

MAY 2019

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THE OFFICIAL MLCA AND MLRA COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER





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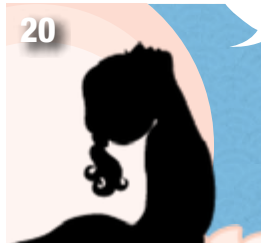
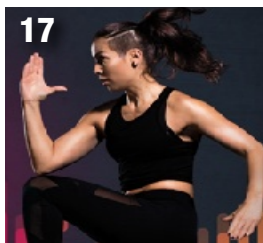
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Disclaimer: Published articles, reports or submissions reflect the opinions of the author and should not be considered to reflect the opinions of Great News Media (GNN) and the McKenzie Lake Community (MLCA) and/or Residents' Association (MLRA). The information contained in this magazine is believed to be accurate but is not warranted to be so. GNN, MLCA and/or MLRA do not endorse any person(s) advertising in this newsletter. Advertisements are not an endorsement of any goods or services

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Rent the Community Centre for your next event or meeting!

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Call 403-257-1823 for prices and availability.

Buy a Community Association Membership for only \$25/household!

Your yearly membership provides you with discounts on community programs and rentals. It also supports free community activities such as our Annual McKenzie Frenzie and Community Clean-up! Pop by the Community Centre or purchase online at www.mckenzielakecommunity.com. Thank you for your support!

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Hello, McKenzie Lake Residents!

*"The world's favorite season is the spring.
All things seem possible in May." – Edwin Teale*

Family Movie Night had a great turnout, and everyone seemed to have a very good time! Thank you to Summit Church for hosting this event! What a nice way to spend an evening! And a big shout-out to Trish for volunteering at the concession!

Thank you to everyone that has purchased a **flower basket**—the support you provide to your community association by participating in fundraisers such as this is truly appreciated!

COMMUNITY CLEANUP is on Saturday, May 4, 2019 from 9 am – 1 pm. More information is posted on our website, the Gazette, and on social media. Come join us to boost neighbourhood pride—a litter-free community is a sign of a community that cares! It's also a great way to get rid of hard to dispose of items at no cost.

Soccer photos are on May 11.

Playground – We are still looking for volunteers and donations for Mt. Aberdeen Park. You can donate at www.parksfdn.com/community-projects Choose McKenzie Lake – Mt. Aberdeen Playground. Donations over \$25.00 will receive a tax receipt. There will also be a **bottle drive** for the playground at the community cleanup.

Summer camp – each of the nine weeks has a different fun theme and exciting activities. Sign up on our website before spaces fill up!

Looking for some fun?! **Come out and play PICKLEBALL!** This game is played with nets, wooden paddles and plastic balls. This drop-in adult program runs on Monday mornings from 9:45 AM to 11:45 AM. There is a \$2 drop-in fee. You can also purchase a \$20 punchcard which will give you 11 sessions. Equipment is supplied—all you need to bring is yourself and clean indoor shoes!

McKenzie Tots is a **fun drop-in program for caregivers and children (0-5 yrs)**. We provide all the toys for the children to play with while the adults relax. Thursday

mornings from 10 AM to 12 PM. (\$5 Drop-in Fee – no pre-registration is required). Fresh coffee will be waiting for you!

55+ Club meets on Tuesdays from 11:30 AM until 2:00 PM for coffee, visiting and activities such as **cards and board games**. Feel free to stop by and join us! (No charge)

To all the moms – wishing you a beautiful day on May 12! May also brings with it the long weekend—when summer finally, even if unofficially, begins and we are eager to break for the outdoors! Wishing everyone a fun and very safe long weekend.

Laureen Husband
Facility Administrator



MLCA PROGRAMS



Weekly Drop-in Programs at the Community Centre

McKenzie Tots – Thursdays - 10 AM – 12 PM
Bring your child (0-5 years) for some free play while you socialize with other parents. (\$5 Drop-in Fee)

Pickleball – Mondays - 9:45 – 11:45 AM
Open to adults of all ages and all levels of experience. Please bring clean indoor shoes. We supply the rest of the equipment. (\$2 Drop-in Fee)

55+ Club – Tuesdays - 11:30 AM - 2 PM
Join us for coffee, visiting, and activities. (No cost)



McKenzie Lake Preschool

Registration is now open online for the 2019/2020 school year at www.mckenzielakecommunity.com

All classes have a \$50 non-refundable registration fee. Children must be potty trained to attend preschool.

3-Year-Old Program (Child must be 3 by Dec 31, 2019) \$160/month
Time: 9 – 11 AM Tues/Thurs

This program is based around teaching the toddler to go from a “me” thinking world to a “we” thinking one, in which they learn to play cooperatively with other children in a structured setting. The program covers the alphabet, numbers, colours and shapes using monthly themes which include crafts and play stations. Time is also spent in the community centre gym improving gross motor development. It is an excellent stepping-stone for the 4-year-old program

4-Year-Old Program (Child must be 4 by Dec. 31, 2019) \$185/month
Time: 9 – 11 AM Mon/Wed/Fri OR 12:30 – 2:30 PM on Mon/Wed/Fri

This program helps prepare children for kindergarten by focusing on the alphabet, numbers, phonetic awareness, sight words, sequencing and pattern recognition, as well as strengthening social skills through cooperative play. Fine and gross motor skills will improve as the children complete themed crafts and enjoy playing in the community centre gym. There will also be emphasis placed on respect for self and others to ready the children for their kindergarten adventure!

¾-Year-Old Split Class Program (Child must be 3 by Sept. 1, 2019) \$160/month
Time: 12:30 – 2:30 PM Tues/Thurs

This program is a combination of the three- and four-year-old programs as described above.



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If Matthew looks familiar it is because he is the brother of last month's Volunteer of the Month. Both of these young men have shown a true commitment to community. Whenever I put out a call to volunteers Matthew is there to help. He will always stay to the end of the event and make sure there is nothing else that needs to be done before

he leaves, and he does a fantastic job while he is here.

Thank you, Matthew, for being such a great example in our community.

Q: Tell us a little about yourself!

A: I am a grade 11 student. I have fun hanging out with my friends and family. I enjoy outdoor activities and being active (downhill skiing, mountain biking)

Q: Why did you decide to volunteer with MLCA?

A: I wanted to give back to the community in which I live and wanted to gain experience in various jobs and real-life situations.

Q: What do you like best about volunteering with MLCA?

A: I like that I am helping my own community out and the coordinator treats me nice.

Q: What tips do you have for any new volunteers or anyone considering volunteering?

A: Be friendly and approachable so that nobody feels uncomfortable around you. Have fun. Be helpful and take initiative even when your supervisor or coordinator doesn't ask.

Q: Do you have any ideas or suggestions about what could make your volunteering experience better with MLCA?

A: I think it runs very smoothly but I would like to have more responsibility to be kept busier over the duration of the service

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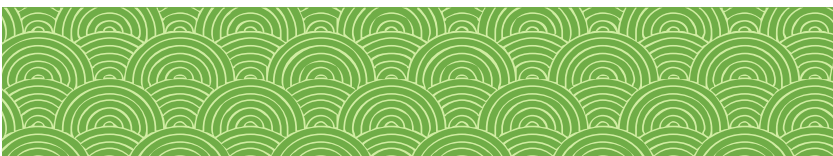
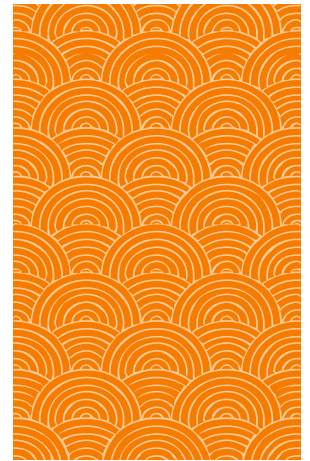


MLCA Summer Camps for children entering grades 1-5

The cost of each camp is \$225. (*short weeks are \$180)
Camps run from 9 to 4 daily and additional care will be provided
from 7 to 9 AM for an additional cost of \$50 or \$40 for short weeks.

Week 1* July 2-5	<i>Under the Sea</i>
Week 2 July 8-12	<i>Stampede, Western Yee Haw</i>
Week 3 July 15-19	<i>Amazing Race/Escape for Fun</i>
Week 4 July 22-26	<i>Wet and Wild</i>
Week 5 July 29 – August 2	<i>Science</i>
Week 6* August 6 – 9	<i>Animals</i>
Week 7 August 12 – 16	<i>Super Heroes</i>
Week 8 August 19 – 23	<i>Video / Gaming</i>
Week 9* August 26 – 29	<i>Imagination Land</i>

Limited spaces available, so don't miss out!
Register at mckenzielakecommunity.com



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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 (eave troughs, downspouts, lot grading, landscaping) interact with the public drainage systems (roadways, storm drains, storm pipes,

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 eave troughs 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 for links to more information.



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Development Planned in Your Neighbourhood Online

Whether it's a new single-family home or a large new development, there's always a new development happening in our city. Now, you can find out about the changes taking place in your community in one easy place.

While The City is ending some newspaper listings that notify development changes, visiting www.calgary.ca/pdmap will show you a great interactive map with all the planned development applications that are currently being considered by The City of Calgary. After May 16th, Development Permits will no longer be published in newspapers.

Available 24/7, new applications are added to the map when The City receives them and updated as the file progresses through the approval system. Calgarians can see land use redesignations, submit comments on proposed developments, check public hearing dates, file appeals and more.

This helpful online tool provides you with a streamlined, more accessible way to get information and participate in development activity in your community. Other ways for Calgarians to keep up to date on activities in their area include signage on development sites, letters that come in the mail and notices in the Herald newspaper.

To learn more ways The City's Planning & Development Department is improving communications with citizens, visit www.calgary.ca/PDnotifications

HERE'S to MOMS
and EVERYTHING
THEY DO

10 AM - 2 PM
SATURDAY, MAY 11th

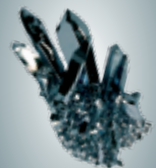
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Os





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Brad Buxton	General Manager manager@mlra.ca
Mike Horder	Operations Manager operations@mlra.ca
Donna Cuthbertson	Office Administrator office@mlra.ca

GENERAL INFORMATION

The McKenzie Lake Residents Association is a non-profit organization geared towards providing a wide array of recreational services, programs and facilities for our members and their guests. We serve 3,200 residents and over 11,000 members and their families. In addition to the lake, members have access to tennis courts, basketball courts, a beach volleyball area, a toboggan hill and other recreational activities.

McKenzie Lake is a 43 acre lake combined with an 18 acre park for a total of 61 acres. The Association provides its members with access to equipment such as rowboats, canoes, kayaks, and pedal boats. To ensure a safe and fun environment, we provide life jackets for boating purposes. The lake is stocked with rainbow trout in May, June and September of each year. In the winter time the Association provides a variety of skating surfaces including illuminated hockey rinks, an ice skating pad with a fire pit, and a 2.5 kilometre skating path around the lake. Skating areas are machine groomed with our own zamboni.

The Beach Club facility also has a function hall available to rent exclusively for the members.

The activities of the Association are determined and governed by an elected board of Directors comprising at least three (3) and no more than fifteen (15) members, that is, residents of the McKenzie Lake Residents Association. The Board of Directors have hired a General Manager who has been assigned responsibility for managing the day-to-day operations of the Association including the operations at the lake complex.

*Board of Directors
McKenzie Lake Residents Association*

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Park Conditions and Hours

Park hours in May are 9:00 am to 9:00 pm, 7 days a week. Fishing is open and boats are in the water.

To gain access to the park and lake, please have your membership card available to scan at the guard house (small building South West of main building). During non-peak times of the year, access to the park may be through the main office rather than the guard house. If the guard house gate is closed, please go through the office.

Annual Membership Fees

Invoices for your Annual Membership Fees were mailed out in March. Payments are due April 1st and your payment will ensure access to the park and lake from April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020.

IMPORTANT: Membership fees are mandatory, not optional. Membership fee charges are secured by an encumbrance which is registered on the title to your property. If you are not sure whether you must pay the fee, please review the most updated version of your certificate of title and determine if there is an encumbrance registered by McKenzie Lake Residents Association. If there is an encumbrance on title then it is mandatory for you to pay the fee. You can also contact our office for confirmation.

Methods of payment include:

- Online payment via credit card (New this year)
- Telepay via Credit card (New this year)
- Debit – During Office hours
- Cash – During Office hours
- Cheque – During Office hours, or mailed, or inserted in the building mailbox.

Sorry, we DO NOT accept credit cards in person or e-transfers.

New Members Registry

We are excited to announce that we are updating our member's registry system. The new system will have the following improvements and upgrades:

- Online and telephone payments will be accepted.
- It will give you the ability to login to your account and make changes to your profile.
- Beach Club and Shelter availability Calendar and bookings.
- Important information sent via email campaigns and notifications.
- Improved Program listing, marketing and registration.
- A web-based system that is constantly updated and improved.
- Internally a much better system for MLRA staff to manage and use.

If you are the owner of a property within our Association boundaries, you should have already received a package via the mail. This package included important information regarding the new system as well as your invoice for the 2019/20 fiscal year. It is important that you read through the entire package and provide us with the necessary information we require to finalize your membership profile. You are required to register an account to utilize all of the online functionality and confirm your membership. If you have not received a package from us please contact the Office – office@mlra.ca or 403-257-1657.

MLRA Boundaries

We understand there are homes in McKenzie Lake that receive this news publication but are not entitled to MLRA membership. These areas include – Mt Allan, Mt Douglas, Mt Apex, Mt Aberdeen, and some homes on Mt McKenzie Drive. We do apologize but these areas are not entitled to MLRA membership. The Association boundary lines are determined by the registered Articles of Association, which is a document that specifies the regulations for a company's operation. The MLRA Board cannot arbitrarily alter the boundary line.

Programs

We will continue to offer programs through the spring and summer. The upcoming session of programs start in early to mid-May so please **register** today! We are offering different variations of Zumba, Yoga, and Pilates. We also have a drop-in program on Thursdays at 1PM for seniors called Conversation Café.

Summer Program Registration will start in early to mid-May and we will have all of the available Programs posted on our website in early May. We anticipate offering similar programs to last year – Swimming, Tennis, SUP, SUP yoga, Yoga in the park, Sportball, Kayaking, Zumba, Sailing and more!

Please visit our website for information on all programs – www.mlra.ca.

Rent the Beach Club or a Shelter

The Beach Club is an ideal location for a family birthday party, wedding receptions, anniversaries, family functions, and more. Weekends fill up fast so make your booking ASAP. We still have a date in Spring/Summer available so book now!

We also have 3 shelters in the park that are available to rent and very popular in the summer. Shelters are great for birthday parties and family functions.

Find out more information on all rentals office - 403-257-1657. Bookings must be made at the main office.



Guests of Members

If you are planning a gathering at McKenzie Lake and expect to have 10 or more guests, please notify the office in advance. We require the member to fill out an official guest list form and submit to the office days in advance of the function date. The official guest list form can be found on our website (www.mlra.ca) and at the main office. The guest list must

be filled in as per the instructions so please read everything prior to filling in the names of your guests.

Website

Visit our website – www.mlra.ca for all information regarding the Lake. On the website you will find information on park hours, facility rentals, rules, park conditions, membership and more.

Employment Opportunities

We continue our search for qualified individuals to fill positions at the lake. If you are interested in employment please visit our website www.mlra.ca for information on jobs available, or email operations@mlra.ca.

Volunteer Committee

Do you want to more events offered throughout the year? **We need your Help!**

We are currently recruiting members to form a volunteer committee who will be responsible to help with special events. Our goal is to offer more fun activities and special events throughout the year and we need volunteers to make it happen! The Committee will be responsible for all fundraising and organizing of the events. If you would like to see more events and activities offered and willing to donate your time then please contact us today – manager@mlra.ca.

Grants from the Alberta Government

On behalf of the members of the McKenzie Lake Residents Association, the Board of Directors extends a big thank you to the Alberta Government for their generous donations through the Alberta Lottery Fund to help fund renovations completed to the interior and exterior of the buildings over the last couple years. Most recently we received a grant to help offset the cost of a replacement maintenance commercial mower w/winter attachments. Thank you, Alberta,!

Rules

Please familiarize yourself with all rules before visiting the park. Copies are available in the main Office and the guard house. You can also find the rules online on our website – www.mlra.ca.

Fishing Rule Update



Please be advised that we have implemented new fishing rules. The last couple seasons we have stocked with small Brown trout, but they are too small and there are too few of them to take any out. This past spring, we introduced Brook trout for the first time and we also want to ensure they are **NOT** removed from the lake. For now, Brook and Brown trout are catch and release only. It is strictly prohibited to take any Brook or Brown trout from the lake. In the event you do catch a brown or brook trout it must be released immediately. Please review trout identification techniques with photos below:



Brown Trout Identification

- A. darker black/red spots down the backside
- B. few/no spots on tail
- C. Red spots with pale halos around them

Brown Trout Catching limits

Zero (0) – Catch and Release only

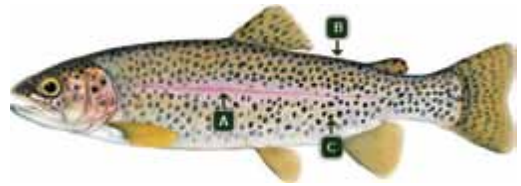


Brook Trout Identification

- A. marbled pattern
- B. white leading edge on the pectoral, pelvic, and anal fins
- C. no black or brown spots on the head
- D. distinctive sprinkling of red dots

Brook Trout Catching limits

Zero (0) – Catch and Release only



Rainbow Trout Identification

- A. reddish stripe along their sides
- B. darker on top
- C. black spots

Rainbow Trout Catching limits

- Three (3) per member household per day (includes any children or Guests fish)
- Fifteen (15) per member household per month (includes any children or Guests fish)

Whirling Disease

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has declared the Bow River watershed infected with whirling disease and the province of Alberta a buffer zone.

Quick facts

- Impacts vary between fish species and different water bodies
- In Alberta, rainbow, westslope cutthroat and brook trout, as well as mountain whitefish are most susceptible to the disease
- Affected fish may show no symptoms or exhibit any of the following signs:
 - Behaviour: whirling swimming pattern
 - Appearance: skeletal deformities of the body or head, for example, shortening of the mandible, sloped forehead and crooked spine. Tail may appear dark or even black
- There are no human health concerns for people using the bodies of water that contain whirling disease; it is not harmful to humans. There are no health concerns for anglers ingesting fish that have contracted this disease.
- There are no treatment options currently available for whirling disease. Containment and prevention are the focus for responding to the threat of whirling disease.

Prevention

We have not seen any signs of Whirling disease in McKenzie Lake and all fish suppliers that we have used have tested negative. Members must take precautionary methods to ensure that McKenzie Lake is never infected. Unfortunately there is not a known cure for the disease

so prevention is extremely important. Please see below for best practices to stop the spread. Prior to bringing in any watercraft or fishing equipment that has been used in other water bodies, please ensure to follow the steps below:

Clean

- Clean and inspect watercraft, trailers, and all equipment that has been in contact with water. This includes boats, motors, boots, waders, bait buckets, and swimming floats.
- Remove all mud, sand, and plant materials before leaving the shore.
- Rinse, scrub, or pressure wash your boat and equipment away from storm drains, ditches or waterways. Use hot water if possible (90°C or hotter).

Drain

- Before leaving the shoreline, drain water from watercraft and equipment onto dry land.
- Remember to “Pull the Plug” because it is illegal to transport watercraft with the drain plug still in place.


Dry

- Dry the watercraft and/or equipment completely between trips and allow the wet areas to air dry. Allow for a minimum of 24 hours of drying time before entering new waters.
- Leave compartments open on boats and equipment and sponge out standing water.

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- The Beach Club is available to rent exclusively for members only. The Beach Club can be used for functions that are not advertised, no fees charged and there is no intent to market or sell products or services.
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- **\$40 per hour** – Monday through Thursday (during park hours*).
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- ***\$30 per hour**– Applied to the rates above for functions that go later than park closing (Security Charge). *Park closing varies seasonally.*
- **\$30 per rental** for the use of the 36" barbecue on the deck (*Seasonal availability*).
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Squirrels are one of the top threats to power grids, so much so that the American Public Power Association tracks data of squirrel incidents which they call "The Squirrel Index." Some commentators have joked that squirrels are bigger cyber terrorist threats than foreign powers.

Green Carts Spring into Weekly Collection Schedule

Spring has sprung, and with it comes an increase in yard waste. Weekly green cart collection will resume the first week of April.

Calgarians can visit calgary.ca/collection to find out their new green cart schedule and to sign up for free reminders including phone, email and text alerts or download the free Garbage Day app to receive notifications on their smartphones.

There are no changes to blue or black cart collection.



got digital?

A photograph of several colorful hot air balloons floating in a blue sky with soft, golden light from a setting or rising sun. Below the balloons is a field of purple flowers and a single tree in the distance.

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Programs

Other Information

1

Conversation Cafe
Thursdays
1:00pm-3:00pm

Want to meet other seniors in your area? Come by Thursday afternoons for Conversation Cafe to socialize, create friendships, and relax.

Coffee, tea, cards, crib boards and scrabble will be provided and available for your use.

The Beach Club, Lake and Park are open to those who participate in this program



Non-Members
Toonie per visit.
Loonie for members

These programs are intended to help encourage the development of an active 55+ social group in McKenzie Lake.

We look forward to the success of this group and the programs and events to come!

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Home Improvement Information Sessions

Considering a renovation? Have questions about home improvement projects? Drop in to a free community information session near you and talk to one of our City experts for tips that can help save you time and money.

Whether you're looking to build a deck, thinking about a basement renovation or secondary suite, we'll have City inspectors (building, electrical, and plumbing) and bylaw experts on hand to give you advice about what you'll need to get started, including:

- Determining the specific requirements for your property
- Talking through your project, and what would be required to make it safe
- Answering your questions about electrical, plumbing and building code requirements, including how to prepare for the different types of inspections
- Providing tips on what to look for when hiring a contractor, and what to include in contracts.

If you have plans drawn up, bring them with you and we can answer any specific questions you may have. We can also help you apply for a permit, on the spot, saving you a trip downtown.

We're here to help make sure your home improvement is safe for you and your family to enjoy. Invest the time to do it right, for you. Visit calgary.ca/pdevents to find an information session near you.



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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.

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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 km². 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 ex-

tirpated, 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.

Editor’s Note: Bobcats have been spotted in and around McKenzie Lake over the past 6 months. Please consider the guidelines in this article and always be on the look-out for wildlife when out with pets and small children.

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May Programs for Kids

Young Artists in Residence at the 32nd Annual Exhibition of Children's Art

Join us for our 32nd Annual Exhibition of Children's Art from May 2-16, 2019 at the Municipal Building Atrium (800 Macleod Trail S.E.). Come celebrate sculpture, painting, drawing and mixed media artwork, all created by young artists aged 3-17 from North Mount Pleasant and Wildflower Arts Centres. On May 2 our artists will be in residence, talking about their work. Everyone welcome! Details at calgary.ca/calendar.

Register Now for City of Calgary Spring & Summer Recreation Programs

Try something different. The City's Spring & Summer Recreation Program Guide has 1,012 affordable ways to have fun. Choose from day camps, swimming, arts, dance, fitness, sports, sailing, golf and more! There is something for everyone in your family. Registration is now open. Find your fit at Calgary.ca/register.

Summer Day Camp & Playschool Registration Now Open

Registration is now open for City of Calgary day camps and year-long Playschool. Budget-friendly quality children's programs are available at City recreation and parks facilities across Calgary. Choose from over 35 camp types to keep your child active and having fun this summer such as Nature's Superheroes, Extreme Adventures or Swim, Sports and more to name a few. Visit calgary.ca/register.

Mobile Adventure Playgrounds: A Different Way to Play!

The City of Calgary hosts free outdoor Mobile Adventure Playgrounds in various locations for children to explore, create, imagine and learn in their own way. They contain a variety of materials and loose parts such as boards, tires, tape and cardboard that children are free

to use to build, demolish, assemble and change their environments as they desire. Onsite play ambassadors are there to inspire play and keep the playground safe, but not directly supervise the children. Parents are encouraged to stay and watch their children play and see how their imaginations soar in this ever-changing adventure space. Locations and dates available at calgary.ca/play.

Skip the Work and Plan Your Kids' Birthday with The City of Calgary

Birthday wishes....no dishes! Skip the work and plan your next birthday party with The City of Calgary. The City's many facilities offer an easy and affordable way to gather with friends and family in a fun setting. From waterparks to nature adventures, you'll find party planning simple and stress-free. Parties are tailored to the age group and available at City leisure centres, nature centres, aquatic and fitness centres, and art centres. Visit us online to see our list of themed adventure parties.

Visit calgary.ca/birthdays for options.

The Fun Starts After the Bell with Calgary After-school

The fun starts after the bell. After school programs are offered by The City of Calgary for FREE or low cost. Youth are provided positive, fun and supervised after school programs in schools, recreation buildings and community facilities across Calgary. Children and youth grades 1-12 can drop into a weekday program in their community and take part in a variety of activities from 3-6 p.m. Activities may include basketball, swimming, arts, leadership, skating, sports and much more. At Calgary AfterSchool, it's more than just getting children and youth active. These programs are designed to keep kids productive, increase self-esteem and teach them skills that will follow them throughout their life. Learn more at calgary.ca/afterschool.

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Proper Disposal of Smoking Material

The Calgary Fire Department reminds Calgarians that whether you're indoors or outdoors, and regardless of the season proper disposal of smoking materials is a smart choice.

Disposing of cigarette butts in planter pots, soil, peat moss, or your lawn or garden is the leading cause of outdoor fires in Calgary. Fires that start outside of a building are potentially much more dangerous for occupants since smoke alarms may not detect the fire until it is well underway.

To better protect your home and your community, it is recommended that you:

- Ensure all butts and ash are out by dousing with them with water prior to putting in the trash.
- Always dispose of cigarette butts in a deep, wide, sturdy metal container with a lid. The container should be filled part way with sand or water that is emptied regularly.
- Prune all tree branches within two metres of the ground and plant new trees at least three metres apart.
- Assess potential fire hazards within 30 metres of your home, including natural debris, trees and other structures.
- Use your ashtray to dispose of any smoking material when driving. Throwing a cigarette butt out of your car window is a serious fire hazard, pollutes our roadsides and has environmental impacts.
- Remember to always call 9-1-1 to report a fire.

Visit calgary.ca/smokingdisposal for more information on disposing of smoking material.

Calgary Fire Department Home Safety Program

Fire safety is an important issue for everyone.

The Calgary Fire Department recognizes the complex needs of individuals with dementia, including the increased risk of home fire hazards. During a fire, individuals with dementia may find it more difficult to escape or understand the situation.

Common dementia related fire hazards include:

- Leaving a pot on the stove unattended.
- Forgetting to turn off the oven.
- Mixing up the seconds and minutes when using a microwave.

If you are an individual with dementia or caring for an individual with dementia, the Calgary Fire Department can help reduce home fire hazards.

Contact 311

When you **contact 311 and request a free Home Safety Visit**, Community Safety Officers will visit the residence to:

- Share important home safety information.
- Inspect smoke and carbon monoxide alarms
- Replace and install free smoke alarms and batteries, if needed.

Together, we can help create dementia friendly communities and help individuals with dementia age-in-place safely in their homes.



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Greetings Ward 14!

I hope you had a great April. Here are your May newsletter topics.

Extended Producer Responsibility

Some have likely noticed me mention Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) over the last few months. Simply put, EPR shifts the responsibility and costs of managing recyclable materials from municipalities to producers. It is not new. It exists in some form in every province in Canada, other than Alberta.

I am a proponent of EPR for two main reasons:

1. In 2016, producers provided more than \$367 million to fund provincially-regulated paper and packaging recycling across Canada because of EPR. Because Alberta does not have EPR legislation we received NOTHING. Yet we pay for the cost of EPR in other provinces that producers pass on. We are paying twice for our recycling, and EPR could change that.
2. EPR provides an incentive for industry to innovate ways to waste less and recycle more.

Cities, and towns across the province have shown their support for a province-wide EPR program, but what we really need is for Albertans to tell the Province to stop making them pay twice. If you want to see EPR in Alberta, tell your MLA. You can visit calgary.ca/ward14EPR for more info about EPR.

Counciltalk

The next Counciltalk is on May 4 from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. at the Parkland Community Hall (505 Parkvalley Rd SE). Visit calgary.ca/counciltalk for future dates.

Please feel free to contact me any time. The best way to do so is by visiting calgary.ca/contactward14.

Until recently, finding your way around the almost 100 hectares (243 acres!) of The City of Calgary's five cemeteries and one indoor mausoleum was a challenging task. But with the strategic thinking of Calgary Parks, tapping into an existing technology has made it easier and quicker for staff and Calgarians to get where they want to be in The City's cemeteries.


The new tool is the Cemetery App on Calgary.ca. It allows you to type a loved one's name into a search bar and then shows you exactly on a map, where in one of The City cemeteries or mausoleums your loved one is located.

The application saves time for Parks employees, who used to handle calls or 311 requests to find the information from more than 138,000 records in the database. Citizens can now serve themselves to find plots, whether they are at home or at a City owned cemetery with their mobile device. The data gets updated daily, so the information is always reliable and accurate. Not only does it help Calgarians, but also businesses, such as monument companies, quickly get to the right location. It will especially be useful on weekends when the cemetery offices are closed.

The new cemetery app is located on the The City of Calgary's Map Gallery on Calgary.ca which has almost 50 apps and maps to help the Calgarians find location-based information. The web address is www.maps.calgary.ca.

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The Goose Predicament
 Did you know? In Canada, it's a federal crime to disturb an active Canada Goose nest. They are protected by the Migratory Birds Convention Act and dealing with problem geese can only be done with a permit.





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

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

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

Creekefest – Your Local Park's Day Event!

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

Creekefest 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 Creekefest for the first time this year! For more information stay tuned to www.friendsoffishcreek.org/event/creekefest

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



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