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

Muskrats Hardy Little Creatures

The muskrat (*Ondatra zibeticus*) 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.

Royal Crest Terrace Land Use

By Anne Burke

There was a change of land use application at 89 Royal Crest Terrace NW from R-C1 to R-Cs for a secondary suite. On the site is a single family home with a 2-car garage and driveway accessible from Royal Crest Terrace NW.

A secondary suite is a permitted use. A backyard suite is a discretionary use.

If the secondary suite is permitted and meets all the bylaw requirements, a development permit is not required.

There is a Calgary Transit bus stop for the 157, 774, 801, and 814 routes near Royal Oak Drive. The 157 route directly connects with the Tuscany LRT Station.

The site was notice posted. There were 6 letters of objection, with concerns about traffic, property values, tenants, community safety, and adjacent, low density homes zoned R-C1.

The Calgary Planning Commission recommended by a vote of 8-0 that City Council support the application at a Public Hearing.

However, the motion was lost at a Council meeting, then the application was filed and abandoned.



BRAIN GAMES SUDOKU

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		2			3	6	8	
7								
	9			8				4

FIND SOLUTION ON PAGE 7

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Healthy Posture Improves Brain Function

Dr. Alma Nenshi, Family Chiropractor

Nobel Prize recipient Dr. Roger Sperry said that the spine is the motor that drives the brain. According to his research, "90% of the stimulation and nutrition to the brain is generated by the movement of the spine." He goes on to state that only 10% of our brain's energy goes to thinking, metabolism, immunity and healing because 90% goes into processing and maintaining the body's relationship with gravity, ie. posture.

How is the spine the motor of the brain?

The spine houses a delicate system of nerves bundled together forming the spinal cord, that relay information to and from the brain and body. This highway of communication must transmit electrical signals both fast and accurately in order to allow each person the ability to control all the functions of the body while adapting along the way for external and internal stresses. Imagine listening to a beautiful symphony. Now imagine what would happen if each person was to play their instrument however they like. There would be disharmony without a conductor. This is what happens when there is a functional disconnect of the brain and nerves with the organs and systems they supply. There is dysfunction or disease of the body.

The implications of Dr. Sperry's work are far reaching. It supports that if you want to increase your energy, heal your body, improve your intelligence, fix your symptom, whatever it is that you want to control, it is within your personal reach. You can stimulate 90% of your brain by movement in your spine! Become more physically active, improve your posture and get regular spinal check ups to make sure the joints in your spine that feed and stimulate your brain are working at their best.

The facet joints in the neck (joints that connect the bones in the spine) contain the largest concentration of receptor cells that fire signals to the brain. But with stress from sedentary lifestyles, long hours at a computer, forward head posture, spinal degeneration, poor diet, unhealthy emotions, traumas and arthritis and whatever else you want to throw into this mix, is it a wonder why so many worry about how their brain and bodies will function and if they will age gracefully. It's like driving on Deerfoot Trail wanting to go the speed limit but being held back in traffic. You know your health potential, you just aren't able to clear the traffic jams because of interference in the spine.

Even the slightest adjustment in your posture can impact how much stimulation is sent to the brain. Remember 90% of the function of the brain is focused on maintaining healthy posture. So if you have poor posture, how well is your brain functioning? Chiropractic care focuses on maintaining mobility in the spine, thereby enhancing brain stimulation and growth. The results are better posture, healthy functions of the body and healthy adaptation to stress be it physical, emotional, nutritional, electromagnetic, toxins or allergies and sensitivities.

You have the power within you to re-establish brain balance and neutralize stress with deep meditation, rhythmic breathing, proper exercise like walking, being in nature, belly laughter, deep delta sleep and of course, proper chiropractic care.



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Last 12 Months ROYAL OAK MLS Real Estate Sale Price Stats

	Average Asking Price	Average Sold Price
April 2016	\$549,900.00	\$540,000.00
March 2016	\$567,400.00	\$551,500.00
February 2016	\$488,900.00	\$468,250.00
January 2016	\$569,900.00	\$550,000.00
December 2015	\$474,900.00	\$463,000.00
November 2015	\$629,000.00	\$620,000.00
October 2015	\$574,900.00	\$559,000.00
September 2015	\$509,450.00	\$497,500.00
August 2015	\$619,900.00	\$595,000.00
July 2015	\$612,400.00	\$607,500.00
June 2015	\$569,000.00	\$559,000.00
May 2015	\$559,900.00	\$568,500.00

Last 12 Months ROCKY RIDGE MLS Real Estate Sale Price Stats

	Average Asking Price	Average Sold Price
April 2016	\$659,950.00	\$655,000.00
March 2016	\$584,900.00	\$566,250.00
February 2016	\$699,999.00	\$675,000.00
January 2016	\$462,500.00	\$455,000.00
December 2015	\$475,000.00	\$466,500.00
November 2015	\$549,900.00	\$520,000.00
October 2015	\$499,000.00	\$490,000.00
September 2015	\$614,450.00	\$617,000.00
August 2015	\$559,900.00	\$545,000.00
July 2015	\$539,450.00	\$521,500.00
June 2015	\$507,400.00	\$494,500.00
May 2015	\$524,900.00	\$511,750.00

To view the specific SOLD Listings that comprise the above MLS averages please visit royal_oak.great-news.ca or rocky_ridge.great-news.ca

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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.

BRAIN GAMES SUDOKU

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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



Managing Urban Stormwater in Established Areas”

So, what can be done in established areas where stormwater treatment and retrofits are difficult to achieve due to a lack of space and high land costs and increasing impervious surfaces due to densification?

The Answer – capture all that precious rainfall and keep it on your lot!

Rain barrels are an obvious choice to capture rainwater from roofs. Green Calgary sells them every Saturday at various Calgary locations beginning the end of April and ending in June. See www.shop.greencalgary.org

Incorporate a **rain garden** in your yard. A rain garden is a feature designed to capture rainwater from a roof via a downspout, or from pavement or a lawn. To see a rain garden installation by Alberta Low Impact Development Partnership volunteers go to: www.alidp.org/uploads/files/s2s_rain_garden_blitz_story_annotated.pdf

If you are considering a makeover of your yard considering adding good quality loamy **topsoil to a depth of 300mm**. Soil acts like a sponge and will soak up a lot of water. Currently, house builders are only obliged to add 120mm of topsoil despite the known benefits of deeper topsoil.

If you are in love with turf avoid Kentucky Bluegrass (short roots and drought susceptible) and artificial turf (lacks absorption and filtration characteristics). Instead consider **sheep fescue sod or overseeding with sheep fescue**. Sheep fescue has a dense and long root system and is cold, drought and shade tolerant.

Limit the amount of impervious surfaces on your landscape. There are many materials and techniques that allow water to infiltrate soils rather than ending up on the street.

Incorporating some or all of these landscape ideas on a lot and neighbourhood scale will reduce the amount of contaminated stormwater from entering the Lower Elbow River. These actions will make the water cleaner for you, recreational users, people living downstream and aquatic life.

For more information go to: www.alidp.org/knowledgebase/article/innovative-stormwater-management-at-the-neighbourhood-scale

Formed in 2004, S2G+ Preservation Society collaborates to enhance the environment and natural history of the lower Elbow River, its valley and contiguous bench lands from the Glenmore Dam to Fort Calgary. To join our stewardship network email us at S2Gplusinfo@gmail.com. Follow us on [facebook.com/S2Gplus](https://www.facebook.com/S2Gplus)

Do you want to play better golf in 2016?

Routine and structure (with a dabble of spontaneity!) is important in our lives. But did you know that having a strong routine is also important in the game of golf? For the best players in the world and for the rest of us, having strong routines are important when you are practicing as well as when you are playing and is necessary to perform at your best, regardless of your ability. Having a strong “pre-shot routine” and doing it all the time, the same way all the time develops consistency ... through repetition. It also benefits you by mentally placing no more importance on any 1 shot, whether it be a practice shot or a shot during a game. By making all golf shots equal mentally, you tend not to succumb to pressure situations like hitting it over the lake, etc. You should perform your pre-shot routine always, whether you are hitting your driver, 7 iron, chipping or putting. It is ok if your putting routine isn't exactly the same as your full swing routine. In fact, I suggest you have a full swing routine, a chipping/pitching routine and a putting routine. These three different areas of the game should have specific routines but are still similar in nature. It is also ok if your routine is not exactly the same as someone else's as you will notice the next time you watch some professional golf on TV. Your game will improve because developing and performing your personal pre-shot routines will ensure that you are always:

2. Choosing the best club selection based upon these assessments.
3. Taking one or two practice swings with the target in mind and having positive imagery.
4. Starting from behind the ball prior to setting up.
5. Aiming the clubface first, then positioning your feet and the rest of your body.
6. Staring at the target and only “glancing” at the ball so your mind is always focused more on the target.
7. Having no more than one or two swing thoughts just prior to initiating the swing such as “full turn back and finish in balance”
8. Perform the shot, assess both the swing/stroke (in particular your balance and finish position) and your result.
9. Finally, and most importantly, having a good routine will ensure you are focused on your routine, your target and only one (two at most) swing thoughts. You want no mechanics in your mind when attempting to hit a shot. Mechanics are developed during specific and focused practice sessions and through drills. You want to play the game more with your instincts and by feel while keeping your mechanics on “auto pilot”.

Check out these two links to reinforce these ideas and you will soon see better results out there on the links!
www.youtube.com/watch?v=pY3S4aMzgxY&feature=fvw
www.youtube.com/watch?v=VF-LITV1iRA&feature=related

By Alan Killian, CFP PGA of Canada





Mom in the Fast Lane

Elisabeth Fayt

How often must something happen, before it occurs to you?

A few years ago, I was out running errands with my son who was four at the time. I realized I was running late for a meeting and there was no way I would make it at the pace we were going, so I decided to play a little game with him. I said, "Hey, let's have a race and see who can run the fastest" and we both started to run. After a few seconds, he stopped dead in his tracks and said "Mom, why are we racing?"

It was like the whole planet stopped whirling in space at that moment. I bent down to his eye level and responded "Good question, we're not going to race anymore." Without another word, we casually continued at our normal pace and arrived a half hour late for my meeting, which was irrelevant, as the other person had also been running late. She had not even arrived yet!

The experience had a profound effect on me. What came to light was that I had been sporting a pattern of rushing, of racing the clock and packing too many commitments into a small space of time. It clearly wasn't serving me well.

How often did this happen, before it occurred to me? I'd hate to count, but it definitely occurred to me that day.

As May is the month we celebrate Moms, this is a call-out to all Moms living in the fast lane. Slow down and take time to savour each moment. Be present with your children. Bend down to their eye level and give them your full attention. The whole planet will stop whirling in space. You won't miss anything. Trust me, I know from experience.

IN & AROUND CALGARY

Crowchild Tr. Study

Mark your calendar for June events!

See the preliminary concepts and evaluate them against the project goals established in Phase 2 of the study by attending one of the public workshops below. RSVP to open Saturday, May 21. These events are part of **Phase 4: Concept Evaluation** of the study process.

Workshop #1: Monday, June 13

Time: 6 to 8:30 p.m.

Location: West Hillhurst Community Association - 1940 6 Ave. N.W.

Workshop #2: Saturday, June 18

Time: 9:30 a.m. to noon

Location: Sunalta School - 536 Sonora Ave. S.W.

Workshop #3: Wednesday, June 22

Time: 6 to 8:30 p.m.

Location: Red and White Club, McMahon Stadium - 1833 Crowchild Tr. N.W.

Workshops for residents, businesses and homeowners located within one block of Crowchild Trail are also scheduled in June. These invite-only events provide the opportunity for them to share their unique concerns and perspectives before the broader community.

The project team will use the evaluation to identify a set of recommendations for Calgarians to provide feedback on in Phase 5: Concept Selection and Recommendation in the fall.

If you're unable to attend one of the workshops, other engagement events are scheduled throughout June. There will also be an opportunity to provide your feedback online. For a complete list of engagement opportunities or to RSVP, go to calgary.ca/crowchild



The Feline Mystique



I first put this article together nine years ago. In the spirit of laughter relieving all our worries, I want to share it with our readers again. Many of these quotes come from an article I came across by the humorist William J. Thomas, a collection of quotations about the cat. I have to share some of these brilliant insights into the creature known as the cat, as "cat" is a far too trivial word for the emotions and characteristics this animal evokes in my mind. For example "The phrase 'domesticated cat' is an oxymoron" (George Will). Or "A god among creatures. Yet also a stray like me" (Tony Ross).

Some quotes reflect on a cat's attitude towards us. "To a cat, human beings are an inferior, servile race, always to be kept in their places, with occasional rewards if they perform well. To love a cat is uphill work, and therefore, very rewarding" (Haskel Frankel). "Cats always know whether people like or dislike them. They do not always care enough to do anything about it" (Winifred Carriere). "Cat: a pygmy lion who loves mice, hates dogs, and patronizes human beings" (Oliver Herford).

Other quotes revel in the cat's beauty and femininity. "Every cat is really the most beautiful woman in the room" (E.V. Lucas). Carol Lawrence says "They're the most graceful, sinuous, sexy, truly sensuous creatures in the world". My absolute favorite reflection by Robert Heinlein "Women and cats will do as the please, and men and dogs should relax and get used to the idea".

Cat, a word synonymous with independence. "A cat is there when you call her - if she doesn't have something

better to do" (Bill Adler). "Cats know how to obtain food without labour, shelter without confinement, and love without penalties" (W.L. George).

We all know cats are smart. Hippolyte Taine said "I have studied many philosophers and many cats. The wisdom of cats is infinitely superior". Carl Van Vechten noted "The cat seldom interferes with other people's rights. His intelligence keeps him from doing many of the fool things that complicate life". I agree with them and H.G. Frommer's observation "Quirky are cats, independent and very, very smart. And clever about being smart. The smart cat doesn't let on that he is".

I would like to leave you with three final observations on our feline friends. All completely different viewpoints, but all very, very true. Elizabeth Peters declared "Cats refuse to take the blame for anything - including their own sins". Mark Twain wrote "If man could be crossed with a cat, it would improve man but deteriorate the cat". And finally, "The little furry buggers are just deep, deep wells you throw all your emotions into (Bruce Schimmel)".

If you have a topic you would like me to cover in your community newsletter please forward it to the publisher to pass on to me. For the record, if you asked this veterinarian if I prefer cats or dogs, I am unable to answer, but I have never seen a healthy feline canine relationship in which the cat comes out second.

Jennifer L. Scott B.Sc., D.V.M.



by Lisa Martin

BEAUTIFUL Prague

Prague is a charming and elegant European city that is not to be missed. During the Gothic and Renaissance eras, it was the capital of the Holy Roman Empire.

Thrust into Prague's rush hour traffic on a Friday afternoon in April, I frantically dug in the glove compartment for our hotel's address. We checked our map for the best route but it was from a car rental agency and of little help in finding the way. At least we knew we were in the right corner of the city so we drove up and down countless busy thoroughfares searching for the hotel, slowing to try to read street signs as they flashed by. Horns honked at us and drivers glared until finally we turned a corner and by divine intervention, there was the Pension Klenor. We had arrived!

We were warmly welcomed by the proprietor and shown to a spacious and bright room on the second floor. A quick shower and change of clothes later, we headed out the door for the tram that would take us to the old town.

We crossed the graceful Charles Bridge that spans the Vltava River and leads to Prague's cobblestoned old town. Apple strudel, art galleries, street musicians and did I mention the Bohemian glass! Shop windows sparkled with intricately cut crystal goblets in vibrant reds and blues and yellows, so gorgeous that they made you want to drink wine if you did not already.

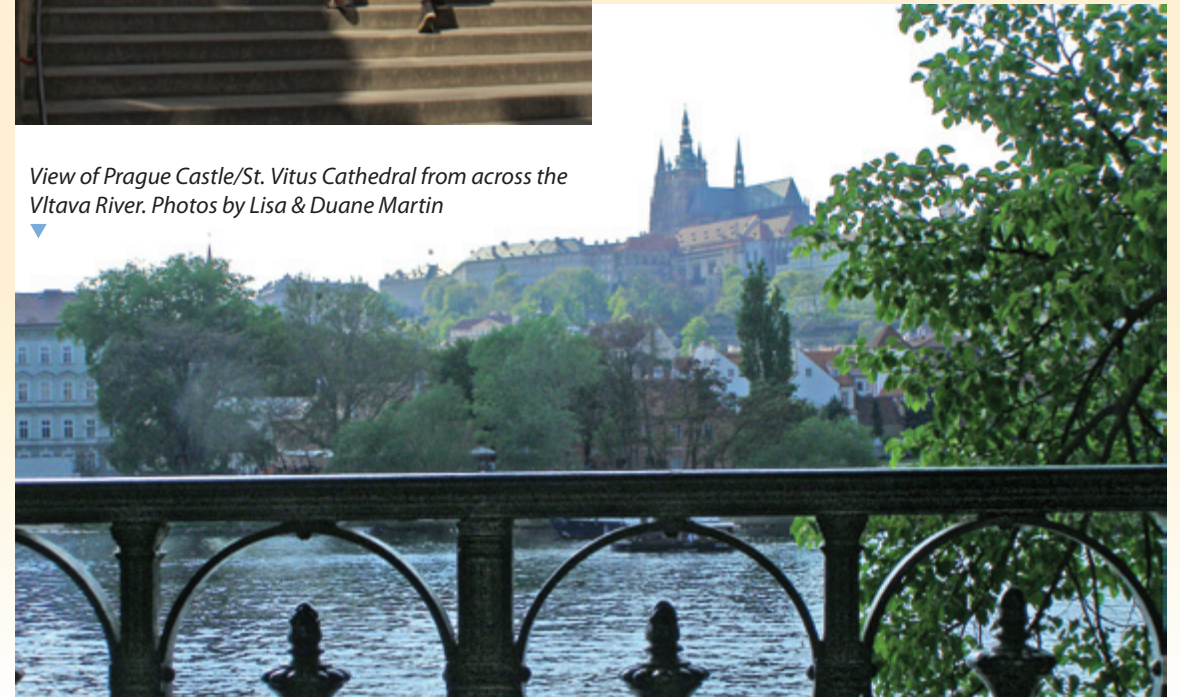
It was dusk when we started for home and the view from Charles Bridge was stunning. High on a hill, the spires from Prague Castle were silhouetted against a slowly darkening sky of pink, mauve and grey. The bridge lantern lights flickered on just then and although there were crowds, people spoke in hushed voices in seeming reverence at the beauty of the evening. It was magic.

A SEA OF RED TILED ROOFS SPREAD OUT BELOW US AND THE SKYLINE WAS DOTTED WITH THE DOMES AND SPIRES THAT ARE SO MUCH A PART OF PRAGUE

Saturday morning we reached the tram platform only to learn the line was out of service. We had no plan B and no idea what to do next. As we stood there puzzling, an elderly lady who had also been waiting on the platform walked up and smilingly gestured that we should follow her. We only hesitated a moment. We walked to a bus stop three blocks away and boarded the bus for a short ride to a different tram line that was operating.



View of Prague Castle/St. Vitus Cathedral from across the Vltava River. Photos by Lisa & Duane Martin



All the while she was animatedly chatting away to us in Czech and we were smiling and nodding back in English. I have no idea what our spirited conversation was about but I'm sure it was interesting. The kindly stranger waited with us until the tram arrived and we were safely boarded and then waved good bye as we pulled away. Bless her heart.

Sunday we took the scenic but arduous "old steps" up the steep hill to Prague Castle. As we climbed, a sea of red tiled roofs spread out below us and the skyline was dotted with the domes and spires that are so much a part of Prague. When we reached the top we stopped to rest on a bench in a quiet garden. Just then the cathedral bells began to ring out announcing the hour and in a moment they were joined by a whole chorus of bells pealing from the old town below. We sat for a long time and listened. It was a glorious moment and a favourite memory of beautiful Prague.

Lisa Martin has travelled extensively throughout the British Isles, Europe, Australia, Canada, the United States, and Mexico, as well as parts of the Middle East and Asia.

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



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



JUNE 24 TEDXYC

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- **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
- **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
- **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
- **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
- **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
- **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
- **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
- **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
- **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



COUNCILLOR, WARD 2 JOE MAGLIOCCA

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Neighbour Day is an opportunity for neighbours to come together in the form of BBQs, cleanups and potlucks to celebrate our strong community spirit in Calgary. Make Saturday, June 18 the day you host a block party, a picnic at your local park or even introduce yourself to a neighbour and lend a helping hand. The City of Calgary wants to encourage as many people as possible to host a local activity on their block or in their residential building. That is why they are waiving the fees for small scale local block party permits and neighbourhood park bookings for events that take place on June 18 this year. Please note the deadline for road closure permit applications is May 27. Visit calgary.ca/neighbourday for more information about Neighbour Day including an event planning kit, information about permits and other logistical considerations.

This spring, Calgary Police Service along with Alberta Commercial Vehicle Enforcement will be paying extra attention to safety infractions by heavy and light trucks. They will focus on moving violations, cargo securement, mechanical fitness and other related infractions to ensure all vehicles are roadworthy and safe. There will be check stops and enforcement blitzes throughout the spring.

With the population growth and the new development throughout northwest Calgary, certain major roadways are becoming increasingly congested. Two major projects that I have been advocating for is to twin the Shaganappi Trail overpass over Stoney Trail and to build a full interchange on 14th Street NW and Stoney Trail. Both of these interchange improvements are critical to the transportation network in northwest Calgary. I have met numerous times with officials from the provincial and federal government to advocate for these projects and I will continue to advocate for them at City Hall. If improving these roadways is a priority for you, please share your views with your local Member of the Legislative Assembly, Member of Parliament, as well as my office through www.joemagliocca.com.

Joe's Tips:

Until May 29, bring your leaves, branches, plants, grass and other yard waste to any City of Calgary landfill for free composting! You can also pick up free mulch from the landfills. Please note that the Spyhill Landfill is now open seven days/week from 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

BUSINESS CLASSIFIEDS

NEPTUNE PLUMBING & HEATING LTD: Qualified journeymen plumbers/gasfitters, very experienced in Rocky Ridge and Royal Oak. Upfront pricing. Reliable, conscientious, fully guaranteed. Mon - Fri 8:00 am - 5:00 pm. 24 hour emergency service call 403-255-7938. "Showering you with great service."

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.

JEFFREY ELECTRIC: Friendly professional electrical service for your next residential project large or small. City Qualified Trade, Master Electrician, Based in the NW, insured, licensed, certified, bonded. Very competitive rates for quality electrical work. Service Panel upgrades from 60 amp to 200 amp. Sub-panels, Aluminum re-wiring, custom kitchens and basements. Free estimates. cejelectric.com or call Clayton at 403-970-5441.

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PET COMPANION: is a professional pet sitting/dog walking service since 2001. We provide excellent references. Please contact Magda at 403-880-5110 (call/text), or magda@petcompanion.ca and visit www.petcompanion.ca.

IN & AROUND CALGARY

EMS: Window & Balcony Safety

With the return of warmer weather, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) would like to remind parents and caregivers of an often overlooked hazard in the home – access to open windows. Every year, paramedics respond to emergencies where a child has fallen from an open window, often from the second floor. These can be avoided by following simple safety measures. Take the time to assess potential hazards in your home before a preventable fall occurs.

Windows and screens

- Prevent access to windows by moving furniture such as cribs, beds, stools, and change tables out from under them;
- Keep drapery cords out of children's reach. Wrap excess cord around cleats, or tie-downs to avoid a choking hazard;
- Remember: screens are not safety devices. They are designed to keep bugs out, not to keep children in.

Balconies

- Do not underestimate a child's ability to climb. Furniture and other items stored on balconies and decks can be used to climb resulting in falls over the railing;
- Ensure that your balcony railings are not more than 10 cm (4 inch) apart. This will eliminate access between the vertical bars of a balcony, or deck.

Further prevention tips

- Children aged one to four are at highest risk of falling from a window or balcony;
- Direct supervision of children is the single most effective way to prevent falls from windows and balconies;
- Install safety devices which limit the distance in which a window can be open to a maximum of 10cm (4 inches);
- Ensure the safety device can be released quickly so the window can be used for escape in case of emergency.

EMS is proud to be a member of the **Partners Promoting Window and Balcony Safety**. Take time to assess your home for window and balcony hazards and eliminate the risks before a preventable fall occurs.

www.windowssafety.ca



Alberta Guide Dog Services

Alberta Guide Dog Services is seeking volunteer Puppy Trainers to provide loving homes to puppies training to be Guide Dogs (for blind or visually impaired individuals) and Autism Support Dogs (for children with moderate to severe autism and their families). This is a 24/7 commitment that involves providing our pups with basic obedience and socialization skills, from the time they are 7-8 weeks to 14-18 months old. Through scheduled visits and obedience classes, as well as guidance from a Puppy Raising Supervisor and advice from existing volunteers, you will have a terrific support system throughout this very rewarding experience. Volunteers must be available during the day. We provide food, vet care and other basic necessities for the pup. If you are interested in raising a puppy that could grow up to change someone's life, please call Sandra at 403-616-3228 or email sandra.cramer@albertaguidedog.com.

Photo Credit: Alberta Guide Dogs

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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FENG SHUI

Barbara Shorrock

Feng Shui is on my mind again. Perhaps it is because of the “clutter” thing. Maybe because winter causes us to look more inside our homes than outside. Whatever the reason, this is a good time of year to review some Feng Shui principles. There are, of course, far too many to cover in a short article, but let’s focus on just a couple.

We’ll get the “**clutter**” thing out of the way first, excuse the play on words. Many of us love to decorate our homes, both inside and out. We are well past the Christmas season, with all its colour and beauty and significant things. By spring, this season is safely back in its boxes in the basement. Spring is upon us and time to be ruthless with the other “stuff”. If you don’t love it, need it, use it, or wear it, get rid of it. Give it to charity, sell it, pass it on to someone who will love it, or throw it out. The principle is simple; the action not so easy. So take one room at a time and remember that Feng Shui says that everything has chi or energy. Too many things create chaos in the energy field, and our life can reflect this chaos. Here is a good place to start - hang a wind chime near your front door and remove absolutely all clutter from the entry to your home (inside and out).

Living things have their own **chi**, and healthy house plants are carriers of vital energy and add life to our homes. They also provide a benevolent cleaning of the air by absorbing carbon dioxide and giving off oxygen. Plants with a soft graceful appearance are preferred to sharp spiky ones. If you are fond of cactus and their cousins, group them together with other friendlier va-

rieties, and away from the people places in the house. Fresh flowers also add colour and sensuality to a room. They elevate the mood and perfume the air. Dried flowers are an alternative that some people like, but their life isn’t as long as you might think. In fact, it is believed they lose their vitality after a mere three or four months, and many Feng Shui practitioners advise against them. Dead flowers can actually deplete the energy in a space, rather than enhance it.

Pets are natural batteries of chi, and they bring the loving spirit out in just about anyone. It is well known that visiting pets enhance the well-being of residents of long term care and retirement homes, and we intuitively understand that a clean and healthy pet contributes to the energy of a home.

Flowers Story

A client bought a new home and her real estate agent sent flowers to mark the occasion. The flowers arrived at her home and the card said “Rest in Peace”. The owner was dismayed and called the florist to complain. After he learned of the obvious mistake, the florist said, “Madam, I am really sorry for the mistake but rather than getting upset you should imagine this: somewhere there is a funeral taking place today, and they have flowers with a note saying “Congratulations on your new home”.

Barbara Shorrock is a writer, reader, traveler, ESL coach, and avid gardener. You can find her at the Queensland Garden Club the first Wednesday of most months.



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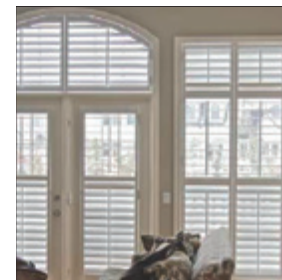
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