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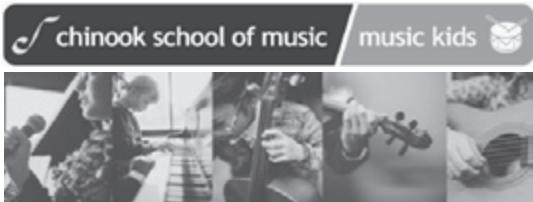
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IMPORTANT NUMBERS

ALL EMERGENCY CALLS	911
Alberta Adolescent Recovery Centre	403-253-5250
Alberta Health Care	403-310-0000
AHS Addictions Hotline	1-866-332-2322
ATCO Gas – 24 Hour Emergency	403-245-7222
Calgary HEALTH LINK 24/7	811
Calgary Police – Non Emergency	403-266-1234
Calgary Women's Emergency Shelter	403-234-7233
Child Abuse Hotline	1-800-387-5437
Kids Help Line	1-800-668-6868
Child Safe Canada	403-202-5900
Distress/Crisis Line	403-266-4357
ENMAX – Power Trouble	403-514-6100
Poison Centre - Alberta	1-800-332-1414
HOSPITALS / URGENT CARE	
Alberta Children's Hospital	403-955-7211
Foothills Hospital	403-944-1110
Peter Lougheed Centre	403-943-4555
Rockyview General Hospital	403-943-3000
Sheldon M. Chumir Health Centre	403-955-6200
South Calgary Urgent Care Health Centre	403-943-9300
South Health Campus	403-956-1111
OTHER	
Calgary Humane Society	403-205-4455
Calgary Parking Authority	403-537-7000
SeniorConnect	403-266-6200
Calgary Kerby Elder Abuse Line	403-705-3250
Alberta One-Call Corporation	1-800-242-3447
City of Calgary	311
Social Service Info & Referral	211
Community Mediation Calgary Society	403-269-2707
RNR Lockworks Ltd.	403-479-6161
Road Conditions – Calgary Weather Information	511
Gamblers Anonymous	403-237-0654

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to miss it.™**

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See how at heartandstroke.ca

MLCA EVENTS & NEWS

Check out our website for lots of information!
www.mardaloop.com

MLCA Board Meeting

Board meetings are usually held the first Monday of every month (except in July and August). If you would like to address the Board, or simply attend one of these meetings, please contact: president@mardaloop.com.

Upcoming meetings: Monday, February 6 and March 6

Starts: 7:00 pm

Location: MLCA Hall, 3130 - 16 Street SW

Seniors Gathering

On Monday, February 6th we will be snowshoeing, so come on over to the MLCA Hall if you are interested in joining us. Bring your own equipment if you have it, or come e-mail Heather at seniors@mardaloop.com in advance to book a pair.

More dates in 2017 for Seniors events: Check www.mardaloop.com or email seniors@mardaloop.com for details.

Wine and Cheese Night

Christmas and Hall Renovations are over and boy are we ready for a Wine Night!

The day after Valentine's Day, we'll be celebrating the passion of Italy. Bring your best girlfriend or boyfriend – and maybe their two friends – for some lovely Italian wine selections from Highlander Wine and Spirits paired with a variety of cheeses from Springbank Cheese. Will the pairings be perfect? Your palette will tell you, then you tell us at the end of the night. It's a fun 'adult' time. It will be great to see the regulars again after so long. Don't be shy if you're a newcomer; Wine Night is a great event to get connected to the community. Welcome all! Please register at www.mardaloop.com.

Date: Wednesday February 15, 2017

Doors open: 7:30pm, wine tasting starts 7:45pm

Location: MLCA Lower Hall, 3130 - 16 Street SW Cost: \$25 per person (guests are welcome but must be accompanied by an MLCA member).

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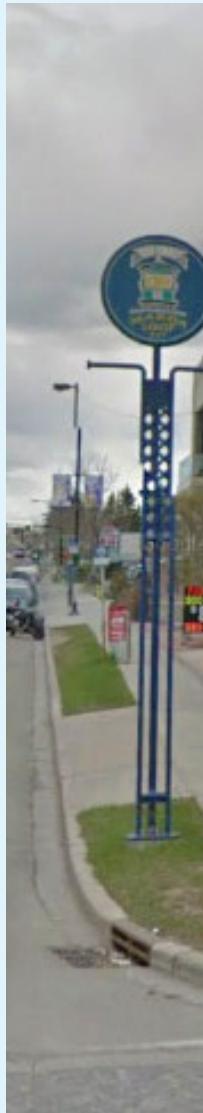
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Accountant	Karen Murphy	accounting@mardaloop.com



MLCA Membership

Kids splashing in the outdoor pool on a hot day. A game of shinny on the local rink. A social gathering for seniors. These are just some of the great scenes brought to life by the Marda Loop Communities Association. Show your support for the great programming we all enjoy by purchasing or renewing your community association membership today. It's an easy and affordable way to show your commitment to the neighbourhood.

- support the great programming we all enjoy
- have a voice in the affairs and direction of the MLCA
- receive advance notice of special events and programming
- access to member only events and programs

Buy or Renew Your Membership Today!

Get your membership online at mardaloop.com or send the form below to the MLCA hall.

MLCA Membership Form

First Name:	<input type="text"/>	\$15 Individual
Last Name:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Family
Street Address:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10 Senior
Postal Code:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> I'd like to volunteer
Telephone:	<input type="text"/>	
Email:	<input type="text"/>	

Please make cheque payable to "Marda Loop Communities Association".
Mail to or drop off at 3130 - 16 Street SW, Calgary, Alberta T2T 4G7

www.mardaloop.com/membership



MARDA LOOP COMMUNITIES ASSOCIATION: MLCA PROGRAMS

MLCA PROGRAMS CONT'D



Seniors Fit

Join a community of seniors and older adults for a total body workout appropriate for any fitness level. Senior's fit classes are designed to increase flexibility, joint stability, balance, coordination, agility, muscular strength and cardiovascular endurance. The workout combines aerobic, flexibility and resistance training with plenty of friendly fun. MLCA membership is required to register in this program.

Ages 60+
Wednesdays: 11:15 am – 12:15 pm
February 8th – March 29th
8 classes
Cost: \$45

Outdoor Hockey Rinks

Our two outdoor hockey rinks are available for both hockey players and pleasure skaters. In order to assist our small group of volunteers currently maintaining the ice we ask that you assist us by shoveling the snow on the rinks and depositing it in the appropriate snow bank. For a schedule of ice time please visit: www.mardaloop.com/facility If you're interested in joining the volunteer crew please contact James at: programs@mardaloop.com

Playgroup Registration For Winter on Now

Registration for our Winter 2017 Playgroup is now open. Playgroup is a Marda Loop Community program which offers a playful environment for children and their caregivers. Enjoy a variety of toys and meet other children from the neighborhood. For infants and children up to 4 years. Four groups to choose from: Monday, Tuesday,

Wednesday, or Thursday. MLCA membership is required to register in this program.

Playgroup Mondays

0-4 year olds
9:30am – 11:00am
Every Monday: February 13th – June 26th
Cost: \$125.00/family

Please note, this is a PARENTED session. Parents/Guardians are required to remain on site for the duration of the program.

Playgroup Tuesdays

0-4 year olds
9:30am – 11:00am
Every Tuesday: February 14th – June 27th
Cost: \$125.00/family

Please note, this is a PARENTED session. Parents/Guardians are required to remain on site for the duration of the program.

Playgroup Wednesday

0-4 year olds
9:30am – 11:00am
Every Wednesday: February 15th – June 28th
Cost: \$125.00/family

Please note, this is a PARENTED session. Parents/Guardians are required to remain on site for the duration of the program.

Playgroup Thursday

0-4 year olds
9:30am – 11:00am
Every Thursday: February 16th – June 29th
Cost: \$125.00/family

Please note, this is a PARENTED session. Parents/Guardians are required to remain on site for the duration of the program.

Peanuts Soccer

Registration begins February 1st, 2017

Please join us this year for fun, exercise, friends, and soccer skills! Children must be at least 3 years old prior to June 20th, 2017

3-5 year olds. Program runs from May 6th – June 24th
Cost: \$50 (MLCA Members only)

Please note: this is a parented activity. Parents must remain on site for the duration of the practices/games.

Yoga at the MLCA - 2017

We're proud to bring back our Yoga programs to the MLCA for the winter, starting in 2017. Sophie is returning for her Tuesday night class and her Friday morning class. Crystal is taking the winter off from instructing. Yoga at the MLCA moves at a beginner to intermediate pace, and drop-in classes are \$12.50/class

Tuesday Night Yoga with Sophie:

Tuesday 7:00pm-8:00pm
January 10th – April 25th 2017
Cost: \$150/non-member, \$120/member
15 Sessions

Friday Morning Yoga with Sophie:

Fridays 9:30am-10:30am
January 13th – April 21st, 2017
(No class on Good Friday)
Cost: \$150/non-member, \$120/member
15 Sessions

Babysitters Registry

This service is available to all Marda Loop Communities Association (MLCA) members with current active memberships. Both the babysitters and the interested

families must have valid memberships. Individuals aged 11-17 will require a parent/guardian's signature on the waiver form (available by emailing programs@mardaloop.com) all sitters' names published are required to have a valid babysitter training certificate (regardless of age).

The Marda Loop Communities Association and its Board of Directors will not be pre-screening / sanctioning / verifying any credentials for those using this service. The employer takes on full responsibility of interviewing and hiring the babysitters. The parents of the babysitters are responsible for screening the prospective employer of their child.

The list of babysitter's names will not be published in our community journal or on our website. It will be provided to interested families upon request once active membership status is confirmed. Please email programs@mardaloop.com if you have any questions and to receive the registry.

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What is Indulge?

Indulge is a social event which combines exquisite food, drinks, camaraderie and music with extraordinary philanthropy to benefit our local community. All profits from the evening, Marda Loop's premiere fundraising event, are used to renew and maintain our recreational facilities and programs.

But....what exactly is **Indulge**? If you have never attended, let us paint a picture of what you can expect. Arriving at MLCA's community hall, you note that a dazzling white tent has transformed the parking lot into a glittering oasis....and the aroma of freshly cooked nibbles lures you inside. You wander from one vendor table to another, wine glass in hand, as you sample an array of cocktails and edibles donated by local establishments; the variety is outstanding! Silent auction tables are brimming with premiere items as you have a blast bidding on your phone or tablet – look out, things can get competitive! The tent fills with 500 community supporters from all walks of life; you happily chat with your dentist, dog walker, and drama teacher and nod in gratitude when the evening's sponsors are identified. You are wondering why you never attended this event before when the live band starts up and the dancing begins. Making your way to claim a winning auction prize, you

see that delicious and timely pizza is delivered for anyone who might still be hungry. You join your friends for one last dance before jumping on the complimentary shuttle bus for a ride home – what a terrific evening!

Yes, **Indulge** generates a significant amount of funds to enrich our community programs but the event does more than raise money. It is a chance for us to get together to not only offer our financial support but to have a ton of fun as we cement our reputation as one of the best communities in Calgary. In these challenging economic times, it is more important than ever for us to support each other and the local vendors and sponsors who make the evening possible.

Please join us on **May 27** and **Indulge** yourself!

If you would like to become a sponsor, vendor, donate or volunteer for **Indulge** please, please email indulge@mardaloop.com.



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MLCA Preschool

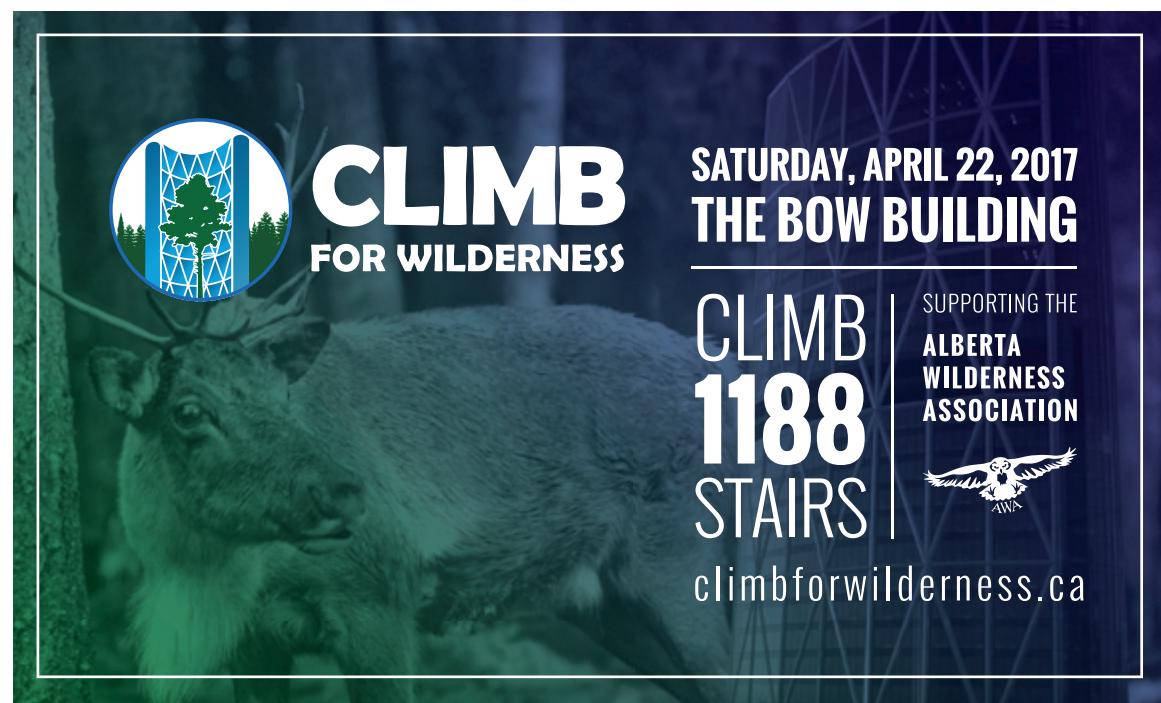
Kids are the heart of our community

Set in the heart of Marda Loop, our newly renovated, bright and cheerful preschool is a cooperative and caring environment where children learn and explore through play.

[Find out more at www.mardaloop.com](http://www.mardaloop.com)



Marda Loop Communities Association
1638 - 30th Ave SW.



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SENIORS IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Seniors activities

Christmas Pot Luck: "Seniors in the Loop" finished off the year with their annual pot luck and a grand celebration of 4 years since the group was formed.

There were door prizes galore thanks to donations from local stores and businesses with more prizes for quizzes based on familiar traditions associated with the Christmas season.

Our own band of merrymakers led the group in a singalong and a grand finale to the morning with the Christmas polka.

Knitting project: A handful of keen knitters and crocheters from the group gathered in the hall to launch a project to produce hats, scarves and mitts for a good cause. We are pleased to report that a package of these items has been received with much appreciation by the Rocky View Hospital and will be used for patients in need when being discharged. We are looking at enhancing this project to the extent that we can make a larger contribution during 2017 to a similar worthy cause.

Intergenerational project: We are also pleased to report that a few dedicated members of our group volunteered once a month all through 2016 as "grand friends" to read stories and chat with kids at the Marda Loop pre-school. What started as an experiment has proved to be beneficial to both generations and we hope to continue through 2017. We could do with a few more volunteers, so if you would like to sign up, please contact me at the e-mail address below for further information.

New Year gathering: Despite the frigid weather, there was an unexpected turnout in early January to celebrate the start of 2017 to have fun sharing resolutions. There was enough time to play a round of card bingo as well as a few games of crib, scrabble and even a round of bridge.

February is snowshoeing month, so come on over to the MLCA Hall on Monday, February 6th if you are interested in joining us. Bring your own equipment if you have it, or come e-mail me in advance to book a set. We will be renting a few sets which will be available on first-come, first-served basis.

We hope everyone has a healthy, safe and happy 2017!

Heather Bhatty, Coordinator "Seniors in the Loop", seniors@mardaloop.com



IN YOUR COMMUNITY

1600 Sarina Development Feedback

To All Interested/ Affected Residents,

On January 11th there was a meeting between community residents and The Community Association at the South Calgary Community Centre. The purpose of this meeting was to allow residents to express their concerns regarding the proposed development by Sarina Homes of a 190 unit apartment block between 15th and 16th Streets on 33rd Avenue. The turnout to this meeting was impressive (as seen in attached photo). Thanks to all those concerned residents that took the time to present a strong and united opposition to what would be a highly inappropriate development in the midst of our community.

Our efforts to reduce the scale and impact of the development through the various stages of approvals, permits, etc. will require perseverance and many man hours. The more community residents become involved in the process the better our chances of moderating this development to a scale and character that would be better suited to our charming inner city community.

We recommend you provide your feedback to the Marda Loop association, councillors for Ward 8 (Evan Woolley) and Ward 11 (Brian Pincott). It would be useful in your communication to be as specific as possible as what your concerns are (eg. height, density, traffic, parking, noise, safety etc.) and what impact this project would have on the community.

You can contact the community association by email: development@mardaloop.com

You can contact ward 8 councillor by email: ward08@calgary.ca

You can contact ward 11 councillor by email: ward11@calgary.ca

Once the change in land use designation and development applications have been filed, you can provide comments to the city. Current applications can be found via



this interactive map: <https://developmentmap.calgary.ca/#map> which provides information on the applications as well as contact information.

You can provide feedback to **Sarina Homes** via their website <http://1600sarina.com/>

Should you like to discuss this further, please email me at notsarina1600@gmail.com we would also appreciate if you can BCC us on your emails so we are able to track the responses, feedback and concerns of the residents. We strongly encourage you to join our Facebook group for updates and discussion with other concerned residents. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/mardaloopdevelopmentconcerns1600sarina/> or on our blog <https://notsarina1600.wordpress.com/>

We welcome anyone interested in volunteering a little time and energy to this effort and please contact us at notsarina1600@gmail.com. Volunteer as much or a little as you can. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

Lastly, if at all possible, attend as many of the upcoming meetings as you can. The larger the turnout, the more likely the message will be heard by our **Councillors, City Council and the Planning Department**.

Groundhog Day



Groundhog Day, celebrated on February 2, came about because of a German superstition. They thought if a hibernating animal cast a shadow on February 2nd that winter would last for another six weeks. If there was no shadow, spring would come early.

MARDA LOOP COMMUNITIES ASSOCIATION

VOLUNTEERS COLUMN

The world is hugged by the faithfulness of volunteers. - Terry Guillemets

Due to the major renovations going on at the hall, our volunteer needs and opportunities have been few since the fall but please keep watching here for more details as we move into the spring and the renovations are completed.

OPPORTUNITIES:

Mobility Committee – Our new Mobility Directors are looking for interested people to join their committee. Anyone concerned/interested in traffic/mobility issues in our neighbourhood should contact me at volunteer@mardaloop.com to get your name added to this Committee list.

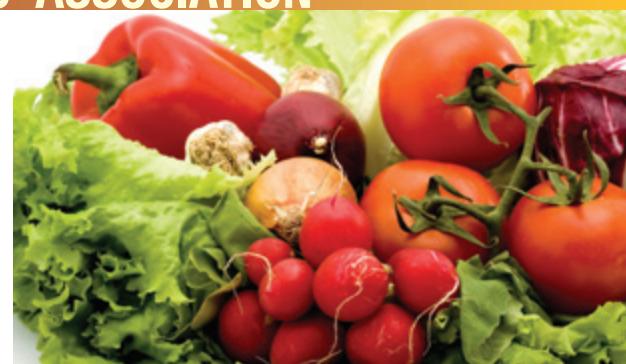
That's the Volunteer News for this month. Want to get involved in your neighbourhood – email me at volunteer@mardaloop.com

Catherine Fraser, Director of Volunteers

BRAIN GAMES SUDOKU

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	3						
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6		8		7		2	

FIND SOLUTION ON PAGE 31



MLCA Farmers' Market 2017 Season!

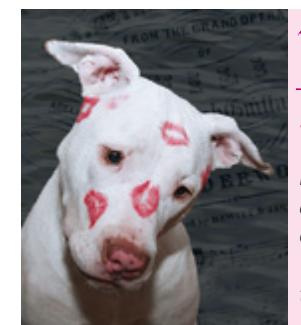
Farmers' Market

Do you MAKE, BAKE or GROW amazing things?

Did you know you can produce from home and sell at our market?

THE MARDA LOOP FARMERS' MARKET is looking for the next generation of amazing food, produce, preserves, and artisan vendors and musicians to join our Saturday morning market for the 2017 season!

Keep an eye out for info at www.mardaloop.com/initiatives/farmers-market or email marketmanager@mardaloop.com.



Valentine's Trivia

Based on retail statistics, about 3 per cent of pet owners will give Valentine's Day gifts to their pets.

Book Ideas, by age, for your reluctant reader

By Val Lawton

Illustration by Val Lawton

In last month's column, I suggested some tips 'n' tricks for getting kids interested in the written word, and promised that this next column would have some recommended book titles, by age for kids who aren't thrilled at the idea of sitting down with a book. There are, of course, lots more wonderful books to interest kids. For more ideas, check in with your local bookstore or children's librarian.

Here we go...

Ages 3 - 5

Cars and Trucks and Things that Go, by Richard Scarry
Curious George, by H. A. Rey
Green Eggs and Ham, by Dr. Seuss
Knuffle Bunny: a Cautionary Tale, by Mo Willems
The Magic Hat, by Mem Fox
What People Do all Day, by Richard Scarry
Where the Wild Things are, by Maurice Sendak

Ages 6 - 9

Mercy Watson series, by Kate diCamillo
Bad Kitty series, by Nick Bruel
Captain Underpants series, by Dav Pilkey
Cobble Street Cousins series, by Cynthia Rylant
Diary of a Wimpy Kid series, by Jeff Kinney
Ivy & Bean series, by Annie Barrows

Ages 8+

Danny the Champion of the World, by Roald Dahl
Fantastic Mr. Fox, by Roald Dahl
Fortunately, the Milk, by Neil Gaiman
Masterpiece, by Elise Broach
The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane, by Kate diCamillo
The Tale of Despereaux, by Kate diCamillo

Ages 9+

Big Nate series, by Lincoln Peirce
The Goat, by Anne Fleming (for release March 2017)
Ghosts, by Raina Telgemeier

IN YOUR COMMUNITY



Guys Read series, by Jon Scieszka

The Land of Stories series, by Chris Colfer

The Tom Gates series, by L. Pichon

Wildwood, by Colin Meloy

Ages 11+

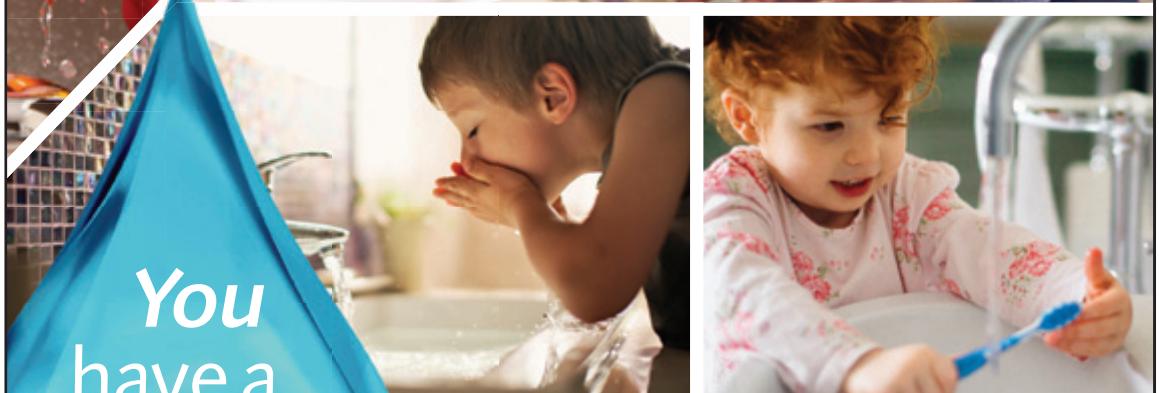
Boundless, by Kenneth Oppel
Holes, by Louis Sachar
Look Out for the Fitzgerald Trout, by Esta Spalding
The Mysterious Benedict Society, by Trenton Lee Stew-
art
The One and Only Ivan, by Katherine Applegate
The Time Quintet, by Madeline L'Engle

Ages 13+

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian, by Sher-
man Alexie
Animal Farm, by George Orwell
The Blackwell pages series, by KL Armstrong
The Giver Quartet, by Lois Lowry
The Maze Runner series, by James Dashner
Stranger Than Fanfiction, by Chris Colfer (for release Feb
28, 2017)
Wonder, by RJ palacio

Non-fiction – good for broad age range

Citizenkid series, by Kids Can Press
Eye Wonder series, by Dorling Kindersely
The Giving Tree, by Shel Silverstein
Guinness World Book of Records
I Spy Books, by Jean Marzollo
The "I Survived" series, by Lauren Tarshis
Weird, But True, National Geographic
Where's Waldo books, by Martin Handford



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CALGARY

WILDLIFE

The Common Redpoll A Winter Migrant to Alberta

Article by J.G.Turner
Photo by J. Burns



The Common Redpoll is an energetic, little songbird with a flaming red cap, black throat, whitish rump and streaked back. This songbird a highly sociable, noisy, chattering bird that travels in large flocks of several hundred birds. It is one of the finch family's most northern breeders and is found circumpolar.

Fun Facts:

- You can find the Common Redpoll from April through September in the Yukon, Northwest and Nunavut Territories, and even across into Newfoundland and Labrador. The Common Redpoll migrates south into the lower Canadian provinces in late autumn.
- In Alberta, we are likely to see the Common Redpoll in the winter when they might forage as large groups in weedy fields or small tree lots.
- Sightings can be scarce when there are winter food shortages in their normal wintering range. This forces them to go even farther south, a behaviour called an "irruption." Common Redpolls tend to exhibit this irruptive behaviour every second year to match the production cycle of catkins on birch and alder trees.
- The Common Redpoll's normal breeding range is on the Arctic tundra or in boreal forests. The female nests low down in dwarf willows, spruce, birch, alders, and small shrubs, where the male brings her food.
- This songbird likes the small high-energy seeds of birch and alder trees and can eat 42% of their body mass every day!
- When in a large group, the Common Redpoll often moves frantically on the ground in their search for seeds to eat.
- When it is extremely cold or food is scarce, the Common Redpoll can store some seeds temporarily in a stretchy part of their oesophagus (diverticula). They will knock seeds down, fly down to scoop them up,

then find a sheltered and safe spot to shell and eat the seeds at their leisure.

- If you want to attract them to your yard you can plant birch trees, but we city folks are most likely to see them at a backyard feeder in the winter where they favour nyger seed offerings.

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



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MAR. 3 – 12

THE BIG TASTE FOODIE FESTIVAL

Calgary's premiere dining festival offers splendid lunch and dinner options at over 60 downtown restaurants, ranging between \$15 for lunch and \$65 for a gourmet 5 course dinner. More info at www.calgarydowntown.com/the-big-taste



MAR. 7 AN EVENING WITH BLACKIE AND THE RODEO KINGS AT JACK SINGER CONCERT HALL

Playing tracks from their newest offering titled Kings And Kings, the album features some of the band's best "guy" friends from the world of roots, blues and country. One night only, tickets \$32.75-\$62.75. More info at www.artscommmons.ca/WhatsOn/



MAR. 23 GATE TO PLATE TEENS & ADULT COOKING CLASS AT SOUTH HEALTH CAMPUS WELLNESS KITCHEN

Poppy Innovations is thrilled to launch their 'cooking from scratch' series this summer for Gate to Plate. Classes are suitable for those aged 15 years and above. Price includes all food and supplies featuring flatbreads from around the world! More info at www.poppyinnovations.ca



YOUR COMMUNITY/CITY EVENTS AT A GLANCE...

First Tues/Weds every month, Free Mini Builds at the LEGO Store – Chinook Centre

Participants must pre-register in advance to take part. Registration opens at 7 am on the 15th of the month preceding the mini build. Register as soon as possible to avoid disappointment; these events are very popular! Register at <https://shop.lego.com/en-US/minibuild-registration>

Mar. 3 – 18, The Urban Jungle Book at Story Book Theatre

Michael is a foster child with a vivid imagination. Whenever the world gets a bit much for him, he retreats into the amazing world inside his head, and the people in his life become the characters from his favourite story – The Jungle Book. Recommended for ages 6+, tickets at www.storybooktheatre.org

Mar. 16 – 19, The One Act Play Festival at the Pumphouse Theatre

One theatre, four evenings, ten one act plays, a diverse array of local artists. The One Act Play Festival is sure to delight regular theatre goers and the newly curious alike. \$15 adults, \$12 students/seniors. Tickets at www.pumphousetheatre.ca

Mar. 16, Hodgetwins at the Laugh Shop

These American identical twins have some of the most popular channels on YouTube with over 600 million views. Enjoy the edgy sense of humour of these handsome siblings while having a drink at this comedy hotspot. Adults only, \$29.95. More info at www.thelaughshopcalgary.com

Mar. 25 – 26, The Outdoor Adventure and Travel Show at the BMO Centre

Get pre-season deals on the best outdoor gear and travel experiences at this exciting two-day event featuring hundreds of exhibitors. Discover hiking, running/triathlons, camping, kayaking, canoeing, and adventure travel, plus be inspired with seminars from seasoned travelers and experts. More info at www.outdooradventureshow.ca

Mar. 31, Calgary Flames vs. San Jose Sharks at the Scotiabank Saddledome

The C of Red is calling! Don't miss your Calgary Flames live in action at the Scotiabank Saddledome on March 31st as they take on San Jose Sharks! Tickets start at \$29. More info at www.scotiabank.saddledomecalgary.com

KENSINGTON WINE MARKET

WINETIMES 2017 WINTER TASTING SCHEDULE

Tastings start at 7 pm unless otherwise indicated

Love at First Sip: Champagne & Sweets \$50

Bring your "sweet" heart to this tempting tasting of our very best Champagnes. We'll dim the lights and nibble on hedonistic offerings from Calgary's best bakers. **Tue Feb 14**

Rare Malts \$80

Only malts 20+ years of age from Closed Distilleries and or the Very Rare need apply for this special tasting. **Thr Feb 16**

En Francais: Vallée de la Loire \$35

Join our resident francophone, Christine Parent, for a tasting of the best of the Loire Vallée, from Sancerre to Muscadet! Joignez-vous à notre francophone en résidence, Christine Parent, pour une dégustation conviviale, en français! Région à l'honneur: Vallée de la Loire. Stand up format; this tasting will be conducted in French.

Fri Feb 17

Whisky Geek Paradise \$30

Hunter is putting a new twist on our old Classic Malts tasting showcasing value propositions that will still delight even the most discerning palate. **Thr Feb 23**

Hunter's World of Mezcal \$35

As per Hunter's request; no puns, alliterations or metaphors! This tasting will illuminate Hunter's world of Mezcal.

Thr Mar 2

Organic – Biodynamic – Natural Wine \$35

What's all the fuss! Do these wines really taste better? Let's learn a little about production, trends and, best of all, give them our own stamp of approval... or not!

Tue Mar 7

Highlands, Islands & Campbeltown Whisky Festival \$60

Travel the highlands and islands of Scotland at a festival highlighting whiskies from these regions as well as the town of Campbeltown. Includes your own Glencairn glass.

Thr Mar 9

Budget Bubbles! \$25

Champagne taste, but not the budget? Don't worry, we'll taste some show stopping, sparkling wines even the experts can't always spot. Stand up format.

Fri Mar 10

Into The Bottle: Part Two

This "back to basics" tasting will explore the world of blends, travelling to regions renowned for their ability to create the perfect "mix".

Tue Mar 14

Barrels & Bugs

This unique tasting will focus on barrel aged and wild yeast(bugs) fermented beers and everything in between. The night will be full of oak, funky and sour beers to challenge even the heartiest of palates.

Thr Mar 16

Single Pot Still Irish Whiskey

The style came about as a way of avoiding the English "malt tax" and is still, even today, the most Irish of Irish whiskies. We'll sample a range of seven Single Pot Irish whiskies and learn a little history. **Fri Mar 17**

Head to Head – Andrew vs Evan vs Hunter

Join us for a one night only battle royal pitting three of our whisky experts against each other. Whose whisky picks will reign supreme. **Thr Mar 23**

French Wine Festival

We close shop early so we can clear the floor! We'll showcase all the main French regions and terroirs, from Champagne to Bordeaux. For the French wine aficionados, and neophytes alike, we promise you a few surprises. **Santé!**

Fri Mar 24

Old School vs New

Who does the Belgian Tripel better? Westmalle or Boulevard? What about the Pale Ale, or the Porter? We're going to take some of our favourite classic styles from tried and true brewers and pit them against a modern brewer's take on that same style. Let the battle begin! **Tue Mar 28**

Ancient Malts

It's been a few years since we've put on an Ancient Malts tasting and frankly, we're overdue! We have some very special bottles selected; including a pair of 1967s for what will be a memorable evening. Choose: **Wed Mar 29 or Thr Mar 30**

Cheese Please

Let us drink Champagne! Join us for a superb tasting of our best Champagne and sparkling wines paired expertly with the delectable choices of Peasant Cheese. Stand up format. **Fri Mar 31**

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



Christmas Bird Count

116 year-old annual tradition with an interesting origin

In 1900, to counter the so-called "side-hunt," wherein groups of gunners would compete in seeing which could kill the most wildlife on Boxing Day, American ornithologist Frank Chapman, instead, asked birders across North America to head out on Christmas Day to count the birds in their home towns and submit the results as the first "Christmas Bird Census." His suggestion has evolved into one of the world's largest citizen science projects in the world, and a holiday tradition during the Christmas season for well over 50,000 birders in the Americas each year.

The Christmas Bird Count (CBC), as it is now called, is conducted in over 2,400 localities across Canada, the United States, Latin America, and the Caribbean. These bird observations, collected during one-day field counts within defined circular areas, have been amassed into a huge database that reflects the distribution and numbers of winter birds over time.

Each Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is now conducted within a standardized circle with a radius of 7.5 mi (12 km). About 370 Canadian CBCs are reported to Bird Studies Canada - and many hundreds of others are conducted, reported only to their provincial naturalists' organization. In all, some 15,000 to 22,000 people participate across Canada.

This year the Calgary CBC took place on Sunday December 18th under a mostly sunny sky and a balmy temperature of 3C. S2G+ joined Gus Yaki and 6 other individuals. Of the 32 territories in Calgary our area included Mount Royal, Elbow Park, Stanley Park, Parkhill, Erlton, and Rideau/Roxboro. Nineteen bird and 4 mammal species were counted plus 3 animal tracks observed.

SP	Birds	Count
1.	Canada Goose	460
2.	Mallard	25
3.	Bald Eagle	1 AD
4.	Sharp-shinned Hawk	2
5.	Rough-legged Hawk	1
6.	Merlin	3

7.	Downy Woodpecker	3
8.	Hairy Woodpecker	1
9.	Northern Flicker	4
10.	Black-billed Magpie	198
11.	Common Raven	42
12.	American Crow	3
13.	Black-capped Chickadee	120
14.	Red-breasted Nuthatch	22
15.	White-breasted Nuthatch	5
16.	Dark-eyed Junco	3
17.	Rock Pigeon	55
18.	House Finch	7
19.	House Sparrow	

Mammals

1.	Red Squirrel	1
2.	Eastern Gray Squirrel—grey morph	23
3.	Eastern Gray Squirrel—black morph	45
4.	White-tailed Jack Rabbit	1
5.	European Rabbit (feral)	39

Tracks

Meadow Vole
Deer Mouse
Coyote

Overall number of species recorded in Calgary: 61 (four below the 20-year average)

Individual birds counted in Calgary: 39,249 (significantly below the average of 50,000)

Highest count species: Mallards (10,676) and Canada Geese (9,315) led the way, followed by House Sparrows, Black-billed Magpies and Black-capped Chickadees.

Biggest drop in sightings: Bohemian Waxwings at 1,650 and a 90% decrease in the number of House Finches

Returnees: a Golden Eagle not counted since 1987 and 3 Sharp-tailed Grouse which were first seen since 1997. Both the eagle and the grouse were found on Tsuu T'ina lands.

Other uncommon birds: Ring-necked Duck, Pied-billed Grebe and Ring-billed Gull (one of each).

Final results will be posted on the Audubon database by mid-January 2017. Next year's count will be on Sunday December 17, 2017. Mark your calendars!

Information from Gus Yaki and Phil Cram

Formed in 2004, S2G+ Preservation Society collaborates to enhance the environment and natural history of the lower Elbow River, its valley and contiguous benchlands from the Glenmore Dam to Fort Calgary. To join our stewardship network email us at S2Gplusinfo@gmail.com. Follow us on facebook.com/S2Gplus



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CBE Legacy Award | Manmeet Singh Bhullar

The Calgary Board of Education Board of Trustees presented the CBE Legacy Award posthumously to Manmeet Singh Bhullar on Nov. 29, 2017. The CBE Legacy Award celebrates public education in Calgary and the individuals who have contributed to our communities. In every corner of the city, across the country and beyond, our alumni have made a lasting impact.

Manmeet Bhullar attended Chief Justice Milvain School and Annie Gale School and graduated from Lester B. Pearson High School. During his time as a student, Manmeet was an active member of his school communities and an enthusiastic student athlete.

Elected MLA for the northeast constituency of Calgary-Montrose in 2008, he was the youngest member to be elected to Alberta's 27th legislature.

Between 2008 and 2015, Manmeet served in a number of different roles, including parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Advanced Education and Technology, parliamentary assistant to Municipal Affairs, Minister of Service

Alberta, Minister of Human Services and Minister of Infrastructure.

He was a passionate advocate for youth, justice and education. In a speech given in 2008, Bhullar said, "I want to inspire young people in my constituency. I want to inspire a generation of young people, and if I can inspire just one of them to get a postsecondary education, I will have done my job."

Earlier this year, the CBE announced that the new school under construction in Martindale would be named in Bhullar's honor.

Manmeet Bhullar served our communities with his energy, his passion and his whole heart. He modeled for our students one of the four CBE Results – Citizenship. Our students are able to see how their hard work and commitment can make true changes to our society. It is no doubt that he continues to be an inspiration for politicians and citizens alike. Manmeet Bhullar left a true Legacy, and he is truly missed.

For more information about the Legacy Award or to nominate someone, please visit the CBE website at cbe.ab.ca.

You can contact the Board of Trustees at boardoftrustees@cbe.ab.ca.

Follow the Calgary Board of Education on Twitter @yyccbedu



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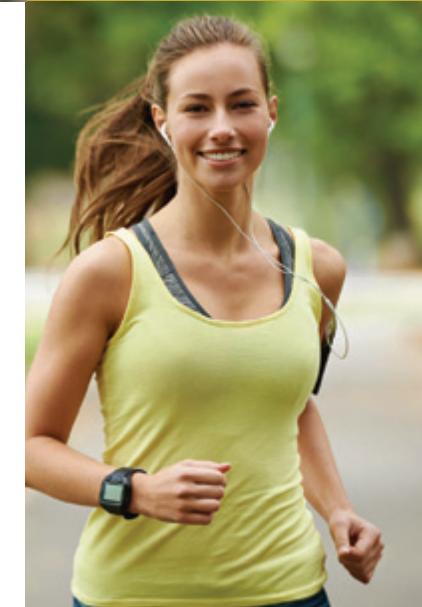
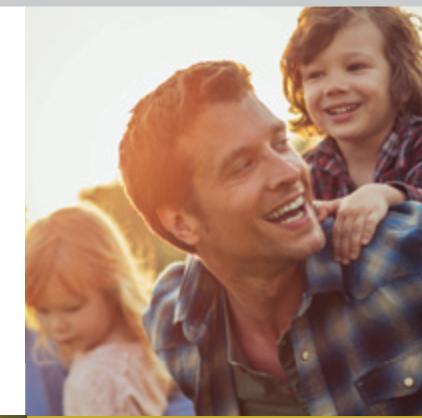


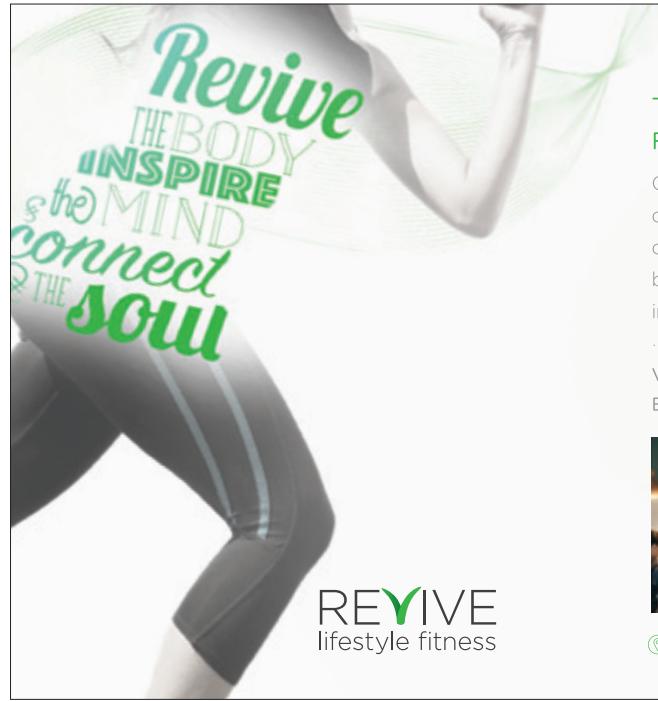
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Gardening by the phases of the moon

February 3 First Quarter (waxing)
Moonlight is strong, encouraging leaf growth. It is a good time for planting, especially two days before the full moon. Take cuttings from plants you wish to propagate. Fertilize as close to the full moon as possible.

February 10 Full Moon (waning)
As the moon wanes, the energy is drawing down. Strong gravitational pull but moonlight is decreasing putting energy into the roots.

February 18 Last Quarter (waning)
Decreased gravitational pull and moonlight. A resting period. Take cuttings from plants you wish to propagate. Dry herbs, flowers and fruit. If you want to control growth or encourage rooting, perform the necessary activities during the waning moon.

February 26 New Moon (waxing)
Increasing moonlight, lunar gravity pulls water up encouraging plant growth and proliferation. Grafting, transplanting, re-potting, and watering. Gather herbs used for essential oils. Oil content is more concentrated at this time.



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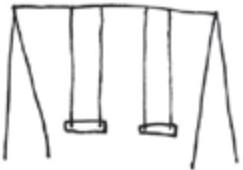
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IN YOUR COMMUNITY

William Reid School Grounds Update



Dear Friends, the playground at William Reid School was installed in October 1995 with the expectation that it would last 15 years. It is becoming increasingly difficult to find replacement parts, and maintenance is taking up a sizeable portion of the school board's maintenance budget.

In addition, it does not meet current safety standards. The Calgary Board of Education says it is time to replace it. Our plans for a new playground are available at: wrplayground.weebly.com/. To build this new playground, we need to raise a minimum of \$250,000.

We need your help! No donation is too small. If you are able to make a donation (and once again – anything you can give is appreciated) visit our school or donate online at wrplayground.weebly.com/.

Every single dollar of your cheque made out to the Parks Foundation will go 100% towards our school grounds. In return for your donation, the children of William Reid School will get a safe and fun outdoor play space. Thank you for your generosity and community spirit!

Sincerely,

The William Reid School Playground Committee

Altadore School

By Grade 6 Students at Altadore School

February is here and we look forward to Valentine's and candy hearts! We also look forward to showing that we have heart by giving back to the community. We are partnering with the Calgary Drop In Centre to help Calgary's homeless in a variety of ways. We are also using this month to promote physical fitness through jump rope, connecting with the Heart and Stroke Association's Jump Rope for Heart program.

January was a busy month. We welcomed a variety of snow activity programs: cross-country skiing, downhill skiing, and snowboarding. Students got to enjoy the outdoors in Canadian style!

We also held a dance residency, teaching students a variety of moves in hip-hop dance while also encouraging us to express ourselves through dance and to welcome and respect the efforts of others.

But as fun as winter has been, we are already starting to look forward to spring and the adventures it will bring.

Dr. Alex McKay, Principal

Calgary Immigrant Women's Association

Women's English & Social Group – Meet your Neighbours and Practice English!

Improve your spoken English and meet new women in your community with the New Friends and Neighbourhood Groups program. Our **Marda Loop** group meets every Wednesday from 10:00am – noon.

We meet once a week for 2 hours to practice English, make new friends and have fun!

No cost, no immigration requirements and no minimum

English level necessary. Free childcare provided for children 6 months to 6 years old. Come visit us at 3818 14A Street SW (River Park Church basement).

For additional information contact Debra Colley at debrac@ciwa-online.com or 403-444-1752

Debra Colley, Program Coordinator
New Friends and Neighbourhood Groups
Calgary Immigrant Women's Association
Phone: 403-444-1752, Email: debrac@ciwa-online.com
Visit our website: www.ciwa-online.com



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IN YOUR COMMUNITY

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United Nations Sustainable Development Goal #1 – No Poverty

What Does Poverty Look Like in YYC?

- 1 in 10 Calgarians live in poverty
- 1 in 5 worry about money for food
- 1 in 3 worry about money for housing
- 1 in 2 worry about not saving for the future

Why does this matter? Poverty causes hunger, stress, and isolation. There are over 100,000 Calgarians living below the poverty line. "67% of households living in poverty in Calgary have at least one person employed full-time" (Enough For All, 2015). Living in these conditions, makes it difficult for individuals to be competitive in the job market. Support services such as food banks, affordable housing, and funding/subsidizing costs for education and employment services help address some of these issues. However, we must not forget that factors such as gender, race and social status all play a critical role in poverty. Policies need to be developed to address the root causes to prevent long-term effects and symptoms of poverty and homelessness. Furthermore, poverty costs us all. It is estimated that the annual cost of poverty to the province of Alberta is between \$7.5 to 9.5 billion.

What are we doing? Through the **Enough for All** campaign, the City of Calgary is aiming to reduce poverty in half by 2023. In partnership with the City of Calgary, United Way, Vibrant Communities Calgary, and Momentum, these four groups are working together to study and address the issues of poverty in Calgary. For more information please visit www.enoughforall.ca

On the evening of February 24th, Vibrant Communities Calgary will be coming to the Marda Loop Community Association Hall to do a presentation on poverty in Calgary! Come join us! For more information or inquiries, please email us at sustainability@mardaloop.com.

IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Earth Science for Society (ESfS)

Visit Earth Science for Society (ESfS) at the Big Four Building, Stampede Park, Calgary, on **March 19-21, 2017** for an educational and dynamic geoscience outreach event that is fun for all ages.

This **free event** includes a variety of hands-on exhibits including gold panning and a fossil hunt. Also, join us on **Sunday, March 19th**, when the Geo-Theatre will showcase a variety of geosciences talks including 'Pluto Revealed' and 'Cruising the Arctic – A Voyage Through Time and Change'.

Visit: esfscanada.com for more information.

BRAIN GAMES

SUDOKU

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



March 19-21, 2017

Big Four Building

Stampede Park

Sunday, March 19
11:30 am – 5:00 pm

Monday, March 20
8:45 am – 2:45 pm

Tuesday, March 21
8:45 am – 2:45 pm



A Geoscience Outreach Exhibition

- ✓ OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
- ✓ HANDS ON EXPERIENCE

- ✓ FAMILY FRIENDLY
- ✓ FREE ADMISSION

Earth Science for Society (ESfS) is a fun, educational, and dynamic geoscience outreach event in which students, families, youth groups, and the public are given an opportunity to explore Earth Science fundamentals. Visitors will enjoy a variety of interactive activities, including gold panning and a fossil hunt.



- Panning for Gold with Yukon Dan
- Fossil Station
- Scavenger Hunt

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Phone: (403) 246-4794 • Fax: (403) 686-1543
calgary.currie@assembly.ab.ca

The arrival of February means longer days and more time to spend outdoors with family or friends. And if you are like me and enjoy Alberta's natural beauty, then be sure to mark February 21 on your calendars because starting then you can make reservations at camp sites across Alberta. You can reserve a spot online at Reserve.AlbertaParks.ca or by phoning the Contact Centre at 1-877-537-2757 (toll-free in North America). Till then - happy skiing!

February is also when Albertans celebrate Family Day. First celebrated in 1990, Family Day has become an opportunity for many Albertans to spend time with their families. However, if you have to work this holiday to provide for your family it is important that you be fairly compensated for doing so. If you are unsure, I encourage you to call the Employment Standards Contact Centre at 780-427-3731 or 1-877-427-3731. Many have also asked about other initiatives our government is taking to help Alberta families. I am pleased to report here that the government is currently assessing proposals to create 18 new child care facilities that will directly support Alberta working families. The government anticipates that successful applicants will be notified in March 2017. Be sure to watch for this announcement!

On the doorsteps of Calgary Currie many of you have told me being a Climate Leader is important because it helps diversify our province's economy. In early January qualifying households should have received their first payment of Alberta's Climate Leadership Adjustment Rebate (ACLR) - a tax-free amount paid to low and middle income individuals and families - that is designed to help you adjust to the new provincial carbon price. A variety of programs and services provided by Energy Efficiency Alberta are also being implemented to ensure that we remain Climate Leaders. For more information on the installation of energy-efficient products or small scale renewables for your home, business, non-profits, or institutions please contact the agency directly at 1-844-357-5604 (toll-free). In addition to these measures, the new Capital Investment Tax Credit is designed to encourage timely capital investments that offer opportunities for economic growth. The first application period began January 16 and will end later this month on February

15. For more information on how to apply please contact: CITC.program@gov.ab.ca.

February's arrival also means that my colleagues and I will be returning to the legislature where I work hard to represent the interests of you and your family. For me to do this well, it is important that I hear from you directly. That is why you will see me out door knocking at every opportunity or speaking with your neighbours at community events. I want to take this opportunity to thank each of you for sharing your hopes for Alberta with me, and in particular, to those of you who returned to my office the mail-out surveys that you received in December. And as always, if you have any additional questions, concerns, or would like me to attend an event in your community, please do not hesitate to contact my office by phone (403-246-4794), by email (calgary.currie@assembly.ab.ca), or in person (2108 B - 33 Avenue SW).



MP Calgary Centre
Hon. Kent Hehr
950 6 Ave Sw
kent.hehr@parl.gc.ca
403-244-1880
www.KentHehrMP.ca

Combating Homelessness

On average, there are some 3,000 people who are homeless every night in our city. Homelessness is a reality for too many Canadians and a challenge for every Canadian community. Our government believes that all Canadians deserve access to affordable housing that meets their needs.

It's why my colleague in cabinet, Minister Jean-Yves Duclos, committed to creating a National Housing Strategy. Last year he released a report on the initial stages of this strategy – the result of consultations with non-profits, front-line workers, Canadians, and experts in the field. You can read more on the strategy at his website, www.LetsTalkHousing.ca.

Closer to home, it was my honour to be able to announce \$1.8 million to the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness. This grant will be used by this local, Calgary-based organization to train workers in 42 communities across Canada in the Housing First program. It's one part of the plan to work on this important file.

In the last decade there has been a growing gap in what we've done for Canadians struggling with homelessness.

One such example is the terms and conditions of the Homelessness Partnering Strategy that have not evolved at the same pace as need since 1999. Budget 2016 invested an additional \$111.8 million in the Strategy to help homeless Canadians find stable housing. This investment will provide more resources to tackle homelessness, and increase support for vulnerable groups.

Fundamentally, this government intends on re-establishing federal leadership in housing. The federal government is taking steps to create better housing outcomes for all Canadians. To give Canadians greater access to affordable housing, Budget 2016 increased the Government's investment in affordable housing by \$ 2.3 billion over two years. This funding is in addition to annual federal investments of close to \$2.3 billion

toward pre-existing housing program commitments – creating critical, long-term investments that will better our country moving forward.

In addition, our National Housing Strategy, which will cover the entire housing continuum, including homelessness, will be launching in 2017. The strategy will provide stakeholders with an inclusive long term framework which will ensure stability and predictability for our housing partners. Again, I invite you to give a gander at www.LetsTalkHousing.ca as Minister Duclos continues in his good work.

We believe that there is a role for government and one that is active in supporting Canadians. I am proud of the work of our government and am inspired by the tireless dedication that non-profits, non-profit staff, and regular Canadians put into making our country a better place for all.

As always, you can contact my office by email at kent.hehr@parl.gc.ca or by phone at 403.244.1880. My office is located at 950 6 Ave SW and my door is always open to you. You can follow my work in Parliament online and sign up for my e-newsletter at www.KentHehrMP.ca.

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Councillor, Ward 11
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On January 5th of this year, the Assessment Department mailed out the 2017 Property Assessment Notices to property and business owners in Calgary. The assessment process is how property taxes are distributed among all property owners to meet The City's budget needs to pay for services all Calgarians benefit from like police, fire protection, transit, parks, recreation and more. Your property assessment provides the basis for your share of taxes, relative to all non-residential properties in Calgary. On June 27th, 2016, City Council made the decision to reduce the 2017 property tax rate increase to zero through a one-time rebate. Please note this only affects The City's portion. Your property assessment is based on your property's estimated market value on July 1st, 2016, and is used to calculate your property taxes. Your property assessment can change year to year.

Residential Property Assessment

The average home in Calgary saw an assessment decrease of 4 per cent. If your assessment decreased 4 per cent, you will pay about the same municipal taxes as last year. If your assessment decreased less than 4 per cent or increased from 2016, your municipal taxes will increase. If your assessment decreased by more than 4 per cent, you will see a decrease in your municipal taxes. Please note, the Provincial portion of the tax rate is not announced until spring, and will also have an impact on your property taxes.

Non-residential Property Assessment

The average non-residential property saw an assessment decrease of 6 per cent. If your assessment decreased 6 per cent, you will pay about the same municipal taxes as last year. If your assessment decreased less than 6 per cent or increased from 2016, your municipal taxes will increase. If your assessment decreased by more than 6 per cent, you will see a decrease in your municipal taxes. Please note that regulated assessments are not subject

to the market value standard, and assessment changes may not be reflective of the average 2017 assessment changes for non-residential properties. The Provincial portion of the tax rate will impact your property taxes. This is not announced until spring. The Business Tax Consolidation will also impact your property taxes.

Business Tax Consolidation

The City is phasing out the Business Tax through a gradual transfer of the business tax revenues to the non-residential property tax. Each year, business tax bills will go down and non-residential property tax bills will increase. The Business Tax will be eliminated in 2019. Consolidating the taxes into a single, easy to understand real estate-based assessment and tax system for non-residential property owners will make Calgary more competitive and attractive for business. Please note that Business Tax Consolidation will not impact your property/business assessment nor will it be reflected on your assessment notice. It will not increase the amount of revenues collected by The City.

Customer Review Period

The Customer Review Period is from January 5th to March 6th, 2017. If you have any questions about your assessment, please contact 403-268-2888. Changes can only be made to your 2017 Property Assessment during the Customer Review Period.

The City offers online tools to help property owners understand and review their assessment. By logging into Assessment Search at calgary.ca/assessment, you can access details on your property to check and review the accuracy of the information The City has on file, and compare your assessment with other similar properties in your area to ensure your assessment is fair and equitable. You may also conduct more in-depth assessment research and can access sales, community and property reports.



Councillor, Ward 8
Evan Woolley
P.O. Box 2100, Station M
Calgary, AB, Canada T2P 2M5
Phone: 403-268-2430

Community Traffic Safety Meeting

Recently, my colleagues and I on City Council requested that the Calgary Police Service work with Administration to develop a Community Traffic Enforcement plan. One of the most important elements of creating this plan is to take time to meet with communities to both educate and get feedback on concerns and areas where residents feel enforcement is needed. It could be the need for more painted crosswalks, a pedestrian refuge at a busy intersection, or widened sidewalks and I know that no one knows the neighbourhood better than its residents.

Ward 8 will be hosting our Community Traffic Safety Meeting in **March** and I'd love to see members of every community come out to help us make our roads safer for everyone. You can find information about the date and location on our website: www.calgary.ca/ward8

Assessment – Customer Review Period

As many of you likely know, property tax assessment notices were mailed as of the beginning of January. Last fall, Council unanimously agreed to a 0% municipal tax increase for 2017 in response to the financial struggles that so many Calgarians have been facing recently. When you receive your assessment, ensure that the factual information that is on record for your property is right. This can mean that the square footage is correct, that any listed additions or renovations have been properly marked, etc. Also, make sure that it seems to be a reasonable estimate of market value (for property) as of July 1 of the previous year. And, that it is equitable compared to similar properties or premises.

The Customer Review Period runs from **January 5 – March 6, 2017**. In this time, if you have any questions or concerns about your assessment, you can contact the Assessment department at 403-268-2888. If you have questions about setting up a Tax Instalment Payment Plan, you can contact 3-1-1. Both mine and your property taxes go towards paying for crucial services like Police, Transit, Fire, Roads, Parks and more. There's no doubt that we are in a difficult economic climate, the reality is that Calgary as a city is still growing. Last year alone we saw an increase of approximately 40,000 people to the city and an increasing population means an increased need for services and infrastructure. Feel free to contact my office at ward08@calgary.ca or 403-268-2431 if you have any questions or concerns.

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MLA Calgary-Elbow
Greg Clark
Leader - Alberta Party
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Twitter: @GregClark4AB

Protecting Children in Government Care

I have heard from many of you who were shocked by the tragic story of Serenity, the four year-old girl who died tragically despite her involvement with Alberta's child welfare system. I share these concerns and raised the issue several times in the Legislature. I also joined the other Opposition leaders to call for the recommendations made by past review panels to be implemented immediately to ensure other children in government care don't suffer the same fate. In late December the government accepted our request.

You may recall there was some disagreement about the initial terms of reference for the panel. I feel strongly that the time for reviews of past challenges is done, it is time for action. I think every day about the thousands of children who interact with Alberta's child welfare system every year and I want to ensure that every single one of them is safe and has a chance for a good life.

Work started on this important panel the first week of January. Our mandate is divided into two parts; by the end of February we will make immediate recommendations to improve the child death review process. This work includes:

- Make recommendations to streamline and strengthen the process, including receiving updates on the status of all internal reviews;
- Identifying which agency should have primary

authority to conduct these reviews;

- Consideration of a proposal to strengthen reporting obligations directly to the RCMP;
- Examine internal communications protocols to ensure timely access to information for relevant agencies;
- Developing criteria for which deaths would be reviewed (i.e. all children, all children in care, all children receiving child intervention services or some combination of the above);
- Make recommendations for legislative changes.

Following this report the panel will take no more than six months to review legislation, policies, current practices, literature, relevant data and past recommendations, including those made by the Child and Youth Advocate and the Auditor General. We will solicit input from subject matter experts, stakeholders involved in the system and the public, and will submit a report addressing the following:

- The root causes and factors that contribute to child and family involvement in the child intervention system;
- Funding and resource levels as well as an assessment of workplace culture and staff morale;
- Existing supports for families, including supports for kinship caregivers, foster parents and families at risk of needing child intervention services;
- Identifying recommendations of past studies, prioritizing them and discussing implementation timelines and oversight.

These are just some of the highlights of work of the panel. You can find the full terms of reference on my website at www.calgaryelbow.ca.

This is an issue that I know every Albertan feels passionately about. My sincere hope is the all-party committee will be able to work together focussed only on ensuring the best possible outcomes for children in care. I will keep you informed about our progress and I would also like to hear from you. Please feel free to contact my office at (403) 252-0346 or Calgary.Elbow@assembly.ab.ca any time.



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