

MARCH 2017

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QUEENSLAND DIAMOND COVE CRIER

THE OFFICIAL QUEENSLAND & DIAMOND COVE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

PARADE OF GARAGE SALES

MAY 27





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CONTENTS

- 7 MARCH CALENDAR
- 8 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
- 9 DIAMOND COVE NEWS
- 10 FRIENDS OF FISH CREEK
- 12 COOKS' CORNER
- 12 2017 PARADE OF GARAGE SALES
- 14 SAINT PATRICK'S DAY WORD SEARCH
- 16 YOUR COMMUNITY BUSINESS OF THE MONTH
- 18 HOME GARDENING WITH BARBARA
- 19 GOOD FOOD BOX





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Queensland Community Association and Great News Publishing do 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	

Off the Menu

Dry swallowing one teaspoon of sugar can commonly cure hiccups

MARCH MOON CALENDAR

	First Quarter March 5		Full Moon March 12
	Last Quarter March 20		New Moon March 27

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Director at Large	Ken Graves	403-271-0264

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Community Garden		
Hockey	Breakers Hockey	403-271-7107
Guides	Answered locally	1-800-565-8111
Bow River Softball	Kathy Worthington	403-225-1008
Scouts	Chris Forsyth	587-287-9934
Calgary Police Service		
Community Resource Officer Dist 6	Cst. Matt Forest	403-428-6600

"To promote and facilitate community spirit and involvement in Queensland and Diamond Cove"

2017

QUEENSLAND COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM

\$20.00

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Method of payment: Cash: _____ Cheque: _____

Cut out this coupon and mail or drop off at the Queensland Community Hall

YOUR COMMUNITY - PROGRAMS - EVENTS



MARCH CALENDAR

MONDAYS	Jazzercise Basketball
TUESDAYS	Yoga Calgary After school Sparks, Brownies, Guides Jazzercise
WEDNESDAYS	Playgroup Pickle Ball Art Class Jazzercise Basket ball First Wed. Garden Club
THURSDAYS	Quilting Calgary After School Beavers, Cubs, Scouts
FRIDAYS	Private Functions
SATURDAYS	Private functions
SUNDAYS	Soccer Basketball



ATTENTION

Queensland and Diamond Cove
Community Memberships Holders

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, April 22

6:30 pm

Wine & Cheese 6:30

Meeting 7:00

Volunteer Appreciation to follow

Everyone (over 18) is invited to attend,
but you must hold a valid membership to vote

SAFETY SYNC
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A TOP OF THE MORNING TO YOU as our Irish friends would say.

March is here, St Patrick's Day is this month and spring is just around the corner. With a little bit of the leprechaun's luck we will have great weather ahead.

Daylight saving is starting on March 12 and spring is officially here on March 20. The children are out of school for spring break on March 23 and that means our camping and holidays are not too far away. Oh what a great feeling.

We have many activities for you to mark on your calendar for this month.

GOOD FOOD BOX: Please order by March 7 for a delivery date on March 16. Contact Linda at the community center 403 278-3366.

March 4: Girl Guide Carnival at the community center. Please see advertisement in Crier.

March 11: Community Social. Please see inside the Crier for all the details. We haven't had a social for quite a number of months so come and have some fun.

March 17: Kid's Craft Club. The ages are from grade 3 onward. This club has become very popular with everyone. Lots of old fashioned crafts to learn and do. If you are interested in more info and to register please contact the community center.

Our Yoga Classes are still very active for this month on every Tuesday morning. The times are from 10 a.m. - 11 a.m. Drop in is \$10.00.

Pickle Ball is still also very active with new people coming every Wednesday. If we have a large group then we will try and have two days a week, if time slots are available. It won't be long before we will be able to play out on the tennis courts. Our price is \$2.00 for members and \$3.00 for non community members. This truly is a fantastic game and loads of fun for ALL ages.

As of today's date that I am writing this, we have not had our planning community workshop. It will be in a few

days so hopefully we will have more ideas to present to you next month. I am very positive that the directors and executive will have more activities planned for you to take part in.

In April will be our AGM. Please mark April 22 on your calendar. This is so very important for all residents to attend. Here is where you will have a voice and you will be heard. There is information given to all who attend about our community of the happenings for the past year and we will answer any questions that you have. You will also meet your new neighbours both new to the area and your present ones. Anyone who has their membership to the community has a chance to vote on any of the topics that are brought up.

Also we will be having our VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION NIGHT. This is so much fun. I will add more info for you in our next April newsletter.

May 27 will be the PARADE OF GARAGE SALES

June 25 will be the QUEENSLAND CLEAN UP DAY

These last two dates will be of great value for everyone if you want to go through your house and sort items out to sell. Also you can get ready for discarding very old items that need to go to the dump in June at our free cleanup day. These are very busy days for our community.

The months ahead are going to be very exciting for all us here at the Community Association. With good weather will bring many active and fun filled programs for all of our residents. As I have said many times before, if you have ideas or something you would like to see, please let us know. We can't try to bring activities here for you if we don't know what you want.

Have a fabulous St. Patty's Day and may plenty of happiness, wealth and luck be with you not only this month but always.

Until next month

Judith



DIAMOND COVE NEWS

This year's annual general meeting will be held on April 12 at our usual location in the Queensland Community Centre at 7pm. We will post a sign along Diamond Drive and on Facebook and on the web to promote and remind neighbours, when we get closer to the date. Please come out and share your ideas about making our community a better place to live. If you are interested in becoming a director and joining our board, we would love to hear from you either at the AGM or via email (see below).

We appreciate the many "snow angels" that we have in our community. If you know your neighbour is away, clearing their sidewalk would be a wonderful gesture and safer for all of us! ... BTW, I have no idea why or when the City decided to clear the path that runs behind Diamond Drive and Diamond View, but I am grateful as it makes it a much nicer walk into Fish Creek Park!

Attention Facebook users* there is a new Facebook page that has been created as an information sharing place for our community. It is a closed group and you can join by searching for Diamond Cove community page and then adding yourself to the group. One of the administrators will 'join' you to the group so you can post. The intent of the page is to share useful information about the Cove or about your business or maybe you have a cabin or RV you want to rent etc... Enjoy!

As residents of the Cove are aware, we all pay a special annual levy that is added to our property tax bill that pays to beautify our community. This is a City wide community enhancement program that the City administers and allows any community to petition its residents to pay a small annual levy to provide for funds that go over-and-above the regular City maintenance for extra beautification, such as flowers, grass cutting and frequency of maintenance. The City is now reviewing this program and they asked a few community association presidents to provide input into the review process. Diamond Cove was asked to participate. At this writing

I can tell you that the City was instructed by Council to perform the review as some Councillors are concerned that the City is creating 'have' and 'have-not' communities due to the additional levies some communities pay and the beautification that those communities enjoy. They are also concerned that the program doesn't have a consistent implementation across the City. In other words some communities get more for their levy than others. Further, there is concern that there may be a more efficient way to administer the program. Translation: the City wants the community to administer the spending of any additional levies. At this point there are no conclusions or recommendations. The good news is we are part of the discussion and hopefully will have a say in the outcome.

As always, if you have suggestions, comments or questions about our community, please email them to me. Guy Huntingford, guy.huntingford@gmail.com.

Happy St. Patrick's Day

St. PATRICKS DAY TRIVIA AND GAMES NIGHT

7:30pm March 11th

at the Queensland Community Centre

Bring an appetizer to share

\$10/ members \$15/non members

There will be fun trivia, games and music and maybe even some green beer

Come join us for some St Patty's fun!



March in Fish Creek

25th Anniversary Brick Pathway

2017 see us celebrate the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Friends of Fish Creek. As part of our celebration we are offering the opportunity to be part of our 25th Anniversary Legacy Brick Pathway program. We will be replacing the pathway to the front door of the Cookhouse with a special brick pathway consisting of bricks bearing dedications or messages from donors. This is a great opportunity to leave a legacy in the park for a loved one or to show support for the work the Friends do toward the sustainability and enjoyment of Fish Creek Provincial Park. Engrave a brick with your personal message. For more information contact the Friends of Fish Creek or visit www.friendsoffishcreek.org/brick

Leave a Legacy for Cherished Green Spaces and Healthy Families

Free Public Information Session

Saturday, March 4, 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm at the Fish Creek Environmental Learning Centre

Considering the Friends of Fish Creek in your legal will or through other philanthropic means is one of the best ways to ensure that future generations will enjoy

New Hall Rental Rates

Gym Use	\$50.00 per hour
Gym Use for Weddings etc.	\$400.00 plus \$100.00 for cleaning

A DAMAGE DEPOSIT OF \$200.00 IS REQUIRED FOR LARGE GYM FUNCTIONS (e.g. weddings craft shows etc.)

Children's Parties	\$150.00 plus \$100.00 for cleaning
Boardroom	\$25.00 per hour
Multi-Purpose room	\$25.00 per hour
Small Meeting Room	\$25.00 per hour

this breathtaking natural area as much as you and your family do. Remembering family in your will is most likely an important part of your final wishes, but do you have questions about planning your estate? Would you like to ensure the proper management and distribution of the funds you leave behind? Join Emma Hamilton, lawyer in the Wills & Estates group of McLeod Law LLP; Stuart Reid, Chief Development Officer Kids Cancer Care Foundation of Alberta; and Bob Morrin, Friends of Fish Creek Board Member to learn about the benefits of estate planning and leaving a legacy. For more information or to register visit www.friendsoffishcreek.org/estate-2

Uncharted: A Photographic Wildflower and Book Evening with Graeme Connell

Thursday, March 23. 7:00 – 8:00 pm at the Fish Creek Environmental Learning Centre
Presented by Graeme and Lois Connell

Calgary author Graeme Connell's novel "Uncharted," centres on Fish Creek Provincial Park and the Rocky Mountains. In this novel, the main character, Brewster, has lost his wife and his reason to live – then, with help from a profoundly deaf woman and a family facing difficult times, his life finds new meaning through wildflowers and a botanical project in Fish Creek. It is a truly uplifting story for anyone who has experienced deep loss and found solace in nature. To register visit www.friendsoffishcreek.org/event/uncharted

Wayne's Wonderful Winter Walk

Saturday, March 11 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm
Join dedicated volunteer, retired park planner, and founding member of the Friends of Fish Creek, Wayne Meikle for a wintery walk along the banks of Fish Creek. Wayne's Wonderful Winter Walk provides an amazing opportunity for families to visit the park in the winter and learn about the history of this area! To register or for more information visit www.friendsoffishcreek.org/programs/other-tours

Spring Birding Course Starts Monday, April 3

Whether you are a beginner, intermediate or expert, this course will help you to identify the newly arriving migrant birds, and allow you to become familiar with the valuable bird habitat near you. The course will take place outdoors in Fish Creek Provincial Park and other natural areas within Calgary. As a fundraiser for the Friends of Fish Creek, volunteer instructor and lifelong naturalist Gus Yaki and other knowledgeable and experienced instructors will once again conduct these courses.

Registration Required and fees apply. To Register and for course times visit: www.friendsoffishcreek.org/programs/birding-course



Gentle Yoga at Queensland

Come and join us!

We have a new instructor for the Gentle Yoga class at Queensland, her name is Helen Cheung and she has many years of experience in the fitness industry and within the City of Calgary. She has many different fitness certifications and is certified in Older Adult fitness, Pilates and Yoga so she will be a great fit for the Gentle Yoga class.

Yoga class will run from 10:00-11:00am on Tuesday Mornings!

Cost will be \$75.00 for the 14 week session or \$10.00 drop-in fee!



Pickle Ball

Pickle Ball is every Wednesday afternoon from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. The fee is \$2.00 for Queensland Membership holders and \$3.00 for anyone who does not have a membership. No experience necessary!

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STEP INTO SPRING



Are you thinking of becoming more active?

The University of Calgary is recruiting volunteers for a 12-week physical activity study.

To participate you must be:

- 18 years of age or older
- Exercising less than 3 days per week
- Have internet access

You will be asked to wear a pedometer for 3 months, log your activity onto a website, and complete 3 questionnaires.

By completing the 3 questionnaires you will receive:

- A pedometer (\$25 value)
- \$10 gift card
- Prize draw entry for \$1000 gift card

To participate contact Research Coordinator:
perryr@ucalgary.ca

Ethics ID: REB15-2944
This study has been approved by the University of Calgary Conjoint Health Research Ethics Board.





Queensland 2017 Parade of Garage Sales

It's that time of year again – Spring Cleaning Time!

Clean out your closets, drawers, garages, basements and sheds and turn those unwanted items into \$\$ on **Saturday May 27 from 9:00am to 3:00pm**. If you do not have enough stuff, join up with a neighbour or make it a street event! Last year's participants were very pleased with the turnout and we know this year should be another big success for all of us out there "selling our stuff".

To register and have your garage or yard sale advertised free of charge, please contact **Dorothea Sautter** or **Linda Brown** at the Queensland Community Centre with your full name, address, phone number, and email address.

Lawn signs, directional maps, and a list of all participating homes will be available for pick-up at the community centre the evening before the sale.

On the morning of the sale, directional signs will be placed on the main streets directing buyers into the community.

Registration deadline is May 20
Dorothea Sautter
403-301-7615 leave message, or
dorothea@royallepage.ca



Irish Shamrock Cookies

"These green cookies are delicious anytime of the year. Make some green frosting for these cookies using a sugar cookie icing recipe found on

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup butter, softened
- 1 (3 ounce) package instant pistachio pudding mix
- 1 1/3 cups baking mix
- 1 egg
- 1 tablespoon white sugar

Directions

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Lightly grease baking sheet.

Cream together the butter or margarine and the pudding mix. Blend in the baking mix, egg and sugar and mix well.

On a lightly floured surface roll out the dough to 3/8 inch thickness and cut into cookies with a shamrock cookie cutter.

Place cookies on the prepared baking sheet and bake at 350 degrees F (175 degrees C) for 9 to 10 minutes or until lightly browned on the edges. Let cookies cool on rack. Frost with green colour icing if desired.



MLA Calgary - Fish Creek

Richard Gotfried

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ab.ca www.richardgotfried.ca • @GotfriedMLA
facebook.com/RichardGotfried4FishCreek

Spring is right around the corner and as the days get longer and the weather gets warmer, I am renewed by a sense of cautious optimism. Legislative Session is scheduled to start March 2, which is a late start date, hence Budget and Policy deliberations will undoubtedly keep my PC Caucus colleagues and I very busy in standing up for the best interests of Albertans. Follow key issues and activities of the session on my Facebook page or Twitter feed.

Much will change on the political landscape in Alberta over the next few months. Both the PC and Liberal Party will have new leaders. In addition, the Wildrose Party has agreed to consider unity talks with the PC party. Regardless of your political leanings and affiliations I would encourage you to be aware of the changes occurring, and if you are interested, to also get involved. Understanding the scope and vision of Alberta's political parties is an important element in our Westminster parliamentary style of governance. Voting and being an informed voter is critical to democratic success. Knowing who the local candidates are, who the leaders of the various political parties are, and what their policy platforms are, all matter on voting day and provide a window into how each party will act if they form government. As I remind myself, and continue to tell my children, do your homework.

On a lighter note, volunteers definitely represent the life blood of any community. This month's spotlight is on the Deer Run Community Associations' Board. Deer Run hosted a Family Fun Skate Party at the end of January where the Board ran games, served food and handled set up and tear down. Often community associations are the unsung heroes whose work rolls on in the background, often unnoticed. Most of the Deer Run Board members have been longstanding members and resident of the community who simply desire to give back. There is no remuneration or direct benefit for serving on a board or volunteering, but it is what builds great communities. I would encourage each of you to look for

ways to give back, in a manner appropriate to your circumstances, to the community in which you live!

Constituency week will be the last week of March (27th – 31st) and for most of this week, I will be in Calgary. I expect that the Budget will come down around this time, so we should have lots to talk about before and after. As I will be in Budget consultations with our caucus team early in the session, I will be hosting my regular MLA Café on March 11, 10:00 – 12:00 noon at my Office. Please join me!

As I have been very outspoken in my criticism of the Carbon Tax, I would appreciate hearing your thoughts on rebates and energy efficiency initiatives (or lack thereof), how it has impacted your business or household bottom line, and your ability to adjust consumption levels in response to rising costs. The carbon pricing discussion is far from over and as always your feedback helps me to represent you more effectively.

Let's all hope for a slow, gentle thaw and plentiful sunshine to bring us into the new spring season! As always, please do not hesitate to contact my office if you require assistance.



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Saint Patrick's Day Word Search



- CELTIC
- IRELAND
- LEPRECHAUN
- POTOFGOLD
- SHAMROCK
- DUBLIN
- IRISH
- LIMERICK
- RAINBOW
- SNAKES
- GREEN
- LEGEND
- PATRICK
- SAINT

V G D H V C T Z K Q W P V A R
 X Z L U S I F O S Y O C Q D Q
 Y C E Q B P A N O T B N B R Z
 L E P E H L A H O Q N J V A K
 N L R U K K I F S E I X C C O
 A T E J E C G N E I A M I L I
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 F C H M L N G R V R T I N A S
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 I W I N B I R E L A N D G S Y
 J D C K C O R M A H S Y B Z X



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

Happy March Ward 14!

Spring is just around the corner, and I assume for most of us it is a welcome change. There is a lot going on this spring, so I am going to spend this month's edition of my column gearing up for the new season.

Ward 14 Traffic Safety Meeting

May 4 from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. is a date you should save, especially if you are interested in traffic safety. City administration, the Calgary Police Service (CPS), and I will be at the Mid-Sun Community Centre to talk with you about what we can do to improve traffic safety in Ward 14. Both City Administration and CPS will be using this to inform their decision-making, so I encourage you to come. Stay tuned for more details next month.

Street sweeping primer

Okay, I admit this is pretty early to start talking about street sweeping. But this is Calgary, and you never know what weather you will get. In fact, last year we got a very early start on street sweeping. You can just never be too sure.

The main point I want to make is to keep an eye on the website calgary.ca/sweep over the next couple of months. That is where you will find details about the City's spring cleaning program. If we are all aware of what is going on, and take a few easy steps to make the process go smoothly, we can save everybody a lot of time and money.

Civic census & voter registration online starting April 1

Keep an eye on your mailbox during late March. You will be receiving your access code. It will allow you to complete the census and your voter registration online. They will both be accessible online on April 1.

The data that the City receives from the census is indispensable for decision-making, and the benefits of pre-registering to vote are obvious. But there is another very

good reason to fill-out your census, and register to vote online: it saves taxpayers money! I hope you give online registration a try this year. Those types of advancements really help to cut costs and streamline processes. But whether you do them online or in person, the important part is to make sure you perform these two essential civic duties!

March Counciltalk

Counciltalk keeps rolling along! The discussions continue to be great. This month Counciltalk will be at the Southview United Church in Walden located at 202000 Walden Blvd S.E. I will be there on Saturday, March 18 from noon to 2 p.m. You can visit calgary.ca/counciltalk for details of the full Counciltalk schedule, and you can sign up to receive reminders for Counciltalk and other important Ward 14 news at calgary.ca/ward14connect.

Thanks for reading. Feel free to contact me anytime!



FAMOUS FIVE DISTRICT

The Public is invited! Our annual carnival is Saturday, March 4, 2017 at the Queensland Community Center, 649 Queensland Drive SE. We sure hope you will join us for fun and friendship and help support the Girl Guides in your community. We'll have a bake sale, cake walk, silent auction, games, crafts and lunch room. The hours are 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. Admission is a non-perishable food or cash donation to the Calgary Interfaith Foodbank. If you are interested in donating to the silent auction, please contact Bonnie, bonnieguideleader@gmail.com. Your support is most appreciated to provide a well-respected program for girls. I also heard that the Classic Cookies may be available for sale at the carnival. Only \$5.00 per box.

And yes, we are still accepting registrations in some units. If you are now ready to enroll your daughter, please visit girlguides.ca and look for the registration information. Ladies, if you are interested in being a leader, now is a great time to get started. Training is provided and support is available. Join a unit now. Contact Pat, isteads@telus.net if you are interested in more information.

Clean Up Day



Deer Ridge & Queensland/Diamond Cove

June 25/2017
 QCA Parking Lot
 9AM - 2PM

- Trash Compactor Trucks
- Electronics
- Metals



FP

Footloose Photography
 BY SHERI

MATERNITY, NEWBORN AND FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHY

403.512.1221 | macdonaldsheri@gmail.com
sherimacdonald.zenfolio.com

Your Business of the Month



TEN TINY FINGERS FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHY

Linda Rayner, owner-operator of Ten Tiny Fingers Family Photography Ltd., was a stay at home Mom who honed her photography skills on her own children. Offering a full range of photographic skills and services, from pre and postnatal photography, engagement to wedding and portraiture, Linda combines formally instructed technique with a natural understanding of light and composition.

Linda loves working with babies, children and families to catch a unique collection of images that not only capture the formal side of portraiture but also the more personal side of children. She comes away with photos that capture the unique personalities of each child, complete

with scrunched up noses, messy hair, sticks and toys or blankies! Being a Mom herself, Linda understands that sometimes the pictures that mean the most are those beautiful shots of a child being themselves. Linda prides herself on her ability to win over the hesitant shy child as well as enjoying the rambunctious, limelight-loving exuberance of others.

Ten Tiny Fingers Family Photography started out dealing mainly with babies but as time passed, photo sessions grew to include family portrait sessions, graduations, and weddings, until the business came full circle and started again with babies. It has been a joy for Linda to get to know and watch families grow and change over the years, and she loves working with and getting to know her neighbours as well. What better way to get to know them than to spend time with them while capturing photos of them?

Linda's easy-going personality and sense of humour help to put people at ease enabling them to be their best in front of the camera. She can help direct anyone with pose, expression, and style, and says that a photo session should be an enjoyable experience, producing photographs that will be cherished, treasured, and shown off for years to come.

Photo shoots occur mainly on weekends or evenings. Photo shoots may occur in her home if there are four or fewer people involved, or they may occur outside in a local park or scenic area for larger groups. Born and raised in Calgary, Linda has discovered many amazing, scenic backdrops within the city that offer the opportunity to capture an amazing and unique photograph.

Please feel free to check out the Ten Tiny Fingers Family Photography website at www.TenTinyFingers.ca or on Facebook under Ten Tiny Fingers Family Photography. If you wish to contact them, please send an email to info@TenTinyFingers.ca or phone 403-477-5467.

<p><i>Capturing photos as individual as you</i></p>	
<p>Linda Rayner 403-477-5467</p> <p>✉ info@tentinyfingers.ca 🌐 www.TenTinyFingers.ca 📍 Ten Tiny Fingers Family Photography</p>	

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The Bad and Noxious Guys

by Barbara Shorrock

There are weeds and then there are noxious and invasive species. The latter are seriously bad for the environment, taking over and crowding out native plants that belong here and provide benefit to other flora and fauna.

Leafy Spurge (*Euphorbia esula*) is native to Europe and Asia. It found its way to North America in the early 1800's and was first reported in Alberta in 1933. It is an aggressive invader and, once present, can completely overtake large areas of open land. It displaces native vegetation in prairie habitats by usurping available water and nutrients and through plant toxins that prevent the growth of other plants near it. The stems contain a white sap that is toxic to most livestock and is a serious irritant to human skin. Goats are unaffected by the sap and graze on the young plants without ill effect, but will only eat them in the spring when they are fresh and succulent. Sheep have also been used along with herbicides and flea beetles, to fight it. The small light green flowers produce massive amounts of seed, which explode from the seed pod and travel as far as 6 meters. In addition, the root system is deep and very efficient in producing new plants as it creeps extensively underground.

Scentless Chamomile (*Matricaria maritima*) is a member of the Aster family, having single, white, daisy-like flowers with yellow centers at the ends of each branched stem. It produces rapidly by seed, with a single plant producing up to 1 million seeds that are mature as soon as the flower forms. Seeds remain viable for up to 15 years in the soil and are readily dispersed by wind or water, on equipment and vehicles, or as a contaminant in soil, fill material, crop seed, and animal

feed. Seeds can float on water for up to 12 hours and new infestations are often found around watercourses. Not eaten by livestock, dense stands of scentless chamomile can reduce crop yields in hay fields, pastures, and other cultivated crops. Like many of our invasive species, it originated in Europe, and has no natural enemies here, except for man, who has found chemicals to control it. We are not terribly fond of herbicides in our parks, however, and mechanical and manual removal is our best line of defense.

Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) has had a lot of press in recent years, as Alberta works hard to keep this species with no natural enemies under control. Native to Europe and Asia, Purple Loosestrife was likely introduced when its seeds were included in soil used as ballast in European sailing ships. The plant was also spread by early settlers and is still used in flower gardens and occasionally sold in nurseries today. The plant forms dense stands with thick mats of roots that invade and destroy wetlands, spreading over large areas, degrading habitat for native birds, insects, and other species. By crowding out native plants it reduces biodiversity. If you have *Lythrum* in your garden, you should consider replacing it with something less noxious. To dispose of Purple Loosestrife, put the plants in plastic bags, seal them, and put the bags in the garbage. Do not put them in the compost or discard them in natural areas. Discarded flowers can still produce seeds.

Barbara Shorrock is a writer, reader, traveler, retired realtor, ESL teacher, Spanish student and brand new great-grandmother! She can be found most first Wednesdays at the Queensland Garden Club, which welcomes all gardeners, experienced and new. We don't care where you live.



The Food Box is a program where you can purchase fresh fruit and vegetables for a very low cost. This program is available to everyone to promote a healthy and nutritional living.

- | | | |
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