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EAU CLAIRE CURRENT

THE OFFICIAL EAU CLAIRE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER





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ECCA PRESIDENT'S LETTER

I want to extend a couple of invitations to everyone in Eau Claire this month.

The first is to what is now becoming one of our annual social events—a wine and hors d'oeuvres get together at the Oceana Restaurant on Thursday, May 23. This is Eau Claire's version of our Neighbour Day event. While most communities will be celebrating Neighbour Day on Saturday, June 15, we've found this kind of event has worked more successfully for Eau Claire. All Eau Claire residents and neighbours are welcome. Tickets are \$15 including one glass of wine and free hors d'oeuvres. It's a great way for all of us to get out of our respective towers and meet others in the community.

Another important event coming up is the Eau Claire Community Association Annual General meeting. This year it will be held on Tuesday, June 25 in Centennial Place. Registration starts at 5:30 and the meeting at 6:00 PM. As usual, we are planning presentations from representatives of the City and reviews of major developments planned for the neighbourhood. For many this is the best opportunity to get an update on what is going on and to express your thoughts on what you'd like to see in Eau Claire. And afterwards, you get another chance to socialize with neighbours over wine and snacks.

One of the most important items on our agenda is of course the election of the members of the ECCA Board. Sadly, some of our most committed past members will be moving out of Eau Claire, making them no longer eligible to serve as Directors. I thank them for their past service to the community; they will be missed. But that also means that we will have a number of vacancies on the Board and we are actively seeking new volunteers to join us. So, if you have ideas of what kind of community you'd like to see Eau Claire be, ideas on how to add to the vibrancy of our community, or want to get more involved with the various departments of the City to influence plans and projects in the neighbourhood, we wel-

come you to either come to the AGM to volunteer or just contact us through our website—or attend one of our regular board meetings—first Wednesday of each month, September through June at 5:30 PM in the Grey Family Eau Claire YMCA.

We'd particularly like to encourage representation from as many of the residential buildings in Eau Claire as possible. So, for condo boards particularly, we'd really welcome you designating one of your members or a resident or other as a contact with ECCA, working to make sure that your building is represented in the community. Again, I'd welcome inquiries or comments.

In the meantime, I hope to see many of you at our May social and the June AGM.

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THE EAU CLAIRE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (ECCA)

About Us

The Eau Claire Community Association (ECCA) was founded in 1992 as a non-profit organization dedicated to maintaining and enhancing the quality of living in Eau Claire. It is recognized by the City of Calgary as the official voice of the Eau Claire community. The ECCA by-laws define the purpose and direction of the ECCA and are registered under the Societies Act of Alberta. The bylaws are available at www.eauclaireca.com/about.

The community of Eau Claire is located adjacent to the downtown commercial core, bounded by Prince's Island and the Bow River on the north and centre of 4th Avenue on the south, extending from the centre of 2nd Street SW to the centre of 9th Street SW.

Mission

The Eau Claire Community Association strives to create a vibrant connected community. Our approach to planning and development is to enhance the quality of life for our residents.

Vision

Eau Claire is a safe, clean and liveable residential community proud of its natural environment. We are supportive of social and recreational gathering places and relevant businesses that support the community.



Membership

Membership in the ECCA is open to all residents. The annual fee is \$6 per household. The majority of Eau Claire condominium complexes (and therefore their residents) hold a membership, paid for by the condo corporation. Business memberships are also available. Strong membership empowers the ECCA to protect the interests of our community. Issues of key interest are planning, transportation and safety. The ECCA's role is to provide a voice for Eau Claire residents, to help ensure that community interests are being considered and that development is in keeping with the Area Re-development Plan.

Connect with ECCA



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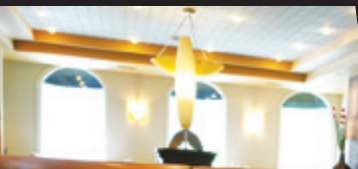
DON'T MISS OUT ON THE FUN!

Eau Claire Community Association
invites you to

**ECCA Neighbour Event
May 23rd 5-9 PM
Wine & Appetizers
at Oceana**

Tickets \$15
info@EauClaireCA.com

Oceana Seafood, Steakhouse & Bar
101 - 7 Street SW





JOIN THE BOARD

ECCA is losing several excellent Board members because they are moving and no longer eligible to volunteer for the Board. We thank them for their tremendous support! As with any all-volunteer organization, the ECCA is only as good as the current Board members. We'd love to recruit new members with passion for the community and new ideas for events and other aspects of our work.

It's especially important that we have a wide diversity of voices represented on our Board. Community Boards have an important advisory role and must be consulted on the placement of most municipal facilities in the community. Applications for a change in or variance from the zoning resolution must come before the Board for review, and the Board's position is considered in the final determination. The more different viewpoints we represent the more valuable our input is to both the City and the Community.

- A major objective of our association has always been fostering the development of Eau Claire as an urban residential community, particularly with a large enough population base to support retail, entertainment and recreational amenities to serve the community.
- The current Area Redevelopment Plan (ARP) for Eau Claire, as adopted by City Council with significant community input targeted a population for Eau Claire of about 5000. With a current population of about 1700 we're still far short of that mark.
- If we are to meet that kind of population target, we have to ensure that the planning process keeps its focus on our development as a community. Preserving and protecting that vision for Eau Claire—as a growing residen-

tial community—is a key driver of your Board's work.

- ECCA also deals with other community concerns. Any issue that affects part or all of a community, from a traffic problem to deteriorating housing, is a proper concern of community boards. We have very good relations both with our Neighbourhood liaison and with the representative of the Calgary Police Service. Both generally attend all of our meetings and we keep each other informed of community issues and how they are working to resolve them.
- Another important goal of our Community Association is to improve the quality of life in the community by providing opportunities to share fun events with your neighbours. We don't have a community centre and soccer fields but we still organize special events such as the upcoming neighbour event and special projects such as our Little Free Library.

Please consider joining us and having a meaningful impact on your community!

To volunteer, come to the AGM or contact

Jim Hughes at info@EauClaireCA.com





Eau Claire
Community
Association

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

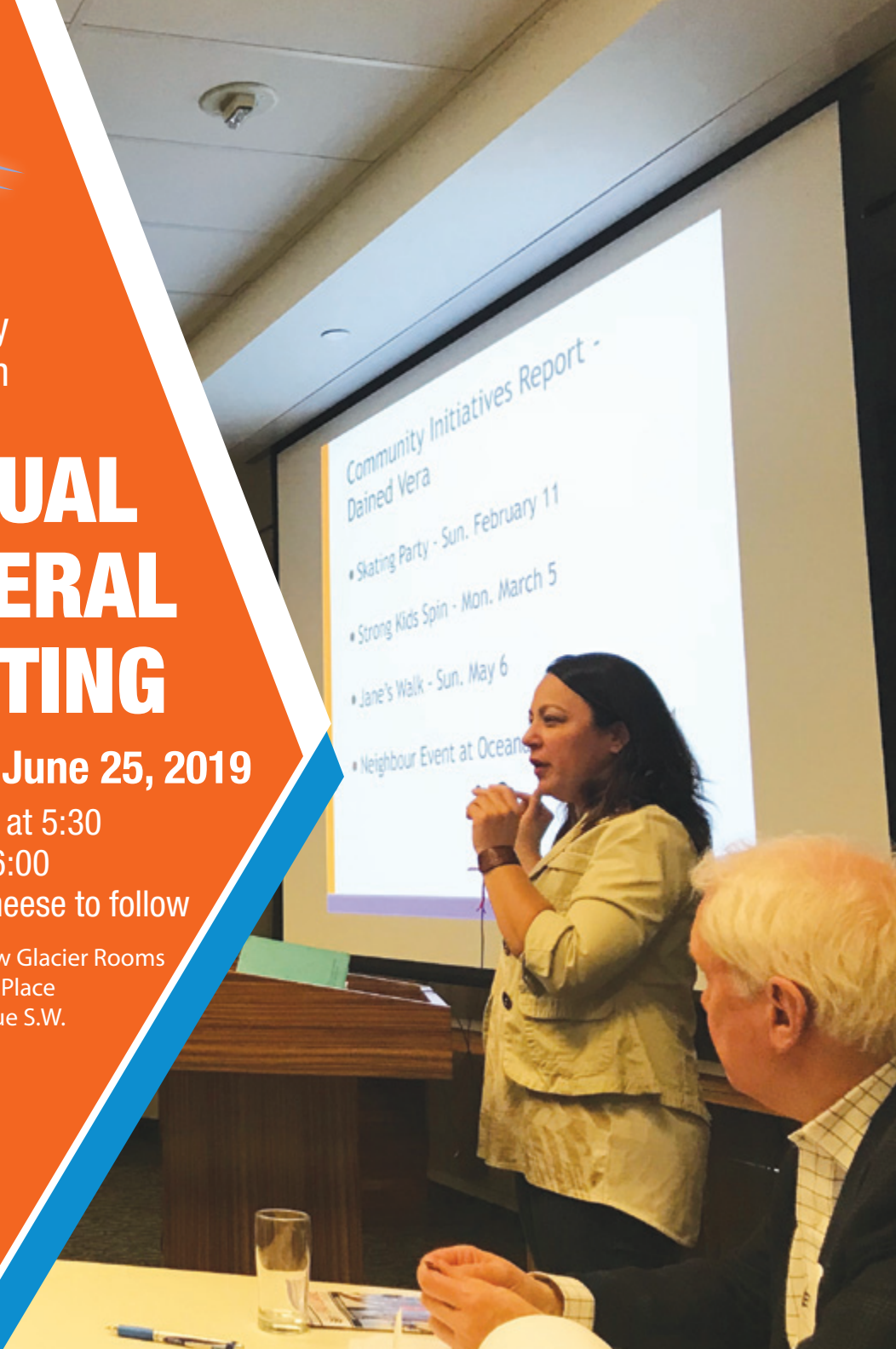
Tuesday, June 25, 2019

Registration at 5:30

Meeting at 6:00

Wine and cheese to follow

Bow River & Bow Glacier Rooms
+15 Centennial Place
520 – 3rd Avenue S.W.





EAU CLAIRE PUBLIC REALM

The City is working with Calgarian's to create a safe, efficient and beautiful riverfront park space, promenade and cycle network.

The City's Eau Claire Projects

The City is investing in Eau Claire to create a landmark area where Calgarians can proudly participate in a desirable, active and lively cultural destination. We are undertaking multiple, connected projects that focus on connectivity and resiliency by creating great spaces to live, work and play.

We are committed to:

- Improving connections in to and out of Eau Claire, and downtown as a whole, whether you travel by foot, bus, bike or car.
- Building on Eau Claire's character to create great spaces to live, work, play, and shop.
- Planning for the near- and long-term to deliver thoughtful growth and development in the area.

Together these projects will support your community in the near future and for decades to come. Each of the projects in the area has the same objective of building and maintaining a wonderful neighbourhood. Some projects will be planned and constructed in the next two years; others that are in planning now won't be realized for several years. It's important that we implement each project to meet current needs and to lay the foundation for expected future demand as Calgary grows and evolves.

The draft Eau Claire Public Realm Plan provides a comprehensive vision for the future of the Eau Claire Public Realm. It highlights key considerations, programs and elements that will allow Eau Claire area projects to capitalize on the many opportunities that exist in the area and that will accompany forthcoming projects such as the Green Line and the redevelopment of Eau Claire Market.

At this time, the Eau Claire Promenade and Eau Claire Plaza projects are open for public input. Please go to <https://engage.calgary.ca/eauc claire> to see all of the concept work on all of the projects and to give your opinion at this early stage of development.



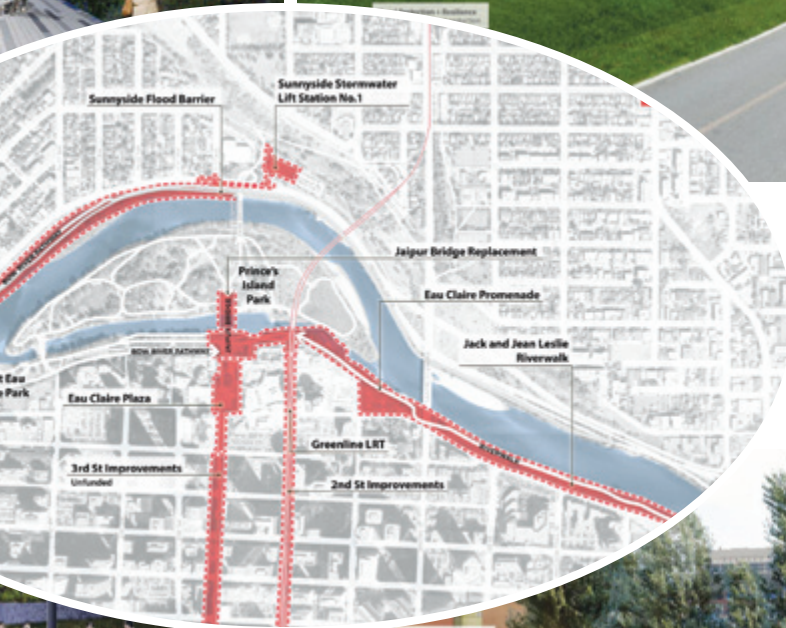
CENTRE STREET - CHINATOWN

LAGOON





RIVERWALK EAST



RIVERWALK WEST



~CONTINUED NEXT PAGE~



Calgary



Overall Design

Urban/Nature

Eau Claire Plaza is a landmark public space in the heart of Calgary, where the Bow River flows past the downtown core. It is both an anchor and centre for the Eau Claire Community and a destination for Calgarians and visitors.

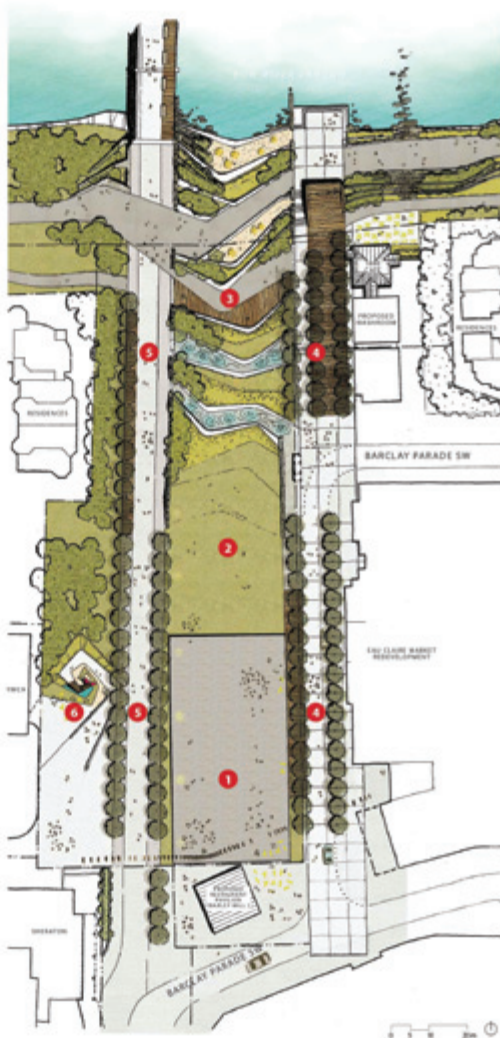
Design Philosophy

The Eau Claire Plaza is uniquely situated - a large public space within the urban fabric of Calgary's downtown, a gateway to Prince's Island and the Bow River, and a major node in the Riverswalk network. The overarching theme that emerged throughout the past 10+ years of stakeholder and public engagement is the intersection of nature and culture.

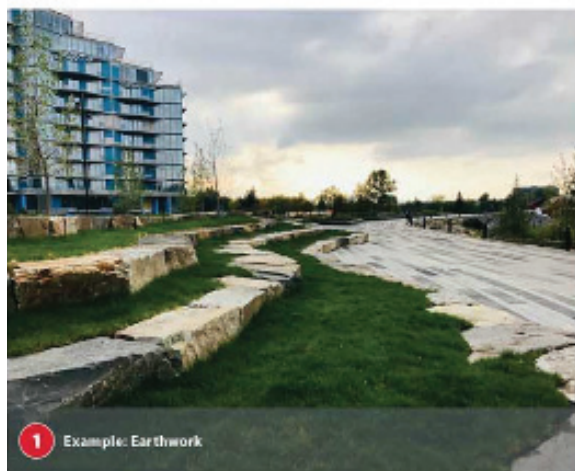
Eau Claire Plaza is a space where nature and the urban fabric collide, sculpting an iconic landscape designed as a stage for public life.

Character Areas

- 1 Urban Plaza
- 2 Central Green
- 3 Riverside Terraces
- 4 Market Street
- 5 Promenade
- 6 Play



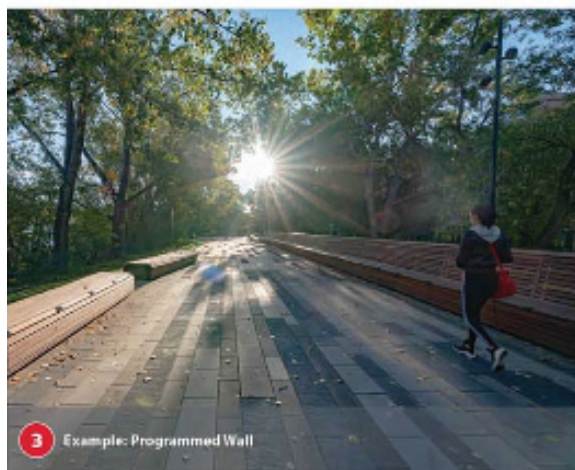
Flood Mitigation Strategies



1 Example: Earthwork



2 Example: Raised Promenade



3 Example: Programmed Wall



4 Example: Post + Panel System

Original Centre Street Bridge Lions

800 Macleod Trail S.E., 1917 - 1999

Early in 1917 the four Original Centre Street Bridge Lions were installed upon the newly completed, reinforced-concrete Centre Street Bridge (1916) and became the most impressive ornamental features of the structure. Original blueprints for the bridge included lion sculptures and other carvings, but this ornamental work was almost eliminated from the plans due to the high cost estimates. However, an economical option was apparently discovered when Alderman Hornby recalled seeing a lion sculpture on a northwest Calgary property. The owner and artist was a Scottish-born stonemason, James Langlands Thomson, who had come to Calgary in 1913 and happened to be employed as a stone carver for the City. He agreed to create the artistic ornamentation for the bridge and was seconded from his regular job to complete the four lions.

The four original Centre Street Bridge Lions are cast-concrete sculptures. They each measure 12 feet in length, 5 feet in width, and 8 feet in height including pedestal, and weigh approximately 12,730 kg each. Of the four original lions, one has been restored and was reinstalled in its current location in front of the Calgary Municipal Building in 2003; another that wasn't restored but left in its original condition now overlooks the bridge that was its original home from the Rotary Park bluff. The four sculptures were initially located from 1917-99 atop kiosks on the Centre Street Bridge.

According to a contemporary newspaper report, the dry process of sculpting with cement used to create the lions was new to western Canada and nothing of this scale had yet been done. It was also new to Thomson, who drew on his great artistic skill and experience working in hard stone and marble, to complete both the model and final sculptures.

The figures of the reposing lions are based on Sir Edwin Landseer's bronze lions at the base of the Nelson monument in London's Trafalgar Square. Originally, the lions represented the city's strong associations to Britain and its empire, being a widely recognized British symbol. With Calgary's large Anglo-Saxon population, the young city retained close ties to Britain, particularly given the immediate context of the First World War in which many Calgarians served in allegiance to the British Empire. Other symbolic sculptural ornament such as the rose, shamrock, thistle, maple leaf and buffalo adorned the bridge to represent the British Empire and western Canada, yet the lions were by far the most prominent features.

Historically, the lions were also associated with local legends, being said to leap from their pedestals at midnight to roam through Chinatown in search of food.

Over time the lions became well-known Calgary icons and the subjects of strong emotional attachment among Calgarians. The lions' image has been frequently featured in a wide variety of formats, such as tourism materials and interpretive displays, solidifying their familiarity with Calgary citizens and visitors. Notably, the lions' image is also the basis of the Calgary Heritage Authority's Lion Awards which recognize local heritage conservation initiatives. The prominent placement of one of the original lions at the entrance to the Municipal Building has served to put a large number of Calgarians in continued contact with the lions with the effect of making the lions almost a de facto symbol of Calgary's civic affairs. Originally a symbol of Calgary's ties to Britain, the Centre Street Bridge Lions have come to identify Calgary itself.



Calgary Herald, March 4, 1917. "Placing the Lion" at the Centre Street Bridge. Workmen place the lion on one of the four kiosks during the construction of the bridge. Lions were designed by James L. Thomson.

The installation of one of the Centre Street Lions in 1917. Image via the Southern Pioneer's Heritage Collection, pioneersalberta.org.



The lone restored lion at the Municipal Building entrance, installed 2003. Image via City of Calgary.

Article and images provided courtesy of City of Calgary's Inventory of Historic Resources

Wines with Dick McDougall

Dick McDougall, WSET 3, Fine Vintage Certified is a high school calculus teacher and a self-employed sommelier in Calgary.



I Do Not Like Green Eggs and Wine

I do not like them in a moat, I would not eat them with a goat...

Those who have been reading me know from my articles that I like all sorts of wines from all sorts of places but allow me one brief article to vent about something that I do not like. I do not like natural wines. Shame on me for throwing shade on a trendy new thing but after trying at least a dozen times, I just shake my head.

Winemakers have spent a thousand years developing the perfect yeasts so valued that some wineries keep theirs under lock and key, much like sake makers who protect their

defining Koji rice. Suddenly, it becomes trendy to mimic the Ancients and put grapes in a clay amphora, bury it and let the wild yeasts on the grapes' skins go wild without filtering or fining. Are we so bored of drinking the tremendous wines of today?

As a mathematician and scientist, I love a good experiment as much as the next guy, but I would not say, "Hey, let's try leaving the stems and pits in the wine for a little extra bitter flavour and crunchiness!" Rogue yeasts on grape skins are unpredictable and sometimes the worst of them win out which is why only predictable yeasts are used in the best wines.

I recently bought a natural wine made with Sauvignon Blanc and shared it with relatives who I know love that particular varietal. It was cloudy, unfiltered and funky which is definitely not what they were looking for, yet this wine was \$30+ and rated 95 points by a top wine mag.

I will probably get some emails on this, but I leave you with a warning of the Ancients when it comes to the natural wine trend: *caveat emptor*.

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The Unimposing House Finch

by J.G. Turner



The House Finch (*Haemorhous mexicanus*), a passerine (a song bird), is found year-round across the southern part of western Canada, and throughout the United States and Mexico. Their range in Alberta is expanding northward.

It is a medium-sized finch (about the size of a House Sparrow) with a brown-streaked back and wing, and narrow dark stripes on its whitish under parts. The male's head, throat and rump are generally a pink-red. The female is easily mistaken for a female House Sparrow. Its tail is relatively dark brown, long and squared. The bill is short and thick, cone shaped, an obvious seed-eating bill. They eat seeds from plants, as well as buds, leaves and fruits. They can feed and drink while hovering!

This little songbird is very adaptable in terms of where it will live; including finding a home in deserts, grasslands, orchards, open woods, towns, cities and rural properties such as ranches. It will make its compact little woven nest in a bush, tree, natural cavity or building. They form breeding pairs and lay 6 to 8 eggs (lavender with black spots).

Fun Facts:

- The male House Finch colouring can range from deep red to golden yellow, depending on what its diet was during moulting!
- When it flies it makes several fast wingbeats then has a brief period when it pulls its wings pulled in against its sides.
- This bird's song is a warbling one, with notes ending with "zeee".
- One can find House Finches hanging out with a group of House Sparrows, alone or in pairs.
- A group of House Finches are called a "development" of finches.
- If you want to attract these little birds to your backyard feeder, try tempting them with nyger or millet seed and shelled sunflower seeds.

If you find an injured or orphaned wild bird or animal, please contact the Calgary Wildlife Rehabilitation Society at 403-214-1312 for tips, instructions and advice, or look at the website at www.calgarywildlife.org for more information.



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- ◆ Forty word limit

ACOUSTIC MUSIC NEIGHBORHOOD JAM: Come on out to a circle jam if you play guitar, mandolin, banjo, fiddle, or bass. Bring your favorite gospel, folk, bluegrass, country songs, or a song you've written yourself. Dates set by interested participants. More info: beabrightlight@yahoo.ca.

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10,000+ participants, spectators and volunteers will take to the streets of Calgary on Sunday May 26. Visit calgarymarathon.com to register, to volunteer and for road closures that may impact your community.



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