

FEBRUARY 2016

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Here's to another great year, in Canada's greatest city.

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news@great-news.ca

Editorial Content DEADLINE

1st of each month for the next month's issue

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IN & AROUND CALGARY

Crowchild Tr. Study: Upcoming Events

Attend an upcoming public drop-in session to see how the ideas gathered from Calgarians in fall 2015 look when applied to the Crowchild Trail corridor. Learn more about why some ideas will not move forward for further consideration. As well, help us review and evaluate the remaining ideas and the associated benefits, impacts, constraints and trade-offs against the project key principles. Feedback received will help the project team identify concepts for further development.

Drop-in Session #1: Saturday, February 27

Time: 2 to 5 p.m.
Location: Sunalta School, Gym – 536 Sonora Ave. S.W.

Drop-in Session #2: Thursday, March 10

Time: 5 to 8 p.m.
Location: Red and White Club, McMahon Stadium – 1833 Crowchild Tr. N.W.

Drop-in Session #3: Saturday, March 12

Time: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Location: Queen Elizabeth (Senior) High School, Auxiliary Gym – 512 - 18 St. N.W.

In addition to the events above, similar drop-in sessions for residents, businesses and other stakeholders located within a block of Crowchild Trail have been scheduled in February. These invite-only events provide those with homes and businesses in close proximity to Crowchild Trail an opportunity to participate in the same sessions with others who share their unique perspective or concerns. An opportunity to provide feedback online will also be available in late February. For more information about this study and opportunities to provide your input, visit calgary.ca/crowchild.

CHOCOLATE TRIVIA

Aztec emperor Montezuma drank 50 golden goblets of hot chocolate every day. It was thick, dyed red and flavored with chili peppers.



Eau Claire Community Assoc.
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Calgary, AB T2P 4G6
Phone: 403.269.9896
info@eauclaireca.com | www.eauclaireca.com/

Elected Officials



Councillor Druh Farrell
Ward 7 Office
P.O. Box 2100, Station M
Calgary, AB, Canada T2P 2M5
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Fax: 403-268-3823
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Fax: (403) 541-9106
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GREAT NEWS PUBLISHING HAS BEEN PROUDLY SERVING EAU CLAIRE FOR 3 YEARS!



Tiger in the Sky

Article by Cheryl Bowman
Photo by Niket Sura

The Great Horned Owl is the most common owl in North and South America. These magnificent birds are most recognized by their 'plumicorns' which resemble horns or cat like ears. These raptors are very adaptable using several different types of hunting skills to capture their prey as well as having a wide variety of prey.

It is this adaptability for hunting that they received their nickname 'Tiger in the Sky'. The Great Horned Owl will dive, wings bent, talons outstretched to silently capture unsuspecting prey, including prey that outweighs the bird itself. They also swoop low along

the ground to grab any variety of smaller prey and interestingly they are known to walk along the ground to capture yet other types of prey.

The Great Horned Owl is a solitary bird except for mating. It is at this time that the smaller male owl will roost close to the nest of the larger female until all the young fledge, and at this time will again leave. The owls do not build their own nests but rather prefer other bird nests.

The most common injury the Calgary Wildlife Rehabilitation Society sees in these raptors are injuries from window strikes or of being hit by a vehicle. Owls that are received with injuries from window strikes have a better chance of rehabilitation. Owls brought in with injuries from a vehicle strike are more difficult to rehabilitate due to broken bones and open fractures.

Should you find an injured Great Horned Owl, please call the Calgary Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre at 403-266-2282 as soon as possible for further instruction. These are powerful birds and must be handled with care, however every moment counts.

If you catch a glimpse of the Great Horned Owl in their natural environment, remain quiet and still and enjoy the wonder of this beautiful Tiger in the Sky.



A honey bee must tap two million flowers to make one pound of honey.

Eau Claire mybabysitterlist

Name	Age	Contact	Course
Evelyn	12	403-475-0919	Yes
Maxine	13	403-455-8427	Yes
Sophia	13	403-708-0601	No
Kiera	13	403-922-6067	Yes
Avery	14	403-891-8149	Yes
Henry	15	403-719-8282	Yes
Sam	15	403-287-3740	Yes
Kaitlynn	15	403-874-4034	Yes
Maude	15	587-890-2828	Yes
Lilly	15	403-719-8282	Yes
Connie	16	403-862-2081	No
Sarah	16	403-671-7724	No
Grace	16	403-604-4366	No
Cecilia	17	587-223-1330	Yes
Nia	17	403-991-8045	Yes
Izzy	17	403-483-1218	Yes
Erika	18	403-685-4645	Yes
Eugene	18	403-703-4488	Yes
Makenzie	18	403-796-7733	Yes
Maddy	18	587-888-7298	Yes
Elaura	18	403-471-5051	Yes
Jakarta	18	403-808-8503	No
Abigail	18	705-706-4338	No
Maddy	18	587-888-7298	Yes
Taryn	19	403-999-1777	Yes
Yena	19	403-479-7911	Yes
Olivia	20	587-889-9043	Yes
Ria	20	403-470-9783	No
Jamie-Lyn	21	403-892-0176	No
Danita	21	403-990-0205	Yes
Siobhan	22	403-923-9499	No

Emily	23	403-999-8525	Yes
Kelsea	23	403-370-7170	Yes
Sarah	23	819-679-3059	Yes
Christina	24	587-855-5074	Yes
Alana	24	587-888-4854	Yes
Christoph	24	587-998-6172	Yes
Alison	24	587-999-1278	Yes
Sydney	24	403-993-5441	Yes
Megan	24	403-861-3718	Yes
Blaise	24	587-223-8583	Yes
Lizzie	25	403-703-4076	Yes
Josefa	25	587-437-1252	Yes
Jordan	25	403-969-0165	No
Genevieve	25	581-307-6165	Yes
Chandria	26	587-227-4107	Yes
Camila	27	403-680-0942	No
Catherine	27	514-293-1395	Yes
Heather	29	403-966-5233	Yes
Amber	30	587-438-4789	Yes
Harvinder Kaur	31	587-830-6217	Yes
Michelle	31	403-923-5111	Yes
Antares	33	403-383-2527	Yes
Dain	37	403-383-0269	No
Salma	38	403-252-5052	Yes
Maria	45	403-818-0560	No
Martha	48	403-919-2967	No

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Calling All PARENTS
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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.

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ROCK GARDENS

Barbara Shorrock

By the end of January, the Calgary gardener has had a pretty good rest, and is possibly thinking of what might be a good project for the coming spring and summer. Let me help you...

The newest book in my library came as a Christmas gift from another gardener, and I offer it to you as inspiration for a project that can be as small as a generous shallow bowl or as large as an acreage. The Prairie Rock Garden by Donna Balzer isn't a new book (published in 2000 by Red Deer Press) but the ideas it contains are as current as the day she wrote it. Drawing upon her experience as the first horticulturist for the Calgary Zoo and Botanical Gardens and designer of many commercial and private landscapes, she leads the reader through planning, material choices, construction and finally planting a new garden that features rock as its prominent feature.

What is a rock garden, exactly? Briefly, it is a combination of rocks and plants in a single space. Some people will emphasize the geological – choosing big dramatic stones, with low plantings. Another gardener will have a dazzling array of alpine perennials that live naturally on rocky slopes with only a small fraction of the rocks visible to give structure to the scene. There is no right or wrong – what pleases the creator is the best way. There are, however, a few rules: The first to consider is location - where in your garden this feature should be, and how it will be oriented to the sun. Because the focus of this book is the prairie environment, she emphasizes the power of the sun and lack of natural moisture for a great part of the year. The rock garden can face any direction, but its design and choice of plants will vary considerably depending upon how much direct sun it receives during the growing season. The second most important consideration is slope, as it must have good drainage or the alpine plants will not thrive. Third, what is your style? Do you love the precision of a formal gar-

den such as the Japanese, with its carefully chosen and placed rocks and minimal plantings? Do you tend more towards the informality of the English country garden, with lush foliage and overlapping textures? Or perhaps you are drawn to the natural scenes around us such as a river cutaway, prairie coulee or mountain slabs and faces with their rocky cracks and crevices. The design section of the book was my favourite part, as she takes us through all the different styles, complete with photos of both nature and local gardens fully planted and complete.

Texture of both the hard and soft material needs to be considered, as does ones budget. A small space using local rocks you have gathered on your travels through the province may cost almost nothing except for your time and energy. If you choose to buy your stone, landscape suppliers and garden centres will give you many options, among which our local tufa is the most lightweight and porous. The Rocky Mountains are all limestone, so this material is abundant and available in a range of colours. Sandstone, fieldstone and river rock also make attractive designs. For the ambitious project, bobcat and crane may be involved, along with strong labourers and a substantial bank account.

Once you have the bones of the rock garden constructed (having followed the practical advice in Chapter 4) you get to choose and plant the alpine plant varieties that will thrive in their new home. Pages of detailed descriptions and many photos help with this part, followed by instructions on how to maintain your new rock garden. If you have planned carefully, it should be a joy for many years to come, with four season beauty and minimal work.

Barbara Shorrock is a local gardener and member of the Queensland Garden Club, which meets every first Wednesday of the month in the Queensland Community Centre. Everyone is welcome.

IN & AROUND SCHOOLS

Montessori School of Calgary

We, at Montessori School of Calgary, cannot believe that it is February already. This short month is always a busy one!



Our POW, Physical Outdoor Wellness, program has kept our elementary children very busy. They enjoyed a visit to Fountain of Mission Seniors Home as well as a full day of skiing and snowboarding at **Nakiska**. The seniors enjoyed the presentations of learning from the children, as well as the games they played and their singing. The skiing and snowboarding day was AWESOME! After the lessons, children were free to ski in small groups and enjoy a beautiful day in the mountains. This month elementary children will spend two afternoons at the Talisman Centre enjoying a variety of activities including **gymnastics, volleyball and badminton**.

Thanks to Rick Williams and Carter Siebens, our outdoor skating rink is in process. The first few layers are on, and it is looking great. The children will enjoy spending their POW time ice skating at school.

Our staff will be enjoying a variety of professional learning activities during the Teachers' Convention break. Our families will enjoy a five day break to enjoy family time and travel. On February 25 and 26, we will hold our parent guide conferences, before taking that extra day, February 29, to LEAP into March. **Happy Valentine's Day!**

Lindy Arndt, Head of School, Montessori School of Calgary



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**MARCH 5
BLITZ SNOWSHOE FUN
RUN — LAKE LOUISE**

Snowshoeing is one of the fastest growing outdoor winter activities. Get involved in the trend and participate in a 5 kilometre of 10 kilometre snowshoe fun race. www.snowshoe.blitzevents.ca



**MARCH 5 TO 6
CALGARY MAPLE
FESTIVAL DES SUCRES**

Running all weekend at Heritage Park, this event is a celebration of francophone music, culture and food. www.calgarymaplefest.com



**MARCH 18 TO 28
SPRING RALLY
IN THE ALLEY**

This annual, family-friendly event offers a range of activities centered around different modes of transportation. www.heritagepark.ca



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

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- **January 16 to May 31 - Body Worlds Vital:** The exhibition celebrates the living human body and allows visitors to learn about human anatomy in a far more real way than any textbook. www.sparkscience.ca
- **March 3 - The Harlem Globetrotters:** The Harlem Globetrotters, a world-famous exhibition basketball team, combines athletic feats and teamwork with theatre and comedy. www.harlemglobetrotters.com
- **March 3 - Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band:** The Art of Time Ensemble is a chamber group that merges chamber music and pop music in this concert. The ensemble reinvents The Beatles' soundtrack to The Summer of Love. www.calgaryphil.com
- **March 4 to 13 - The Big Taste:** Each year for The Big Taste, a number of Calgary restaurants offer prix fixe menus, giving Calgarians the chance to try the best of what each restaurant offers. www.calgarydowntown.com
- **March 5 - The Black and White Ball:** Decidedly Jazz Danceworks' annual fundraising party is a black and white evening. Dress up in your finest (make sure it's black or white) and dance the evening away. www.decidedlyjazz.com
- **March 13 to 15 - Earth Science for Society Exhibit:** Earth Science for Society (ESfS) is a free, family-friendly event that is open to the public. It showcases the importance of Earth Science in our everyday lives. www.esfscanada.com
- **March 17 to 19 - ACAD Student's Association Spring Show + Sale:** See what Calgary's up-and-coming young artists have produced during their school year. www.acad.ca
- **March 24 to 29 - Disney On Ice presents Dare to Dream:** Disney princess stories are coming to the ice. The whole family will have fun seeing these favourite stories come to life on the ice rink. www.disneyonice.com
- **March 29 to April 9 - Taking Flight:** Festival of Student Work: Each year, the Taking Flight festival showcases the range of work conceived, directed and performed by University of Calgary graduate and undergraduate students. www.scpa.ucalgary.ca
- **March 30 to April 16 - Macbeth:** Darkness, dishonesty and murder fill Shakespeare's supernatural tragedy Macbeth. Macbeth timelessly highlights how ambition can cause one's downfall. www.shakespearecompany.com

**KENSINGTON WINE MARKET
2016 WINTER TASTING SCHEDULE**

Tastings start at 7:00pm unless otherwise indicated

Glendronach Batch 12 Tasting	Mon Feb 8	Glendronach has quickly become KWM's top selling whisky. Celebrate the release of the Batch 12 vintages with a range tasting featuring whiskies from 1995, 1994, 1990 and 1972.	\$200
American Whiskey	Tue Feb 9	There is more to American whiskey than just Bourbon. Join us as we take you on a journey featuring Tennessee straight wheat, malt, rye and other styles.	\$25
American Wine Festival	Fri Feb 12	It's a Route 66 wine extravaganza of the best of the US. Coast to coast, we'll pop the cork on every major region with a few surprises. Sign up now as tickets are limited.	\$40
Classic Cocktails: Gin	Tue Feb 16	Join us for a deconstruction of gin based cocktails. We'll teach you the basics of the spirit and how to make some flashy gin based drinks to impress your friends.	\$15
Closed Distilleries of Scotland	Thr Feb 18	The whiskies are getting older, rarer and more expensive with every passing year. We're not saying this is the last hurrah... just that as time runs out supplies dwindle and prices goes up.	\$200
En Francais! Edition Bordeaux	Tue Feb 23	Join our resident francophone, Christine Parent, for a standup tasting of the best of Bordeaux. Joignez-vous à notre francophone en résidence, Christine Parent, pour une dégustation de vin conviviale, en français! Région à l'honneur: Bordeaux. This tasting will be conducted in French.	\$30
Masi Vintage Amarone Tasting	Tue Mar 1	This tasting will feature cellared Amarone wines from "Vaio Amaron", "Campolongo di Torbe" and "Mazzano" dating back to the 90's including the Masi Angelorum Recioto, an Amarone-like dessert wine.	\$45
What's Next, Beer & Cheese!	Thr Mar 3	Think wine and cheese make the perfect match! Think again! Beer is cheese's true soul mate.	\$10
Speyside Whisky Festival	Thr Mar 10	Most of Scotland's distilleries are found in the watershed of the River Spey. This whisky festival will highlight these drams and the distilleries they come from	\$50
Cabernet Taste Off!	Fri Mar 11	You'll know the grape but not the country. Join us to test your taste geography. Winner (s) takes home a bottle of the class favorite! Stand up format.	\$25
The Rhone Valley: North vs South	Tue Mar 15	The Rhone River is the umbilical cord tying these vastly different growing regions together. Let's travel her breadth to explore the astonishing differences these slopes have to offer.	\$25
Asian Whisky	Thr Mar 17	Icons We'll highlight some world renowned whiskies from Japan, Taiwan and India and try to taste what all the fuss is about.	\$60
Italian Wine Festival	Fri Mar 18	Mama Mia, it's gonna be a feast! The wine, the food, the music...all Italian. Who could resist such an invitation? Tickets strictly limited.	\$40
Master Malt	Tue Mar 22	We pull out all the stops featuring whiskies that are very old, very rare and very pricey. This is a tasting that will never be repeated again.	\$130
Burgundy Bargains	Thr Mar 24	An oxymoron? Maybe not! Burgundy always gets a bad rap on price. Let's see if we can prove the critics wrong. Cheese, of course, from Peasant Cheese, right next door.	\$20
Cheese Please	Fri Mar 25	Bubbles and cheese, who can resist! Crystal McKenzie from Peasant Cheese will pair some of our best with some of her best. Stand up format.	\$40
Classic Cocktails: Whisky	Tue Mar 29	Join us for a deconstruction of whisky based cocktails. We'll teach you the basics of the spirit and how to make some classic whisky cocktails to impress your most sophisticated friends.	\$25
Intro to Craft Beer	Thr Mar 31	This one is for those who stand intimidated in front of the daunting amount of craft beer available. We'll go over some of the brewing process, the histories, and acronyms. All while sampling and exploring the styles!	\$10
Classic Malts	Fri Apr 1	This is our "classic" introduction to the world of single malt Scotch whisky. You'll discover a little history, how it's made and sample six distinct styles.	\$40

1257 Kensington Road, NW | 403 283 8000 | www.kensingtonwinemarket.com



Dental Pain in Pets

If you have ever had a cavity, dental abscess, or fractured crown you may remember the pain you experienced probably made it difficult for you to concentrate on any task. Eventually you would seek dental treatment or rely on pain control to function. I see dental disease in almost every pet I examine in my veterinary clinic. Unfortunately preventative dental care is not something that most pet owners start early and continue daily. If there is a line of hot red swollen inflammation along your pet's teeth, put your nail against the edge of the gum where it meets the tooth. Does your pet wince and pull away?

Taking care of your pet's teeth can be time-consuming and expensive. Owners tend to ignore the teeth because they don't see them, but healthy teeth are directly linked to your pet's short and long-term well-being. I can't count the number of clients who have told me a month after a dental treatment that their elderly pets start playing with toys again and they didn't appreciate the discomfort their pet must have been experiencing.

Put to rest the belief that pets fed hard foods don't get dental disease. The value of specialized diets and dental products is limited, but really, if there was some magic component added to food that eliminated dental disease, wouldn't people be eating it to avoid our own dental disease and the ensuing costs.

Pets, ideally, should have their teeth brushed daily. Use a soft small tooth brush. Finger brushes don't work. Use pet toothpastes that do not foam or contain sodium bicarbonate so they can be swallowed. They come in flavours ranging from tuna to chicken to beef. Yum, yum! Many of my clients have even taught their pets to tolerate electric tooth brushes.

A few pets will not allow brushing under any circumstance. These pets will have to rely on the limited benefits from chewing products as well as a specialized

dental diet. None of these products out-perform the physical action of daily tooth brushing. Never give your pet hard bones, ice, and very hard toys.

Ideally pets should have regular preventative cleanings. Veterinarians offer every tool available to minimize the risks associated with general anaesthetic. Veterinarians doing pet dentals use ultrasonic scalers, drills, polishers, and advanced dental radiology to do as thorough a job as your own dentist and their staff. No self-respecting pet will tolerate a complete scaling and polishing below the gum line conscious.

I recently did a dental cleaning of a young dog's mouth expecting no or little disease. Visual examination prior to the cleaning everything looked good, but I discovered four deep pockets between the gums and four teeth. Dental radiographs confirmed the bone around the roots of the teeth was being eaten away by infection. The removal of diseased teeth allows a better chance to keep the surrounding teeth healthy. This disease would never have been discovered without a proper examination of an anaesthetized pet.

Superficial scraping of visual tartar only hides disease and lulls a person into thinking their pet's mouth is healthy.

Rotten teeth and gums can be a portal to bacteria entering the blood stream and traveling throughout the pet's body. Dental disease advances more quickly when pets have other illnesses such as kidney disease or diabetes, and dental disease can make other diseases more difficult to control. When the teeth hurt it can also cause an otherwise sweet pet to become cantankerous. Our pets are living longer than ever with advances in veterinary medicine and so your pets are going to need those healthy teeth longer...start brushing early.

Jennifer L. Scott, D.V.M.

IN & AROUND CALGARY

February Is Heart Month

Do you know the signs and symptoms of a heart attack and what to do if someone experiences these? Knowing can make the difference between life and death. Recognizing and responding immediately to the warning signs of a potential heart attack can significantly improve survival and recovery.

February is Heart Month - take the time to be heart safe and learn how you can reduce your risk.

Know the signs of a heart attack

(Any or all of these signs & symptoms may occur)

- Chest pain described as crushing, squeezing, pressure or chest heaviness;
- Pain that moves beyond the chest such as shoulder, arm, neck or jaw pain;
- Shortness of breath, sweating or nausea and vomiting.

Reduce your risk

• Heart attack risk factors include:

- Obesity*
- Sedentary lifestyle*
- Smoking*
- High cholesterol*
- Age / Gender
- Family history

Speak with your doctor about how to treat your modifiable(*) risk factors and learn to be heart safe.

What to do when seconds count

- Call 9-1-1 immediately. Early treatment can greatly reduce heart damage and make the difference of life and death.
- Treatment starts the moment EMS arrives. Paramedics can provide oxygen, start an intravenous and perform an electrocardiogram (ECG).
- Paramedics can also administer important medications in the early minutes of a heart attack to lessen heart damage.
- During transport, EMS will also share information with the hospital so definitive treatment can begin immediately on arrival.
- Take a CPR/AED (automated external defibrillator) course. Training is widely available from many reputable organizations. It's easy, inexpensive, and only takes a few hours.

City staff hit the roads throughout snow season

As snow has been falling around the city this winter, Calgarians have come together to make the season fun, safe, and enjoyable for everyone.

When snow falls, City Parks crews quickly started clearing designated pathways, and Roads crews are always working hard to plow, salt, and sand major roadways. These teams often work overnight to keep the greatest number of Calgarians moving safely. Keeping the roads safe for everyone is a joint effort between The City and Calgarians, too. When it snows, make sure to give yourself extra time to reach your destination and leave extra distance between you and the car ahead of you. Calgary.ca/snow is a one-stop shop for winter driving tips, the road conditions map, FAQs, updates and more.

Snow Angels have been keeping sidewalks safe for everyone, too. Keeping sidewalks shovelled, ice-free and safe can be very challenging – even dangerous – for older adults and others who have limited mobility. To be a Snow Angel, all you have to do is adopt a sidewalk and keep it clear when it snows. Watch for people in your neighbourhood who could use help removing snow and lend them a hand. Visit Calgary.ca/snowangels for more information, and make sure to recognize your Snow Angel by calling 311.

BRAIN GAMES SUDOKU

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FIND SOLUTION ON PAGE 17



What should I do if my child is sucking his/her thumb?

The habit of thumb sucking can be a nightmare for most parents but it is comforting and calming for the child. Your child probably practiced this habit while in the womb and perfected it as an infant.

Should you be worried? Should you get medical help? According to the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, most children will stop sucking their thumb between the ages of 2 and 4. If the habit is discontinued by age 4, most children will not develop damaging concerns for their teeth or jaws until their permanent teeth begin to appear. Having said that, it is always easier to eliminate this habit when kids are younger and the habit has not become a norm for them.

The **type of thumb** sucking is also critical. If your child only places the thumb in his/her mouth passively, there is less damage to teeth and jaws versus if they were aggressively sucking the thumb causing a negative pressure leading to narrowing of the upper jaw. The consequences of this habit continuing into age 5 and 6 will be

flared upper front teeth and/or these teeth not coming into proper position due to the constant presence of the thumb. If your child is still sucking after age 4, it is time to consider taking action

How do I help as a parent? If you identify the time your child is most likely to suck his/her thumb (sleeping, watching television, etc.) consider distracting them with a substitute activity, such as rubber ball to squeeze or a water bottle to hold on to when watching television, holding a stuff animal while going to sleep, etc. The key is to notice when and where sucking occurs and to try to divert her/his attention by offering an alternative. Praising and positive reinforcement works better than scolding. Children often suck their thumb when feeling insecure or anxious. Focus on correcting the cause of the anxiety and provide comfort to your child. If the child is older than age 5, although it becomes harder to eliminate the habit but at this age you can involve the child in actively coming up with a plan to stop the habit as a family.

How is my money affected by changes to the Alberta Income Tax Structure this year?

With tax season approaching, you are probably wondering how our provincial NDP budget will impact your household. October 2015, our taxation structure changed here in Alberta. Now take a deep breath because in Wild Rose Country we will continue to enjoy the highest spousal and basic personal amount tax deductions in Canada.

You've heard the term 'tax bracket'? Once you hit a certain amount, the rate increases in the next 'bracket'. In 2016 you'll pay more in the next tax bracket, but **only** on the additional income. There is a bracket system on federal income taxes, but the Alberta system doesn't match the federal. Confused yet? Read on fellow taxpayer.

Okay, so you can earn up to \$125,000 before you are bumped to the next tax bracket. There's no personal income tax on the first \$18,214 of taxable income. The Government of Alberta reports almost 93% of Alberta taxpayers will continue to pay at the existing 10% tax rate. That's because their taxable income is between \$18,214 to \$125,000.

For 2016 tax year here's what it will look for those folks who make more than \$125,000. The tax rate is 10% between \$18,214 to \$125,000. For taxable income up to \$150,000, you'll pay 10% on your first \$125,000 and 12% on the next \$25,000. If you pull in between \$150,000-\$200,000, you'll pay 10% on \$125,000, 12% for \$25,000 and then 13% on that extra \$50k. The rate goes up to 14% for income over \$200,000 and it jumps again to

15% for those earning \$300,000+. And to make it even more complicated, these rates are effective 1 October, 2015. So the old rate (10% flat rate) and the new rates are prorated.

Whew! It's a little more complicated this year so here is a chart and some very basic tips:

Taxable Income	2016 Tax Rates	2015 Tax Rates
first \$125,000	10%	10.00%
over \$125,000 up to \$150,000	12%	10.50%
over \$150,000 up to \$200,000	13%	10.75%
over \$200,000 up to \$300,000	14%	11.00%
over \$300,000	15%	11.25%

Prepare that you might see additional taxes owing on your 2015 tax return. Why? Typically employers withhold money off your paycheque and submits the funds to pay your taxes. Remember that change that came into effect October 1, 2015? If your employer didn't implement the new tax rates to adjust your pay, then you might need to brace yourself for a little adjustment on your return.

Don't forget to add your Universal Child Care Benefit to your income. That was the cheque you received in 2015 if you have children. If you didn't realize before then I am sorry to bear the news. That money is considered taxable and so you'll be paying some bucks back on that amount.

Find someone who can inform or guide you. If you are still unsure about what these changes mean to your family's finances, rest assured...you are doing the right thing taking the time to inform yourself. Keep researching, reading and collecting the information you'll need to complete your income taxes effectively. Ask questions of folks in the know, post questions to discussion boards, hire a trusted professional, research the news and/or check out the Government of Alberta webpage for more details.

Richard Presland, CMA, MBA



Men always want to be a woman's **FIRST LOVE.**
 Women like to be a man's **LAST ROMANCE.**
Oscar Wilde

BUSINESS CLASSIFIEDS

CONCRETE CUTTING FOR BASEMENT WINDOWS, DOORS & FLOORS: New openings or enlargements cut into foundation for basement windows and doors. Enlarge your existing basement windows to meet fire code for bedrooms, from cutting basement windows, doorways to supply and install quality windows, window-well, weeping-tile, core drilling, excavation and anything concrete cutting. Call 403-570-0555 or text 403-680-0611. Email: info@asapconcretecutting.com.

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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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**MLA CALGARY-BUFFALO
HON. KATHLEEN GANLEY**

130, 1177 11 Ave SW T2R 1K9
Office: 403-244-7737

Happy New Year! One of my goals this year as an MLA is to meet with more constituents. I'm on a mission to have coffee with anyone and everyone in Calgary-Buffalo who would like to discuss their thoughts on what's taking place at the Alberta Legislature and at home in our community. The month of January flew by and I was able to engage in discussion at local businesses including Kawa Espresso Bar, Café Beano and Good Earth. I will be heading back into session on February 9, and will be taking into consideration all of the suggestions that have been brought to my attention. If you're interested in sharing some time together, please connect with my constituency office at 403-244-7737.

On Sunday, February 7, I will be attending the annual Eau Claire community skating party on Prince's Island Park - please come join me for hot chocolate, ice-skating on the Lagoon, and winter games. The event is free and begins at 11:00 a.m., skate rentals are available.

In mid-February, I will be touring and meeting with students and staff at Bow Valley College in the heart of Calgary-Buffalo. The College is an integral post-secondary institution that aims to help people fulfill their dreams for a better education and a better career. Since 1965, Bow Valley College has provided opportunities for academic upgrading, careers in Justice including corrections and law enforcement, careers in health and wellness including pharmacy technician, practical nurse, English language learning, and more.

Monday, February 15 is Family Day – a statutory holiday in Alberta first celebrated in 1990. The holiday is intended to allow Albertans to spend time with their families. Lastly, I am very much looking forward to celebrating the Chinese New Year and the year of the monkey throughout the month of February. Kung hei fat choi!



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
Kerby Centre for the 55 plus	403-265-0661
Community Mediation Calgary Society	403.269.2707
RNR Lockworks Ltd.	403.479.6161
Road Conditions – Calgary	511
Weather Information	
Gamblers Anonymous	403.237.0654

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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

EARTH SCIENCE FOR SOCIETY: March 13-15, 2016 – Visit Earth Science for Society (ESfS) at the Big Four Building, Stampede Park for a free, family-friendly, hands-on geoscience exhibition. ESfS showcases the importance of Earth Science in our everyday lives. www.esfscanada.com.

BRAIN GAMES SUDOKU

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

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Eau Claire



Real Estate Update

Last 12 Months Eau Claire
MLS Real Estate Sale Price Update

	Average Asking Price	Average Sold Price
January 2016	\$0	\$0
December 2015	\$684,450	\$658,750
November 2015	\$583,300	\$511,666
October 2015	\$1,055,760	\$1,029,000
September 2015	\$812,160	\$767,000
August 2015	\$419,450	\$404,500
July 2015	\$419,900	\$410,000
June 2015	\$429,000	\$390,000
May 2015	\$673,500	\$648,642
April 2015	\$563,500	\$555,666
March 2015	\$990,825	\$896,750
February 2015	\$439,900	\$427,000

Last 12 Months Eau Claire
MLS Real Estate Number of Listings Update

	No. New Properties	No. Properties Sold
January 2016	15	0
December 2015	8	2
November 2015	8	3
October 2015	7	5
September 2015	15	5
August 2015	7	2
July 2015	6	1
June 2015	13	1
May 2015	4	7
April 2015	10	3
March 2015	16	4
February 2015	4	3
Total	113	36

To view the specific SOLD Listings that comprise the above
MLS averages please visit eau_claire.great-news.ca



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When the snowflakes start flying, the City and Calgarians come together to make the season safe, productive and enjoyable for all.

The City's Roads department works hard to plow, salt and sand roadways on a seven day priority schedule. The Parks department quickly clears designated multi-use pathways within 24 hours. Teams often work overnight to keep the greatest number of Calgarians moving safely. Keeping our roads safe for everyone is also a joint effort between the City and Calgarians. When it snows, make sure to give yourself more time to reach your destination, and leave a greater distance between yourself and the vehicle ahead of you. Please also be extra mindful of people walking and cycling, who may struggle more in difficult conditions. Calgary.ca/snow is the one-stop shop for winter travel tips, the road conditions map, frequently asked questions, updates, and more.

Sidewalks are the responsibilities of adjacent property owners and must be cleared within 24 hours. Unfortunately, not everyone is able to clear her or his sidewalk. Keeping sidewalks clear of snow and ice can be challenging or impossible for seniors and others with limited mobility. Please consider becoming a Snow Angel and helping those who are less able. All you need to do is adopt someone's sidewalk and clear it as you would your own. Watch for neighbours who could use help removing snow and lend them a hand. Visit Calgary.ca/snowangels for more information.

If you have questions on snow clearing, need to report sidewalks, pathways, or roads that are not cleared, or want to recognise the work of a Snow Angel, please call 3-1-1.

For more information, and to sign-up for the Ward 7 e-newsletter, please visit www.druhfarrell.ca.

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The Best Neighbourhoods Survey is now open.

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AvenueCalgary.com/survey

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