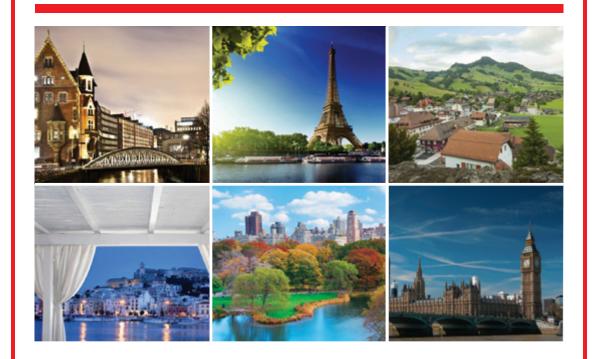
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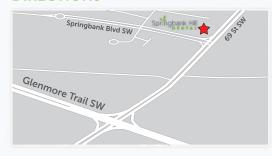
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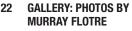






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Calgary HEALTH LINK 24/7	811
Calgary Police – Non Emergency	403-266-1234
Calgary Women's Emergency Shelter	403-234-7233
Child Abuse Hotline	1-800-387-5437
Kids Help Line	1-800-668-6868
Child Safe Canada	403-202-5900
Distress/Crisis Line	403-266-4357
ENMAX – Power Trouble	403-514-6100
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## Springbank Hill Real Estate Update

Last 12 Months Springbank Hill MLS Real Estate Sale Price Update

	Average Asking Price	Average Sold Price
January 2017	\$689,925	\$686,000
December 2016	\$919,900	\$882,888
November 2016	\$667,350	\$648,000
October 2016	\$733,500	\$703,500
September 2016	\$774,900	\$765,000
August 2016	\$939,000	\$885,000
July 2016	\$792,450	\$782,750
June 2016	\$769,950	\$762,250
May 2016	\$738,950	\$711,600
April 2016	\$819,900	\$795,000
March 2016	\$743,000	\$720,000
February 2016	\$724,000	\$696,000

#### Last 12 Months Springbank Hill MLS Real Estate Number of Listings Update

	No. New Properties	No. Properties Sold
January 2017	16	8
December 2016	4	5
November 2016	10	8
October 2016	17	12
September 2016	15	17
August 2016	21	8
July 2016	14	16
June 2016	28	20
May 2016	17	12
April 2016	19	11
March 2016	18	18
February 2016	20	7

To view more detailed information that comprise the above MLS averages please visit springbank\_hill.great-news.ca

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# Is Our Investment in Daylight a Rip-off?

by Vanessa Gillard

Daylight saving time is a bit of a contentious topic in some circles. It is always a bit of a pain to reset the stove or coffee maker and if you have kids it's a new bedtime routine struggle all over again, twice a year. Likely no one has avoided a schedule mix-up or a tardy appearance due to this bi-annual occurrence, but the advent of the smart phone and other smart home technologies, which change the hour difference automatically, has perhaps alleviated many of those spring and autumn woes for the most part.

On its face the purpose of daylight saving time (DST) is to give us more light and time in the day to get things done; human beings tend to operate better during daylight hours and certainly many appreciate the opportunity to take in a little more vitamin D, particularly during our long Canadian winters. But the origins of DST are actually a little more pragmatic than simply avoiding seasonal affective disorder.

Benjamin Franklin first suggested the concept in 1748 and found it was met with little enthusiasm at the time. but a couple hundred years later, during WWI, the con-

cept was popularized among Germans to save precious coal during that age of austerity. The concept guickly caught on and made it to some Canadian cities as early as 1916, though there has never been a consensus on whether the practice is useful or not, and Saskatchewan has never been on board.

The ever-efficient Germans introduced DST to reduce fuel cost. The gain or loss, respectively, of that hour was intended to lower use of artificial lighting and heating in the evening, but it's debatable how much was saved, as more was often needed in the morning anyway. A little over a century later the reports of heart attacks, road related accidents, and even spikes in suicide rates following DST have not made much of an argument for the century-old tradition, and the amount of light many Canadians see the next day can be negligible.

It would seem there is little in the way of reason to explain this circadian rhythm disruptor to the average person in 2017, but most Canadians will dutifully set their clocks forward on March 12th this month, like it or not.



Aspen Woods Real Estate Update Last 12 Months Aspen Woods MLS Real Estate Sale Price Update

	Average Asking Price	Average Sold Price
January 2017	\$736,250	\$742,500
December 2016	\$1,234,450	\$1,157,400
November 2016	\$888,800	\$867,000
October 2016	\$812,500	\$808,750
September 2016	\$976,944	\$940,944
August 2016	\$869,000	\$869,000
July 2016	\$986,500	\$967,500
June 2016	\$879,900	\$860,000
May 2016	\$884,394	\$854,000
April 2016	\$1,047,000	\$1,022,500
March 2016	\$903,950	\$882,500
February 2016	\$1,250,000	\$1,060,000

#### Last 12 Months Aspen Woods MLS Real Estate Number of Listings Update

	No. New Properties	No. Properties Sold
January 2017	14	6
December 2016	1	8
November 2016	10	11
October 2016	14	6
September 2016	24	10
August 2016	9	5
July 2016	14	12
June 2016	14	15
May 2016	23	16
April 2016	19	14
March 2016	14	10
February 2016	15	9

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

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## West Springs Real Estate Update

Last 12 Months West Springs
MLS Real Estate Sale Price Update

	Average Asking Price	Average Sold Price
January 2017	\$779,000	\$770,000
December 2016	\$814,900	\$803,000
November 2016	\$519,900	\$500,000
October 2016	\$769,900	\$738,000
September 2016	\$674,000	\$649,000
August 2016	\$679,900	\$683,750
July 2016	\$749,900	\$786,000
June 2016	\$685,000	\$682,300
May 2016	\$614,450	\$587,000
April 2016	\$798,000	\$770,000
March 2016	\$549,900	\$537,250
February 2016	\$744,000	\$720,000

#### Last 12 Months West Springs MLS Real Estate Number of Listings Update

	No. New Properties	No. Properties Sold
January 2017	23	5
December 2016	4	5
November 2016	12	14
October 2016	18	15
September 2016	28	9
August 2016	16	10
July 2016	24	15
June 2016	29	20
May 2016	17	16
April 2016	19	17
March 2016	23	16
February 2016	19	11

To view more detailed information that comprise the above MLS averages please visit west\_springs.great-news.ca

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## Cougar Ridge Real Estate Update

Last 12 Months Cougar Ridge MLS Real Estate Sale Price Update

THE THOU Estate Sale I HOU S Sale				
	Average Asking Price	Average Sold Price		
January 2017	\$669,900	\$650,000		
December 2016	\$536,350	\$519,938		
November 2016	\$554,000	\$542,500		
October 2016	\$544,400	\$522,500		
September 2016	\$574,900	\$562,500		
August 2016	\$580,000	\$569,300		
July 2016	\$574,800	\$548,000		
June 2016	\$622,500	\$612,000		
May 2016	\$561,950	\$543,500		
April 2016	\$559,000	\$544,250		
March 2016	\$525,000	\$520,000		
February 2016	\$509.900	\$493,500		

#### Last 12 Months Cougar Ridge MLS Real Estate Number of Listings Update

	No. New Properties	No. Properties Sold
January 2017	8	3
December 2016	1	6
November 2016	10	11
October 2016	13	8
September 2016	12	9
August 2016	8	5
July 2016	15	17
June 2016	10	9
May 2016	11	12
April 2016	14	8
March 2016	11	21
February 2016	12	5

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

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**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 Doug 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.

## BRAIN SUDOKU

		5	6			7		9
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3		9						
	4							1
1	9			8	7			
8		3			4	2		

#### FIND SOLUTION ON PAGE 32

"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 thing."

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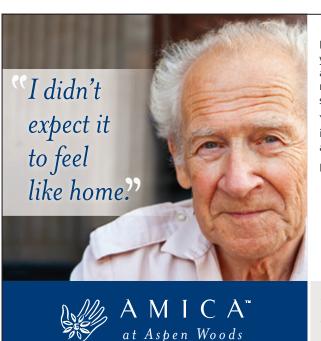
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Alexi	16	403-836-5291	Yes
Alice	16	403-998-7696	Yes
Andrea	41	403-796-7840	Yes
Angelica	21	403-805-2008	Yes
Beckie	21	403-660-4243	Yes
Brodie	15	403-805-1469	Yes
Caleigh	13	403-470-3234	Yes
Christoph	25	587-998-6172	Yes
Eireland	14	403-616-9761	Yes
Ellen	15	403-240-0165	Yes
Emily	13	403-462-5771	Yes
Gia	16	403-710-8301	Yes
Glenda	37	403-478-9693	No
Harvinder Kaur	32	587-830-6217	Yes
ljeoma	15	587-580-7791	Yes
Jenny	16	403-890-6588	Yes
Jonathan	16	403-532-2668	Yes
Kashish	16	403-909-6936	No
Kat	17	403-835-4547	Yes
Kosar	18	403-402-4298	No
Lauren	17	587-215-6198	Yes
Madison	13	403-830-9326	Yes
Marites	41	403-891-3771	No
Matthew	20	403-472-7512	Yes
Megan	17	403-970-6836	Yes
Melanie	14	403-532-2668	Yes
Michelle	17	587-891-8670	No
Mikayla	13	403-686-6078	No
Natasha	26	403-408-9651	Yes
Nikolay	16	403-244-4776	Yes
Paige	15	403-241-0487	Yes
Patricia	15	403-804-4202	Yes
Qin Rui	18	587-830-5617	No
Rowan	19	587-707-2542	Yes
Sarah	17	587-896-8519	Yes
Sophie	29	403-990-8311	Yes
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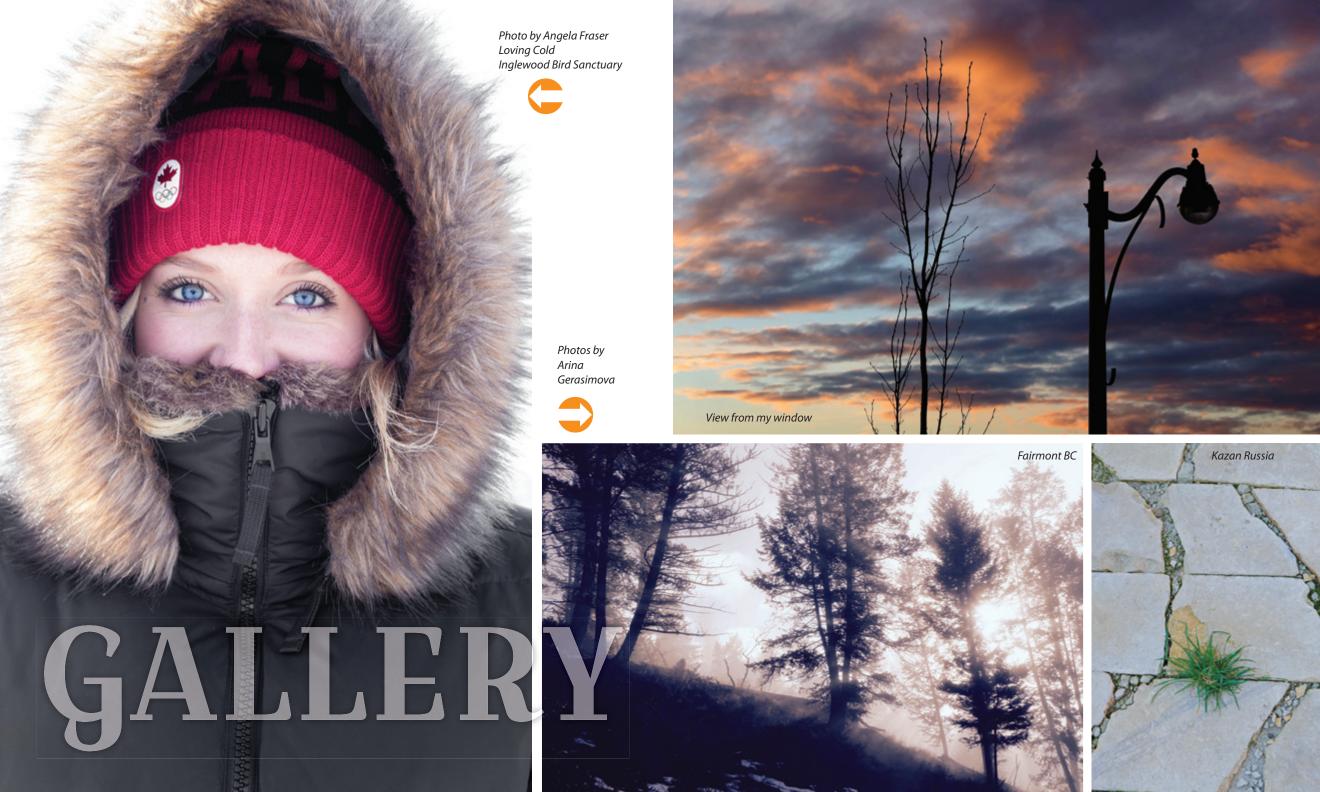
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# GALLERY Photos by Murray Flotre MD









by Cindy DeJager

#### Fancy Ferns

I love, love, love ferns!

Ferns thrive in medium filtered light to low light and reguire humidity, but with a little bit of effort you can successfully nurture these beautiful plants. A few important tips to get you started: pot your fern in a plastic container rather than clay because the plastic will retain moisture. Choose a peat moss laden soil mixture with lots of organic matter in it. Choose north facing light for your fern.

Here are some ferns that can be found in most garden centres:

#### **Crocodile Fern**

Microsorium musifolium 'Crocodyllus' Medium to bright light and high humidity May grow 4 feet tall and wide.

#### **Lemon Button Fern**

Nephrolepis cordifolia 'Lemon Button' Medium to bright light and high humidity May grow 3 feet tall and 4 feet wide.

#### Maidenhair Fern

Adiantum raddianum 'Fritz Luth' Medium to bright light and high humidity May grow 2 feet tall and wide.

#### Rabbit's Foot

Humata tyermanii

Medium to bright light and high humidity May grow 2 feet tall and wide.

#### Staghorn Fern

FYI: Staghorns don't need to be grown in soil so you often see them mounted and grown on walls or posts. Platvcerium bifurcatum Medium to bright light and high humidity May grow 6 feet tall and wide.

#### **Bird's Nest Fern**

Asplenium nidus

Medium to bright light and high humidity May grow 5 feet tall and wide (but usually 1-2 feet indoors).

#### **Silver Brake Fern**

Pteris cretica 'Mayi' Medium to bright light and high humidity May grow 2 feet tall and wide.

#### **Kangaroo Paw Fern**

Microsorium diversifolium Medium to bright light and high humidity May grow 2 feet tall and wide.

#### **Boston Fern**

Most common indoor fern. Nephrolepis exaltata 'Fluffy Ruffles' Medium to bright light and high humidity May grow 7 feet tall and wide (but usually 2-3 feet tall and wide indoors).

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# The Gray Partridge

Article by J.G. Turner Photo by Daniel Arndt (no changes made from https://www.flickr. com/photos/ubermoogle/18050433104/)

The Gray Partridge, also known as the Hungarian Partridge, was introduced into Alberta when 70 pairs were imported from Hungary and released in 1908 near Midnapore. The smallest of Alberta's game birds, the Hungarian Partridge has an average length of 12 in./32 cm, a wingspan of 21 in./54.5 cm wingspan, and a weight of 15.6 oz./435 grams. Its neck and tail are short, its body is stout and its wings are short and rounded. This bird lives up to its name with grey legs and a grey bill as well a dark u-shaped patch on its belly, a rusty face and chestnut bards on its flanks. This game bird is the only partridge whose breast is decorated with fine wavy lines (vermiculated) of black, white and brown. A reddish brown tail and unmarked, chestnut outer wing feathers can be seen in flight.

#### **Fun Facts:**

- Originally found in Europe and Asia, this game bird was brought to live on flat agricultural land in southern British Columbia, south central Saskatchewan and Alberta.
- The Gray Partridge lives in grassland and parkland regions of Alberta but there is also a separated population in the Peace River area.

- Its habitat is open grassland, farmland and grain fields, which have an adjacent area of woody cover for hiding in. It prefers to live on the border between scrubland and areas of cultivation.
- Although this bird can fly, it prefers to spend most of its time on the ground foraging for seeds.
- The Hungarian Partridge is a ground nesting bird, creating a grass lined nest hollow in long grass or under a bush.
- The hen produces some of the largest clutches of any bird species, averaging 16-18 and can lay up to 22 eggs at one time!
- · Prior to courting, males engage in prolonged battles to establish breeding territories.
- · When it is flushed, it explodes from cover with a clatter of wings and rapid cackle, taking a low and fast flight path

If you find an injured or orphaned Gray Partridge or other wild bird or animal, please contact the Calgary Wildlife Rehabilitation Society at 403-239-2488 for tips, instructions and advice, or look at the website at www.calgarywildlife. org for more information.









I heard that if someone calls themselves a "contractor," they don't need to have a licence to provide property management services. Is that true?

No, that's not true. The truth is it doesn't matter what a person calls themselves. If they are providing property management services and they are not the owner of the property or an employee of the owner, they require a licence from the Real Estate Council of Alberta (RECA).

The *Real Estate Act*, which RECA administers, defines property management as:

- leasing, negotiating, approving or offering to lease, negotiate or approve a lease or rental of real estate;
- collecting or offering or attempting to collect money payable for the use of real estate;
- holding money received in connection with a lease or rental of real estate; and
- advertising, negotiating or any other act, directly or indirectly for the purpose of furthering the activities described in items 1-3.

Licensed property managers can find suitable tenants, deal with nuisance tenants, draft lease agreements, and regularly inspect and maintain property on behalf of a property owner. It is up to property managers and the property owners to negotiate the specific tasks the property manager will provide, but ultimately, before providing property management services, the property manager needs a licence.

Property manager licensing provides vital protection for property owners. Individuals must complete comprehensive education before becoming licensed as a property manager, they must also provide a Certified Criminal Record Check to RECA prior to receiving a licence, and there are ongoing education requirements.

If a property owner is working with a licensed property manager, they have the added protection of the Consumer Compensation Fund. The Fund compensates consumers who suffer a financial loss as a result of fraud, breach of trust, or a failure to disburse or account for money held in trust by an industry member in connection with a real estate trade, mortgage deal, or property management services.

If you work with an unlicensed property manager, and the property manager disappears and takes rental payments or damage deposits with them, your only recourse is through the courts.

As a property owner, you're not required to hire someone to manage your rental or investment property, but if you do, take steps to protect yourself. Ensure that the company and individual you hire are licensed to provide property management services in Alberta. You can check if someone is licensed through RECA's website at www.reca.ca.

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





#### 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 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 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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#### West Hillhurst

For the 150th Birthday of Canada, the West Hillhurst Green Committee is opening a series of garden talks that anyone across the City is invited to attend. To register go to: http://www.westhillhurst.com/whca-greencommittee.

We have great surprises in store for you! **SAVE the DATES!** It's going to be a blast... Submitted by Chris Koper

## March 15<sup>th</sup> – Growing Great Garden Soil

(6:30 - 8:30pm)

- Garden Soil what it is, how to get it, and keep it for a healthy harvest:
- Preparing beds so you can get gardening early;
- Dig versus no dig the controversy explained
- Testing your own soil:
- Including doing a jar test for soil composition

## SUDOKU

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### March 21st – Lyndon Penner – Gardening Rockstar and Expert (6:30 - 8:30pm)

- Are milkweeds really weedy
- Are they suitable for Alberta gardens
- Are some better than others
- Trying green flowers in your garden

MILKWEED & THEIR RELATIVES: (One variety has been named 2017 Perennial of the year) With the increased interest in pollinators and how we can help them, many gardeners are discovering milkweeds (Asclepias) for the first time! Their popularity is increasing so much that one species (with the pretty common name of butterfly weed) has just been named the 2017 perennial of the year! Not only are the flowers beautiful and the seedpods interesting, milkweeds are the only plants that monarch butterflies can use as the host for their caterpillars.

#### **GREEN FLOWERS:**

Gardeners are always interested in bright, vibrant colors but we usually think of green as being reserved for foliage and stems. In recent years, there has been a great deal of interest in plants with "green" blossoms! Have you tried any in your garden? They can add a fascinating depth to a cut flower arrangement or add some spice to the garden in unexpected ways. There are green flowered annuals, perennials and even shrubs! If you're looking for a way to add something fun and maybe even a little peculiar to your garden, you're likely to find something really interesting here!

If you are interested in adding plants to your garden that are both gorgeous and helpful, you'll not want to miss this presentation! There will be Milkweeds available for purchase to save the Monarch Butterflies and giveaways to celebrate Canada's 150th Birthday!

### April 4<sup>th</sup> – What Grows Best Here? (6:30 - 8:30pm)

- What plants are the best crops for Calgary
- Annuals edibles and flowers
- Perennial edibles to consider in the community garden:
- Herbs;
- · Greens:
- Fruit
- Role of pollinator plants
- Invasive plants and others to avoid

## May 2<sup>nd</sup>- Growing through Techniques and Systems (6:30 – 8:30pm)

- Planting techniques:
- square foot gardening, using your space wisely
- Containers
- Companion planting
- Crop rotation
- · Seedlings: buying, hardening off, planting and protectina
- Tomatoes and potatoes
- Planning the garden
- Creating a custom planting plan for your garden bed

## June 3<sup>rd</sup> – What's happening in the Garden (Saturday 10:00am – Noon)

- Thinning and staking
- Weeding recognizing early emerging weeds and eliminate perennial weeds;
- Protecting the soil and plants from the weather
- Early harvesting & succession planting
- Bugs and other problems:
- A match the problem to the cause exercise

#### July 29th- Don't Forget about the Garden now!

#### (Saturday 10:00am – Noon)

- · Water conservation methods: mulching, diffusion wa-
- Urban critter control, including human activities
- Harvesting- garlic and other mid-season crops
- Cover crops
- Early fall crop protection
- Preventing food crop waste sharing the bounty

## September 9th- Fall is Coming! (Saturday 10:00am – Noon)

- Seed Saving
- Protection against frosts and prolonging the harvest including cold frames:
- Harvesting techniques -simple preserving
- The composting system

### October 14th - Putting the Garden to bed (Saturday 10:00am - Noon)

- Soil amending the soil now rather than in the spring.
- Fall crop planting and seeding: Garlic and seeds
- Planning for next year: crop rotation, enhancing the garden
- Leaving the garden looking beautiful and cared for throughout the winter months

## December 5<sup>th</sup> – Seasonal Celebration (6:30pm - 9:00pm)

- Making a large outdoor arrangement out of seasonal greens and decorating it
- Care of the arrangement so it lasts into spring
- Celebrating the year with fellowship
- Includes all materials and planter

Gardening adds years to your life and life to your years. ~Unknown

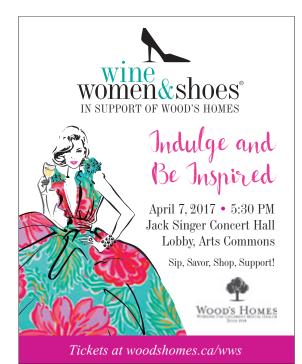


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## IN & AROUND CALGARY

#### Crowchild Trail Study – Presenting the final recommendations

Thank you Calgary for your participation and support throughout the Crowchild Trail Study. Together we have developed recommendations for short-, medium- and long-term changes and upgrades to Crowchild Trail that reflect a balance of many ideas and perspectives, and best align with the study's key principles and goals.

The final study recommendations will be presented to Council's Standing Policy Committee (SPC) on Transportation and Transit:

Date: Wednesday, April 19, 2017

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Location: 800 Macleod Trail S.E. (Council Chamber)

If you are interested in speaking to Council about the study, we invite you to join us on April 19, 2017. As with the majority of reports from City Administration, the Crowchild Trail Study will be presented to Council's SPC on Transportation and Transit before it is forwarded on to Council. You are welcome to speak to Committee, but not at the regular meeting of Council. Reports are heard in the order they appear on the agenda which is published approximately four days in advance of the meeting.

More information on attending meetings of Council and Standing Policy Committees is available at calgary. ca. For more information on the study, visit calgary.ca/ crowchild.

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Keynote Speaker

#### CRAIG KIELBURGER



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!

Humane

Happy

March,

- 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 guestions! 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!







#### CALGARY POLICE SERVICE

# **Changes to** Calgary's Alarm Bylaw

The Calgary Police Service and The City of Calgary have revised the current Alarm Services Bylaw, changing how officers are dispatched and introducing paid, annual alarm permitting.

As of Sunday, Jan. 1, 2017, you'll need an alarm permit in order for police to attend your location for an alarm call. Annual permitting ensures we have the most upto-date and accurate information about your location and can attend in a timely manner. Permits are \$15 for residences and \$20 for businesses, and are subject to an annual renewal. For any existing permit holders renewals will begin in July 2017. Premise owners will be contacted two months before their permit needs to be renewed and new permit holders will pay when they apply for a permit.

This spring, the false alarm penalty fee structure will also change. More than 75 per cent of alarm users only have one false alarm each year; CPS used to charge \$75 for each false alarm. With the new fee structure, the first false alarm is free. The second false alarm will be \$75. with an escalating scale for additional alarms to a maximum of \$625 for 10 or more alarms in any 12-month period. This is intended to hold alarm systems users more accountable to properly manage their systems.

Police are making these changes to reduce the amount of false alarms we respond to each day. Before initial changes to dispatch criteria were made, police were re-

sponding to approximately 45 alarm calls every day; 96 per cent of those calls were false alarms.

In May 2016, Calgary police changed the requirements so that two or more alarm zones within a location need to be activated and that at least two key holders must be called by the alarm company prior to police being dispatched. These changes alone have reduced the number of dispatched alarm calls by 54 per cent, better ensuring that police resources are available to respond to priority calls.

It is important to note that police will continue to respond to any panic, duress, or hold up alarms, confirmed criminal activity, public safety concerns, and verified alarm activations.

## BRAIN SUDOKU

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FIND SOLUTION ON PAGE 42





## Rhema Conference 2017 and Inauguration Service

You are cordially invited to our annual life-changing conference.

Luke 5:5 "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets."

Theme: The Power of the Blood - Leviticus 17:11

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Snr Pastors, Christcity



Snr Pastor Beth-Shechinah





Mannie & Chino Azenda

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## IN & AROUND

#### EMS – Burns and Scalds

Alberta Health Services, EMS continue to respond to emergencies each year where a young child has sustained severe burns or scalds. These incidents often occur inside the child's own home. Common causes include a child accidentally tipping hot liquids onto themselves, touching hot surfaces (stoves), or making contact with electrical outlets. Fortunately, incidents such as these can be avoided by taking preventative measures.

#### Degrees of burn

- 1°: Affects only the top layers of the skin; appears red like a sun burn; discomfort is generally tolerable;
- 2°: Deeper and much more painful than 1°burns; broken skin or blisters commonly develop;
- 3°: Severe: the deepest layers of skin and tissue are injured; may appear charred or leathery.

First Aid for burns

- · Skin may continue to burn if not aggressively cooled. Immediately douse burns with large amounts of cold water.
- Cover the burn with a sterile dressing, or at least clean material to protect infection:
- Over the counter medications may be used for pain. Adhere to directions given on the label;
- Seek further medical attention, as required.

#### Prevention of burns

- · Check the temperature of your hot water tank. Temperatures as high as 60°C / 140°F will scald a child in just seconds;
- Use placemats instead of tablecloths. Tablecloths can be yanked downward causing hot drinks, or food to spill on a child;
- Turn pot handles to the back of the stove and ensure cords from kettles, slow cookers, and other electrical appliances cannot be reached;
- · Avoid picking up a child while holding any hot liquids;
- Ensure electrical outlets are made secure by installing commercially available safety devices which prohibit
- Keep children away from areas where appliances are in use (kettles, irons, hot stoves).

If you require immediate medical attention, call 9-1-1



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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



WestEdge Church

403-253-7136 at WestHills Cinema



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

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# **COMMUNITY BUSINESS**OF THE MONTH

#### **Amica**

Amica at Aspen Woods retirement community reflects the spirit of this vibrant expansion of Calgary and adds an exceptional service for aging adults and their families in this neighborhood and surrounding communities.

Our first-class retirement community offers an impressive array of amenities and activities such as excellent fitness classes in the Wellness Centre or our salt water pool. Our Life Enrichment team engage our residents in more than 20 activities weekly including guest entertainment, outings, sing-alongs, dancing, bridge or happy hour in the Bow and Elbow Pub & Bistro. You'll never have to leave our community to enjoy all your favorite activities like watching a good movie at our Palladium Theatre<sup>™</sup>, cultivating plants in the greenhouse, enjoying a fresh air workout on the private LifeTrail™ circuit or walking our local forest trails - or being pampered in our Luxura Spa™!

The elegant Murdoch Dining Room sets the scene for our delicious, wholesome lunches and dinners prepared by our chefs, who are certified by the Canadian Culinary Institute and are passionate about natural, local food and can accommodate special dietary requirements. Residents are offered a choice between two entrees for lunch and dinner, plus an a la carte menu for each meal provides six optional meal choices. Family and friends are always welcome to join our residents for a meal!

At Amica at Aspen Woods, we inspire our residents to live their full potential in our independent or assisted living communities and have fun while doing it. In addition to our level 2 care assisted living suites, Amica provides scheduled care services to independent suites such as assistance with bathing, dressing, medication management and more.

We take safety and security seriously: all suites have strategically placed heat and smoke detectors with trained medical staff (LPN) and an emergency call system 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

With a focus on physical movement, social and cognitive stimulation we help preserve independence and enjoyment of life. Our programs focus on fall prevention and with many success stories; we celebrate every improvement in the quality of life for our residents as a huge victory. In our Highlander Library we offer computers for our residents to use as well as many books to borrow. You might head out for a well planned adventure on our On-The-Go Bus where our motto is: "What happens on the bus stays on the bus." We believe that life is full of possibilities at all ages!

Amica at Aspen Woods offers suites of outstanding design, including studios, alcoves, 1-bedrooms (with or without a den) and spacious 2-bedrooms. All suites have air conditioning, well-appointed kitchenettes and 3-piece bathrooms with easy-access walk-in showers. Housekeeping is included so you will never have to vacuum or change the bed again!

To experience the Amica lifestyle in person on a permanent basis, or for a short-term respite or post-surgery care, call us at (403)240-4404 to book a tour and complimentary lunch. Ask us about our trial stay options where you can sample life in our community for two weeks and only pay for one!



Bring your loved ones closer this winter.

**Book them a 1-week Staycation** and get a 2<sup>nd</sup> week FREE! Call 403-240-4404 for availabilities.





#### Councillor, Ward 6 **Richard Pootmans**

PO Box 2100, Station "M", Calgary, AB T2P 2M1 403-268-1035 • C: 403-660-6692 F: 403-268-8091 • E: Ward06@Calgary.ca Communications & Community Liaison: Eileen Badowich, CAward6@calgary.ca www.calgary.ca/ward6 • **ff** 

#### Accessibility

An accessible city benefits everyone, including people with disabilities. The City is committed to offering a variety of accessible services and programs to participate in your communities. They include:

- Waste and Recycling
- Call 3-1-1 if you are having problems identifying between your blue recycling cart and black garbage cart because of vision loss. The City can provide free tactile and Braille plagues on your carts!
- Accessible transit and transportation options
- Calgary Transit Ctrains and buses are equipped with ramps that can be lowered, as well as the Calgary Transit Access program, where eligible customers can book trips.
- Accessible recreation facilities and adapted programs
- For example, the Killarney Aquatic & Recreation Centre includes wheelchair access and pool lift, gentle fitness programs, and fee assistance.
- Seniors Services Home Maintenance
  - · This City-funded program helps low income seniors to live safely and securely in their own homes, including basic yard care, snow removal, house cleaning, interior & exterior painting and minor repairs. Call 3-1-1 to apply, no referral necessary.
- Assisted services for Council Meetings
- Call to 3-1-1 in advance of your plan to attend a City meeting or event to request captioning, assistive listening devices, an American Sign Language in-

terpreter, large print, Braille print materials, or relief areas for your quide dog.

For additional resources and a full list of services, visit calgary.ca/accessibility

#### **Nature Day Camps**

As we inch toward spring, the City is ready with programs to engage the kids outdoors. Calgary Parks is offering Nature Day Camps for children between 4-12 years, connecting them with the natural world through hands-on activities and outdoor play. Guided by experienced educators, campers will explore bugs, birds, plants and animals while gaining a better understanding of nature and their place within it. Camps take place at Inglewood Bird Sanctuary and Ralph Klein Park, and pre- and post-camp care is available. Spring camps begin at the end of March, and registration is now open for summer camps.

For more information, search "Nature Day Camps" at calgary.ca

#### **Ward Community Event Fund**

Finally, we're excited to announce that Council has approved an increase to the Ward Community Event Fund for 2017 to \$15,000 per ward to celebrate Canada's 150th Anniversary! If your community association or community-based group is hosting an event or undertaking initiatives to enhance your community, you can apply for assistance from this fund.

For more information, search "Ward Community Event Fund" at calgary.ca

#### 2017 Councillor Chats & Ward 6 Open House Dates **Councillor Chats**

Saturday, April 8, 2017 from 9 a.m. - Noon at SCA Community Association, 277 Strathcona Drive SW

#### **Ward 6 Open House**

Wednesday, May 3, 2017 from 5 – 8 p.m. at Glendale Community Association, 4500 25 Avenue SW







MP Calgary Signal Hill **Ron Liepert** #2216. 8561 8A Avenue SW Calgary, Alberta T3H 0V5 Phone: 403-292-6666 Fax: 403-292-6670 Email: ron.liepert.C1A@parl.gc.ca

**MLA Calgary - WEST** Mike Ellis Unit 234, 333 Aspen Glen Landing SW Calgary, AB, Canada T3H 0N6 Phone:403.216.5439 Fax:403.216.544 Email:calgary.west@assembly.ab.ca

As 2017 unfolds Albertans remain concerned with the many uncertainties that exist in their everyday lives. It is my hope that when the calendar closes on this year the future will become a little more clear.

Politics in 2017 promises to be a little closer to home. It seems that after federal and provincial elections in 2015 the political scene shifted south of the border last year culminating in the election of President Trump in November. Uncertainty around his actions is likely to continue for sometime however there will be a lot of political action taking place in our province.

The provincial PC's will be electing a new leader this spring and that could lead to some interesting developments on the provincial scene. There are two federal by-elections in Calgary this spring, the federal Conservative leadership in May, a federal NDP leadership in the fall and municipal elections in Alberta in October.

All of this will result in extensive media coverage throughout the year and re-focus Albertans on issues important to each and every one of us rather than watching politics south of the border. All of this political activity provides an opportunity to become involved and make a difference, regardless of political affiliation.

This is especially true at the municipal level. This year marks the first time municipal officials will be seeking re-election after serving a four year term. Who represents you on council or with one of the two school boards is important and I encourage constituents to get involved in this fall's civic vote.

This year also marks the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of confederation and there will be all kinds of activities in our communities leading up to July 1. Again I suggest finding out what your community is planning, get involved and feel a part of the festivities. Our office is willing to assist in communicating events and where possible provide 150th materials.

Meanwhile the business of governing the country continues and the House of Commons sits until mid June. As a member of the Conservative official opposition, I am always available to listen to concerns of constituents and ideas on how to make our province and city a better place. There is no doubt we face a lot of challenges in 2017 but Albertans have always been creative and entrepreneurial in solving the most difficult of issues. I have no doubt that will continue as we move through these difficult times.

I wanted to take a moment in this newsletter message to write to you about services that my constituency office offers to you. My office and staff are available to you at Unit 234, 333 Aspen Glen Landing SW (just above CIBC) or via telephone to 403-216-5439 or email to Calgary.West@assembly.ab.ca.

In addition to connecting you with me, my staff can help with concerns or issues you may be having with provincial government services or departments. While we are not a main intake for any Government of Alberta program or department, we can make enquiries, and help to facilitate resolutions where necessary. Some matters may also require us to connect you with your Member of Parliament (Ron Liepert) or your City Councillor (Richard Pootmans).

My staff can assist you in requesting congratulatory greetings from the Lieutenant Governor, Premier, or other dignitary for significant birthdays or wedding anniversaries. I also have a small quantity of Alberta pins that are available to constituents going on trips or receiving guests.

These are just some of the things that are available to you from my office in Calgary. I encourage you to give my office a call at any time to learn more.





#### CUSTOMER SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

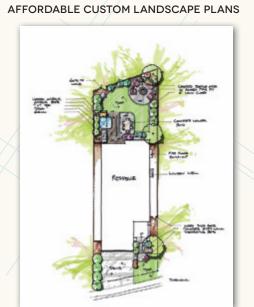


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## GOT A PLAN?



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One of the biggest challenges of mental illness is feeling alone.

With SupportWorks, it doesn't have to be.

We host weekly drop-in peer support meetings throughout Calgary to help people living with:

- Depression
- Anxiety
- Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD)
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- Bipolar Disorder

For more information on meeting times and locations, visit SupportWorks.ca



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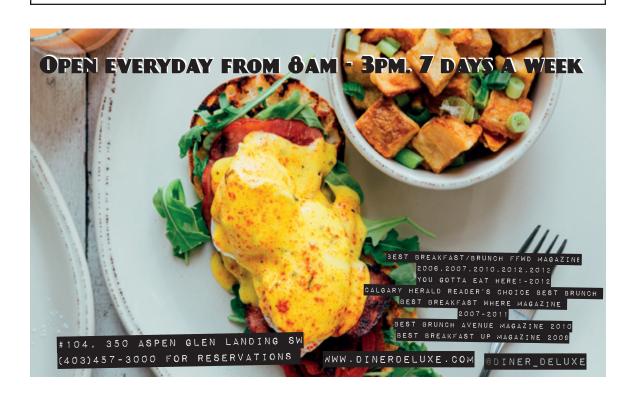
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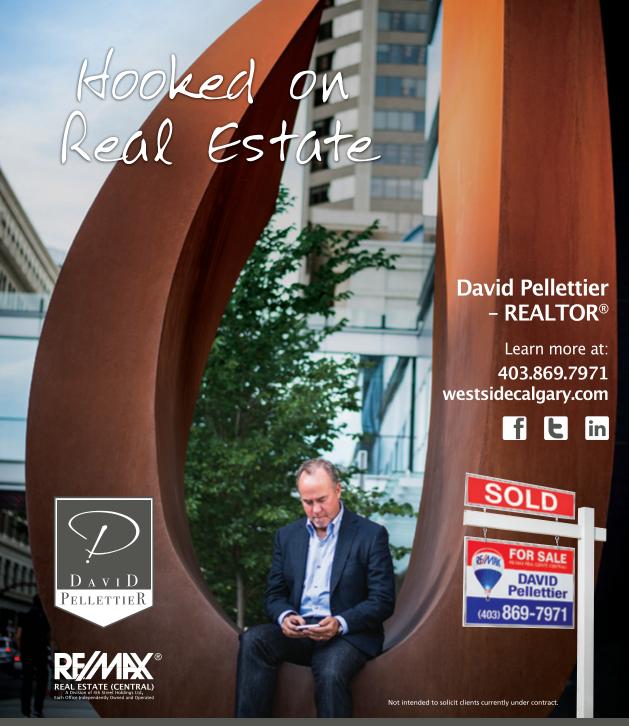
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DR. SHAHIN CHARKHANDEH





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