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

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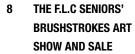
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**HELPING YOUR CHILD, BUT** LETTING THEM LEAD



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#### **WILLOW PARK-MAPLE RIDGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

680 Acadia Drive SE | Calgary, AB T2J 0C1 Phone:271-8044 | Fax: 278-3718 info@willowridge.ca | www.willowridge.ca

#### **ELECTED OFFICIALS**



**Councillor Peter Demong** Ward 14 Office P.O. Box 2100, Station M Calgary, AB, CanadaT2P 2M5 Phone: 403-268-1653 Fax: 403-268-3823 Email: ward14@calgary.ca Web: www.calgary.ca/ward14



**MLA Brandy Payne** Calgary-Acadia #10, 8318 Fairmount Drive SE Calgary, AB Canada T2H 0Y8 Phone: (403) 640-1363 Fax: (403) 640-2970 Email: calgary.acadia@assembly.ab.ca

#### **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 Weather Information	511
Gamblers Anonymous	403-237-0654

## Caring Requires an Investment of Time

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**Eugene Coste School Open House January 5, 2017,** 6:30 p.m.



#### Spanish Bilingual Kindergarten / Grade One **Open House**

Thank you for your interest in the International Spanish Academy at Eugene Coste School, If vou are considering registering your child for our Spanish Bilingual Kindergarten Program or are new to Grade One for fall 2017 then the information below is for you:

The agenda will include the following:

- An overview of our Kindergarten -Grade One program
- Ideal qualities of students in Bilingual settings
- Overview of current research and outcomes of students in bilingual programs
- Similarities and differences between a bilingual program and an English only program
- Parent volunteer requirements and process
- What will happen on the first day of school
- What to send with your child to school
- Question and answer period
- This is an adult only parent information meeting

If you have questions regarding our Open House information please call us at 403-777-8511.

Liana Appelt Principal





### THE F.L.C SENIORS'

**BRUSHSTROKES ART SHOW AND SALE** 

# Brushstrokes

24th Annual Art Show and Sale Saturday, March 25, 2017 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. **Willowridge Community Hall** 680 Acadia Drive S.E.

Cash or Cheques only please Raffle of an original framed painting Refreshments

The artists of the F.L.C. Seniors invite you to an exhibition & sale of their original art works at very reasonable prices.



To have your Family profiled (Story and Professional Pictures) in the next edition of this Community Newsletter, please send us an email to WR@great-news.ca

# When Do You Need a Financial Advisor?

by Jason Kruse, Financial Advisor

Are you a "do-it-vourselfer"? If you can take care of home repairs, lawn work and other types of maintenance by yourself, you'll save money and probably gain satisfaction. But you will almost certainly need some help in other areas of your life – one of which may be investing. In fact, you could benefit from the services of a professional financial advisor at several points in your life:

When you're starting out in your career – When you land your first "career-type" job, you will have some financial decisions to make: Should I participate in my employer's group retirement plan? (Hint: Yes!) If so, how much should I contribute? How can I juggle saving for retirement with paying off student loans? These are the types of questions you can answer with the help of a financial advisor.

When you're saving for important goals – Whether you're saving for a down payment on your first home, or for your children's post-secondary education, or for your own comfortable retirement, you'll face many choices. A financial advisor – someone with experience in helping people work toward these goals – can assist you in making the choices most appropriate for your individual situation.

When you're experiencing a personal "milestone" - Like everyone, you'll go through many major life events. Some will be joyful, such as marriage and the arrival of children, while others may be unpleasant or sad, such as divorce or the death of a loved one. But virtually all these events carry with them some type of financial component - establishing new investment accounts, purchasing sufficient insurance, naming and changing of beneficiaries, and so on. A financial advisor who truly understands you and your needs can help you make appropriate moves for all your milestones.

When you're close to retirement - As you near retirement, you'll have several issues to consider: About how much income will you need each year? How much can you afford to withdraw annually from your retirement account? A financial advisor has the tools, training and experience to explore alternatives and suggest suitable moves for you.

When you're retired - Even after you retire, you've got plenty to think about, in terms of financial moves. For one thing, you need to ensure that your investment portfolio provides you with both sufficient income for your desired lifestyle and adequate growth potential to help you stay ahead of inflation. What's the correct balance of investments for your needs? Are there investments that can provide you with rising income without exposing you to undue risk? Once you're retired, you just won't get a lot of "do-overs," so getting the right help is important.

If you're a do-it-yourselfer, you may not get it right each and every time. But you won't pay much of a price (except, perhaps in embarrassment) if that chair you built collapses under a stack of newspapers. However, you also know when it's time to call in a professional - and that's whom you need when it comes to building your financial future. So, get the assistance you need, when you need it, from a financial advisor.

### **NO TIME LIKE THE PRESENT TO KEEP YOUR FUTURE ON TRACK**

A portfolio review will help ensure your investments are keeping pace with your goals. Call or visit our office today.



#### Jason R Kruse, CFP, CIM

Financial Advisor 10417 Bonaventure Drive SE, Unit C3 Calgary, AB T2J 6Y2 403 225-0011 Member - Canadian Investor Protection Fund iason.kruse@edwardiones.com www.edwardjones.com

> Edward lones MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

# Willow Park Maple Ridge mybabysitter list

Name	Age	Contact	Course
Alissa	16	403-542-6142	Yes
Alysha	13	403-254-8539	Yes
Kaley	16	587-998-2190	Yes
Mackenzie	15	403-452-6992	Yes
Rachael	41	403-701-2647	No

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you would like to babysit in.

Calling All PARENTS find available babysitters in

**Disclaimer:** We recommend for your own peace of mind that references be checked when choosing your babysitter. This babysitter list is provided as a service to the community and is governed by the terms & conditions outlined at mybabysitter.ca.

### IN & AROUND **SCHOOLS Mapleridge Cooperative Preschool**

This month our students will be exploring units on our 5 senses and Space. The 4-year-old classes will be going to the Telus Spark Science Centre where they will have a chance to use their natural curiosity and creativity to learn more about the world around them.

The students will be off for spring break on March 27th and we will welcome them back on April 3rd.



# Mind Body Connection

Your mind and body are powerful allies. How you think can affect how you feel, and how you feel can affect your thinking.

An example of this mind-body connection is how your body responds to stress. Constant worry and stress over jobs, finances, or other problems can cause tense muscles, pain, headaches, and stomach problems. It may also lead to high blood pressure or other serious problems.

On the other hand, constant pain or a health problem like heart disease can affect your emotions. You might become depressed, anxious, and stressed, which could affect how well you treat, manage, or cope with your

But your mind can have a positive effect on your health, too. Having a positive outlook on life might help you better handle pain or stress and stay healthier than someone who is less hopeful.

#### How do your thoughts and feelings affect your health?

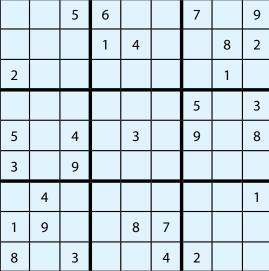
Your brain produces substances that can improve your health. These substances include endorphins, which are natural painkillers, and gamma globulin, which strengthens your immune system.

Research shows that what your brain produces depends in part on your thoughts, feelings, and expectations. If you're sick, but you have hope and a positive attitude and you believe that you'll get better, your brain is likely to produce chemicals that will boost your body's healing

Negative thoughts and emotions can keep your brain from producing some of the chemicals that help your body heal. This doesn't mean you should blame yourself for getting sick or feeling down about a health problem. Some illnesses are beyond your control. However, your thoughts and state of mind are resources you can use to get better.

For more information on mind body connection, or tips on reducing stress, visit: My Health Alberta at www. myhealth.alberta.ca

## 5 6 9



Off the Menu The tall chef's hat is called a toque

> "If one cannot enjoy reading a book over and over again, there is no use in reading it at all."

- Oscar Wilde

FIND SOLUTION ON PAGE 29





Residents of partnered communities' pay 20% less for memberships than those who reside outside partnered communities. Phone: 403-278-7542 or see www.tricocentre.ca to find out more.

#### March 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 familyfriendly. 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. Residents of communities partnered with Trico Centre (yours!) pay 20% less for a Trico Centre pass with presentation of a community association membership or payment of the Community Support Fee (which is sent to your community association.)

#### **Recession Busters**

- •The Trico Cares program offers fee assistance for passes and admissions. See www.tricocentre.ca for details. Plus, we have partnered with organizations that offer fee assistance for programs (Canadian Tire Jumpstart, KidzFirst, KidsSport.)
- Affordable swim specials: 8:30-9:30pm Monday to Saturday, just \$3/person. Sundays 6-8pm, Family Night Swim, \$3/person.

#### **Spring/Summer Program Guide**

Check out our Spring/Summer Program Guide for lots of new registered offerings for children, adults, and older adults. Swimming and skating lessons for all ages. Adult fitness options. Children's programs fro 12 months to 14 years.

**Register for Spring/Summer Programs** 

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Registration for Spring/Summer programs (including day camps) starts Monday March 6 and Tuesday, March 7 an ongoing for pass holders and begins Wednesday, March 7 for non-pass holders.

#### **Adults/Older Adults**

Included in your affordable Trico Centre pass, are more than 70 drop-in fitness programs. Choose from endurance classes with a cardiovascular focus, group resistance training, high intensity interval training, agua fitness, and mind/body classes. Options for all fitness levels and ages

#### **Families**

- Children's Drop-In activities: check out our new expanded schedule of parented drop-ins for preschoolers. Drop-In Playtime is now offered 5 times a week, Drop-In Gymnastics is 3 times a week. Plus Drop-In Crafts on Sundays, Drop 'N Go on Saturdays, and the brand new Storytime, Thursdays at 2pm. All drop-ins are free for pass holders.
- Family Night: Sunday Night is Family Night swim from 6 to 8pm. Free for pass holders; general public is \$3 per person.

#### **Children & Youth**

Spring Break Day Camps: week-long and daily camps available. Choose from Adventurer Camp for 6-8yrs or 9-12 yrs or Aqua Adventurers for 6-12 yrs, all running March 27 to 31. Daily Spring Break Camp for 6-12yrs is also available for full-day, mornings or afternoons. Precare is available from 7 to 9am and post-care from 4 to 6pm.

Trico Centre is located at 11150 Bonaventure Drive SE. Residents of partnered communities' pay 20% less passes than those who reside outside partnered communities. Phone: 403-278-7542 or see www.tricocentre.ca to find out more.

#### HOME GARDENING WITH BARBARA







# The Bad and Noxious Guys

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

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 greatgrandmother! 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.



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## Maximize your RRSP today and reap the rewards!

There are a number of strategies to consider that can help accelerate your plan using assets you have readily available and key tax planning benefits.

- 1. Remember, taking full advantage of your unused RRSP contribution room could help to build your portfolio.
- 2. Understand how much contribution room you have. Move money into your RRSP sooner rather than later.
- 3. Work your RRSP contribution into your monthly budget.

#### OVERVIEW

Year after year, many Canadians leave a key financial opportunity on the table by not contributing the maximum allowable amount into their registered retirement savings plan (RRSP). If your annual income tax assessment includes a notice from the Canada Revenue

Agency (CRA) that details how much unused contribution room you have left in your RRSP from previous years, the time to act is now.

For example, contributing \$10,000 into an RRSP that generates a 6% return, compounded annually could turn into \$57,435 over the span of just 30 years. Plus, contributing the full amount creates a larger income tax deduction that could result in a significant tax refund.

#### KNOW YOUR LIMITS

It's important to know how much contribution room you have, prior to sitting down with us to discuss your RRSP strategy. Each year, the CRA identifies your unused contribution room for the upcoming tax year on your Notice of Assessment. CRA's website can also provide that information.

#### **INVEST SMART**

It may be to your benefit to move money you currently have in savings accounts or other investments into your RRSP sooner, rather than later. Moving these dollars into your RRSP will not only result in a reduction of your annual tax bill - but it also allows you to maximize growth inside your RRSP, without generating immediate taxable income. It's important to remember that interest earned on savings accounts and both realized and unrealized capital gains on non-registered investments, will be taxed prior to when they are moved into your RRSP. You can also withdraw from a tax-free savings account (TFSA) to make your RRSP contribution. Any withdrawals from your TFSA are added to the available TFSA contribution room for the following year.

#### INVEST REGULARLY

Consider working your RRSP contribution into your budget. Our monthly investment plan automatically deducts a specified amount from your savings or chequing account on a regular basis, and invests it into funds held inside your RRSP. Monthly investment plans can be customized to work best for you. We will work with you to help determine the appropriate dollar amount and frequency.

#### **CONSIDER THE BENEFITS** OF BORROWING

In many cases, borrowing to take full advantage of RRSP contribution room makes sense. Maximizing your RRSP contribution now offers immediate tax savings this year, and taxdeferred potential growth for many years to come. Using this strategy can make it beneficial to borrow for a short period to maximize your plan. \*\* As your Consultant, I can help you determine whether a loan fits into your plan by looking at the following factors:

- · Your age: The impact of compound growth increases depending on the time that money is invested. While borrowing to invest may have more impact at a younger age, I can prepare an illustration that shows it's never too late to save for your retirement.
- · Your ability to repay: We would never recommend that you borrow more than you could possibly repay, because it could make it difficult to save for next year's RRSP contribution. Together, we will create the right plan to make sure you can pay off the balance of your loan quickly and then start a regular investment plan to automatically take care of future RRSP contributions. In addition, contributing to an RRSP generates an income tax deduction that may result in a significant tax refund that could be used to help paydown a portion of the loan almost immediately.
- · Your ability to borrow: An RRSP loan or line of credit available through Solutions Banking™, like any other use of credit, will increase your debt service ratio (the percentage of your monthly income that goes to pay off debts) and lenders rely on this ratio to determine your loan eligibility. When preparing your plan, we'll be sure to take your complete financial picture and other monthly commitments into account.

# **BUSINESS CLASSIFIEDS**

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**NEPTUNE PLUMBING & HEATING LTD:** Oualified journeymen plumbers/gasfitters, very experienced in Willow Park and Maple Ridge. Upfront pricing. Reliable, conscientious, fully guaranteed. Mon - Fri 8:00 am - 5:00 pm. 24 hour emergency service call 403-255-7938. "Showering you with great service."

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**NEIGHBOURHOOD CONFLICT?** Community Mediation Calgary Society (CMCS) is a no cost mediation and conflict coaching service that can help you resolve problems and restore peace! We help neighbours be neighbours again! www.communitymediation.ca, 403-269-2707.

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# COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### Deadline - 1st of each month for the next month's publication Contact news@great-news.ca

- ◆ Free announcements: lost/found, household items for sale, wanted, garage sale, student/senior services, etc.
- ◆ Forty word limit

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** The Calgary Performing Arts Festival seeks volunteers for the 2017 Festival, April 18 to May 6 at Mount Royal University. Positions are available mornings, afternoons, evenings and Saturdays. For more information contact Holly at 403-283-6009 or volunteer@cpafestival.ca.



We hope you are having a great early spring. At Calgary Humane Society our dogs are enjoying the first few sprigs of green in our dog park (though our volunteers are less enthused about the early spring mud!). Spring also means that Easter is just around the corner and our school field trips have been asking some great questions about rabbits! Today, we wanted to share 5 of the best questions we've heard!

- 1. How much work is a rabbit? Like all pets, rabbits take a lot of time and attention. Rabbits need regular feeding, cleaning, grooming, playtime, vet care and attention to be happy and healthy. Some people think that rabbits are OK to be left alone at home for a weekend, but this is not true, they need care every day.
- 2. How long can rabbits live? Rabbits come in many breeds and different breeds have different lifespans (just like dogs!). An average rabbit lifespan is 8-12 years, but at the shelter we have met people with rabbits who are more than 16 years old!
- 3. What should rabbits eat? Rabbits have a food pyramid just like people! Rabbits should have access to fresh hay all of the time. In addition to hay, rabbits at the shelter eat rabbit pellets every day and get vegetables as a treat from our awesome bunny huggers. Your rabbit's vet is the best person to tell you how much a rabbit should eat.
- 4. Do rabbits need to go to the vet? Absolutely! Rabbits should have regular check-ups. To get your rabbit a check-up you will need to find an "exotics" veterinarian – they have special training about how to look after rabbits!
- 5. Are rabbits a good pet? For some people rabbits are a great pet, but just like any animal they are not the best choice for everyone. If your family is looking for a pet our adoption counselors would love to help you find the perfect new friend!

A big thanks to all of the classrooms that have visited the shelter and asked us such good questions! If you or your family is interested in learning more about rabbits and other pets, we would love to meet you! We have just finished renovating our rabbit room at the shelter and our adorable bunnies cannot wait to show off their new home. You can visit any time during our opening hours which are available at www.calgaryhumane.ca.

Happy spring everyone!



#### March 5 First Quarter (waxing)

Moonlight is strong, encouraging leaf growth. It is a good time for planting, especially two days before the full moon. Take cuttings from plants you wish to propagate. Fertilize as close to the full moon as possible.

#### March 12 Full Moon (waning)

As the moon wanes, the energy is drawing down. Strong gravitational pull but moonlight is decreasing putting energy into the roots.

#### March 20 Last Quarter (waning)

Decreased gravitational pull and moonlight. A resting period. Take cuttings from plants you wish to propagate. Dry herbs, flowers and fruit. If you want to control growth or encourage rooting, perform the necessary activities during the waning moon.

#### March 27 New Moon (waxing)

Increasing moonlight, lunar gravity pulls water up encouraging plant growth and proliferation. Grafting, transplanting, re-potting, and watering. Gather herbs used for essential oils. Oil content is more concentrated at this time.



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# Hamsters, Gerbils, and (the best) **Guinea Pigs!**

Small rodent-sized pets, otherwise affectionately known as pocket pets, include mice, rats, gerbils, hamsters and Guinea pigs. These little animals are not expensive to maintain and can be an entertaining pet, especially if space is limited. The basic requirements of most pocket pet species are similar and the life expectancy for most species is in the two to four year range; except for the Guinea pig which has a life expectancy of eight years.

Pocket pets should be kept in cages specially designed for their needs or aquariums with a good wire top. Openings in the wire should be small enough to prevent escape and not too large to allow a foot to be caught or twisted. Surfaces should be metal, smooth plastic or glass to allow proper cleaning. Cleaning should be done weekly with tunnels and small corners scrubbed with a bottlebrush. Chlorhexidine based cleaners are best. Many products make good bedding but avoid cedar shavings which can cause respiratory and skin problems, and never use straw.

Feed a commercial diet appropriate for your pet. Buy in small quantities and store food in sealed dark containers to ensure freshness, and that vitamin content is not diminished by exposure to light and air. Small amounts of fresh fruits and vegetables should be provided daily. Avoid abrupt changes in diet. Avoid iceberg lettuce, fruits with pits; and outdoor grasses or dandelions possibly exposed to chemicals. Clean food dishes daily and use dishes that cannot be tipped. Use an inverted water bottle and change the water daily. Monitor your pet's stools and urine for amount or change in appearance. This could be your first clue if a problem is developing.

Exercise is important, especially to Guinea pigs. Buy the largest cage you can and add the appropriate sized

wheel for hamsters and gerbils. Exercise balls are fun but can be dangerous; I once saw a Guinea pig left in a ball in direct sunlight dead of hyperthermia. Gentle handling allows you to monitor your pet for illness and reduces stress as your pet becomes comfortable with you.

A nest box is nice so long as condensation doesn't form inside and appropriate bedding allows air circulation. Toys make a more stimulating environment. Paper towel rolls, wooden spools, and most commercial products are great.

A hamster is probably the favorite pocket pet of the pet industry but it is a solitary territorial creature. Only get one! Guinea pigs, my personal favorite, need a much larger cage but it can be uncovered. Pigs can't climb, and they are social animals, so get two and you can have them spayed or neutered. Guinea pigs are prone to scurvy, a vitamin C deficiency, and they must be given a daily source of fresh fruit and vegetables. Guinea pigs need fresh hay, preferably Timothy hay, to aid digestion. I really like rats and they make wonderful smart pets. I had pet white rats at university, but unfortunately, it is illegal to own a pet rat in Alberta.

Obviously there is a bit to learn if you get one of these "pets in your pocket" so buy a book or get on the internet and learn about your prospective choices before purchasing. Our local Calgary Humane Society has pocket pets for adoption. Many veterinarians now treat these small exotic pets routinely as our knowledge of their care has increased exponentially in recent years.

Jennifer L. Scott B.Sc., D.V.M.



# Guides Canada BLACKFOOT DISTRICT

#### Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Spring is just around the corner and our Sparks, Brownies, Guides, Pathfinders & Rangers will be selling yummy sandwich Girl Guide cookies beginning the last week of March and first week of April. Look for us in your neighborhood or at a local retail location. They are only \$5.00 a box and support our many activities.

Blackfoot District held a super roller skating event at Lloyd's! Everyone enjoyed themselves with laps around the rink and dancing to the hokey-pokey!

The Spark units will be attending STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) Day, completing "Canada 150" challenge, have a visit from a GG music trainer and be visiting a vet.

The Brownie units went to Brownie Academy at Camp Jubilee, are having a movie night, visiting the library and learning about the weather and our feathered friends.

The Guide units will be busy with camping, snowshoeing, rock climbing and St. Patrick's Day celebrations and cookie selling in March.

The Pathfinder & Ranger units had a baking contest, are going bowling, cross country skiing, will be attending Calgary Area spring Pathfinder/Ranger camp and going to Alberta Girl's Parliament in Edmonton.

Guiding is a great place to build new friendships and experience new challenges. Why not give us a try.





If you have any questions regarding Guiding or registration please call Calgary Area Girl Guides at 403-283-8348 or email ggcinfo@calgarygirlguides.com.

**Girl Greatness Starts Here!** 









**Helping Your Child but Letting Them Lead** 

It can take some time for many young children to get into the routine of using a toilet.

By Doua N Horner, Alberta Health Services

Making the switcheroo from diapers to the toilet is a big, albeit sometimes messy, milestone for children and parents alike. For toddlers, learning to use a toilet is about being ready, controlling muscles and getting acquainted with an enormous porcelain artifact that makes loud and unpredictable gurgling noises. The toilet can appear to children as a powerful, portal-like device—many fear getting flushed into oblivion.

As toddlers are learning to exercise control, parents wrestle with a lack of control. Petra Debow, a parent educator with the Family Centre in Lethbridge, suggests that patience sets the foundation for a potty-positive experience.

"Most children learn to use the toilet between the ages of two and three," says

Debow, adding that every child learns at their own pace. Wait for your child to be curious about the toilet and to be aware they're peeing or pooping.

Catherine Young—a nurse and mother expecting her third child in February—says her first two children's education in toileting began only "when they had an interest in it and they seemed ready." Toddlers will also express discomfort at having a soiled diaper. In many respects, the bathroom becomes a realm where the child takes the lead.

Attentiveness is crucial for parents. Watch for clues that your child needs to go, such as stopping what they are doing, fidgeting or saying: "Oh, oh." But parents also need to feel prepared. Debow recommends setting aside time. If you have relatives visiting, a big deadline at work or are in the middle of a kitchen renovation, you may want to wait. There's no need to rush.

"Prepare yourself mentally and put all the other things aside for a couple of weeks until it's dealt with," Debow says.

Plan to help your child with this developmental leap when you can be enthusiastic and supportive about the trek from diaper to toilet.

Young says she also borrowed several books from her local library—she recommends Once Upon a Potty by Alona Frankel in particular—after her kids showed interest in the toilet. She and her husband also made the bathroom more familiar and less intimidating.

It can take some time for many young children to get into the routine of using a toilet, explains Debow. And staying dry at night often takes longer.

If you and your child try toileting for two weeks and make little progress or your child is resisting, Debow suggests a break. "You don't want to push it so it turns into a negative thina."



### **Women's English and Social** Group

Improve your spoken English and meet new women in your community with the New Friends and Neighbourhood Groups program. Drop in at one of our weekly groups throughout the city. No cost, no immigration requirements and no minimum English requirement. Free childcare provided for children 6 months to 6 years old. Visit www.ciwa-online.com for group locations and times or contact Debra Colley at 403-444-1752 or debrac@ciwa-online.com.



Last 12 Months Maple Ridge
MLS Real Estate Sale Price Update

	, I	
	Average Asking Price	Average Sold Price
January 2017	\$497,450	\$471,500
December 2016	\$850,000	\$771,800
November 2016	\$569,000	\$550,000
October 2016	\$499,900	\$487,500
September 2016	\$537,450	\$518,500
August 2016	\$0	\$0
July 2016	\$0	\$0
June 2016	\$557,450	\$520,000
May 2016	\$599,900	\$587,500
April 2016	\$564,900	\$551,250
March 2016	\$539,900	\$525,000
February 2016	\$619,839	\$595,000

Last 12 Months Maple Ridge
MLS Real Estate Number of Listings Update

The Trodice Lotato Training of Eletinge operate		
No. New Properties	No. Properties Sold	
4	2	
1	1	
2	1	
3	1	
4	2	
2	0	
2	0	
1	2	
3	1	
3	4	
5	3	
5	3	
	No. New Properties  4  1 2 3 4 2 2 1 3 3 5	

To view more detailed information that comprise the above MLS averages please visit **maple\_ridge.great-news.ca** 



Last 12 Months Willow Park
MLS Real Estate Sale Price Update

	Average Asking Price	Average Sold Price
January 2017	\$649,900.00	\$637,000.00
December 2016	\$744,950.00	\$713,388.50
November 2016	\$435,000.00	\$430,000.00
October 2016	\$482,400.00	\$457,500.00
September 2016	\$579,900.00	\$567,000.00
August 2016	\$574,900.00	\$580,500.00
July 2016	\$587,450.00	\$569,000.00
June 2016	\$459,000.00	\$439,000.00
May 2016	\$496,200.00	\$491,250.00
April 2016	\$694,000.00	\$667,250.00
March 2016	\$542,000.00	\$524,000.00
February 2016	\$599,700.00	\$580,000.00

Last 12 Months Willow Park
MLS Real Estate Number of Listings Update

	No. New Properties	No. Properties Sold
January 2017	13	5
December 2016	3	2
November 2016	6	3
October 2016	7	8
September 2016	5	5
August 2016	7	6
July 2016	8	8
June 2016	8	5
May 2016	6	4
April 2016	7	2
March 2016	7	2
February 2016	7	8

To view more detailed information that comprise the above MLS averages please visit **willow\_park.great-news.ca** 

# IN & AROUND SCHOOLS

#### St. Bonaventure

With the beginning of winter behind us and the Lenten season upon us, St. Bonaventure celebrated Shrove Tuesday with pancakes for all the staff and students. Our school community is always invited to join us on our spiritual journey beginning with Ash Wednesday and participating in the Stations of the Cross prior to Easter.

Academics goes beyond the classroom. Teachers have had the opportunity to develop themselves professionally through two recent professional days and the annual teachers' convention. Students have also experienced some extracurricular opportunities through such activities as Junior Achievement, guest speakers and a guest dance teacher in PE class.

Athletically, the basketball season has been in full swing with the playoff run ending with city finals at the beginning of March. Good luck to both our senior teams as they pursue 'March madness'. A group of dedicated dancers is preparing to take part in the district's Danceworks evening at the beginning of April. Danceworks is a celebration of all that is fun about dance and movement. We would encourage you to get active with your families by enjoying basketball (#126) and dancing (#78), two of the PartipACTION 150 Play List.



#### **Book Discussion Groups**

Our NEW Book Discussion Groups happen at every community library and feature new books and topics every month. No need to register—just drop in and travel the world of ideas with your neighbours! Visit worldofideas.ca for details.

#### Bill's Book Café with David Ward

Take in *Bill's Book Café* with Library CEO Bill Ptacek and CKUA's David Ward. It's guaranteed to be a lively discussion of *Chronicles: Volume One* by Bob Dylan. Memorial Park Library

March 21 | 7:00 pm

#### **Download and Enjoy:**

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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 indispensible for decision-making, and the benefits of preregistering 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!



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Dressed for Success

**New Series** 

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We invite you to join us Sunday mornings

Jeff and Audrey Loewen



He said "lay hands on the sick and they will recover." Recovery is God's will and plan for you. If you want to be healed we are praying for the sick Sunday mornings.

We are continuing our series DRESSED FOR SUCCESS from February and learning how to rise above the darkness and fear of this world and to enjoy the freedom and protection of the light of life.

We invite you to our **Easter Resurrection Sunday Service** 

April 16, 2017 at 680 Acadia Dr SE

Visit us at www.arisefc.org

www.arisefc.org

680 Acadia Dr SE (Willow Ridge Community Center)

**Sunday Service** 10:15 am

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Hello Neiahbours!

March is here and your government is working hard to support Alberta families. We know that job creation and job security are the most pressing concerns right now - you want to know that you will be able to build and maintain a happy and stable life for yourself and your family. Your government is focused on job creation and building a brighter future for all Albertans.

Alberta has been and will continue to be an oil and gas province, with our energy sector being a main source of income for many Albertans. In order to revive our oil and gas economy, after the global drop in the price of oil, we needed to break through Alberta's land lock so that we can sell our oil around the world. Through our government's hard work with other provinces, and a focus on both environment and the economy, our Oil and Gas industry now has approval for three new pipelines. This is excellent news for Alberta. These pipelines mean more work for our Energy industry, and will help bolster jobs in other sectors.

If you are looking for resources to find employment, please visit www.alis.alberta.ca, this website has information to help with your career path - please contact my office if you have any questions.

If you are considering a career change, or if your kids are approaching college or university age, we know that the financial pressures of increasing tuition fees can be a real concern for families. That is why we've frozen tuition fees for the last two years, and are working with post-secondary institutions to find ways to keep university and college affordable for Alberta families like yours. We're currently reviewing the overall funding model for colleges and universities, and would love to hear your input - visit www. tuitionreview.alberta.ca to share your thoughts and ideas.

In order to support our economy, high-quality and affordable child-care must be more widely available to Alberta families. This is why we've launched a new Child-Care Pilot program, which will create 1,000 new child-care spaces with 230 new child-care jobs. The program will focus on addressing gaps in the existing system, including flexible schedules for parents doing shift work, support for children with diverse needs, and easy-to-access location - all within a \$25/day fee and with a focus on early childhood development. The pilot locations will be announced in mid-2017, and we will use these new spaces as a model for other programs over the coming years.

If you have questions about these initiatives or anything else our government is doing, I would welcome you to join us during the upcoming Office Open House on Saturday, March 18th from 2-4pm. Chat with your neighbours and friends over coffee and a snack. Bring your questions and join the conversation.

As always, my staff and I are here to help and hear your feedback. You can reach us by email at Calgary. Acadia@ assembly.ab.ca, by phoning 403-640-1363 or visiting #10.8318 Fairmount Dr SF.

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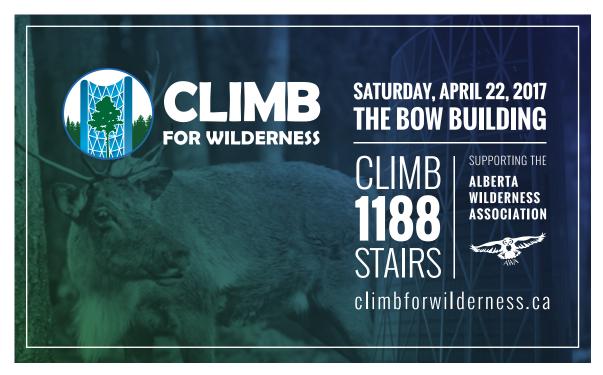
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