Community Association are at the heart of what makes our community grow. Support the Montgomery Community Association by purchasing your Business Membership for the 2019-2020 Season. With a \$50.00 Business Membership, you may engage in Community-sponsored events while in turn, supporting the Montgomery Community Association. Email or call us directly to purchase YOUR Membership to YOUR Montgomery Community. mcac@telus.net 403 247-3116

The Jellyfish Family Dance

The Jellyfish Family Dance was held on April 27th. Events such as this one bring family and friends together in the spirit of Community Engagement! A huge thank you for the support we received from Ripples Grant, the U of C Geriatric Nursing Students and MCA Volunteers!

Montgomery has been making it a cleaner, brighter place for 13 years! It happens because of the wealth of generous volunteers who give of their time and talent to make it happen. Thank you, Montgomery volunteers and residents for helping make the Community Clean-up a year-in-year-out success!

Mark Your Calendar!

Saturday June 1 - Bike Track site clean up and build

Saturday, June 15 George Gell Block Party to be held at George Gell Park – weather permitting. Details to follow!

June 17 to September 16 – Montgomery Monday Market Farmers Market at Montgomery Community Association

Montgomery Pickle Ball

Mon, Wed, Fri 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Wed Evenings cancelled until further notice
Drop in: \$5.00
Free with Community Membership

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Deadline – 1st of each month for the next month's publication

Contact news@great-news.ca

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

BURIED IN TREASURES: Join Dr. Randy Frost to learn what hoarding is; and what you can do to address hoarding challenges or help those you love. Thursday, May 9. 7 – 9 pm. 4510 Macleod Trail South (Calgary Dream Centre). Sign up by May 5 through <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/buried-in-treasures-tickets-59718434445>. Calgaryhoardingcoalition@gmail.com

BRAIN GAMES

SUDOKU

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

FIND SOLUTION ON PAGE 18

Volunteering
is good for the soul

PLANNING REPORT

by Janice Mackett, Planning Committee Chair

NEW PERMITS

The Planning Committee reviewed the following Development Permit Applications over the past few weeks:

DP2019-1019: New Single Detached Dwelling with rear attached garage located at 5023 22 AV NW

DP2019-1060: Relaxation for a Pergola (Accessory Building) located at 4618 15 AV NW

DP2019-0528 New Single Detached Dwelling with new Basement Suite at 5020 20 AV NW

Lot Coverage

The maximum allowable lot coverage for an R-C1 or R-C2 property, ie, properties that allow for single detached or semi-detached dwellings, is 45% of the area of the lot. This is the cumulative coverage of all buildings on that parcel (typically the house and garage). It doesn't include small accessory buildings that together add up to an area less than 10m² (107 square feet).

Among other things, having a maximum lot coverage ensures there is enough green space available for permeability and ground water penetration.

Over the past number of years, the Planning Committee has reviewed a number of residential projects where developers have pushed the lot coverage to the max. We've seen developments that show 44.9% or even 45% coverage. Applicants are reminded that it's easy to miscalculate this number and our committee does not readily support relaxations to lot coverage.

For the homeowner this means that the future flexibility and enjoyment of the property can be severely limited.

If the lot coverage is maxed out right at the beginning there is no longer the option to add a greenhouse to the garage, add additional sheds, build an extension to the house, or expand a rear deck. The house is unable to accommodate and adjust to changing lifestyles.

COMMITTEE POSITIONS AVAILABLE

The Planning Committee has some positions open for interested residents.

If you're at all interested in learning a bit about the planning and development process, about the permitting process or want to meet new people, please consider joining our committee. No experience or knowledge in this area is required but we won't turn you away if you're an expert. You are required to be a member of the community association and if you join, we would appreciate your commitment to attend meetings. We typically meet once a month, sometimes more, sometimes less.

If you're interested or want more information, please send an email to mcac@telus.net and put Planning Committee in the subject heading. Hope to see you soon.



Password: Acorn1234

Squirrels are one of the top threats to power grids, so much so that the American Public Power Association tracks data of squirrel incidents which they call "The Squirrel Index." Some commentators have joked that squirrels are bigger cyber terrorist threats than foreign powers.



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 **403.210.9969**  **WE DIRECT BILL!**

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

Due to an editing issue, the following article was not printed in the April issue of the Messenger. Our sincerest apology to MacKenzie Owen for this oversight.

Hi everybody! My name is Mackenzie and I have lived almost my entire life in Montgomery. Being a member of such a small and tight-knit neighbourhood has allowed me to experience the benefits of volunteering and giving back to the community. As a resident of Montgomery, who has spent many formative years volunteering and attending various events, I am able to see all of the benefits I have gained through these experiences. Volunteering, or being Voluntold as I, and many of the other volunteers, like to call it, has afforded me many opportunities to interact with the community, make new friends, and take on leadership roles.

One of the best experiences that I've had through volunteering is the interaction I've had with fellow community members. Whether it's through manning a booth for the community garden, or running the craft table at the Kids Carnival, I always seem to meet somebody new, whether they're new to the community or just attending an event for the first time. This is a great experience as it allows me to recognize the wide array of individuals we have living in the neighbourhood. By meeting new people I've also been able to create new friendships, especially with my fellow volunteers.

Since I've been volunteering for the community association since I was about 12, I've grown up with a core group of volunteers that I quickly became friends with. Through interacting with my fellow volunteers of all ages, I've been lucky enough to form lasting connections with a diverse group of community members. Even though sometimes we might not see each other very frequently, it's always nice to reconnect and catch up while volunteering for the many events our community hosts.

Another amazing benefit I've received through volunteering for the community is the opportunity and ability to take on more leadership roles. When I first started volunteering, my tasks often revolved around simple jobs such as helping to set up an event or assisting other volunteers with their responsibilities, but the more time I spent volunteering the more responsibility I was given. I went from doing small jobs to running booths and games by myself, and preparing and selling food. These

seemingly easy tasks taught me many skills such as organization, innovation, and collaboration, all of which have helped me in my jobs and studies.

Volunteering through the Montgomery Community Association has not only helped me grow as a person but has also introduced me to the world of community service and all the good it can do. The community association is always looking for volunteers, if you are interested please contact the MCA at 403-217-3116 or mcac@telus.net.

PLAYGROUP

Drop-in Play at the MCA



The Bowmont Families Together project at carya is happy to partner with the Montgomery Community Association to offer Tuesday morning playgroup! Parents and caregivers with children ages 0-5 are welcome to drop in for a play. Connect with your neighbours in Montgomery and friends from Bowness. Playgroup will run every Tuesday morning from 10-11:30. Support the group by buying a community association membership at the MCA Office.

Looking for more opportunities?

Bowmont Families Together offers a number of ways for community residents to engage in opportunities and participate in groups that help strengthen their own resiliency as well as that of the community as a whole.

We offers early development programs for 0- to -5-year-olds and their caregivers, opportunities to discuss and learn about parenting, facilitated peer to peer groups, empowerment workshops and community-based activities and events.

Find out more at caryacalgary.ca, join the Bowmont Families Together Facebook group or contact ChelseaM@caryacalgary.ca

George Gell Park's Future Bike and Pump Track

by Janice Mackett, Planning Committee Chair

GEORGE GELL PARK

Last year some very committed community members thought it would be a great idea to re-invent and re-design George Gell Park along 16th Avenue NW at the entrance to Montgomery. They met with a Landscape Architect and a number of stakeholder groups along with a few board members to move this dream forward. After some brainstorming meetings and initial design work by the Landscape Architect an Open House was held in November. Further refinements to the concepts led to a second Open House in February of this year.

We now have an amazing show-stopper plan for the Park!

We are working with our community volunteers to organize a Neighbour Day Block Party where the design will be revealed to the community at large.

Make sure you come out to George Gell Park on Saturday June 15th (Neighbour Day) to check out all the great things that are being planned for this park.

BIKE / PUMP TRACK

Many of you, and particularly your kids, might be excited to know that a number of energetic dads have been pursuing the option of building a bike/pump track behind the two storage facilities at the bottom of Mackay Road. The goal is to build a mountain bike skills trail for beginners sometime this June. Once this is completed, they'll plan out the details and then build the pump track. (And yes, I had to Google what a pump track was).

The Board of Directors passed a motion to support this initiative and one of the parents has applied for a Ripples grant to cover the costs of basic supplies, food and refreshments. The group has also reached out to the FFCA High School staff and students who are excited to be involved in the building of the trail.

Go to the Montgomery Community Association website and Facebook for updates. This is quickly taking on momentum and we hope to see a lot of you come out to help build the track.

COME & PLAY AT THE MCA...



Children's Birthday Party Package \$119.95

This birthday party package includes two hours in our main hall and we'll throw in the floor hockey equipment, ping pong tables, preschool equipment ...

Bring in your own food and refreshments ... invite as many friends and family as you like!

For one "low" rate.

Some restrictions apply for advanced bookings.

**For more information:
403-247-3116, mcac@telus.net.**



MCA Casino Advance Notice

The Montgomery Community Association Casino has been scheduled for December 26 & 27, 2019 at the Elbow River Casino. To volunteer, please email us at MCAC@telus.net or call the office at 403 247-3116. It is with the generosity of many great volunteers we are able to access the funding to keep Montgomery vibrant and prosperous! We thank you in advance for your support!

MONTGOMERY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION PRESENTS MAY SENIOR SOCIAL



FOUNDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE CHARTER ACADEMY CHOIR

MAY 27th, 2019 12:30PM-3:00PM
MONTGOMERY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
5003 16TH AVE NW CALGARY AB
MCA: 403-247-3116



by Rhonda Zander, Planning Committee Member

The South Shaganappi Area Strategic Planning Group is a group of community representatives and stakeholders that meet on a monthly basis to inform and respond to a number of institutional and infrastructure development projects in the area.

Cadillac Fairview provided an update on two of its major projects. The Keg is on schedule to open this fall. Construction of the Landmark Theatre has begun. Anticipated completion date is December 2019.

West Campus Development Trust announced that University Avenue is now closed to vehicular traffic east of 39th Street to Collegiate Blvd. This closure will be in place until September 2019 to accommodate the installation of underground utilities and infrastructure for the Central Park.

Parkdale Community Association has launched a Go Fund Me campaign to raise \$165,000 for a new outdoor rink and social area. The new rink will be fully accessible for sledge hockey, the first one in Western Canada.

DISCLAIMER: The opinions expressed within any published article, report or submission reflect those of the author and should not be considered to reflect those of Great News Media and the Montgomery Community and/or Residents' Association. The information contained in this newsletter is believed to be accurate but is not warranted to be so.

Great News Media and the Montgomery Community and/or Residents' Association do not endorse any person or persons advertising in this newsletter. Publication of any advertisements should not be considered an endorsement of any goods or services.



Michelle Warkentin brought out her puppets to perform the musical 'Mii Other Woman' for the Seniors Social in March; complete with audience participation!

Traffic Concerns in Montgomery

Good day, neighbours! A group of residents, concerned about traffic safety in our community, has formed a small committee. Our goal is to improve the safety of the co-existence of people and vehicular traffic within our area.

We are looking for your input to identify the specific concerns of the area. We invite you to send a quick email to the gmail account listed below with any of your traffic concerns. Please include your name, contact info, location, specific concern and possible solutions.

montgomerytraffic@gmail.com

In addition to contacting this small group, we encourage you to contact the city at 311 and log your specific concern.

<https://calgary-csrprodciw.motorolasolutions.com/Public/Home.mvc/Index>

We are a growing community and our needs are changing. Let's ensure they are known!

Montgomery Mother Goose for Parents & Babies

Join us for an hour of tickles, cuddles and lap rhymes with your babies. You will learn tools to calm and connect with your wee one while meeting other new parents in the neighbourhood!

For babies up to 12 months old
Tuesdays from 9:30 – 10:30 starting April 2.

This is a free program offered in partnership with the Montgomery Community Association and open to community residents in Montgomery, Bowness and Greenwood Village.

To register, please contact LisaH@caryacalgary.ca or call/text: 403-519-7591.



Good Neighbour Practices

The City of Calgary has issued the "Good Neighbour Practices Reference Guide". Here you will find an excerpt from the guide each month.

Fire pits must be constructed of non-combustible material, such as brick or stone, and set upon or built into the bare ground or placed on non-combustible material. Fire pits must be situated at least two metres from any building, fence or wooden structure and not located under any trees or branches.

Only clean, dry firewood can be burned. Materials like painted/treated lumber, yard waste, tires, plastic and animal parts are strictly prohibited.

The open flame from a fire pit must not exceed one metre in height and width so that fire embers, sparks or dense smoke do not endanger anyone or cause a nuisance to neighbouring properties. Fires must be attended to at all times, and citizens must have a means to extinguish the fire on hand at all times. Fires are prohibited between the hours of 1 a.m. and 10 a.m.

Repeat offences or severe infractions of these regulations may result in fire pits being banned on a premises.

The Fire Chief can declare a complete fire ban at any time.



News from the Friends of Nose Hill

by Anne Burke

Don't forget to check out our website at www.fonhs.org for all the information you will need about Plants in Bloom for the May Flower Count, during the last week of May (25-31). This is an **annual event**, when volunteers survey their favourite natural areas and provide valuable data on the distribution of flowering plants in Alberta. Conduct a fun "trek and check" through your favourite natural space. Expertise in wildflower identification is valuable, but not mandatory. Use our alphabetical flower list, which has space to record how far in bloom the flowers are.

Urban ecology and biodiversity are free and family friendly, in backyards, gardens, schoolyards, local parks, and community green spaces. At any time, citizen scientists can find nature, take photos of their finds, and share their observations by iNaturalist.ca. The app is free, enables identification, and operates all over the world now.

The Calgary City Nature Challenge involves taking photos of plants and animals (26-29 April) and then identifying them (30 April-5 May). Winners are announced 6 May (www.calgarynatureyyc.ca). Calgary, Halifax, and Richmond, B.C. are only 3 of the **over 160 cities** worldwide to compete for the most observations, number of species, and participants (www.citychallenge.org). Started in 2016 with 2 cities, the City Nature Challenge went national, in 2017, and, in 2018 with 68 cities, became an international event!

The new City Parks and Pathways Bylaw states: "natural area" is a park or portion of park space where the primary role is the protection of an **undisturbed (or relatively undisturbed)** area of land with characteristics of a natural or native plant community. The Director, Calgary Parks, may close or restrict the use of any park (or portion of a park) to protect endangered or at-risk species; to preserve vegetation required for wildlife; and to rehabilitate a natural area.

To disturb wildlife in a park (\$200-\$300), to disturb or damage park vegetation (\$200-\$300), and to remove park vegetation (\$150-\$250) are only a few of the minimum and specified fines for offences.



Montgomery Real Estate Update

Last 12 Months Montgomery MLS Real Estate Sale Price Update

	Average Asking Price	Average Sold Price
March 2019	\$450,000	\$430,000
February 2019	\$489,900	\$475,750
January 2019	\$587,500	\$582,500
December 2018	\$448,800	\$430,000
November 2018	\$400,000	\$375,000
October 2018	\$489,000	\$480,000
September 2018	\$484,900	\$452,500
August 2018	\$488,800	\$480,000
July 2018	\$499,800	\$445,000
June 2018	\$495,000	\$478,800
May 2018	\$550,000	\$550,000
April 2018	\$514,900	\$500,000

Last 12 Months Montgomery MLS Real Estate Number of Listings Update

	No. New Properties	No. Properties Sold
March 2019	9	2
February 2019	10	3
January 2019	5	3
December 2018	3	1
November 2018	3	1
October 2018	4	1
September 2018	3	2
August 2018	5	6
July 2018	7	10
June 2018	6	4
May 2018	8	2
April 2018	6	2

To view more detailed information that comprise the above
MLS averages please visit **mon.mycalgary.com**

BUSINESS CLASSIFIEDS

For business classified ad rates call Great News Media at 403-720-0762 or sales@greatnewsmedia.ca

OFFICIAL PLUMBING & HEATING: Small company, low overhead, excellent warranties, and great rates. Specializing in residential service and installs. Services include furnace service and replacement, hot water tank service and replacement, leaks, clogs, gas fitting, and more. Licensed and insured. Why wait? Call today and get it fixed today! Available 24/7, we accept debit/VISA/MasterCard. Call 403-837-4023 or email officialplumbingandheating@outlook.com; www.official-plumbing-heating.ca.

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 CARE & LANDSCAPING: Weekly mowing \$36, power-rake \$130, aeration \$70, window cleaning or gutter cleaning \$99, pressure washing starting at \$99, rope light installation. Conditions apply. BBB member. 4.1 Google star rating. Call 403-265-4769. YardBustersLandscaping.com.

LANDSCAPE CONSTRUCTION: Stone patios, rock walls, synthetic lawns, raised beds, decks and fences, lighting. Sod installation, rocks, mulches, shrubs, xeriscaping. Member of BBB. Licensed. Insured. Seniors' discount. Call 403-265-4769. YardBustersLandscaping.com.

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Straight from the Unicorn's Mouth: An Overview of Unicorn Mythological History

by Alexa Takayama

This month, I decided to look at unicorns because they just feel spring-y. My research taught me two things: unicorns are one of the oldest depicted mythological creatures, and Europeans liked to write descriptions of rhinoceroses, but no one ever bothered to draw pictures to go with them. Which makes the journey of how we got from rhinoceros to glittering white, horned horses a bit of a disjointed mess. I'll do my best.

Let's get some unicorn basics out of the way: as we understand them today, unicorns are white horse-like creatures with a long, pointed horn protruding from their foreheads, sometimes with cloven hooves or a lion-like tail. Unicorns are untameable, strong, proud and haughty, and would rather die than be captured. They can only be calmed and captured by a virgin. Their horns are made out of a substance called alicorn which is believed to have magical medicinal properties, such as being able to nullify poisons and cure diseases. Some "official" measurements state a unicorn's horn is between 1 cubit and 1.5 cubits (roughly 50 to 70 cm). You know unicorns are old when we're measuring things in cubits!

We also need to talk about the monoceros, which was a creature that was conceptually related to the unicorn but was not a unicorn. At the same time, the term monoceros was used interchangeably with the term unicorn. (Which doesn't complicate things at all.) And like the unicorn, a lot of descriptions of them seem to bear a closer resemblance to rhinoceroses.

Let's talk about some of those descriptions, shall we? The oldest recorded writing describing a unicorn was in India, written by Greek physician and historian Ctesias the

Cnidian. He described them like "wild asses" (probably specifically the onager, an Asiatic animal closely resembling a donkey) with a horn that is red, white, and black. In his book, *Natural History*, Pliny the Elder described a monoceros having the head of a stag, body like a horse's, the feet of an elephant, and the tail of a boar. He also said it made a deep bellowing noise and has a black horn. There is record that Marco Polo claimed to have seen a unicorn, saying they are smaller than elephants with heads like a wild boar, feet like an elephant's, rough hair like a buffalo, and a big black horn. He described them wallowing in mud and called them ugly. (Rude.) He also expressed disappointment that they were nothing like the way Europeans imagined them.

Every instance just seems to me as someone trying to describe a rhinoceros, but after the world's oldest game of telephone, we somehow ended up with our modern rendition of the unicorn.

But let's not forget about the virgins! What's up with that? Well, in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, a book called *Physiologus* had an elaborate allegory about a unicorn, which represented the Incarnation of Christ, laying its head on the lap of a maiden, which represented the Virgin Mary. It seems from here that the idea that a unicorn can only be captured by a virgin originates from. From there, there have been many pieces of both religious and secular art showing the hunt of the unicorn. It is sometimes depicted wearing a collar with a broken chain. The unicorn is very popular in heraldry as well.

Now you have a brief overview of unicorns. There's a lot I didn't get to cover, so stay tuned for next month's article where I'll talk specifically about the unicorn's horn.



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Just Words

I remember in school when a bully was confronted by a teacher after being caught picking on a fellow student. The bully said, "I'm not hurting anyone, they are just words."

What we witnessed during the recent election campaign and what we see on the internet every day is far worse than anything that I ever heard that bully say.

Words are as powerful as any weapon, as useful as any tool and their consequences can last a lifetime.

Over time I have noticed, and so have many others, that hateful, intolerant and offensive language has grown in usage and proliferation on the internet, social media and even in daily conversation.

As I said in the House of Commons ahead of Remembrance Day, "Tens of thousands of Canadians fought hate. They gave their lives to put down those who sought to reshape human existence through hate. They gave their future so that we could have one. There could be no greater dishonour to their memory and their sacrifices than for us to give up on the fight against hate. Yes, we have the freedom to speak our mind in Canada, but that freedom was found in the fight against hate. Let us not forget that."

This type of hate and intolerance exists throughout the political spectrum. Each justifying their own abhorrent behaviour against the behaviour of those they are in disagreement with. Two wrongs do not make a right.

As a society, it is time we take a stand against this type of behaviour. It is toxic and can have many lasting, unintended and deadly consequences. History is littered with examples of what happens when hate and intolerance are allowed to grow within a peaceful society. Eventually that society ceases to exist. Let's not follow those dark paths of history.

When I spoke about hate crimes in Parliament I said, "If you are not part of the solution, you are part of the problem." Please do something and take a stand against hate and intolerance in your own way.

We can no longer stand by ignoring the hate and intolerance of others while trying to simply dismiss their actions as "just words".

Bees

A good news story! City employees working on a road-side naturalization pilot in Canyon Meadows discovered a bumble bee species on Environment Canada's endangered list: The Gypsy Cuckoo Bumblebee (*Bombus bohemicus*). Reported endangered in 2014, the Gypsy Cuckoo Bee is large, fuzzy, and once had a geographic range across Canada.

The Gypsy Cuckoo bee is a parasitic bee that hijacks other bee hives. The decline of this species shows that other bee species are also in decline.

There are many factors leading to a decline in native bee and butterfly populations worldwide. Two of the biggest are the use of pesticides and loss of habitat. In an age of environmental instability, we need a fundamental cultural shift. The City of Calgary developed a 10-year Biodiversity Strategic Plan "to foster more resilient, biologically diverse open spaces and neighbourhoods." As a result, several naturalization projects are underway that include large plantings of native plants and flowers to support our pollinators and promote biodiversity.

Calgarians can also do their part. If we want more bees and butterflies, we need more flowers of every shape and size—tall flowers, short flowers, early bloomers, late bloomers, perennials and annuals, and every colour in the rainbow. Grow more native plants. Make flower beds bigger and lawns smaller. Add clover to grass seed. Plant flowering trees and shrubs. Make a bee-bath for hot, dry days. Leave the leaves on flowerbeds over the winter and pick them up later in the spring. Stop using pesticides.

If you live in an apartment, even a tiny patio with a few pots of flowers can help sustain life and be part of a network of nourishment across the city that provide for bumble bees.

Every little bit helps! It is important that we do all we can to protect bumblebees and other pollinators. They are vital to our ecosystems.

To sign up for community updates, visit www.DruhFarrell.ca or www.Facebook.com/DruhFarrellCalgary.



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Chrissi	36	Christina.stower@shaw.ca	No
Jamie-Lyn	24	403-892-0176	No
Jocelyn	46	587-700-1158	Yes
Sarah	19	587-223-3339	Yes
Sarah	19	587-223-3339	Yes
Stephanie	35	403-852-8198	No
Vienne	16	587-439-8436	Yes

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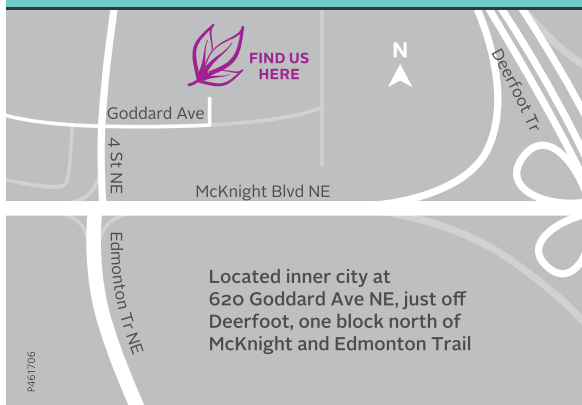
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