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# Evergreen Community Association

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#### **Elected Officials**



Councillor Diane Colley-Urquhart Ward 13 Office P.O. Box 2100, Station M Calgary, AB, CanadaT2P 2M5 Phone: 403-268-1624 Fax: 403-268-8091 Email: ward13@calgary.ca Web: www.calgary.ca/ward13



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GREAT NEWS PUBLISHING HAS BEEN PROUDLY SERVING EVERGREEN FOR 4 YEARS!



#### **Fish Creek Speaker Series**

Presentations will take place at the Fish Creek Environmental Learning Centre at Shannon Terrace in Fish Creek Provincial Park (13931 Woodpath Rd. SW, access via 130 Ave. SW and 37 St. SW). Friends members will receive free admission and the fee is \$5 each for non-members. Please register online at www. friendsoffishcreek.org/programs/speaker-series

#### Fish Creek - From Gentle Stream to Wild River and Everything in Between:

#### A Look at Land Uses and Water Quality Assessment Through the Years

Thursday, January 21, 2016 — 7:00pm - 8:00pm Presented by Katie Pearson, Program Coordinator, Friends of Fish Creek

Join us for an evening all about the small creek after which our park was named! In this talk, we will explore how various land uses have affected the creek's water quality over the years. From 2007 to 2013, the Friends worked with volunteers and community organizations to test the quality of the water in the creek. We will share the results of the Friends of Fish Creek Water Quality Monitoring Program and highlight the people and organizations that helped turn this dream into a reality.

#### Sticks and Stones: Using Bioengineering to Improve Fish Habitat

Thursday, February 25, 2016 — 7:00pm - 8:00pm Presented by Lesley Peterson (P.Biol) Provincial Biologist Trout Unlimited Canada

The process of bioengineering was used to improve fish habitat along a side channel of the Bow River here in Fish Creek. Trout Unlimited Canada undertook this project in the spring of 2015 to improve and enhance the side channel located at Mallard Point. The entire

area was heavily impacted by the flood of 2013 and Trout Unlimited saw the opportunity to explore bioengineering as an effective way to repair and enhance the area to improve fish habitat. The presentation will also explore the needs of fish during their life cycle and offer people background on Trout Unlimited and the work they do provincially and nationally.

#### Friends of Fish Creek Annual General Meeting

Thursday, January 28, 2016

Registration at 6:30 pm, Meeting starts at 7:00 pm Fish Creek Environmental Learning Centre, Shannon Terrace, Fish Creek Provincial Park

It is because of our members, volunteers and donors that the Friends have accomplished so much. Come and have your voice heard and meet our board and staff at the Annual General Meeting. Refreshments will be served. Please contact the Friends of Fish Creek Provincial Park Society if you would like to attend, or visit www.friendsoffishcreek.org/event/agm

#### **Fish Creek CommUnity Fair**

Would You Like to Volunteer in Fish Creek? The Friends of Fish Creek Need You!

Saturday, February 27, 2016 1:00pm - 4:00pm

Fish Creek Environmental Learning Centre, Shannon Terrace, Fish Creek Provincial Park

(13931 Woodpath Rd. SW - Access via 130 Ave. SW and 37 St. SW)

Come to the third annual Fish Creek CommUnity Fair to learn about amazing programs, courses, events and opportunities taking place in 2016. The ground may still be covered in snow, but Spring starts now in Fish Creek! For more info, please visit www.friendsoffishcreek.org/event/fccuf.





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

#### **January at Trico Centre**

Trico Centre for Family Wellness is a non-profit, community-owned and operated recreation facility. Our memberships are affordable and our programs are family-friendly. With a membership, you can work out in the fitness centre, take more than 70-drop-in fitness classes a week, use the gymnasium, swim, skate, or play shinny, plus you get 20% off our fun, active registered programs.

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

## A new session of registered programs starts in January 9 – check the Program Guide or www.tricocentre.ca. Price Freeze

 Breathe a big post-holiday sigh of relief: recession-busting price freeze in effect at Trico Centre on memberships, admissions, and program fees. No increase until September 2016.

#### Adults

- Registered adult programs starting in January: Cardio Dance, Barre Stretch & Release, Core Fusion Barre, TRX Flow, Mindful Relaxation, Trim and Tone, Strong is the New Skinny: Weight Training for Women by Women, Fit 101 for the Absolute Beginner. Workshops include Foam Roller Workshop, Peek Week what? Strength & Conditioning Clinic: Jumps, Throws, and Agility, Yoqa Nidra.
- Cool new program: Strike It Cardio Drumming: Free Demo class on January 6 from 7:30-8:30pm.
- January is a great time to get back to the fitness centre more than 70 drop-in fitness classes every week included in membership.

#### **Older Adults**

 Registered multi-week programs starting in January include Balance Builders, Bone Builders, Chair Yoga, Sore Joints Training. Workshops and clinics include Foam Roller Workshop and Strike It for Seniors!

#### **Families**

- Registered family programs; Family in Motion, Family Yoga, Mindfulness for Youth & Parent, Family YogArt, Prenatal Fitness, Mommy & Me Barre, Mommy/Daddy & Me Aquafit, Mommy & Me Fitness.
- Family Night: Sunday Night is Family Night swim from 6 to 8pm and/or gymnasium from 6-7pm. Free for members; nonmembers \$3 per person.

#### **Children & Youth**

 Registered programs including skating lessons, swimming lessons, dance, sport, gymnastics, active play, and yoga for tots to teens.









# **Keep Your Paws Warm!**

Well we are about to enter the heart of winter when we see temperatures of minus 20 degrees and lower outside and I don't want to walk my dog, although he is always ready and willing. Most dogs are amazingly well equipped to deal with the cold weather, but not every breed or individual can deal with this kind of cold without precautions.

When dogs first walk on the cold snow you often see them limp or hold a paw up as they run around. Then given some time they seem to become more comfortable. A dog's pads are equipped with a very effective heat exchange system. Once the paw's blood vessels adjust to the cold, and as long as the pad is dry and healthy, the average dog can tolerate most very cold surfaces. Smaller dogs tend to be less tolerant than large breeds. There are exceptions. Dogs with long guard hairs and thick downy undercoats like shepherds and huskies do fine, but dogs with short fine fur like Dobermans have little tolerance for cold. Fortunately stores now stock doggie coats from your basic knitted sweater to fine sartorial splendour depending on the taste of the human companion.

Some people believe a mat of hair over the dog's foot pads will protect them. Not true. Matted fur and excessive hair tends to stay wet, collect ice balls, and hold chemicals such as de-icing agents and salt against the skin. A dog's paws will adjust to the cold more effectively if the hair is kept reasonably short and clean. After walks rinse and dry your pet's feet if you suspect he has walked through chemicals.

Some dogs just can't tolerate cold paws no matter what you do. Consider booties for these individuals. Booties and mukluks come in all shapes and sizes for dogs. It is important that the boot breath and not compromise the blood flow to the paw. Most animals readily tolerate comfortable well-fitted boots. Online pet stores and local pet stores carry an array of boots for dogs. If you have a large active pet that will need heavy-duty boots you may want to consider custom-made footwear.

Along with their fur keep your pet's nails clipped. In our winters nails may split as your pet goes in and out from the cold and damp and nails may benefit from supplements such as omega fatty acids or fish oils.

My old Labrador would push through the roughest ground cover on the scent of a bird, but in the city he had very sensitive feet and could not tolerate rock salt on his paws at all. Nor would he tolerate boots. I used a paw wax on his feet. Applied to the pad these waxes seal the paw and protect the skin from ice and chemicals. They also protect the pads from cracking with dryness as the dogs go in and out. As long as your dog tolerates his feet touched the paw waxes are very easy to use. Vaseline is a cheap alternative but lasts only a short time outside and can pick up unwanted dirt adhering to the paw.

New products are always coming on the market. Check with your veterinarian and don't forget to protect the rest of your pet from the cold by keeping them well groomed. A clean well-groomed coat insulates from both cold in winter and heat in summer better. Finally remember, like us, as dogs become elderly or arthritic they may require more protection from the elements than they did in their prime. Be as conscious of a senior pet potentially slipping on the ice as you would be of an elderly relative.

Jennifer L. Scott, D.V.M.



# Calgary 🙇

#### On Jan. 5, 2016, The City of Calgary will mail 2016 property assessment notices.

Watch for your assessment notice in the mail – it contains important information including:

- Your assessed value
- Your access code to log into Assessment Search
- Dates to contact Assessment if you have questions.

#### Go to Assessment Search to:

- View information about your assessment and other details
- Search for comparable properties
- · Search for sales of similar properties in your area
- View other detailed assessment information.

Assessment Search - getting started

#### First-time users will need to complete a two-step registration process:

- 1. Create a City of Calgary personal mylD account. Visit calgary.ca/mylD to register.
- **2.** Link your property assessment to your myID account.

When you receive your 2016 assessment notice go to Assessment Search at calgary.ca/assessment:

- · Login with your myID account and password.
- Enter the roll number and access code displayed on your notice.

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#### FEBRUARY 16 TO 21 THE WIZARD OF OZ

Join Dorothy, Scarecrow, Tin Man and Lion on a journey down the yellow brick road. This new production of The Wizard of Oz adapts the classic book for the stage and contains the well-loved songs from the Oscar-winning film. www.calgary.broadway.com



#### FEBRUARY 19 TO APRIL 24 STAR WARZ-A GALACTIC ROCK COMEDY

There are rebels with spaceships, Jedi with lightsabers... there is a princess, a smuggler, and robots, the Evil Darth Vador and singing... yes you heard me... singing of your favourite galactic rock tunes of the 70's and 80's. www.calgary.jubilations.ca



# AT A GLANCE...

• February 1 to 29 - YYC Hot Chocolate Fest:
Participating restaurants and cafes across Calgary
each create a signature hot chocolate and try to
win Calgarians' hearts — the hot chocolate with the
most votes takes home the title of Calgary's Best Hot
Chocolate. www.yychotchocolate.com

• February 3 – Calgary Flames vs Carolina Hurricanes at the Saddledome 7:30 pm. www.calgaryflames.com

• February 5 to 20 - Lord of the Flies: Remarkably true to the novel in spirit... the theatre lends itself particularly well to the ritualistic aspects of the story - chanting, dancing, marching, forming a circle round the victim, stamping out a fire. You end up feeling you have seen a fable of infinite implications enacted in a little room. www.storybooktheatre.org

 February 12 – Calgary Hitmen & Red Deer Rebels face off at 7:00 pm at the Saddledome.
 www.hitmenhockey.com

• February 12 to 14 - Block Heater: A Winter Music Extravaganza: There's a new music festival in Calgary over the Family Day long weekend. More than 20 artists perform at three Inglewood venues over three days. www.calgaryfolkfest.com

• February 12 to April 17 - Suite Surrender: Mistaken identities, overblown egos, double-entendres, and a lap dog named Mr. Boodles round out this hilarious riot of a love note to classic farce.

www.stagewestcalgary.com

• February 21 to 22 - Spinosaurus: Lost Giant of the Cretaceous: Meet Spinosaurus, the largest predatory dinosaur yet discovered and hear the incredible story of how this prehistoric giant was almost lost to science, before being brought back to light with the help of a remarkable young paleontologist. www.artscommons.ca

• February 26 - Calgary Hitmen vs Royals at the Saddledome 7:00 pm. www.hitmenhockey.com

• February 27 – Calgary Flames & Ottawa Senators face off at 8:00 pm at the Saddledome.

www.calgaryflames.com

 February 28 - Night With the Stars: This year, Theatre Calgary's annual fundraiser has an otherworldly theme.
 This gala takes participants to a different galaxy.
 www.theatrecalgary.com

# IN & AROUND CALGARY

#### **EMS: Sledding Safety**

Alberta Health Services, EMS, would like to remind parents and children of some basic sledding safety tips as the winter season continues. Sledding injuries can result from collisions with stationary objects, such as trees and rocks, or with other people on the hill. Unprotected falls can result in injury if you lose control at high speeds. Everyone is at risk – especially children. Have a fun and safe trip on the toboggan hill by following these simple reminders.

#### **Equipment**

- Ensure your sled is in good condition. Do not use sleds with broken parts, sharp edges, or splits in the material.
- Currently, there are no helmets designed specifically for sledding. However children should wear a properly fitted helmet designed for high impact collisions, such as hockey, cycling, or climbing helmets.

#### Hazards

- Avoid hills that are too steep, or too icy you can lose control very quickly.
- Choose hills free of obstacles such as trees, rocks, utility poles, or fences.
- Be mindful of clothing that contains drawstrings, or loose clothing, such as scarves, which can present a choking hazard if they become caught or snagged.

#### Plan ahead

- Dress warmly in layers and anticipate weather changes.
- Consider bringing extra sets of gloves and toques to exchange wet garments for dry ones.
- Take breaks to warm up out of the cold.
- Ensure frostbite hasn't affected any exposed skin.
- Even when properly protected from the elements, the finger tips, toes, ears, the tip of the nose, and other high points on the face such as the forehead and cheek bones can be affected by frostbite.
- If frost bite has occurred, treat it by first removing the individual out of the cold environment. Gently warm the affected skin by placing a warm hand over it or by placing the affected part in warm water (not hot; ~41°C max.) until re-warmed.

# PAP tests - BREAST exams - Early Prenatal Care When PAP tests - BREAST exams - Early Prenatal Care PAP tests - BREAST exams - Early Prenatal Care Our women's clinic provides a safe informative environment for your routine PAP tests and breast exams. Female physicians only. Patients may also self-refer for early prenatal care.

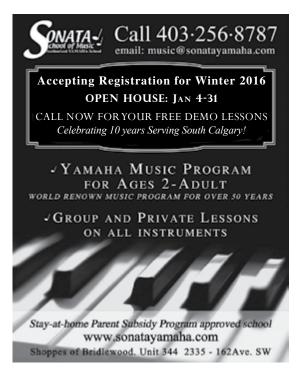
• STI testing, contraception, HPV counselling.

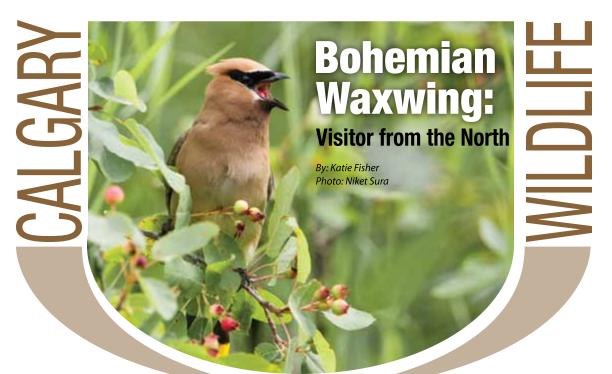
• Evening and Saturday appointments available.

Call (403) 254-2030 to book an appointment.
Visit our website at www.thesundanceclinic.com

The Sundance Clinic

South Calgary Health Centre Building 31 Sunpark Plaza SE Calgary T2X 3W5





As the snow sets in and sunlight runs at a minimum, we prepare ourselves for what might feel like the longest months of the year. Many of the pretty songbirds have flown south for warmer climates, however, our friend, the Bohemian Waxwing, will at times, fly south to us from the north to escape some of the harshest conditions.

The Bohemian Waxwing is a medium-sized songbird who is brownish gray in colour, equipped with a black mask, a yellow tip to tail and a crest on top of his head. He earns his name from the nomadic movements of the winter flocks; much like the inhabitants of Bohemia who live unconventional lifestyles or like the lives of gypsies. He does not hold breeding territories like other songbirds, simply for the reason the fruits he enjoys to snack on are abundant, but only available for short periods of time. Unlike songbirds, the Bohemian Waxwing has no true song as he doesn't require it to defend a territory.

He spends much of his time in the forest, foraging for fruit and insects. The Bohemian Waxwing is elegant in flight, catching insects in mid-air or hovering to snatch

fruit. He must be careful when choosing his fruit, as the Bohemian is susceptible to alcohol intoxication, and even death, from eating fermented fruit. He chooses to build his nest with his monogamous partner, on branches, closest to the trunk of the tree; constructed with twigs, grasses and camouflaged with mosses and lichens. From time to time, he will visit city parks and gardens in hopes of finding fruit.

Both parents are responsible for feeding their young, who will leave the nest anywhere from 14 to 18 days old. Like most songbirds, they feed insects to their young at first, but switch to feeding them berries within a few days. Most Bohemian family units stay together through the fall until they prepare for migration. Flocks are the most common form of migration and will, at times, be mixed in with Cedar Waxwing flocks, creating guite a sight to be seen.

If you come across an injured Bohemian Waxwing, or any other wild animal in distress please contact Calgary Wildlife Rehabilitation Society wildlife hotline at 403-239-2488 for tips, instructions and advice.



- 1. Don't be coy about your budget but do be realistic. Make sure you do your homework, find out what is realistic by talking to friends who have done similar things. Tack on an extra 20% for those inevitable unforeseen issues. Your contractor should have regular meetings with you to keep you updated on the budget.
- 2. Hire well and trust. Choose someone who you connect with and can be honest with. In the early phases of the design stage, there may be options that are not perfect or that you may not have thought of. Having the conversation about what you like and what you do not like is important. Check Renomark and Alberta New Home Warranty for firms to interview.
- 3. Details are crucial but start at the end. As you get further into the process the details become more important so remember start at the end with the big picture and work your way down to the details.
- 4. Renovate for the long term. Make sure your renovation is up to date and save the trendy things for less permanent items such as accessories. Do it once, do it right and put as much quality as you can afford, but do not overbuild for your home.
- **5. Always be appropriate.** Remembering to "start at the end", make sure your renovations will be appropriate for your lifestyle, appropriate for your budget, and appropriate for your house.
- 6. Have fun! I hope these tips help make your renovation journey enjoyable. Remember renovations are done by human beings and human beings can make mistakes. Be patient; Trust your team to make anything that goes wrong (and it will), right.

By Lynn Donaldson









OME GARDENING WITH BARBARA

### DO YOU READ WHAT I READ?

Barbara Shorrock

All the information you could ever want to access is on the internet now, but I still believe there is nothing so satisfying as a beautiful book with glossy photos, whether it be a cookbook, a travel book or a book about gardens. The research for today's article has been done in my own house where the serious bookshelves are laden with the collection of many years of gifts and purchases. Winter is upon us (as I write this we are experiencing a major snow and wind event with wind-chills at a dangerous level; in Saskatchewan we used to call these blizzards) and it is the best season to browse and dream of what might be possible in a few months when spring arrives. So pour yourself a cup of tea, add a plate of cookies, and browse with me through some of my favourites:

Front Yard Gardens - Liz Primeau. Large or small, bold or subtle, formal or cluttered – it is all good. Liz covers the whole spectrum of that space between your front door and the street.

Favourite Plants – Liz Primeau, editor, From Canadian Gardening Magazine, this features the best plants to choose for your Canadian Garden. Not meant to replace your "Encyclopedia of All Things Plants" it helps the gardener to make wise choices when adding to old beds and creating new ones.

The Flower Gardener's Bible - Lewis and Nancy Hill. Much more than a series of beautiful pictures and descriptions, this book tells you how to and why to and where to, assuming the reader doesn't have a lot of knowledge to begin with.

A Year In the Garden - Steven Bradley. Season by season, he takes us through projects that are manageable by most handy gardeners. This isn't a Canadian book, so you get a glimpse of what works in the US and Britain, but the illustrations and photos are excellent.

The Calgary Gardener Vol 1 and 2 – The Calgary Horticultural Society. I can't tell you how many of these I have given to gardeners new to Calgary. Our climate and soil can be a bit of a mystery to immigrants, particularly those who have migrated from British Columbia and Ontario, never mind other countries. No glossy pictures in these guys, just page after page of down-to-earth useful information on how to deal with winter Chinooks, alkaline soil, lovely summers that are interrupted by blasts of winter now and then, and what to plant and where.

The Northern Gardener: Perennials that Survive and Thrive - Barbara Rayment. Zone 3 choices for our part of the country, all organized and alphabetized. Well written and easy to navigate.

No Work Garden - Bob Flowerdew, I must confess I bought this solely for the title, and also the author's name, but it really does have lots of advice to lighten the work load. I would have named it "The Less Work Garden", but his title sells more books, I am sure.

No Guff Vegetable Gardening - Donna Balzer and Steven Biggs. They call themselves Garden Coaches, and this unusually arranged soft-cover volume is full of cheerful graphics by a couple of artists from Gabriola Island's Feedlot Studios (love that name). Of course, there is much useful info among the charming photos and amusing drawings. A fun read.

One of the benefits of attending the Queensland Garden Club monthly meetings is access to the freebie's donated by members who are culling their collections of books, magazines, house plants, succulents, pots, baskets, etc. etc. 1st Wed. each month at the Queensland Community Centre.

# calgary reads

#### **Calgary Reads: Writings** about Reading

#### Family Literacy - it only takes 15 minutes of fun!

January 27th is Family Literacy Day across Canada and we hope you'll take part in literacy-building activities with the children in your life! Just 15 minutes a day can help develop long-lasting literacy skills in children and strengthen the literacy skills of adults too.

Spending time reading, talking, singing and playing together helps parents and caregivers build positive, strong bonds with their children.

#### Here are some fun ways your family can mark Family **Literacy Day:**

#### • How was your day today?

Have your child write notes (sticky notes are always a big hit) or keep a journal about their day . . . and you do the same. Note fun things and new experiences. Then share the updates with each other in the car, on transit, during dinner or when getting ready for bed.

#### Have a game night to celebrate Family Literacy Day

Gather your family's favourite board games and decide which ones to play. Take turns reading the instructions, game cards or keeping score. Perhaps decide to make game night a weekly event. It's a great way to come together and build skills while having fun!

#### • Build an obstacle course

Engage the whole family in building an obstacle course in the family room or a spot like the basement. Use pillows, furniture, toys etc. Then together, draw and label a map showing how to navigate the course.

#### Lights out, talk on!

After bedtime stories with your child, turn off the lights and stay and chat. Take turns making up new endings for the stories you just read . . . or come up with ideas for the character's next adventure!

Thanks to ABCLifeLiteracy.ca for the fun ideas adapted

For lists of great children's books by age and resources to help your child develop critical literacy skills and a joy of reading, visit calgaryreads.com.





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- REGISTRATION STARTING JANUARY 18 FOR SEPTEMBER 2016 -

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**CLEANING SERVICE:** Well experienced European lady available. I do a great job. Weekly, bi-weekly and move out cleaning. Please contact 403-992-5208.

**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.

PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANT: Personal and corporate income tax return preparation and efiling, general accounting services (bookkeeping, financial statements, GST, payroll, T4/T5 slips). Certified General Accountant with 25 years experience, reasonable rates and convenient location. Daryl Pallesen CGA, #145 251 Midpark Blvd SE. Please call 403-988-2175 or email daryl.pallesen@shaw.ca.

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**MASSAGE-U-WELL CLINIC:** 10% off for massage and acupuncture in January. Registered massage therapists and acupuncturist. #12-523 Woodpark Blvd. S.W. Book online: www.massage-u-well.com Phone: 403-475-0368

# **BUSINESS CLASSIFIEDS**

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#### COUNCILLOR, WARD 13 DIANE COLLEY-URQUHART

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#### **Happy New Year to Ward 13!**

With another year behind us, I truly hope you and yours enjoyed a wonderful and warm holiday season surrounded by family, friends and loved ones.

As many of you know, 2015 was a big year for Calgarians as we all adjusted to tough economic times and struggled with family members and neighbours losing employment. But I look forward to the new year as City Council has accelerated capital projects to kickstart the economy and invest in new jobs and opportunities for 2016.

#### **Province of Alberta Closes Hwy 22X Dog Park**

I, among several residents are very disappointed with the news about the Provincial closure of the Spruce Meadows temporary off-leash dog park, located just off of Hwy 22X.

Unfortunately, the decision for the closure was not mine. nor The City of Calgary's jurisdiction to make, as the area is within the Province of Alberta's Transportation Utility Corridor and is owned by The Province through the Alberta Infrastructure department.

The space is currently being leased by Spruce Meadows with the lease ending on December 31, 2015. The Province is not intending to renew the lease with Spruce Meadows in preparation for construction of the Southwest Calgary Ring Road. If you have further questions regarding this park closure, please contact The Province's Alberta Infrastructure Department toll-free at 310-0000.

#### **Community Associaton President Spotlight: Cec Jahrig of Woodcreek**

Cec Jahrig has been the Community Association President for Woodcreek over the past five terms. Cec has been a tireless volunteer since taking over the Presidency in 2010 and was also Vice President prior to that.

Cec not only is a Chartered Professional Accountant, but he is also retired from a background in real estate. When the Woodcreek Community Association was in need of a treasurer, Cec was interested in the role. As luck would have it however, six other candidates had also put their names forward for the position. As a result, Cec decided instead to focus on volunteering on the fundraising side for Woodcreek and eventually ran for President.

Cec has seen the CA memberships soar during his time in office with a total of 2,401 members since 2010, and 1,100 of those members signed up just last year. He has built a great team of volunteers, and without their efforts, the Woodcreek Community Association wouldn't be as successful as it currently stands.

Other accomplishments which Cec has overseen in his tenure included improving community engagement by adding office space, expanding the current facilities to accommodate the community, repaying the Woodbine tennis courts, the building of pickle ball courts, the creation of a skate park, installation of basketball courts in both Woodbine and Woodlands and upgrading the flood lights. Cec is dedicated in recruiting volunteers to organize community and sporting events at the community hall. He is most proud of the support from the entire board and volunteers and has seen a substantial increase in community support throughout the years.

Cec, for all you do and have done for our City, I would like to express a heartfelt thank you on behalf of everyone you serve.

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our Christmas Open House! From Team: Dr Richard Starke, our family to yours, we hope you Dave Rodney, Wayne Drysdale, had a safe, happy holiday season Rick Fraser, Manmeet Bhullar, and we send you our best wishes Sandra Jansen, Ric McIver, for a super 2016!

Thanks to all who joined us for Our Proud Alberta PC MLA Mike Ellis and Richard Gotfried

#### Effective and Respectful Opposition ~ Serving as the Voices of Reason

I am very pleased to tell you that our PC Caucus continues to stand up for hard-working Albertans everywhere, and has proven what an effective, respectful opposition looks like. Over the past seven months, PC MLA's have continued to push on issues from the energy sector to affordable housing; and from the forgotten issues of our forestry industry, to the needs of Albertans facing challenging economic times. Our caucus stood side-byside with farmers and ranchers in the fight for reason with Bill 6, as they struggled to have their voices and concerns heard. I put forward a motion to suspend the bill until farmers and ranchers were consulted; but the new NDP government was deaf to that. Instead, they simply continued a trend that started just when they were elected in May: ignoring the concerns and issues of Albertans, while pushing forward an agenda that will take on unprecedented debt and burden our children with insurmountable costs in the future. From failing to listen to the farmers and ranchers that help feed our province, to telling Albertans who are losing their jobs to go to British Columbia, this government has shown a lack of respect the citizens of this great province. (For my member's statement on the problems with the new NDP government, please visit daverodney.ca. You may be very surprised at the incredibly long list, especially for having been in government for just seven months!)

Meanwhile, our PC caucus is upbeat and creative in its solutions to the realities we currently face in Albertans; and we simply will not give up!

#### What have I been up to lately?

Our interim leader was provided this update for a member's statement in the Legislature:

"PC MLA Dave Rodney, the longest serving member of our caucus, has been a champion for his Calgary-Lougheed residents regarding issues affecting students, seniors, those negatively affected by the NDP's ill-advised responses to the economic situation, and all who are eagerly anticipating the completion of the Southwest Calgary Ring Road. As critic/shadow cabinet minister/advocate, he has fought for Advanced Education and Innovation by illustrating inconsistencies in budget estimates; and suggesting positive, proactive solutions. He has also been relentless in calling out the government on its notion to forge a new relationship with Aboriginal peoples: it was his question regarding the silence in the Throne Speech in the first week of the legislature that prompted the Premier's Apology for Residential Schools. He also pushed the premier, the minister, and the government regarding representation on agencies, boards and commissions--such as the Premier's Council on Economic Development--which was a clear oversight by the government. He brought to light the lack of consultation on the impact to businesses on the climate change plan, the failure to make public the Panel Review report on the Lower Athabasca Regional Plan, and the lack of government response to the fentanyl crisis--which is claiming lives at an absolutely tragic rate."

#### Losing an Invaluable Member of our Team

Tragically, in late November, our dear friend and honourable colleague Manmeet Bhullar succumbed to his injuries from a terrible accident on Highway 2, just north of Red Deer. He died doing what he did best—helping people. As a resident, an MLA, a Minister, and an opposition critic, Manny's influence was deeply felt in our city, our province, our country, and around the world. He will be missed greatly; but we will soldier on--with his courageous spirit inside each one of us!

To receive this newsletter two weeks early and to be on our "E-list" for other important updates, please e-mail us at: calgary.lougheed@assembly.ab.ca. For important updates on issues affecting Calgary-Lougheed, please call, fax, email, drop by our office, or visit daverodney.ca, anytime!

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