

MAY 2019

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# CRANVERSATIONS



CRANSTON  
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

THE OFFICIAL CRANSTON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Cranston Community Association !

**CRANSTON CLEAN-UP  
IS JUNE 8TH!**

SEE PAGE 6

**MOTHER'S DAY  
COLOURING CONTEST!**

SEE PAGE 7



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## Did You Know?

Cranston has TWO separate organizations working to make our community the best it can be!

### Cranston Community Association (CCA)

<http://cranstonca.com/>

[cranstonca@gmail.com](mailto:cranstonca@gmail.com)

Membership is **voluntary** (\$20/household within Cranston, \$30/household outside Cranston)

Protects and advocates for the interests of the neighbourhood; is the community voice

Past hot topics have included cell phone tower placement, congested intersections and zoning

Direct contact with our City Councillor, MLA, Calgary Police Liaison Officer, Federal MP and others on a monthly basis

Run events such as the Community Clean-Up, Festival of Lights, and organizes the Cranversations newsletter

Partner with grass roots minor soccer programs

Run solely by volunteers; generally meet at 7pm on the fourth Tuesday of each month (excluding July/August) at Century Hall and all are welcome!

### Cranston Residents Association (CRA)

[www.cranstonra.ca](http://www.cranstonra.ca)

403-781-6614

Membership is **compulsory** for all households in Cranston; fees are collected each April  
It is a not-for-profit company that is professionally managed and operated

Operates, maintains and manages amenities within Cranston including Century Hall and its indoor and outdoor facilities including gymnasium, tennis courts, splash park and hockey rink (as well as utilities, insurance, programs administration, landscaping, and so on.) They also maintain the Windmill, Art Park, Direct Control Corners and various medians and boulevards in the community!

Responsible for Century Hall's extensive list of programming! Families and individuals can take part in all sorts of wonderful activities including dance, yoga, taekwondo, basketball, and much more.

Additional events such as Family Movie Nights, Ice Cream Socials, Puppy Play Dates and more are also organized by the CRA with help from a variety of generous sponsors.

## Cranston Community Association Board Listing

### Executive:

President	Jason Gordon
Vice President	Mike Craig
Treasurer	Mark Labrecque
Secretary	Margaret Moore

### Directors:

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General Director	Joe Katongole
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*Cars Line-Up at Last Year's Free Event*

*Rain or Shine the annual Clean-Up always has a great turnout!*



## 2019 Cranston Clean-Up Event – Are You Ready?

**Saturday June 8th, 9am-2pm**

Back by popular demand, your **Cranston Community Association** is sponsoring our Spring Clean-up Event again this year! This free event is your chance to get rid of items around your house that are collecting dust, including garbage, metals, electronics, compostable organic material and small household items for donation. All of your favourite vendors will be back, including **City of Calgary Waste Management Division** (garbage and organics); **Donovan Enterprises** (metal recycling); **Shanked Computer Recycling Inc.** (formerly **Recycle-Logic** for electronics recycling) and **Cerebral Palsy Association** (donations of small household items). With purchase of a Cranston Community Association membership (details on page 10; may be purchased at the event), document shredding will also be available. Set aside **Saturday, 8 June from 9 am to 2 pm** as your time to get rid of all the unwanted things you've been storing over the winter. The event will take place at the **Century Hall** parking lot, which has generously been loaned to us for the day by our friends at the Cranston Residents Association. For more information, contact [cranstonca@gmail.com](mailto:cranstonca@gmail.com). See you there!

*Submitted by Mark Labrecque*



*Thank You Cranston - See You June 8th!*

# HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

## Sunday, May 12th

Enter our Mother's Day colouring contest for a chance to win a **\$25 Toys 'R Us giftcard**! Colour the turtles and have your mom or dad take a photo and email it to [cranstonca@gmail.com](mailto:cranstonca@gmail.com). Winner will be selected by random draw. Contestants must live in Cranston. Winning picture and other submissions may appear along with first name in a future issue of Cranversations or on the Community Association website or social media. Deadline to enter is May 31st at 11:59pm.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



# !Caution: Dad Jokes Ahead!

Dads are the best. 'Dad jokes' are the worst. Here are some of the best/worst we've come across this month. **Send yours to [cranstonca@gmail.com](mailto:cranstonca@gmail.com) to be featured!**

- Want to hear a joke about a piece of paper? Never mind... it's tearable.
- Today, my son asked, "Can I have a book mark?" and I burst into tears. 11 years old and he still doesn't know my name is Brian.
- Did you know the first French fries weren't actually cooked in France? They were cooked in Greece.
- Why couldn't the bike stand up by itself? It was two-tired.



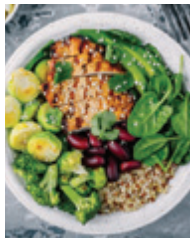
## Call for Photo Submissions!

Cranston is home to lots of dogs! Submit a photo of your dog (or other pet!) in/with anything red, white, or Canadian. Our favourite photos will be published in the July issue of Cranversations to share our community spirit and Canadian pride! Photos can be sent to [cranstonca@gmail.com](mailto:cranstonca@gmail.com) along with your pet's name by 11:59pm on May 31st.

*\*A friendly reminder to please clean up after your dogs, and keep them on a leash unless they are in a designated, marked, "off-leash" zone!\**



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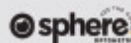
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**Memberships are \$20.00 per family for Cranston residents and \$30 per family for non-residents. Memberships are valid for 1 year from date of purchase.**



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**Number of children:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Age(s) of children:** \_\_\_\_\_

☐ **Yes, please contact me about volunteering**

Please fill out the above, enclose your cheque or money order, payable to the Cranston Community Association and mail to:

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Cranston Community Memberships can also be purchased at the front desk at Trico Leisure Centre, 11150 Bonaventure Drive SE.

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# The Unimposing House Finch

by J.G. Turner

The House Finch (*Haemorhous mexicanus*), a *passerine* (a song bird), is found year-round across the southern part of western Canada, and throughout the United States and Mexico. Their range in Alberta is expanding northward.

It is a medium-sized finch (about the size of a House Sparrow) with a brown-streaked back and wing, and narrow dark stripes on its whitish under parts. The male's head, throat and rump are generally a pink-red. The female is easily mistaken for a female House Sparrow. Its tail is relatively dark brown, long and squared. The bill is short and thick, cone shaped, an obvious seed-eating bill. They eat seeds from plants, as well as buds, leaves and fruits. They can feed and drink while hovering!

This little songbird is very adaptable in terms of where it will live; including finding a home in deserts, grasslands, orchards, open woods, towns, cities and rural properties such as ranches. It will make its compact little woven nest in a bush, tree, natural cavity or building. They form breeding pairs and lay 6 to 8 eggs (lavender with black spots).

## Fun Facts:

- The male House Finch colouring can range from deep red to golden yellow, depending on what its diet was during moulting!
- When it flies it makes several fast wingbeats then has a brief period when it pulls its wings pulled in against its sides.
- This bird's song is a warbling one, with notes ending with "zeee".
- One can find House Finches hanging out with a group of House Sparrows, alone or in pairs.
- A group of House Finches are called a "development" of finches.
- If you want to attract these little birds to your backyard feeder, try tempting them with nyger or millet seed and shelled sunflower seeds.

*If you find an injured or orphaned wild bird or animal, please contact the Calgary Wildlife Rehabilitation Society at 403-214-1312 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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6:00pm - 8:00pm**

**Open House**  
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**stmu.ca**

# South Health Campus (SHC) Wellness Centre

The **South Health Campus Wellness Centre** offers quality health & wellness programs (mostly free!). See our Spring/Summer Program Guide for a full list of programs, descriptions and registration information at <http://www.ahs.ca/shcwellness> or call 403-956-3939.

## **FEATURED PROGRAMS**

**Living Well on Prednisone** May 14 10:00am-12:00pm  
Do you take corticosteroids (Prednisone) and find it challenging to manage side effects such as increased appetite and weight gain? Do you want to take extra steps to help protect your bones? Learn about how corticosteroids affect your body and how your diet can help manage some of the side effects.

**Talking with Your Family About Cancer** May 29 6:00-7:30pm

1 in 2 Albertans will have cancer in their lifetime. Knowing how to have meaningful conversations with your family members about cancer and your treatments may be challenging. This presentation will provide tips for talking with children, teens and adults while exploring the 5 – W's to help you begin.

**Mind Fit!** May 31 10:00-11:30am

Just like the body, the brain can show signs of aging over time. While this is a natural result of growing older, there are positive lifestyle changes you can make to keep your mind sharper for longer. Join us for a fun and informative presentation called Mind Fit where you will learn about proactive ways to enhance cognitive functioning. This presentation includes engaging group activities used in the Cognitive Therapeutics Method, a science-based cognitive stimulation program, as well as trivia, Name that Tune and logo identification!

**Parkinson's Speech and Swallowing Disorders** June 3 10:00am-12:00pm

For people diagnosed with Parkinson's and their families to learn about: How speech and swallowing can be impacted by Parkinson's Disease, what normal speech and swallowing look like and how things change, and when to see a speech –language pathologist to help diagnose and treat problems when they arise.

# Original Centre Street Bridge Lions

800 Macleod Trail S.E., 1917 - 1999

Early in 1917 the four Original Centre Street Bridge Lions were installed upon the newly completed, reinforced-concrete Centre Street Bridge (1916) and became the most impressive ornamental features of the structure. Original blueprints for the bridge included lion sculptures and other carvings, but this ornamental work was almost eliminated from the plans due to the high cost estimates. However, an economical option was apparently discovered when Alderman Hornby recalled seeing a lion sculpture on a northwest Calgary property. The owner and artist was a Scottish-born stonemason, James Langlands Thomson, who had come to Calgary in 1913 and happened to be employed as a stone carver for the City. He agreed to create the artistic ornamentation for the bridge and was seconded from his regular job to complete the four lions.

The four original Centre Street Bridge Lions are cast-concrete sculptures. They each measure 12 feet in length, 5 feet in width, and 8 feet in height including pedestal, and weigh approximately 12,730 kg each. Of the four original lions, one has been restored and was reinstalled in its current location in front of the Calgary Municipal Building in 2003; another that wasn't restored but left in its original condition now overlooks the bridge that was its original home from the Rotary Park bluff. The four sculptures were initially located from 1917-99 atop kiosks on the Centre Street Bridge.

According to a contemporary newspaper report, the dry process of sculpting with cement used to create the lions was new to western Canada and nothing of this scale had yet been done. It was also new to Thomson, who drew on his great artistic skill and experience working in hard stone and marble, to complete both the model and final sculptures.

The figures of the reposing lions are based on Sir Edwin Landseer's bronze lions at the base of the Nelson monument in London's Trafalgar Square. Originally, the lions represented the city's strong associations to Britain and its empire, being a widely recognized British symbol. With Calgary's large Anglo-Saxon population, the young city retained close ties to Britain, particularly given the immediate context of the First World War in which many Calgarians served in allegiance to the British Empire. Other symbolic sculptural ornament such as the rose, shamrock, thistle, maple leaf and buffalo adorned the bridge to represent the British Empire and western Canada, yet the lions were by far the most prominent features.

Historically, the lions were also associated with local legends, being said to leap from their pedestals at midnight to roam through Chinatown in search of food.

Over time the lions became well-known Calgary icons and the subjects of strong emotional attachment among Calgarians. The lions' image has been frequently featured in a wide variety of formats, such as tourism materials and interpretive displays, solidifying their familiarity with Calgary citizens and visitors. Notably, the lions' image is also the basis of the Calgary Heritage Authority's Lion Awards which recognize local heritage conservation initiatives. The prominent placement of one of the original lions at the entrance to the Municipal Building has served to put a large number of Calgarians in continued contact with the lions with the effect of making the lions almost a de facto symbol of Calgary's civic affairs. Originally a symbol of Calgary's ties to Britain, the Centre Street Bridge Lions have come to identify Calgary itself.



*Calgary, Alberta: March 14, 1917. "Placing the Lion" at the Centre Street Bridge. Workers place the head of one of the four lions during the construction of the bridge. Lions were designed by James L. Thomson.*

*The installation of one of the Centre Street Lions in 1917. Image via the Southern Pioneer's Heritage Collection, [pioneersalberta.org](http://pioneersalberta.org).*



*The lone restored lion at the Municipal Building entrance, installed 2003. Image via City of Calgary.*

*Article and images provided courtesy of City of Calgary's Inventory of Historic Resources*





## May in Fish Creek

### Every Brick Tells a Story

Community members have dedicated over 200 Anniversary bricks since 2017. The brick pathway in front of the Cookhouse here at the Bow Valley Ranch is an everlasting reminder that so many people care greatly about the sustainability of this park. Bricks have been dedicated as gifts to friends and family members, in celebration of an anniversary or the birth of a child, as a memorial to a loved one who passed, and for many other reasons. Bricks in the Third Phase of the pathway are selling out quickly and there are fewer than 40 spaces available. To dedicate, your brick today visit [www.friendsoffishcreek.org/brick](http://www.friendsoffishcreek.org/brick)

### Planting for Pollinators – How Native Plant Species Beautify Your Garden and Attract Pollinators

Thursday, May 16, 2019 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm  
Fish Creek Environmental Learning Centre Shannon Terrace, Fish Creek Provincial Park  
Presented by Catherine Dowdell of cath-earth-sis Services Inc.

Catherine Dowdell is an International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborist, a Red Seal Endorsed Landscape Horticulturist, holds a Certificate in Sustainable Landscapes from the University of Guelph, and cath-earth-sis is the first business in Calgary to become a Bee City Canada Business. Planting for pollinators in residential and commercial areas in Calgary is an opportunity to attract native bees, butterflies, and birds to connect the green corridors within the city, giving pollinators the habitat they require without interruption. Registration is required. [www.friendsoffishcreek.org/event/may](http://www.friendsoffishcreek.org/event/may)

### Capture Nature Photo Contest runs May 1 to July 31

Let the beauty of Fish Creek Provincial Park inspire your photographic creativity in this friendly competition to capture the best park photo of the year! In its 5th year,

the Friends' Capture Nature Photo Contest is a great excuse for anyone with an interest in photography – youth and adult alike – to visit the park on a regular basis in the hunt for the best reflection of this year's new and inspiring themes: Symmetry, Lunch!, Movement <https://friendsoffishcreek.org/programs/capturenature/>

### Good Grief: Nature Walking Through Grief and Loss

Being outdoors provides many healing benefits; it allows us to breathe, reflect and connect with our natural surroundings, and while we may not even be aware of it in the moment, the benefits are there. Parks and nature also connect us to the cycles of life and death, reminding us of endurance, beauty, and the only constant – change. Good Grief is an 8-week series of gentle walks brings together people moving through the shared experience of loss with the intent that they will find support from each other, their community and their time in nature. [www.friendsoffishcreek.org/programs/wellness-clinics](http://www.friendsoffishcreek.org/programs/wellness-clinics)

### Creekfest – Your Local Park's Day Event!

**Saturday, July 20 11:00 am – 4:00 pm - Bow Valley Ranch, Fish Creek Provincial Park**

Creekfest is an important component to the Friends' Watershed Public Awareness campaign, designed to raise awareness within local communities about preserving and protecting our local watersheds, and to strengthen our message of environmental conservation. We are pleased to welcome local children's performers Rattle and Strum to Creekfest for the first time this year! For more information stay tuned to [www.friendsoffishcreek.org/event/creekfest](http://www.friendsoffishcreek.org/event/creekfest)

### The Amazing Step Up 4 Calgary Kids Race

Presented by CIBC, NSTEP  
(Nutrition Students Teachers Exercising with Parents)  
and the Friends of Fish Creek

**Saturday, June 1, Hull's Wood, Fish Creek Provincial Park**

This spring, NSTEP and the Friends of Fish Creek are teaming up in support of children's health and invite you and your family to take part in the Amazing Step Up 4 Calgary Kids Race! Both NSTEP and Friends of Fish Creek donations will be leveraged through Shaw Birdies for Kids presented by AltaLink to provide up to 50% in matching dollars on all donations raised. Friends of Fish Creek BFK donations will support the TD Learning Naturally Program in Fish Creek Provincial Park. To register visit [www.events.runningroom.com](http://www.events.runningroom.com)



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Email: [trustees@ccsd.ab.ca](mailto:trustees@ccsd.ab.ca)

### ***Learn more about your Calgary Catholic School District Board of Trustees!***

On March 13th, the Calgary Catholic School District (CCSD) Board of Trustees approved our 2020-2023 Three-Year Capital Plan. It will be submitted to Alberta Education in advance of the May 31 deadline. CCSD has ten items on our first-year list of priorities. They include:

- 9 new elementary or elementary/junior high schools
- 3 innovative new high schools, including one Extended Learning Centre
- 1 junior/senior high school addition/enhancement in Airdrie
- 11 major modernization requests

These priorities are assessed annually and re-evaluated frequently, which allows CCSD to respond to emerging trends. At CCSD, we anticipate continued enrollment and plan for growth through the lens of innovation, flexibility and sustainability. Currently, we are managing an overall district utilization rate of 86.1 per cent, and in some areas, our utilization rate exceeds 100 per cent, well above the provincial benchmark of 85 per cent.

As the only jurisdiction in Alberta that has metro, urban and rural populations, CCSD is unique in the complexity of its infrastructure and we must ensure that these needs are addressed. As a corporate board, we are charged with ensuring that every decision we make with respect to infrastructure is evaluated through the lens of what is best for our 57,000 students. We see each of these projects as critical, and we recognize the urgency in meeting our capital needs for our families—we need our schools where our students live.

As has always been the case, your Board of Trustees will continue to inform, engage and strategically advocate for families. We value our relationship with the provincial government and will continue to work closely with Alberta Education to address these important infrastructure needs.

The Calgary Catholic School District's 2020-2023 Three-Year Capital Plan can be found at: <https://www.ccsd.ab.ca/AboutUs/ReportsandPublications>





# CRANSTON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Telephone: 403.781.6614

Fax: 403.781.6655

Email: [info@cranstonra.ca](mailto:info@cranstonra.ca)

11 Cranarch Road, S.E.

Calgary, AB T3M 0S8

CenturyHallCranston

Centuryhall

Cranstoncenturyhall

## Century Hall Administrative Office Hours

Monday to Friday

9 am to 5 pm

## Century Hall Park Hours

Monday to Sunday

9 am to 10 pm

## Administration

[admin@cranstonra.ca](mailto:admin@cranstonra.ca)

## Programs

[programs@cranstonra.ca](mailto:programs@cranstonra.ca)

## Events

[events@cranstonra.ca](mailto:events@cranstonra.ca)

## Facility Rentals

[rentals@cranstonra.ca](mailto:rentals@cranstonra.ca)

## General Manager

[gm@cranstonra.ca](mailto:gm@cranstonra.ca)

**Cranston Residents:** Do you have your membership cards for Century Hall? All residents over the age of 12 are now required to have a membership card for entry to the new Cranston Century Hall Park and facility. Membership cards will also allow you to register for programs offered by the Cranston Residents Association (CRA). Pre-enter your membership card request form available at [www.cranstonra.ca](http://www.cranstonra.ca) and then drop by Century Hall to pick up your card. **\*\*IMPORTANT\*\*** Please use the front entrance only to gain access to the facility.



**Drop-in Rates**  
**Non-Resident**  
**Drop in Fee:**  
**\$6.00 single visit**  
**5x Pass: \$27.50**  
**10x Pass: \$50.00**

## DROP-IN STORY TIME & BOOK TRUCK

**May 9 & 23**

Book Truck 10am – 12pm

Story Time 10:30am – 11am

Hosted in partnership with Calgary Public Library you are invited to come and spend time with other parents and children while participating in a 30-minute story time. You can also use this opportunity to sign out and exchange books from the library.

## ADULT CARD AND SOCIAL AFTERNOON

**Wednesdays: 1 – 3PM Fee: \$2.00/visit**

Are you at home during the day and looking for a way to meet new people in the community? If so, join us at Century Hall every Wednesday to enjoy coffee, tea, snacks, games and great company! We look forward to seeing you soon.

## DROP-IN PARENT & TOT TIME (0-5YRS)

**Each Thursday morning from 10:30 am-12:30 pm** enjoy drop-in time for Parent & Tots. Families can enjoy some playtime together using the activity toys in the gym! A great time for parents to connect and kids to meet new friends.

## CRANSTON BOOK CLUB

**May 2 from 7:00pm to 8:30pm (First Thursday of the Month)**

Cranston's book club will meet the first Thursday of every month (May 2) to discuss their thoughts about a book that is read in advance. There is no fee to attend, however this social group is exclusive to Cranston residents and up to 2 of their guests. More details and to find out about the book for this month will be posted on [www.cranstonra.ca](http://www.cranstonra.ca).

## SUMMER DAY CAMP REGISTRATION

Calgary's heat is coming back, and that Summer Camps are just around the corner! We've got a variety of themes including Sensational Science, Secret Agent, and Sport Fantastic. See [www.cranstonra.ca/day-camps](http://www.cranstonra.ca/day-camps) for registration and full camp descriptions. Sign up early to guarantee your child's spot the best day camp in the SE!

~ continued on next page ~



# CRANSTON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

## KNITTING CLUB

**May 7 from 6:30pm to 8:30pm (First Tuesday of the Month)**

Join us once a month for an evening of conversations and knitting! Not a knitter? Any fibre art is welcome (crochet, cross stitch, etc.) This event is for and led by residents. The club will meet the first Tuesday of every month from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. This club is free to join for Cranston residents and 2 of their guests.

## CRANSTON'S 20TH BIRTHDAY

**May 20th from 4:00pm – 7:00pm**

Finish off your long weekend with a party to celebrate Cranston's 20th birthday! Our community is turning the big 2-0 on May 20th and we are partying like it's 1999. There'll be some fun activities, treats, food trucks, and maybe even a surprise or two. This event is free to attend but for planning purposes, please RSVP at [www.cranstonra.ca](http://www.cranstonra.ca)

## CRANSTON'S PARADE OF GARAGE SALES

**June 1 - 9:00am - 3:00pm**

Looking to do a garage sale, but not interested in doing all the advertising? Sign up today for the annual Parade of Garage Sales. For a minimal fee we will include your home in a community map so your sale will get the best exposure possible.

Garage Sale Registration: \$15 per household (Open to Cranston Residents Only)

Please register at [www.cranstonra.ca](http://www.cranstonra.ca) or by phone.

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## DOLLARS & SENSE



## How to Hire Outdoor Contractors

Beaming sunshine and blooming plants may kick your spring fever into high gear when it comes to re-vamping your yard. Weed out shady outdoor contractors with these BBB tips:

- **Figure out what the final picture looks like and then plan accordingly.** Will you require lawn-care, a landscape designer, a concrete or paving contractor? If you are looking to re-model your yard, maintenance up-keep or fix a problem, you will have to seek out the appropriate contractor.
- **Get it in writing.** Written documentation will hold your landscaper accountable to agreements as well as provide clarity when it comes to billing and refund policies. Contracts should include start and completion dates, costs and payment plans and warranty information.
- **Insist on an inspection before committing to a contractor.** Ask the contractor to come out and inspect your property beforehand. That way they will have a clear picture as to what you are looking to accomplish and determine if they are capable of doing the work.
- **Ask about liability insurance.** By law, contractors are not required to carry liability insurance. But, if they don't, you could end up liable for damage sustained to your property, or your neighbour's property.
- **Check licensing.** Check for city/municipal and provincial licensing. Also ask if the contractor charges deposits. If so, they must have a Pre-paid Contractors License issued by Service Alberta.

For more information, visit [bbb.org](http://bbb.org).



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# CRANSTON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

**CENTURY HALL RENTAL RATES**  
**rentals@cranstonra.ca**

	Dimensions	Capacity	Hourly Rates		
			Resident	Brookfield Community	Non-Resident
Heritage Hall ABC 2652 sq feet	34 ft by 78 ft	135 dinner	\$80.00	\$92.00	\$104.00
Heritage A 1037 sq feet	34 ft by 30.5 ft	50 dinner	\$50.00	\$57.50	\$65.00
Heritage B 850 sq feet	34 ft by 25 ft	40 dinner	\$40.00	\$46.00	\$52.00
Heritage C 765 sq feet	34 ft by 22.5 ft	35 dinner	\$40.00	\$46.00	\$52.00
Heritage A & B 1887 sq feet	34 ft by 55.5 ft	90 dinner	\$60.00	\$69.00	\$78.00
Heritage B & C 1615 sq feet	34 ft by 47.5 ft	80 dinner	\$55.00	\$63.25	\$71.50
Vista 639 sq feet	18 ft by 35.5 ft	30 dinner	\$45.00	\$51.75	\$58.50
Legacy 369 sq feet	18 ft by 20.5 ft	15 dinner	\$25.00	\$28.75	\$32.50
Seasons 180 sq feet	12 ft by 15 ft	10 seated	\$20.00	\$23.00	\$26.00
Riverside 534 sq feet	17.5 ft by 30.5 ft	25 dinner	\$45.00	\$51.75	\$58.50
Gym 5159 sq feet	57 ft by 90.5 ft	200	Party Package Only	Party Package Only	Party Package Only



Weekday rentals between 9:00am and 4:00pm (excluding holidays) receive 10% discount Minimum two hour rental for Heritage Room(s)

## Additional Charges

After Hours Security fee applies for rentals ending between 10pm and 1:00am.  
 After Hours Teardown fee applies for rentals ending between 9:30pm and 1:00am.  
 SOCAN and Re:Sound fees apply for bookings with music and/or dancing.  
 \$500.00 damage deposit cheque and proof of insurance is required for all rentals.

*Revised April 2016 - prices subject to change*





### 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.

# Ask Charles

**I've recently started hearing reports about radon in Alberta homes. If I'm buying a home in Alberta, is it something I should be concerned about?**

You're right to be asking this question. A lot of people aren't familiar with radon, but they should be.

Radon is an odourless, tasteless, colourless radioactive gas that is the by-product of uranium decay. Uranium occurs naturally in soil and rock formations, and places with higher than normal uranium deposits, such as Alberta and Saskatchewan, have higher radon levels.

Radon seeps through the earth and into basements, where it can become trapped because of the efficient way our homes are sealed from the outside elements.

Prolonged exposure to radon can lead to health problems, including lung cancer. In fact, after smoking, radon gas is the leading cause of lung cancer.

Unfortunately, there's not much that can be done during the offer and negotiation phase of a real estate transaction because reliable radon tests take 90 days to complete. That's much longer than a typical offer to purchase timeline including time for condition removal.

However, some Alberta homeowners are having their homes tested for radon knowing what a serious health issue it is. If you find a home you're interested in, ask the seller if they've had their home tested and ask for

the test results. If the radon test showed high levels of radon (higher than 200 Becquerel), that's considered a material latent defect that **MUST** be disclosed to prospective buyers unless a radon mitigation device is installed prior to listing.

The good news when it comes to radon is that it's a solvable problem. Even if you fall in love with a home that hasn't had a radon test or the results are high, a radon mitigation device can be installed to vent radon gas outside the home from the basement. Mitigation costs vary but are often not more than \$2,000-\$3,000. Hire a Certified Radon Technician to install the device to ensure it's done properly.

If you buy a home that hasn't had a radon test done, we encourage you to proceed with a radon test within 90 days of possession. This is health issue, and radon testing, and mitigation is money well-spent. For more information about radon, go to Health Canada's website and search "radon."

*"Ask Charles" is a question and answer column by Charles Stevenson, Registrar of the Real Estate Council of Alberta (RECA), [www.reca.ca](http://www.reca.ca). RECA is the independent, non-government agency responsible for the regulation of Alberta's real estate industry. We license, govern, and set the standards of practice for all real estate, mortgage brokerage, and real estate appraisal professionals in Alberta. To submit a question, email [askcharles@reca.ca](mailto:askcharles@reca.ca).*





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### Aging in Place

Most Canadian seniors want to remain in their own homes for as long as possible.<sup>1,2</sup> Canadians are living longer and are increasingly reaching the age of 100. Between 2006 and 2011, the number of Canadian centenarians increased by almost 26 percent, the second highest increase of all age groups, after the 60 to 64 age group which increased by 29 percent.<sup>3</sup> According to new data from the Office of the Chief Actuary, the average life span for Canadians aged 65 and above, is 87 for men and 89 for women.<sup>4</sup>

Aging in place means having access to services and the health and social supports you need to live safely and independently in your home or your community for as long as you wish or are able. If you are a near senior or senior who is thinking about aging in place and would like to know more about what you may need to do to prepare for your later years, this is for you. Thinking about the future and being prepared will help you to make the most of your later years and have more control over your decisions. Making a plan will give you the best chance to have a satisfying and positive experience as you age and will help you to age in place.

Each month we will review one of nine areas of life using a checklist to help you review your plan and to help you think about what you can do now to improve your life as you age.

This column is based on the experiences of people like you, who have shared their thoughts about planning and preparing for their older years. Thinking about what you would like your life to be like in 10, 15 or 20 years, and what you might be able to do now to give you more control over future changes, will help you to maintain your health and independence for as long as possible.

Having a plan to age in place could prevent you from having to make hasty decisions in the future, especially when dealing with change resulting from a crisis.

Plan for the future today to help you live the life you want tomorrow.<sup>5</sup>

### My Health

- This month we are going to use this checklist to assess your current state of health. Answer “**Yes**” or “**No**” to the following statements as they reflect your current state of health.
- I am physically active and do a variety of physical activities that I enjoy.
- I eat seven or more servings of fruit and vegetables in a day.
- I have a healthy body weight that has remained the same for the past six months.
- I schedule regular appointments for physical, vision, dental and hearing check-ups.
- I know what screening tests are recommended for my age and discuss these with my doctor.
- I do not smoke, or I have a plan to quit in the future.
- If I drink alcohol, I stay below the limits suggested for adults my age.
- I avoid alcohol when taking medication or check with a doctor or pharmacist first.
- I generally experience good mental health. I am aware of the signs and symptoms of depression/anxiety and if they continue, I will take steps to address them.
- I keep my mind active through a variety of interests and hobbies, such as reading.
- I know how to keep my bones healthy and strong and have discussed this with my doctor or other health care professional.
- I have talked with my doctor about my pre-existing medical condition and what services and supports I may need as I age.
- I am aware of my family’s medical history and have talked with my doctor about what I can do now to maintain my health and how my health care needs may change as I age.
- I am aware of electronic tools, such as medication reminders and health management systems that will allow me to remain healthy.
- I have written down my wishes for care in the event I become incapable of giving my consent.

**Yes** responses indicate those areas of your life where you are most prepared for the future. **No** responses indicate areas where you need more preparation to successfully age in place.

Review your **No** responses. These are the areas you may wish to reflect upon and try to make changes.

### Endnotes

1. Lifeline, P. (2011), *Lifeline report on Ageing in Canada* retrieved from [http://www.lifeline.ca/content/english/in\\_the\\_news/report\\_on\\_ageing](http://www.lifeline.ca/content/english/in_the_news/report_on_ageing)
2. Federal/Provincial/Territorial Ministers Responsible for Seniors (2011), *Issues related to the Aging population: Perceptions and Reactions* – unpublished
3. Statistics Canada (2011), *Centenarians in Canada: Age and sex, 2011 Census*, [http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/censusrecensement/2011/as-sa/98-311-x/98-311-x2011003\\_1-eng.cfm](http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/censusrecensement/2011/as-sa/98-311-x/98-311-x2011003_1-eng.cfm)
4. Office of the Chief Actuary (2014), *Mortality Projections for Social Security Programs in Canada*.
5. Federal/Provincial/Territorial Ministers Responsible for Seniors (2013), *Thinking About Aging in Place*. <http://www.seniors.gc.ca/eng/working/fptt/place.shtml>



CALGARY PUBLIC LIBRARY

### Superhero Day

Calling all superheroes! On Saturday, June 1, five libraries will be transformed into Superhero Headquarters. A menace threatens the safety of Calgary, and superheroes must save the day. Enjoy free activities, from making your own comic book to meeting your favourite superhero, at Crowfoot, Country Hills, Central, Quarry Park, and Village Square libraries. Family-friendly costumes are encouraged. Learn more at [calgarylibrary.ca](http://calgarylibrary.ca).

### Free Online Resumé Help Available

The eResource Brainfuse HelpNow is known for offering free online tutoring for Grades 2 to 12 students studying the Alberta curriculum. Now Brainfuse also offers free expert support for adult

learners! The Brainfuse Adult Learning Centre's tools include live online career coaches to help you craft a winning resumé and cover letter, as well as job search and interview preparation tools. Online experts can also help with Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and more. Use Brainfuse at [calgarylibrary.ca/resource](http://calgarylibrary.ca/resource).

### Did You Know? Join a Book Discussion Group


Did you know that Calgary Public Library offers free book discussion groups at multiple libraries every month? Join other book lovers and discover new or classic titles in facilitated discussions. There's also an Indigenous Reads Book Discussion Group focused on Indigenous books and topics. Find out what we're reading and when we're meeting by searching "Book Discussion Group" at [calgarylibrary.ca/programs](http://calgarylibrary.ca/programs).

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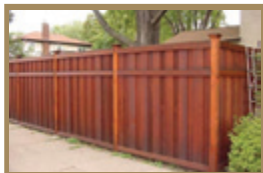


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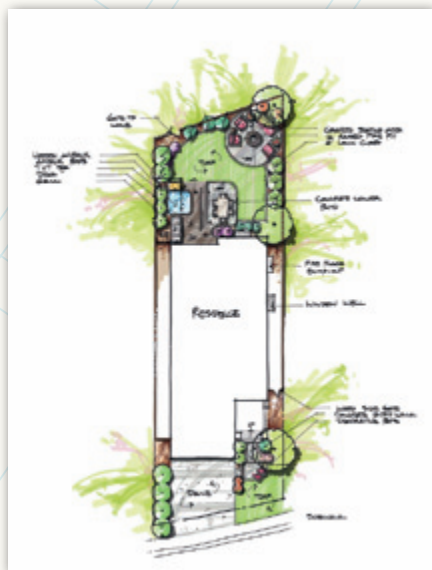
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## SAFE & SOUND

### 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 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 childrens' 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 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

- Toddlers & preschoolers are at highest risk of falling from a window, or balcony, but it may happen at any age;
- 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 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.
- Consider purchasing a portable air conditioner, which will enable windows to stay closed & secure.

*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](http://www.windowssafety.ca)*



# Geraniums

by Barbara Shorrock

*Barbara Shorrock has been gardening in Queensland for over 40 years.*

All geraniums are perennials—they are just not all perennial in our zone. They belong to the Geraniaceae family and are separated into the genus *Geranium* and the genus *Pelargonium*.

Most gardeners are familiar with the typical bedding plant or potted variety available in garden centres and retail stores everywhere in the spring. We plant them in beds, flower boxes and hanging baskets, and enjoy the blooms from June through September, until we toss them into the composter and plan for next year. These familiar “geraniums” are actually *pelargoniums*, despite the common geranium label. They grow naturally in some areas of Africa, Saudi Arabia, the Mediterranean, Australia and New Zealand. They like lots of sun, warm to hot temperatures, and a little lime in their soil. *Pelargoniums* are not frost tolerant but can be kept alive for many years if moved indoors or to a heated greenhouse during winter. The most common varieties we see here are Ivy, Scented, Regals and Zonals.

Zonal *pelargoniums* are upstanding, erect plants with stiff succulent stems, and fairly rounded leaves. They are most popular in our area and are so named because of the leaf coloration—the zone takes a uniform position around the heart-shaped leaf and is set well inside the leaf margin. The leaf may be green, white or cream, with the zone color contrasting or complementing. Flowers can be single, double or semi-double all clumped into a ball on a single succulent stem. Each individual bloom has 5 petals, although there are exceptions. Colors occur in the warm to hot ranges, from white through all the pinks and peaches to red and burgundy. Sizes include dwarf (max 12 inches in height), miniatures (max 7 inches), and a whole range of others up to shrub size. Gardeners with limited space pinch the branch tips back to encourage compact bushy growth. Easy to grow and maintain with regular watering and warm to hot sunshine, they provide a splash or a carpet of color all summer long.

Regals (most often seen labeled ‘Martha Washington’) have dramatic large flowers with wavy, fringed, pansy or simple shapes. The petals are blotched or streaked with darker col-

ors, providing an endless variety to choose from. I have not found these as hardy to over-winter as the zonals but am determined to keep on trying.

Scented varieties are chosen for the leaves, which come in such scents as rose, mint, citrus, lavender, chocolate, and even Jell-O! Ideally, you should place these plants where their leaves will be brushed in passing, releasing their perfume to be enjoyed.

Ivy-leaved varieties are most popular for hanging baskets, as they have been hybridized to emphasize a trailing habit. They will also climb, if given some help. Forgetting to water or feed can have beneficial results. The stress sometimes changes the pigments in the leaf so that attractive pinks appear in place of greens especially around the edges of the leaves.

True *Geraniums* are the real perennials here, as many of them are comfortable in Zones 3 and 4. Coming from wild species that have been toughing it out on mountain sides and forest edges, they fit very nicely into our Chinook belt. Commonly referred to as “Cranesbills”, the fruiting body has a long point that looks like its namesake. The flowers are smaller and fewer per group, although maintaining the 5-petals pattern. Colors range from white through purple, with some blues. At the base of each petal is a nectary which produces a sugary nectar. Bees are greatly attracted to these flowers and will flock to your garden if you have geraniums planted. The foliage of wild geraniums is diverse and beautiful. The leaves are mostly divided into five, each of which is much indented. They typically grow in a mound or hummock, or tall, with an open rosette at the base. Useful as a ground cover, they are known to stop weeds in their tracks. They can be naturalized in meadows and woodland gardens and will self-seed in the right conditions. The blooming period is much shorter, (late spring to midsummer) although you can encourage a second show by cutting off all the spent blooms before they set seed. In the meantime, enjoy the leaves and shapes. They can be grown in a sunny bed, or part shade under trees, with more moisture. A lime-type soil (as most of us have here) is welcome.



# Coexisting with Bobcats

by Lisa Dahlseide B.Sc.

With a bobbed tail, Bobcats are small compared to other wild cats. They weigh in around 20lbs. Their front striped legs meet large webbed paws. Whiskers cross a black barred snout with signature black ear tufts. They are strict carnivores hunting small mammals, insects and birds. Little evidence suggests they eat substantial amounts of domestic pets.

If you do not want Bobcats around your property, eliminate shelter options. Areas under your deck or shed provide a good hiding place for Bobcats and prey, remove access to the attractive accommodation. Brush or piles of rubbish encourage small mammal presence inviting predators in for a meal. Feed your pets indoors and remove bird feeders. However, some welcome the guests.

Bobcats are crepuscular, meaning active at twilight. This behaviour changes seasonally with prey activity increasing in colder months to the day. In urban environments Bobcats often lean towards a nocturnal lifestyle to avoid human interaction.

Bobcats have an average territory ranging up to 5 km<sup>2</sup>. Territorial size fluctuates among individuals depending on prey abundance, mates and denning habitat. Home ranges are also influenced by population densities with smaller territories where there are more Bobcats.

Given their wide range and localized healthy populations, they are not endangered, however they are extirpated, or locally extinct, in many areas across North America. Trapping has led to their disappearance. Here in Alberta, it is prohibited to rehabilitate orphaned or injured bobcats, Fish and Wildlife leave orphaned kittens to starve to death allowing “nature to take its course” with the mother-dependent milk-drinking mammals rarely orphaned from natural circumstances. Bobcats are successfully rehabilitated and released in other jurisdictions.

We are so fortunate to share our community with Bobcats. They have chosen to coexist with us. Bobcats benefit our urban environment bringing balance to our partially paved ecosystem.

*Lisa Dahlseide is a Conservation Biologist living in Bowness whose focus is on Wildlife Biology. She volunteers at the Cochrane Ecological Institute as the Director of Education teaching about the importance of Wildlife Rehabilitation and Release and she works for the Weaselhead/Glenmore Park Preservation Society teaching environmental education programs and monitoring the impacts of the SW Calgary Ring Road on wildlife and water.*

BRAIN GAMES

SUDOKU

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

FIND SOLUTION ON PAGE 33



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 ✉ CAWard12@calgary.ca  
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May is here which hopefully means we have a lot of warm and sunny days ahead of us. Street sweeping is underway so be sure to keep an eye out for parking restrictions. Additionally, the City will be continuing to work on pothole repair through the summer. If you come across one, the easiest way to report it is to snap a picture on the 311 app. With over 16,000 km of paved road, the City needs your help to know where repairs are needed. Here's what else is going on:

### Rainy Season is Coming

May is typically the start of the rainy season in Calgary. Protect your home by ensuring downspout are moving water away from your home and that your eavestroughs are clean. Ward 12 communities have been built with devices that control how fast water drains into the system. During heavy rainfalls, water may pool on the road until the system can accept the extra water. These are called Trap Lows and are actually designed to act this way. If the pooled water is not causing a safety or property damage concern, only contact 311 if the water has not drained after 120 minutes.

### Apply for Greenspace for Neighbour Day by May 24

Neighbour Day is on Saturday, June 15 and is an opportunity to get together with your neighbours and celebrate Calgary's strong community spirit. The City will be waiving its greenspace booking fees for approved Neighbour Day events, but you must apply before May 24! Check out [calgary.ca/NeighbourDay](http://calgary.ca/NeighbourDay) for lots of ideas for your event and how to plan it.

### Summer Events

There are a huge number of events happening in Calgary through the summer. Thinking about a renovation? Building a deck? The City will be hosting a number of free information sessions with City inspectors and bylaw experts on hand to help you get started. Check out [calgary.ca/pdevents](http://calgary.ca/pdevents) for a session near you.

There will also be a ton of recreation programs for kids and adults alike throughout the summer. You can take a look at what's available and sign up at [calgary.ca/register](http://calgary.ca/register). For the skateboarders out there, the City will have temporary skateparks at various locations through the summer. Locations and dates are available at [calgary.ca/skateparks](http://calgary.ca/skateparks).

For the most up to date information with what's going on at City Council and to contact me directly, keep an eye on my website at [www.shanekeating.ca](http://www.shanekeating.ca).

# Osmium

Osmium is a blue-gray metal that is roughly twice as dense as lead, comparably hard as a diamond, and twice as reflective as gold. Osmium alloys (osmium mixed with other elements) can be found in fingerprint detection technology, fountain pen nibs, and was once used for lightbulb filaments (before tungsten).

Woodman School is a SE/SW, triple track middle school in the Calgary Board of Education. Boasting a community-centered English program in Gr. 7-9, we also offer a rigorous continuing French Immersion track for Gr. 5-9 and Late French Immersion track beginning in Gr. 7. Language learning at any time in life improves cognition, social skills and risk-taking. Embracing the challenge of a new language in Gr. 7 provides a strong academic trajectory for adolescent learners and sets them up for future success as they become proficient in Canada's two official languages. Registration for Gr. 7 Late French Immersion is ongoing, in preparation for the 2019-2020 school year.

Learn more about our wide range of Career Technology Foundation classes, athletic teams and exciting off-campus excursions by contacting the main office  
**403-777-7490**  
 to book a school tour.

### Storm Drains in Your Community

Storm drains (or catch basins) are a part of Calgary's stormwater drainage system. There are about 60,000 drains in Calgary which drain water off sidewalks, streets and roads.

#### **Keep your storm drains free and clear of snow and debris**

If it is safe and possible to do, remove debris or snow blocking the drain. Create a channel, if need be, to facilitate water flow. If you find that the storm drain is iced over, do not try to remove the ice yourself. Call 311 and a crew will clear the ice for you. Don't chip away at ice on storm drains as you may damage it or injure yourself.

#### **Pooled water on your street**

In communities built after 1990, The City installs devices in the storm drain to control how fast water flows into the system. During and after a rainfall event, these devices allow water to pool on the road (usually in a depression or low spot, called a Trap Low), until the system can accept the extra water. These devices prevent the storm system from being overwhelmed, which can cause water backups or flooding to houses, garages and businesses.

Pooled water will eventually drain. If water is pooled on a roadway, but is not causing a safety or property damage concern, only contact 311 if the water has not drained after 120 minutes.

#### **Homeowner responsibility**

Your property's drainage systems (eavestroughs, downspouts, lot grading, landscaping) interact with the public drainage systems (roadways, storm drains, stormpipes, storm ponds). Homeowners have responsibilities that are detailed in the Lot Drainage Bylaw, the Drainage Bylaw and Community Standards Bylaw:

- Maintaining positive drainage on your lot – away from structures without adverse effect to neighbours or public property.
- Ensuring prohibited substances do not enter storm drains from your lot. There are substantial fines for the dumping or pouring material down storm drains.

#### **Protecting your Home**

- There are many ways you can ensure your home is resilient during storm events:
- Conduct regular maintenance and clear debris in eavestroughs and downspouts.
- Ensure downspouts discharge a minimum of 2 metres from public infrastructure (sidewalks & pathways), 1-2 m from any building foundations, and are directed towards the street, lane or swale, while not impacting your neighbours or public property.
- Keep any grassed or concrete swales on your property free from debris, ice or obstructions.
- Regularly inspect grading around your foundation and fill any settling or depressions.
- Conduct regular maintenance on sump pumps. Ensure sump pumps discharge away from 1-2 m from building foundations, while not impacting your neighbour or public infrastructure.

Visit [calgary.ca/stormdrains](http://calgary.ca/stormdrains) for links to more information.



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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.

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# SUDOKU

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## IN MY BOOKS

### *You Went Away* by Timothy Findley

Review by Tasneem Capacee

*You Went Away*, a novella written by Timothy Findley is a story of loss and heartbreak that occurs during World War II. Mi is a mother of 2 children whose hus-

band, Graeme (Gray) is enlisted in the Navy as a pilot. This tale is about Mi, Gray and their eldest son, Matthew.

Graeme, the last of his mother's children, suffers from the guilt of being unable to enlist in World War I, just like his decorated father and brother. So, when the second world war is declared, Gray cheerfully enlists in the war as a RCAF pilot. Instead of picking up a bicycle for his son on his birthday, he goes to enlist in the war. This sets the tone for the whole book. As the war progresses, Graeme's romantic thoughts about the war fade, and his drinking and affairs with other women increase. Amidst all this, Mi tries all that she can to continuously forgive her husband and keep Matthew and Gray's bond strong. *You Went Away* focuses on all the emotions one would feel if their partner was away from extended periods of time. It also brings forth the mindset and emotions of a person who is going through infidelity and alcoholism. Lastly, it shows the emotions of a child who has an absent father/parent.

*You Went Away* is a book about loss that occurs during WWII. However, the loss that Findley focuses on is not truly in the form of physical life. Even though Mi and Gray do lose their daughter at a very young age, the focus of the story is about a person who is alive but is just not there anymore – physically and emotionally. Throughout the book, the reader is able to truly connect with Mi and Matthew. They are always the protagonists. Gray, as his name is aptly chosen, is the character that the reader is meant to root for. The reader is meant to hope that he changes and becomes a better person, for the sake of the protagonists. This is what makes this book intriguing and interesting.

What works for this book is the raw human emotions that are expressed and showcased through the characters of Mi, Matthew and Gray. In Mi we see a deep need to keep her family together, especially after her daughter passes away. We also see her contemplative thoughts about leaving the marriage and trying to save

the marriage at the same time. One of the most beautiful moments of the book occurs towards the end where Mi finds out that Gray has continued his affair with another woman and everyone around her knows about it. In order to protect herself and her son, she chooses to confront Gray and his mistress in public. The calm behaviour and impactful words that Mi has when she confronts the two and reveals to the mistress that she is Gray's wife, shows the maturity that she possesses as well as the built up hurt and frustrations within her.

We see a lot of Mi and Matthew's thoughts throughout the book however, most of what we know about Gray's behaviour and how he came to become so unhappy and unfaithful is implied. This results in a lot of disconnect from Gray's character. Though, some might argue this is a flaw in the writing and others might say it is purposely done.

I recommend *You Went Away* for the mere reason that it shows you the struggle that people go through when they lose a person.

3.5/5

## 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

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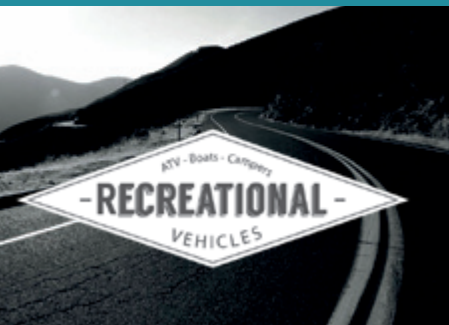




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