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THE OFFICIAL DEER RIDGE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER





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CONTENTS

- 5 **UPCOMING EVENTS**
- 9 **COMMUNITY FESTIVAL**
- 11 **JUNE AT A GLANCE**
- 12 **REAL ESTATE UPDATE**
- 12 **PARK N' PLAY AND STAY N' PLAY**
- 13 **COUNCILLOR PETER DEMONG'S REPORT**
- 14 **JUNE AT TRICO CENTRE**
- 15 **BUSINESS CLASSIFIEDS**
- 17 **MLA RICHARD GOTTFRIED'S REPORT**
- 18 **HOME GARDENING WITH BARBARA : SOIL**





DEER RIDGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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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 and Deer Ridge Community Association 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.

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	
Social Service Info & Referral	211	
Community Mediation Calgary Society	403-269-2707	
RNR Lockworks Ltd.	403-479-6161	
Road Conditions – Calgary		511
Weather Information		
Gamblers Anonymous	403-237-0654	

Upcoming Events

You Can't Miss!

Deer Ridge Community Association Annual General Meeting

Please join us for our Annual General Meeting at the Trico Center (11150 Bonaventure Drive S.E.) on Tuesday, June 20th, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the Senior's Room (upper level).

We welcome all residents to be involved in the process of building a strong, vibrant, and safe community!

Deer Ridge Community Association members in good standing may participate in the election of new/returning board members as well as vote on motions of ongoing community planning and expenditures.

Food and beverages will be available following the meeting.

Deer Ridge Parks & Greenspace Clean-up

It's that time again to make our parks and green spaces beautiful for the summer. Join other volunteers to clean-up walkways and parks to pick up litter on June 24th starting 10:00 am at Yellow Slide Park. Garbage bags and gloves will be provided as well as bottled water and snacks.

Community Clean-up Day (partnering with Queensland)

Not only the parks will need a face lift for the summer! If you are already into sprint clean up mode, Community clean-up day is scheduled for June 25th. The City of Calgary provides three dumper trucks at the Queensland Community Hall. Additionally, you can dispose of electronics and metals recycling. Anyone can load their junk and drive to the community for dumping at no charge.

Please note that this event is from 9am-2pm.



Annual Community Festival

Hosted by Cornerstone Music Cafe, this event will take place June 25th from 10 am to 3 pm. Local musicians and an outdoor market with multiple vendors and artisan booths will provide an opportunity to get together with people from the community. We hope to see you there!

Community Gardens

After 6 months of shoveling snow, although it did seem like longer... it's time to start thinking of warm spring days, beautiful flowers and raised beds of vegetables. Who is ready to meet at the Deer Ridge Community Gardens? All information will be posted in our Deer Ridge Community Gardens facebook page.

Park n' Play and Stay n' Play

This year, both the Park n' Play and the Stay n' Play programs will be held in the field behind the Don Bosco School at 13615 Deer Ridge Dr. S.E.

The dates are July 3rd – July 7th.

Stay n' Play – Free
 Ages 3 – 5 years
 10 a.m. – noon
 Participants must be accompanied by an adult/guardian.

Park n' Play – Free
 Ages 6 – 12 years
 10 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Please see the City of Calgary announcement in this newsletter for additional details.

Movie in the Park - Save the Date!

Movie in the Park is back! Come to Yellow Slide Park this upcoming **Saturday August 19th**. Bring some lawn chairs and/or a blanket, watch a movie, eat a snack and get prizes from businesses around Deer Ridge. Everything is free! Further details about the movie will be advertised in this newsletter closer to the date.

Lacrosse Axemen Club

And for those of you which enjoy Lacrosse, note that the Lacrosse Axemen Club is using the hockey rink for their practices and training. Youth and parents interested in

~continued on page 7~

Deer Ridge Community Association



Box 43052
Calgary, Alberta
T2J 7A7

Visit our website at www.deerridgeca.com
If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at DeerRidgeCA@gmail.com

Board of Directors & Community Contacts

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Ice Rink Coordinator	Bob Hall	403 278 6817
Tennis Court Coordinator	Larry Lemieux	403 278 2199
Trico Representative	Karen Stevenson	403 278 3353
Newsletter Advertising	Great News Publishing	403 263 3044
Newsletter Coordinator	Luz Jaimes	

WE NEED YOU! CONTACT US TO VOLUNTEER AND GET INVOLVED IN YOUR COMMUNITY.

OUR VISION

We will be a safe community with established programs and facilities, committed volunteers, and we'll be financially stable.

OUR MISSION

To enhance the quality of life in Deer Ridge for today and the future by establishing and fulfilling the common goals, needs and interests of our community.



Events

~continued from page 5~

this sport can come visit the rink to check out the Axemen in action.

Report Graffiti

To report graffiti, please call 311. If you see graffiti in progress, please call 911.

Graffiti Free Calgary is a website with information for youth, adults and community groups regarding graffiti vandalism; including what to do if you have graffiti vandalism in your community, and what to do if you think your youth might be involved.

Deer Ridge Community Association Memberships

We could not do all of these activities without the support of the community and your participation. Annual memberships for 2017-2018 will be available for purchase following the June AGM.

Please join us for our Annual General Meeting at the Trico Centre (11150 Bonaventure Drive S.E.)
Tuesday, June 20th, 2017 at 7:00p.m.
Senior's room (upper level)

We welcome all residents to be involved in the process of building a strong, vibrant and safe community!

Deer Ridge Community Association members in good standing may participate in the election of new/returning board members as well as vote on motions for ongoing community planning and expenditure.

Food and beverages will be available following the meeting.

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VOLUNTEER FORM



Yes, I am interested in being a volunteer!

The continued success of various events as well as maintenance and improvements of facilities is dependent upon involvement of Deer Ridge residents. We invite you to join us in the fun!

We are updating our 2017-2018 list of volunteers; those who may be able to commit in advance and those who are unable to commit but interested. Please select from the list below and return by mail, or visit www.DeerRidgeCA.com and fill out the on-line feedback form.

Deer Ridge Community Association, PO Box 43052, Calgary, AB T2J 7A7 | Tel: 403-606-7331

Email: DeerRidgeCA@gmail.com | Website: DeerRidgeCA.com
Facebook: [Deer Ridge Community Association](https://www.facebook.com/DeerRidgeCommunityAssociation) | Twitter: [@DeerRidgeCA](https://twitter.com/DeerRidgeCA)

Deer Ridge Community Association Volunteer

- **Community Clean-Up** (set-up/take down, assist City staff directing people and receiving items, community signage and posters)
- **Fundraising Casino**
- **Family Winter Skate** (set-up/take down, food and beverage service, event preparation)
- **Ice Rinks** (Nov – March: maintaining surface ice)
- **Tennis Courts** (May – Oct: maintaining court surface)
- **Children's Christmas Party** (December: event preparation)
- **Volunteer Recognition** (Spring: event planning)
- **Membership Drives** (Aug – Oct: preparation and delivery of membership forms)
- **Movie at Yellow Slide** (Summer: event preparation, set-up/take down, food & beverage service, contact businesses for raffle prizes, community signage and posters, bouncy castle monitor)
- **Community Festival** (set-up/take down event tables, community signage and posters)
- **Community Gardens** (building new garden structures, painting, prepping beds at start of season, post-harvest activities)
- **Special Projects: playground rebuilds, pathway to rinks and gardens, . Etc.** (ongoing: planning, cost estimates, coordination with The City, organizing volunteers construction)
- **Association Board Member or Committee Member** (various roles to suit individual's time available to volunteer)
- **Doesn't matter to me.** I'll help with whatever is needed

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Ideas or Comments :



Sunday, June 25

10:00am - 3:00pm

LIVE MUSIC

- Amy Bishop
- Oliver Miquel Trio
- Page Laloge
- Over The Moon
- GhostBoy

LOCAL VENDORS - LIVE MUSIC - GREAT FOOD - COLD DRINKS - LOCAL ARTISANS - KIDS ACTIVITIES - COMMUNITY BUILDING - LOCAL BUSINESSES - WALK OR BIKE DOWN - DOG FRIENDLY - DANCING - BOUNCY CASTLES - BRING A LAWN CHAIR - GAMES - DOOR PRIZES - FOOD MARKET - SPECIAL GUESTS - TONS OF FUN

- Keeping it Country Line Dancing
- Indigenous Dance Studio

DANCING

SPONSORS:

Richard Gotfried - Peter Demong - Deer Run Community - Deer Ridge Community
Queensland Community - Bonavista Community - Parkland Community
Calgary Motorcycle Club - Scouts - Bow Bottom Community Coalition

Location: Deer Point Plaza - 14919 Deer Ridge Drive SE
Website: www.deerpointcommunityfestival.ca
Email: deerpointcommunity@gmail.com
Facebook: [facebook.com/communityfestivaldeerpointplaza](https://www.facebook.com/communityfestivaldeerpointplaza)



**Deer Ridge Community Association
Membership Request / Renewal
Form**



Thank-you in advance for your support!
Membership fee \$15.00

Online membership payment available at DeerRidgeCA.com

Name:

Additional Family Members:

Mailing Address:

Phone Number(s):

Email Address(s)*:

* Please note your email address will be added to our electronic mailing list used for notifications of upcoming community events and information. We do not share your information.

Membership Request & Payment options:

Mail completed form & cheque payable to:	Deer Ridge Community Association PO Box 43052, Calgary, AB, T2J 7A7
Online:	DeerRidgeCA.com/Membership

Two membership cards, printed with last name(s), will be mailed to your household.

Deer Ridge Community Association PO Box 43052, Calgary, AB T2J 7A7 | Tel: 403-606-7331 |
Website: DeerRidgeCA.com | Email: DeerRidgeCA@gmail.com | Facebook: Deer Ridge
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**JUNE 30 – JULY 2
OTAFEST 2017 – TELUS CONVENTION
CENTRE**

Otafest is Calgary's premier anime festival, promoting Japanese art, culture, and media in the Canadian community. Canada 150 celebrations include a fireworks party and DJ on the Marriott patio and 24-hour programming. More info: otafest.com.



**JULY 5 – AUG. 23 WEDS. AT 6 – 8 PM
MUSIC IN THE PLAZA
1900 HERITAGE DRIVE SW**

Music in the Plaza is back for its sixth summer season, bigger and better than ever! Rain or shine, Heritage Park presents free evenings of outstanding music every Wednesday throughout July and August. Admission is free but reservations are required. More info: heritagepark.ca.



**JULY 25 – 30
VICTORS, VILLAINS, AND VIXENS
ST. PATRICK'S ISLAND**

Following the success of 2016's Shakespeare After Dark, we once again return to St. Patrick's Island with VICTORS, VILLAINS, AND VIXENS for a week of evening performances. More information on the show and performance times will be available this spring. Admission is free. More info: theatreocalgary.com.



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

Canada Day at Fort Calgary – 750 9 Ave SE, July 1

Beginning with a free pancake breakfast in the morning, this is a day of celebration and riotous fun. Family-friendly activities go all day long and could include: live local music, traditional Indigenous games and stories, the NWMP Commemorative Association patrol camp, a food truck caravan, powwow dance workshops, plus the City of Calgary's 'living flag' event. Admission is free. More info: fortcalgary.com.

My Sporting Life, Our Canada Speaking Series:

Discover Canada – Southcentre Mall – July 8 at 1 PM

It's rare you'll find Leigh McAdam here in Calgary. She is always on the move writing and researching for her widely popular travel and outdoor blog HikeBikeTravel. Leigh is also the author of the book "Discover Canada – 100 Inspiring Outdoor Adventures." Hear more from her year visiting all provinces and territories. You'll leave Leigh's talk with a desire to get out and explore everything Canada has to offer right here in our own backyard! Plus, there is a \$250 gift card door prize up for grabs. Admission is free.

**Calaway Comic Fest for Kids – Calaway Park,
July 14 – 16**

Calling all superheroes! Dress up in your best family-friendly costume and visit the Artist Market featuring unique items from local artists, or stop by the Photo Op Zone to be transported to a world far, far away. Forgot your mask? Stop by the Superhero Face Painting Center. Come experience Calaway Park like you never have before! Open 10 am to 7 pm. More info: calawaypark.com.

**Calgary Folk Music Festival – Prince's Island Park,
July 27 – 30**

This festival features 70 artists from over 16 countries on 9 stages in 100+ distinct concert and unique on-the-fly collaborations at urban, forested retreat of Prince's Island Park. Like a mini town, the site boasts an interactive family area, international craft market, global culinary delights, a record tent and tree-shaded beer garden. It's a collective sound salvation for musical omnivores; a 4-day long weekend where a diverse, multi-generational audience is immersed in live music in a cool, relaxed atmosphere. More info: calgaryfolkfest.com.



Park n' Play & Stay n' Play

These free, safe, supervised programs help children make new friends and learn games and activities that they can use on their path to healthy and active lifestyles.

Programs run weekdays and are weather dependent.

Dates: July 3rd - July 7th
Community: Deer Ridge
Address: 13615 Deer Ridge Dr. S.E.

Stay n' Play FREE

Ages 3Y - 5Y
10 a.m. - noon

Participants must be accompanied by an adult/guardian

Park n' Play FREE

Ages 6Y - 12Y
10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

For more information visit calgary.ca/community/summerprograms.

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Deer Ridge Real Estate Update

Last 12 Months Deer Ridge MLS Real Estate Sale Price Stats

	Average Asking Price	Average Sold Price
April 2017	\$384,900	\$375,000
March 2017	\$327,000	\$317,000
February 2017	\$475,000	\$473,000
January 2017	\$387,900	\$375,000
December 2016	\$409,900	\$400,000
November 2016	\$423,450	\$418,500
October 2016	\$457,950	\$448,500
September 2016	\$367,400	\$350,500
August 2016	\$409,900	\$398,000
July 2016	\$362,400	\$361,700
June 2016	\$352,400	\$344,625
May 2016	\$347,250	\$340,000

Last 12 Months Deer Ridge MLS Real Estate Number of Listings Stats

	No. New Properties	No. Properties Sold
April 2017	6	7
March 2017	6	1
February 2017	2	1
January 2017	2	5
December 2016	4	3
November 2016	3	4
October 2016	2	2
September 2016	4	2
August 2016	4	5
July 2016	5	4
June 2016	4	4
May 2016	2	6

To view more detailed information that comprise the above MLS averages please visit deer-ridge.great-news.ca



Councillor, Ward 14
Peter Demong
www.calgary.ca/ward14
eaward14@calgary.ca or
403-268-1653

Greetings Ward 14!

Ward 14 Community Calendar

I have always wanted a calendar for community events. Given that I attend most of those events, I can tell you that I have found use for such a calendar. So, I was very happy in February when the resources were finally available to make it a reality. You will find it at calgary.ca/ward14calendar, and you will see details on community events like:

• **Counciltalk:** If you click through the calendar to June 17, you will find the last Counciltalk session of the season. It will run from noon to 2 p.m. at Parkland Community Hall (505 Parkvalley Road S.E.). This year's Counciltalk sessions have been more than I could have hoped for. Most turnouts have been large, and the conversation has been stimulating. I hope to see as many out to the June session as possible, because it will be the last opportunity for a while. Visit calgary.ca/counciltalk for more information.

• **Ward 14 Communities BBQ:** If you click through a little bit farther you will see my annual Ward 14 Communities BBQ. We will have a great time and raise a lot of money for Ward 14's community associations. Look for the BBQ on Saturday, Sept. 16 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. specifically. We will be in the Southcentre Mall parking lot. If you want more details visit calgary.ca/ward14bbq.

• **Neighbour Day:** It is on the same day as my last Counciltalk session—June 17—, and Neighbour Day is actually made up of many different events. I can confidently say that June 17 will be a very busy day for me, but busy in a good way. Visit calgary.ca/neighbourday for more info.

That brings me to one last point about the Ward 14 Community Calendar. On it you will find many great events, but some still slip under my radar. So, if you have one that you think is worthy (i.e. has benefit for the communities of Ward 14) send an email with the details to ward14@calgary.ca.

Ward 14 Wordsmith Award

For five years, the winner of my essay contest, and their entire class, have joined me at a City Council meeting. I read the winning essay on TV during a Council meeting—so everyone can be just as impressed as I—and present the winner with the *Ward 14 Wordsmith Award*.

This year Carine Howie, who is from Midnapore and goes to St. Teresa of Calcutta School, takes home the award: a trophy and a signed Johnny Gaudreau jersey courtesy of the Calgary Flames! Congratulations Carine! It is great to see young people who understand the importance of democracy. Thank you to all of the teachers who instill that importance, and to all the students who participated! I can't wait to see what the students have in store for next year.

Stampede Parade - route reversal

Just one quick note before I go. If you like to attend the Stampede Parade, keep in mind this year the route has been reversed. For more information, you should visit parade.calgarystampede.com.

That is all I have for June. Remember to dust off the boots and hats for July!

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June at Trico Centre

Trico Centre for Family Wellness is a non-profit, community-owned and operated recreation facility. Our passes are affordable and our programs are family-friendly. With a pass, you can work out in the fitness centre, take more than 70-drop-in fitness classes a week, use the gymnasium, swim, skate, or play shinny, plus you get 20% off our fun, active registered programs. Trico Centre supports community: a small portion of your pass fee is sent to your community association.

June 8: Senior's (60 Plus) Event at Trico Centre

Trico Centre's fitness centre is senior-friendly! If you have never been to our fitness centre, we invite you to drop by anytime on Thursday, June 8 to have a snack and see what we have to offer for those aged 60 and older. All of the below are offered in celebration of Alberta Senior's Week (with no obligation to purchase.)

- Coffee, tea, and fruit in the fitness centre.
- Trico Centre staff will be available to provide tours of the fitness centre and let you know what services we have available.
- 12-1pm: 15-minute demos of Chair Yoga, Older Adult Fitness Class, Balance Building.
- Register for a free 45-minute personal training session with an older adult specialist (approximately \$80 value; training session will be held at a later date; free session available to those aged 60 and older and new to Trico only; training must be completed by July 31; limited quantity of sessions available.)
- Pick up two free passes to come back to the fitness centre or a drop-in fitness class. (Those aged 60 and older and new to Trico Centre only.)

Day Camps

- Register now for summer day camps: ages 3 to 14; full day and half-day camps, early care and late care. Don't need a full week of camp? Come to daily camps for a full day or half day, all summer long.
- Camp leaders are experienced, trained and committed. Each camp has 1 or more leaders and volunteers.
- Featured camps for 6-12 yrs: Canada 150 Play, Discover

Calgary, Harry Potter Camp, and Just for Girls. Cool Camps for preschoolers include Sportarama, Nature Wonders, Kinder Karate, and Mini Chefs.

Children & Youth

- Summer registered child and youth programs: Summer Outdoor Soccer (16-24 months, 2-3 yrs, 3-5 yrs, 6-8 yrs), Dance with Me (2-3 yrs with parent), Gotta Dance (3-5 yrs), Little Ballerina 3-5 yrs, Kinder Gym Kids (4-6 yrs), Sportarama (3-4 yrs), Explorasport (4-6 yrs), DANCEPL3Y Kids (6-12 yrs.) See Spring Summer Program Guide or www.tricocentre.ca for details.
- Register now for summer swim lessons: parent & tot, preschool, Swimmer, and Swim Patrol.
- July 17-21 is registered skating and hockey week: skating lessons all levels, intro to hockey (4-5yrs, 6-8 yrs, adult & child) and powerskating/hockey (7-12 yrs.)
- NEW SUMMER FUN: Summer-only fun registered programs for kids aged 6 and up: Rhythmic Gymnastics, Circus Arts, Cross Country Running, Badminton Club, and Dodgeball. See www.tricocentre.ca for details.

Adults/Older Adults

- Summer adult registered fitness: Focus on Powerlifting, Focus on Learning the Basics, Strong is the New Skinny: Weight Training for Women by Women, Straighten Up Posture Series, Trim & Tone, and Myofascial Stretch and Release.
- Wilderness and Remote First Aid: June 3 and 4, get your standard First Aid and CPR plus techniques for wilderness and remote areas.
- Summer registered programs for older adults: Balance Builders Level 1 (Fall Prevention), Balance Builders Level 2 (Bones and Balance), Chair Yoga, Straighten Up Posture Series.

Trico Centre is located at 11150 Bonaventure Drive SE. Phone: 403-278-7542 or see www.tricocentre.ca to find out more.

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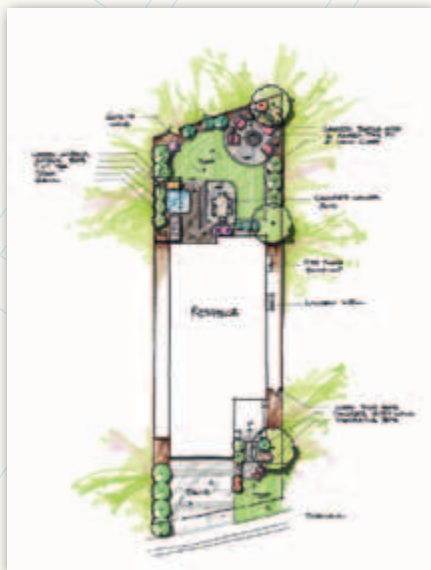


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June is upon us and another school year is coming to an end. Graduation is a milestone for many as the pinnacle of high school or a post-secondary experience. It is always a privilege to attend graduation ceremonies and it is a highlight to see young adults launching into a new chapter of their lives

Often in the Legislature, Bills can be controversial, but this spring I was proud to lead the charge amongst opposition parties in raising awareness on Labour Code and Employment Standards consultation. We felt it necessary to take a stand and demand additional time for employers and employees to provide feedback on the far-reaching consequences of changes in legislation for every working Albertan. How we are employed, and under what rules, matters to both business and employees alike. All of us want to have safe and healthy workplaces. Understanding the costs, implications and consequences of legislation requires more than just a short on-line survey or invitation-only engagement sessions.

On the topic of workplace safety, I attended with students, staff, and parents at Dr. E. P. Scarlett High School a presentation around rights and responsibilities that we all have for the safety of ourselves and co-workers. Calgary-Fish Creek resident Julie Hamilton was able to share her message on the importance of worksite safety through her "Missing Tim" initiative on National Day of Mourning. Julie lost her dear son Tim, a Scarlett Grad, to a workplace accident that was 100% preventable. Julie presented her story to hundreds of students to create awareness on what questions to ask on the job site, and to give the students "permission" to walk away from unsafe work. My thanks to Julie for sharing her emotional and heartfelt message in which her loss may give others the chance to avoid life-threatening risk. Everyone deserves to go home safely to their family after a good day's work.

As many start to contemplate summer adventures, I would like to highlight two important tools to make your travels safer. Most of us have smartphones and it is

hard for many to imagine life without them. Although technology can be challenging, it also provides us with opportunities for greater public safety. There are two phone APPS developed to improve the lives of everyday Albertans: **511** and **Alberta Emergency Alerts**. Both 511 and Alberta Emergency Alert are available free of charge. 511 is Alberta's Official Road Report. There is a wealth of real time information and there are constant updates on visibility, road construction, as well as many other items. 511 can also be monitored through Twitter, so if you do not have the app and have questions regarding specific road conditions, I have received immediate responses as late as 11:30pm; now that is service!

Few of us can forget the images of destruction that occurred with the Ft. McMurray wildfire. Individuals had to evacuate on a moment's notice and getting the word out can be difficult in challenging situations. The AEA (Alberta Emergency Alert) app is designed to give off a very loud and recognizable tone when danger or a public service announcement needs to be shared quickly. It can be a water advisory, road closure or evacuation notice, but smartphone warnings can keep us well informed and I would encourage you to use these tools to improve personal safety.

Although session will be ending soon, your comments and feedback help me to better serve you, so please join me for my MLA Café this month, June 16th from 10am to 12noon at my office. Mark your calendars for my 2nd Annual Stampede Hoe-Down in the Downs BBQ on Saturday July 8th from 11am to 2pm at the office, where we will have live music, great food, and fun for all ages! Please say "Hi" when you see me at an event in your community or make an appointment to visit me over the summer.

KUDOS CANADA

Every year the Netherlands sends 20,000 tulip bulbs to Canada to thank us for our aid in the Second World War.

Soil

Whether you have acres, a lot, or a balcony with pots, you should be interested in soil. If you grow your garden in pots, you will probably buy new potting mix from the nursery. It is a combination of many things such as compost, vermiculite, perlite, and peat moss, often containing no soil at all. Add some fertilizer and you are good to go.

Suppose, however, you are creating a brand-new flower or vegetable bed in your yard. If you live in a new house, the builder will have left you with little useful material after scraping off the original soil before construction. In most cases, only a little soil was returned before the sod went on. In some parts of Canada, they have lovely loam that goes down for several feet, but here in the chinook belt we have only a few inches to work with. Topsoil (loam) contains sand, clay, silt and humus in varying combinations. Sometimes it is perfectly good for garden use, but usually you need to supplement it with more nutritious stuff. Calgary soil can be challenging because it has a high percentage of clay. We have several companies who sell bulk or bagged product that can be mixed in with the soil you have, or used entirely in the new bed. Choose a good quality "garden mix" as it will have the proper blend of nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium and organic matter for your plants. The new bed should be at least 6 inches deep, as the plants' roots need space to grow. If you plant new trees or shrubs, dig holes much deeper than that because the roots need to be strong and well established before they tackle the clay beneath.

Older gardens still need regular help, and compost is our friend. You can make it yourself by using kitchen vegetable and fruit peels, lawn clippings, and tree leaves (no animal matter). Water and patience are the only other ingredients. If you don't have room or energy to make your own, you can buy it from the same companies who sell garden materials. It comes in little bags, big bags, and by the yard delivered by truck. Every year or two, new compost should be added on top of the old soil. There is no need to dig it in; snow and rain will send the nutrients down to the root systems naturally. If you



have a source of farm manure, this can be a powerful additive, but only if it has been well aged; too fresh and it will burn your plants. Other organic amendments such as Sea Soil are effective in modifying the soil structure and improving fertility. If a luscious lawn is your thing, aerating and top dressing with compost from time to time will be of benefit.

The last ingredient for a beautiful garden is water, and fickle Mother Nature will supply too much, too little, or just enough. When she gives us weeks of sunshine, we need to water, of course. Our rivers flow from the mountains; our water is alkaline. Add to this the chemicals the city adds to the water in its treatment to keep us safe, and what comes from our taps is not perfect for growing plants. The easiest thing to do is have water barrels collecting rain water from your downspouts. The next is to let tap water sit in containers for a few hours or a day, coming to ambient temperature, and evaporating off the chemicals before use. (I do this all year round for my indoor plants.) So, amend your soil, fertilize regularly, and water as necessary for a beautiful and colourful garden.

Barbara Shorrock is a gardener, retired realtor, traveler, reader, ESL coach and Spanish student. She can be found at the monthly Queensland Garden Club meeting most first Wednesdays.

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