

JUNE 2017

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## CALLING LOCAL PHOTOGRAPHERS

SUBMIT YOUR PHOTOS FOR A CHANCE TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE NEXT EDITION OF THIS NEWSLETTER

Please submit your best captioned photos with your name for the photo credit and mention what community you're from.

Send to [news@great-news.ca](mailto:news@great-news.ca).

If you'd like to see your work on our social media channels—Twitter and Facebook—submit your social media information as well.



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All advertisements and editorial submissions must be submitted by the 1st of the month for the following month's publication.

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*The information contained in this newsletter is believed to be accurate, but is not warranted to be so.*

*Great News Publishing does 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.*

## OKOTOKS CLUBS



### Okotoks Newcomers Club

Ladies, are you new to Okotoks in the past three years? Looking for new friends? Monthly evening meeting, monthly lunch outing, walking, coffee, Mah-jongg, Bridge and Canasta groups. Call Trudy 587-364-2278.

**June 6**

### OkotoksDayhomeProviders.com

OkotoksDayhomeProviders.com offers support to caregivers in the Foothills with the goal of a higher level of quality child care. We organize regular meetings, workshops and children's' events at the library, gymnastics, playgrounds and more. Families seeking care are welcome to contact us also.

### It Takes a Village

Do you or someone you know need baby items for an upcoming baby? It Takes a Village offers baby boxes filled with essential baby items to families in the Foothills that are facing hardships. Please visit [www.takesavillageokotoks.com](http://www.takesavillageokotoks.com) for more information.

### Okotoks Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS)

Do you ever feel alone or overwhelmed as a parent? MOPS is a community of moms that offers friendship, support and learning opportunities for moms with young children. We get together over coffee and snacks (with free childcare) to build relationships and have fun! Visit [facebook.com/okotoksmops](https://facebook.com/okotoksmops) or contact [mops@okotoksefc.ca](mailto:mops@okotoksefc.ca) for meeting dates and times.



## Embrace Your Community Become a Volunteer!

The Town of Okotoks Volunteer Registry can help connect you to a person or non-profit organization that needs your help. Volunteers complete an application form, are interviewed and then connected with a volunteer opportunity that will fit in with their schedules and utilize their skills. There are many ways to be involved in the community. If you don't see a position under the Volunteer Opportunities section that interests you, call and we will find one to suit you.

Okotoks Volunteer Services can be reached at 403-938-8936 or via email at [volunteer@okotoks.ca](mailto:volunteer@okotoks.ca).



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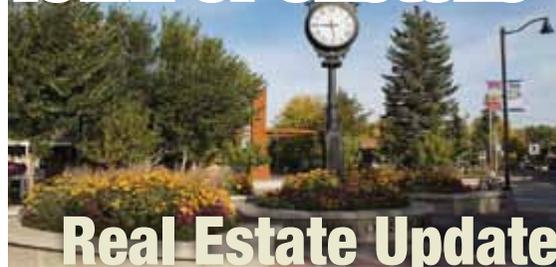
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# Town of Okotoks



## Real Estate Update

Last 12 Months Okotoks  
MLS Real Estate Sale Price Update

	Average Asking Price	Average Sold Price
May 2017	\$438,700	\$435,250
April 2017	\$447,450	\$435,750
March 2017	\$489,900	\$475,000
February 2017	\$490,000	\$481,000
January 2017	\$479,950	\$470,600
December 2016	\$506,450	\$488,500
November 2016	\$435,000	\$417,500
October 2016	\$519,900	\$504,000
September 2016	\$429,800	\$416,500
August 2016	\$439,900	\$427,500
July 2016	\$467,400	\$459,450
June 2016	\$476,200	\$462,500

Last 12 Months Okotoks  
MLS Real Estate Number of Listings Update

	No. New Properties	No. Properties Sold
May 2017	41	26
April 2017	47	30
March 2017	32	29
February 2017	32	15
January 2017	22	10
December 2016	10	8
November 2016	16	19
October 2016	22	15
September 2016	23	17
August 2016	31	28
July 2016	20	30
June 2016	32	38

To view more detailed information that comprise the above MLS averages please visit [okotoks.great-news.ca](http://okotoks.great-news.ca)

## SAFE & SOUND



# ATVs

## Be as Safe as Possible

As snow-blowers and shovels are tucked away for another season, Albertans are venturing outdoors to enjoy the spring weather. Alberta Health Services (AHS) is reminding all Albertans, and particularly parents of children less than 16 years of age, to make ATV safety a priority.

There are significant risks associated with the use of ATVs. Children less than 16 years of age have not yet developed to the point of having the strength, skills or judgment needed to operate an ATV, and this includes ATVs marketed as 'child-sized'.

Parents of children less than 16 years of age are advised to ensure they do not drive or ride in an ATV.

Albertans **16 years of age and older** are urged to take the following precautions to ensure their ATV excursions are as safe as possible:

### Get Trained

Before you hit the trails, get formal hands-on training from a recognized/trained ATV instructor. Don't be shy about refreshing your training seasonally.

### Wear the Gear

A helmet can save your life: from 2002 – 2013, 41 per cent of ATV-rider deaths in Alberta were due to head injuries. In 77 per cent of these head injury deaths, the ATV riders

were not wearing a helmet. In addition to a helmet, always wear a jacket, long pants, goggles, boots and gloves.

### Look First

Be sure you're aware of the weather forecast, fire outlook/potential, and any hazards (geographical, animal or human) that the trail(s) you're on could pose.

### Buckle Up

Be sure that you're fastened in properly, and that all gear and equipment (including your ATV restraints) are in proper working condition before you hit the trails.

### Drive Sober

Don't drink or do drugs before or while operating an ATV. 55 per cent of those who died in ATV crashes between 2002 and 2013 tested positive for alcohol.

### Seek Help

Before you head out on the trail, let others know where you're going and when they should expect you back. This helps your loved ones know when to call for help if you've been gone too long. Take a cell phone or working radio with you, as well as a first aid kit. Never hesitate to call for help if you're stuck, have damaged your ATV, or are injured.

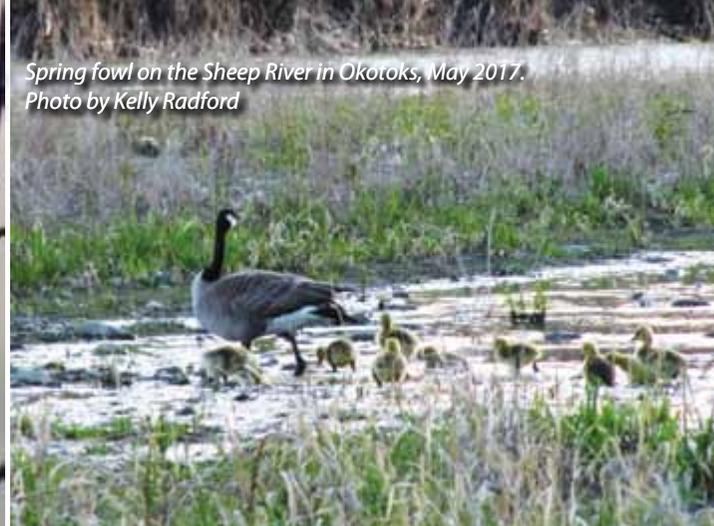
For more information on ATV safety and injury prevention in Alberta, visit <http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/injuryprevention.asp>.

*Spring into*

# OKOTOKS



*A springtime robin, Okotoks, Alberta.  
Photo by Calley Casha.*



*Spring fowl on the Sheep River in Okotoks, May 2017.  
Photo by Kelly Radford*



*This photo was taken on Hwy 2a on the outskirts of Okotoks.  
Photo by Shaunee Salt*



*A new power line is being installed along Township Road 338 just North of Okotoks.  
Both the old line and the replacement were standing when I took these pictures on my phone in March.  
The pictures were taken just before sunset, and give the appearance of light flowing through the wires.  
Photo by Gavin McLaggan*

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## DOLLARS & SENSE

# The real way to build an emergency fund

Suzanne Smith-Demers – Consultant

It's an unsettling fact: most Canadians don't have money put away for an unexpected event. According to a 2015 survey by Pollara, 44% of Canadians have less than \$5,000 set aside for unexpected expenses, and a quarter of working Canadians are living paycheque to paycheque with no emergency cash at all.

Here's how to build an emergency fund:

**How much?** Ideally, your fund should equal three to six months of your take-home salary but at the very least, it should cover basic needs, like buying food and paying the household bills.

**How?** Build it steadily, progressively and as aggressively as your finances will allow:

- Determining how much you need in your emergency fund and how long it will take you to reach your goal using monthly contributions.
- Authorize automatic monthly payments from your chequing and/or paycheque account to your emergency fund account.
- Trim unnecessary monthly bills and put that money into your emergency fund.
- When you get a bonus or an unexpected tax refund, put some into your emergency fund and perhaps into an RRSP, and, yes, set aside a few dollars for fun.

**How not to?** Even if you have a line of credit, you still need an emergency fund. Drawing on a line of credit increases your debt and whatever you buy with it will cost even more because of the interest you'll pay. Don't be tempted to use that emergency fund for a vacation or another impulse purchase, it's for true emergencies only!

**How to make it grow?** Turn your emergency fund into an investment in a money market mutual fund or a high interest savings account.

Emergencies are a fact of life but you can cushion the effects when you're financially prepared.

## Okotoks mybabysitterlist

Name	Age	Contact	Course
Holly	12	403-702-4511	Yes
Blair	12	403-860-3371	No
Kadence	12	403-512-1446	Yes
Ethan	12	403-401-4551	Yes
Carter	13	403-620-8624	Yes
Tristan	13	403-601-0934	Yes
Genevieve	13	403-982-6798	Yes
Brooke	14	403-827-1893	Yes
Reeve	14	403-938-2712	Yes
Elizabeth	14	403-350-7325	Yes
Mackenzie	14	403-988-0955	Yes
Dasha	14	587-364-1021	Yes
Amara	14	403-498-6696	Yes
Aaron	15	403-400-1733	No
Piers	15	403-938-4312	Yes
Nikki	15	403-618-0074	Yes
Taylor	15	403-992-9189	Yes
Shelby	15	403-995-3734	Yes
Tristin	15	403-926-9165	Yes
Cassidy	16	403-305-0629	Yes
Holly	16	403-938-8130	Yes
Dylan	16	403-995-2540	Yes
Athena	16	403-487-1191	Yes
Madison	16	403-668-4561	Yes
Scott	16	587-577-8777	Yes
Darby	16	403-939-1013	Yes
Olivia	16	403-336-3490	Yes
Paityn	16	403-995-9489	Yes
Natalie	17	403-992-4086	Yes
Shahara	17	403-922-5416	Yes
Julia	18	403-464-4074	Yes
Sam	18	403-938-4312	Yes
Carissa	19	780-380-1783	Yes
Jessica	19	587-225-3376	Yes
Belle	21	403-862-5300	Yes
Taylor	23	587-580-5665	Yes
Deidra	30	587-582-0400	Yes
Annette	47	403-938-1068	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).

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# The Cougar

Article by J.G. Turner  
Photo by Jamie Dutcher

The cougar, Alberta's biggest cat, can be found in wild areas along the full length of western North America, and Mexico, Central America and South America. Adult males can weigh up to 90 kg while females average 45 kg. Adults are well camouflaged with tawny to grey-brown fur and black tips on their tails and backs of their ears. Their heads are small and round and their eyes are brown with large pupils.

#### Fun Facts:

- Despite their wide distribution, cougars are seldom spotted by humans.
- Cougars are apex predators and are excellent hunters.
  - Cougars have a killing bite with sharp teeth to tear off chunks of meat and a rough tongue to clean traces of meat off their prey's bones.
  - Their hind legs are longer than their front ones to give better spring to pounce of their prey, their claws are razor sharp for bringing down their prey and climbing trees and their skeletons bend easily for jumping, stretching and twisting.
  - These cats have an excellent sense of smell and their large pupils help them see their prey in dim light.

- Cougars are hunt-and-wait predators, meaning they watch their prey silently in trees or rocks and pounce when their prey is feeding.
- Cougars hunt moose, elk, caribou and deer.

- Cougars are solitary animals unless they are with their young.
- When a female is ready to give birth, she finds a den in rock piles, caves or under a deep brush of fallen trees.
  - Cougars will occasionally use human built structures such as doghouses, sheds or hunting cabins for their dens.

Cubs develop their hunting skills by hunting at their mother's side and stay with their mother until they can hunt for themselves which is typically between 13 and 24 months.

If you find an injured or orphaned wild bird or animal in distress, please contact the Calgary Wildlife Rehabilitation Society hotline at 403-239-2488, for tips, instructions and advice, or look at the website at [www.calgarywildlife.org](http://www.calgarywildlife.org) for more information.

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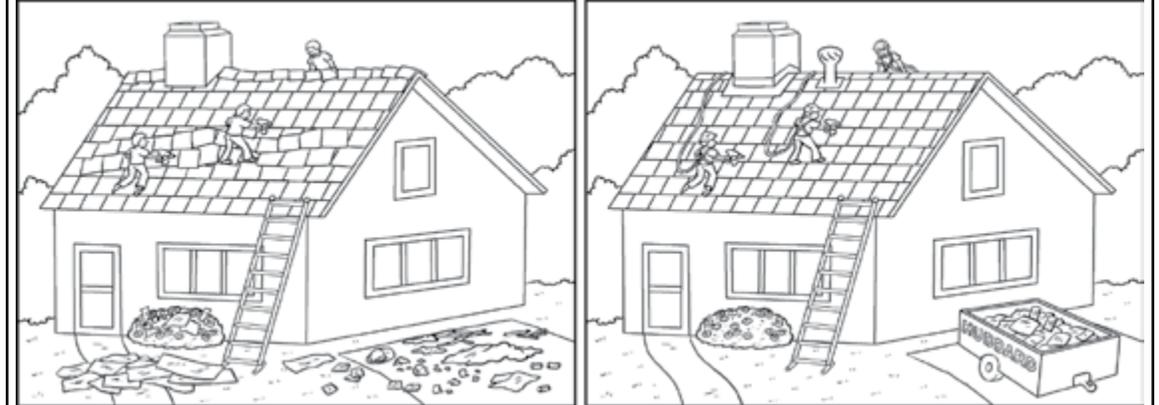
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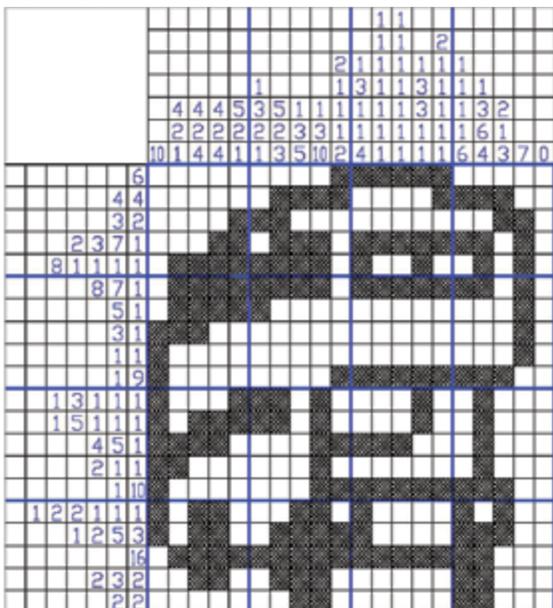


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420 Big Rock Lane, Okotoks, AB  
403-938-4994

231 - 200 Southridge  
Drive, Okotoks, AB  
403-938-9464

FABULOUS SAVINGS COUPON

**FREE! Breakfast!**

Buy one breakfast English Muffin and get a  
second English Muffin of equal or lesser price FREE!



Limited time only at participating restaurants. Plus tax where applicable. No cash value. One coupon, per customer, per visit. May not be combined with other offers, coupons or discount cards. Coupon must be surrendered with purchase. Void if transferred, sold, auctioned, reproduced or altered. SUBWAY is a Registered Trademark of Subway® IP Inc. ©2017 Subway IP Inc.



420 Big Rock Lane, Okotoks, AB  
403-938-4994

231 - 200 Southridge  
Drive, Okotoks, AB  
403-938-9464

FABULOUS SANDWICH SAVINGS

**FREE! Footlong!**

Buy any sub and get a 2nd sub of equal or lesser  
price for FREE with purchase of 21oz. drink.



Limited time only at participating restaurants. Plus tax where applicable. No cash value. One coupon, per customer, per visit. May not be combined with other offers, coupons or discount cards. Coupon must be surrendered with purchase. Void if transferred, sold, auctioned, reproduced or altered. SUBWAY is a Registered Trademark of Subway® IP Inc. ©2017 Subway IP Inc.



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FABULOUS SANDWICH SAVINGS

**FREE!**

Free 6" Sub with purchase of 21oz.  
fountain drink and chips



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# Landscape Design & Construction

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