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MAY 29 2016

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Calling All Neighbours!

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

COME MOVE WITH US

DJD's Summer Camp sessions are still accepting registrations!

DJD summer dance camps are designed to instill a love of dance in your child! With an emphasis on FUN and CELEBRATION, students are encouraged to explore challenges, demonstrate creativity, expand movement vocabulary, build confidence and develop friendships with other students.

JULY SCHEDULE:
 JULY 4-8, HIP HOP CAMP, AGES 8-18
 JULY 11-15, FINE ARTS CAMP, AGES 6-13
 JULY 18-22, ADVANCED JAZZ CAMP, AGES 8-18
 JULY 25-28, DANCE CAMP, AGES 4-18

AUGUST SCHEDULE:
 AUGUST 2-5, DANCE CAMP, AGES 4-9 & FIERCE GIRL CAMP, AGES 10-13
 AUGUST 8-12, HIP HOP CAMP, AGES 8-18
 AUGUST 15-19, DANCE CAMP, AGES 4-18
 AUGUST 22-26, DANCE CAMP, AGES 4-7, WORLD DANCE CAMP, AGES 8-10,
 HIP HOP CAMP (MOVEMENT WITH A MESSAGE), AGES 11-18

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Mount Royal Community Association

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president@mouroyalstation.ca
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Elected Officials

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Calgary-Buffalo**
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 Calgary, AB Canada T2R 1K9
 Phone: (403) 244-7737
 Fax: (403) 541-9106
 Email: calgary.buffalo@assembly.ab.ca

**Councillor Evan Woolley
Ward 8 Office**
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 Calgary, AB, Canada T2P 2M5
 Phone: 403-268-2430
 Fax: 403-268-3823
 Email: ward08calgary.ca
 Web: www.calgary.ca/ward8

**MLA Greg Clark
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**Editorial
Content**

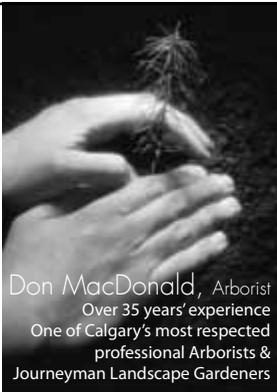
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**IN & AROUND
CALGARY**

**17 Avenue S. Reconstruction
Project Update, Spring 2016**

After 30 years, we're rebuilding 17 Avenue S. so it can continue to serve businesses and citizens for decades to come. Construction will occur between Macleod Trail S.E. and 14 Street S.W. The work includes sidewalk area repairs and improvements, a new road design, and upgrades to underground utilities. It's an investment in the long-term success of 17 Avenue S.- one of Calgary's most popular destinations to shop, visit and do business.

Next steps

Through 2015 and 2016, The City met with representatives from the business community and heard from a number of individuals. Two important items came up during these conversations: the construction on 17 Avenue S. needs to be predictable and it requires a lead time that gives businesses a chance to prepare for potential impacts. With that in mind, the project team is pushing the road and deep utility (water and sanitary lines) construction to 2017 and 2018. This year – 2016 – work on 17 Avenue S. focuses on shallow utilities- power, gas and telecommunications.

By just focusing on shallow utilities this year, we expect less construction impacts for people travelling through the area in 2016. It also allows more time to develop the 2017 and 2018 construction schedule.

Learn more

The City will be hosting project information sessions through late spring 2016, where you can learn more details about the construction schedule and 17 Avenue S.'s future design. In the meantime, check out the project web page at www.calgary.ca/17avenue for the latest information and sign up to receive the project newsletter.

MAY MOON CALENDAR

 New Moon May 6	 First Quarter May 13	 Full Moon May 21	 Last Quarter May 29
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Now that is
some serious
Calgary soccer
pride.

**AND WE'RE PROUD
TO BE IN THE GAME.**

It's the start of another outdoor soccer season. And this year, it's fully public — the way it should be.

That's because Calgary council has asked your city workers to take over management and maintenance of the the Calgary Soccer Centre from private organizations.

And here's our commitment to you:

- A clean, efficient facility — where you feel comfortable taking your family.
- Saving you money — city council saw a public solution as the most cost effective; there will be no more spectator fees.
- A community asset — open and welcoming to clubs, players and families from across the city.



**Making your city
work for you**

We think this is a pretty good game plan moving forward: Let's keep city recreation facilities public and working for all Calgary families.

IN & AROUND CALGARY

Citizens' View

Calgary's online panel – 2,000 members and growing

The City is looking for more Calgarians to join citizens view.ca.

You're invited to join more than 2,000 people that have already signed up for Citizens' View, Calgary's online panel. Citizensview.ca makes it easier for Calgarians to share their input anytime, anywhere through online surveys and discussions.

As Citizens' View continues to grow, The City is working to make sure that they hear from people of all ages and areas of Calgary. Right now, The City needs more people of all demographics and communities. Can you help?

"Creating an even better Calgary takes all of us—not just government," said Mayor Nenshi. "Citizens are the key to improving our communities and creating the best programs and services for our city. Calgarians are the experts in their lives and I encourage them to share their thoughts about life in Calgary by signing-up at citizensview.ca."

The City hopes to attract more than 4,000 people that reflect Calgary's diverse population. Members can expect to receive surveys once or twice a month, join online discussions, and receive information on City events and service improvements.

Calgarians 18 years and older can sign-up for the Citizens' View at www.citizensview.ca.

Get Out and Walk!

A message from the Federation of Calgary Communities

May is a great time for getting out into your community! Walking has many benefits – getting to know your neighbours, know what is happening around you, fresh air and exercise.

Here are some safety tips for walking in and around your community:

1. Tell someone where you are going, which route you are taking, and when you will be back.
2. Be aware of your surroundings.
3. Listen to your instincts. Something that doesn't look or seem right probably isn't.
4. Walk facing the traffic.
5. Stay away from shrubbery, darkened doorways, and alleys.
6. Avoid using headphones so you are aware of the sounds around you.
7. Wear colours that are bright and reflect light.
8. Walk in well-lit areas.
9. Bring a friend or your dog with you for company.
10. Have fun!

For more information on walking alone or starting a community walking group, please check out our walking guide resource called Around The Block: Let's Walk! You can find the walking guide on the Federation of Calgary Communities website www.calgarycommunities.com.

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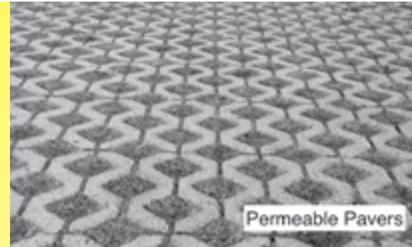
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Managing Urban Stormwater in Established Areas

So, what can be done in established areas where stormwater treatment and retrofits are difficult to achieve due to a lack of space and high land costs and increasing impervious surfaces due to densification?

The Answer – capture all that precious rainfall and keep it on your lot!

Rain barrels are an obvious choice to capture rainwater from roofs. Green Calgary sells them every Saturday at various Calgary locations beginning the end of April and ending in June. See www.shop.greencalgary.org

Incorporate a **rain garden** in your yard. A rain garden is a feature designed to capture rainwater from a roof via a downspout, or from pavement or a lawn. To see a rain garden installation by Alberta Low Impact Development Partnership volunteers go to: www.alidp.org/uploads/files/s2s_rain_garden_bltz_story_annotated.pdf

If you are considering a makeover of your yard considering adding good quality loamy **topsoil to a depth of 300mm**. Soil acts like a sponge and will soak up a lot of water. Currently, house builders are only obliged to add 120mm of topsoil despite the known benefits of deeper topsoil.

If you are in love with turf avoid Kentucky Bluegrass (short roots and drought susceptible) and artificial turf (lacks absorption and filtration characteristics). Instead consider **sheep fescue sod or overseeding with sheep fescue**. Sheep fescue has a dense and long root system and is cold, drought and shade tolerant.

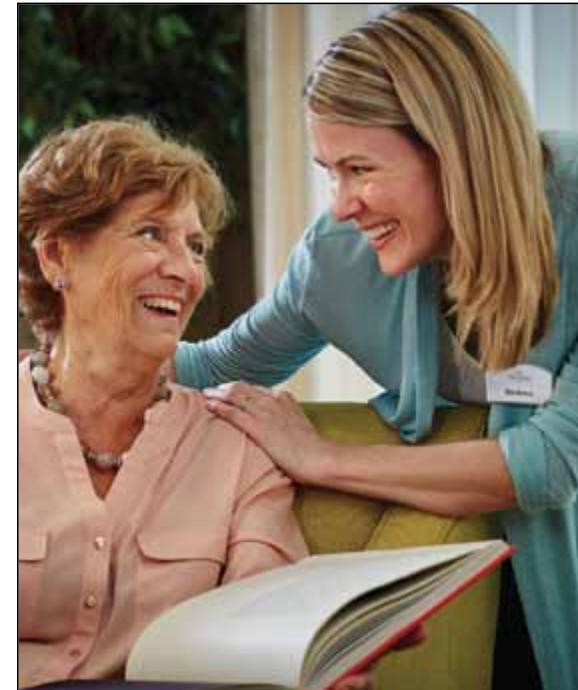
Limit the amount of impervious surfaces on your landscape. There are many materials and techniques that allow water to infiltrate soils rather than ending up on the street.

Incorporating some or all of these landscape ideas on a lot and neighbourhood scale will reduce the amount of contaminated stormwater from entering the Lower Elbow River. These actions will make the water cleaner for you, recreational users, people living downstream and aquatic life.

For more information go to: www.alidp.org/knowledgebase/article/innovative-stormwater-management-at-the-neighbourhood-scale

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

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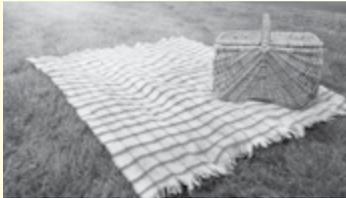
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**JUNE 1 AND 2
POPS IN THE PARK**

Celebrate the arrival of warmer weather and longer days with a picnic and concert in the park. This annual light-hearted, musical evening includes a western barbeque and plenty of music. www.calgaryphil.com



**JUNE 5
LILAC FESTIVAL**

The festival kicks off with a parade down 4th Street S.W., and afterward, Mission plays host to more than 500 vendors, street performers and musicians. www.lilacfestival.net



**JUNE 24
TEDXYXC**

Bringing Calgary's largest and most well-attended, independently-organized TED event to stage, we are thrilled to announce TEDxYYC is returning to Calgary. www.tedxyc.ca



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

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- **May 18 to June 1 – Ginapalooza:** This spring, it's all about gin. The festival celebrates local gin distillers as well as internationally renowned gin brands. www.ginapalooza.com
- **June 2 - 12th Annual Evening of Wine and Wishes:** This food and fundraiser event is an entire evening of culinary festivities. Proceeds support the Rainbow Society of Alberta, a charity that helps Alberta kids with life-threatening or severe chronic medical illnesses. www.rainbowsociety.ab.ca
- **June 2 to 4 - Revv52: California:** Calgary's own vocal energy group, Revv52, celebrates its 64th season by exploring the music of California at the River Park Auditorium. www.revv52.com
- **June 3 and 4 - As Heard On TV:** This concert celebrates some of the most memorable music from popular TV shows of the past and the present, as performed by singer and comedian Nicole Parker and conducted by Steven Reineke. www.calgaryphil.com
- **June 4 - 2016 Eddies Short Film Festival:** The 2016 Eddies Short Film Festival this year is themed "trailblazer." Filmmakers can interpret that theme in any way they wish, and create any kind of film they like that reflects this theme. www.bigrockbeer.com
- **June 4 and 5 - Calgary Ukrainian Festival:** The annual Calgary Ukrainian Festival pays tribute to Ukrainian immigrants and showcases all aspects of their heritage. www.calgaryukrainianfestival.ca
- **June 4 to August 28 - Afternoon Tea on the Verandah:** Enjoy a traditional afternoon tea on the verandah of Heritage Park's newest exhibit, the Famous 5 Centre of Canadian Women. www.heritagepark.ca
- **June 17 and 18 - Vintage With Flair:** Find hand-designed, re-purposed and curated creations. The market sells everything from home decor to garden items to jewellery. www.vintagewithflair.blogspot.ca
- **June 22 to 26 – Sled Island:** The festival includes performances, installations and artwork by more than 250 bands, artists, filmmakers and comedians. The festival takes place in more than 30 venues across the city. www.sledisland.com

**IN & AROUND
CALGARY**

EMS: Window & Balcony Safety

With the return of warmer weather, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) would like to remind parents and caregivers of an often overlooked hazard in the home – access to open windows. Every year, paramedics respond to emergencies where a child has fallen from an open window, often from the second floor. These can be avoided by following simple safety measures. Take the time to assess potential hazards in your home before a preventable fall occurs.

Windows and screens

- Prevent access to windows by moving furniture such as cribs, beds, stools, and change tables out from under them;
- Keep drapery cords out of children's reach. Wrap excess cord around cleats, or tie-downs to avoid a choking hazard;
- Remember: screens are not safety devices. They are designed to keep bugs out, not to keep children in.

Balconies

- Do not underestimate a child's ability to climb. Furniture and other items stored on balconies and decks can be used to climb resulting in falls over the railing;
- Ensure that your balcony railings are not more than 10 cm (4 inch) apart. This will eliminate access between the vertical bars of a balcony, or deck.

Further prevention tips

- Children aged one to four are at highest risk of falling from a window or balcony;
- Direct supervision of children is the single most effective way to prevent falls from windows and balconies;
- Install safety devices which limit the distance in which a window can be opened to a maximum of 10cm (4 inches);
- Ensure the safety device can be released quickly so the window can be used for escape in case of emergency.

EMS is proud to be a member of the **Partners Promoting Window and Balcony Safety**. Take time to assess your home for window and balcony hazards and eliminate the risks before a preventable fall occurs. www.windowssafety.ca.

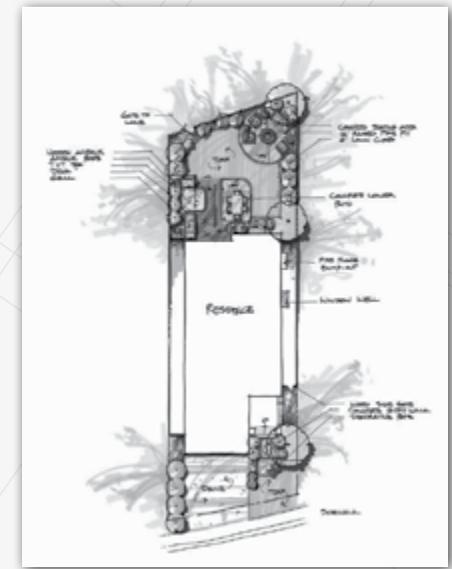


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A: Marketing matters tremendously. I spend far more than most realtors on marketing — as much as \$300,000 a year — and that’s a very strategic investment. Good marketing can make all the difference in a slow market. In fact, some of Calgary’s “slowest” years in real estate have been some of my best, and my clients have seen great results.

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2016 TASTING SCHEDULE			
Tastings start at 7:00pm unless otherwise indicated			
Spring Wine Fest & Birthday Sale	Thr May 12	This Wine Fest will celebrate 24 years of KWM! The fun starts with a store wide tasting and an early bird’s peek at our anniversary sale which runs from Friday to Sunday. Sign up now, tickets go very fast.	\$40
The Heart Break Grape: Pinot Noir	Tue May 17	We promise not to break your hearts! Pinot often gets a bad rap as being difficult to grow and far too expensive. Let’s debunk that myth. This tasting will travel the globe looking for winners	\$35
Gin Glorious Gin	Thr May 19	Is gin your secret weakness? Don’t worry you aren’t alone! Gin is going through a “Ginnaissance” on an international scale. Join us for a taste test of the best	\$30
Queen Victoria’s Super Savers!	Fri May 20	What better way to kick start the long weekend than with a super saver wine tasting. We’ll focus on “best buys” for backyard, balcony and patio BBQs all paired up with chips and sliders! Stand up format.	\$20
Rule Britannia!	Tue May 24	The English, like it or not, have been the inspiration for much of today’s craft beer phenomena. Join us for a “taste from the source”. Bitters, IPA, Porters, Stouts. You name it; we’ll taste it.	\$20
Peasant Cheese Please	Fri May 27	Join us for an Alpine adventure as we climb the steepes to discover the cheeses and wine of high altitude vineyards and grazing meadows in France, Spain, Austria and Switzerland. Stand up format.	\$30
Sauvignon Blanc Doesn’t Just Come From New Zealand!	Tue May 31	That’s right! Let’s celebrate summer with a great taste of what the rest of the world (ok, New Zealand too) can do with this international winner.	\$20
Spring Single Malt Festival	Thr Jun 9	Our biannual festival sells out very quickly. Sign up now for an opportunity to taste over 100 of the finest whiskies in Alberta.	\$60
Everything’s Coming Up Rosé!	Fri Jun 10	Used to be you couldn’t give away a bottle of Rosé. My, oh my, how times have changed! Get ready for summer and taste some of our global best. Stand up format.	\$20
Lost in Translation	Tue Jun 14	There is no mystery to our love of Japanese whisky, and the tale of how the Japanese came to be one of the world’s finest whisky producers, is a worthy one!	\$60
Christmas in Spain	Thr Jun 16	Who said Christmas has to be in December? Our Spanish shipment of fabulous new offerings is in. Let’s open them up together!	\$35
Wine Festival: France	Fri Jun 17	We close shop early so we can open the floor for our French Wine Festival. We’ll showcase all the regions you know about and promise a few surprises. Cheese and nibbles from Peasant Cheese, mais qui!	\$40
Jean Baptist’s Favorite Brews	Thr Jun 23	Ok, we’re a day early celebrating Jean Baptist’s feast day. But, why wait! Join us for a tasting of some of Quebec’s best brews.	\$20
Peasant Cheese Please	Fri Jun 24	Join us as we sip and nibble our way through the French Riviera, Cotes d’Azur and the Mediterranean crescent discovering who makes the best Rosé. Crystal promises des fromages exceptionnel! Stand up format	\$30
Brandy, Armagnac and Cognac	Tue Jun 28	Beer is to whisky as wine is to brandy, and not all brandies are alike. We’ll sample a range of spirits from Spain, Italy and France including Brandies, Armagnac and Cognac.	\$40
Border Wars – Canadian v. American Rye	Thr Jun 30	It may surprise many to learn that Canada is not the world’s only producer of rye whisk(e)y! The Americans make a load of it too, and are giving Canadian producers a run for their money!	\$35

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Article by J. Turner
Photo by Andrea S. H. Hunt

Muskrats Hardy Little Creatures

The muskrat (*Ondatra zibethicus*) is a fairly large rodent which has adapted to life in and around water. Their name comes from their two musk (anal) scent glands, the odour used in communication, especially during breeding season. Muskrats are found in North American wetlands and waterways and are considered to be an important creature in their freshwater environments.

These animals have a round, portly body covered with rich waterproof fur made up of a short dense silky under coat and a longer, coarse glossy guard coat. Their fur covers small ears and provides buoyancy in the water. Fur colour ranges from a dark brown head to a light grey belly. Their feet are mostly hairless; the hind feet acting like paddles during swimming and described as semi-webbed, with the four longest toes of each foot having a fringe of specialized hairs along each side, giving the foot a paddle like effect in use. The front feet are used like hands to build lodges, hold food and dig burrows and channels. There are five toes on all feet but the inner toes of front feet are small so rarely show in tracks. Full grown large adults can weigh from 1 – 2 kgs (2 – 5 lbs) and are up to 60 cm (24 in) long (including the tail). Their tail is slender, flattened vertically (to act as a rudder when swimming) and covered with scaly skin to protect it from damaging easily. The muskrat has special teeth that protrude ahead of the cheeks and lips, which can close behind them, permitting the animal to

chew on stems and roots under water “with its mouth closed.” Its four front teeth are chisel like (two upper, two lower incisors), each up to 2 cm long, used for cutting stems and roots of plants.

Musk rats typically live in freshwater marshes, marshy areas of lakes, slow-moving streams, dugouts, ponds, and watery areas controlled by beaver dams. The water must be deep enough to not freeze to the bottom during winter, but shallow enough to allow for the growth of aquatic vegetation. Areas with good food sources such as bulrushes, cattails, pondweeds, or sedges are preferred.

Muskrat homes are compact mounds of partially dried and decayed plant material scattered among cattails, reeds or bulrushes, looking much like dead heaps of plants. If these materials are not available, muskrats dig burrows in firm banks of mossy soil or clay. They still need quick access to deep water for escape from predators and food access in the winter. Their construction of open-water canals through reeds, and floating houses of aquatic vegetation, creates habitats for many species of waterfowl and aquatic plants which could not survive among dense areas of cattail and sedges.

After freeze up muskrats chew through the ice, and push up plant matter to cover the hole with a dome to make a miniature lodge, which is used as a feeding station and resting place when searching for food underwater. They can remain underwater up to 15 minutes by reducing their heart rate and relaxing their muscles when submerged, thus reducing oxygen use by their body.

What's unusual about the muskrat?

- They are more widely dispersed across North American (north to south, east to west) than any other mammal.
- They were introduced to Europe in 1905 and are now common there too.
- If normal plant food is not available, and animal food is abundant, they are known to become carnivorous (eating fish, frogs, clams)!
- Numbers decrease dramatically every 7 to 10 years. This is believed to be the result of cyclical health declines, deaths and reproductive failure.
- Muskrats appear to thrive even when harvested heavily for fur, impacted by agricultural draining of wetlands and increases in industrial activity! They can even adapt to brackish (salty) water. Hardy little creatures aren't they?

If you find an injured or orphaned muskrat, or other wild animal or bird, please contact the Calgary Wildlife Rehabilitation Society for further instructions.

Getting a tax refund?

What now?

Suzanne Smith-Demers – Consultant

If you are claiming a tax refund this year, your next decision is what you should do with it. Here are six ways to make it benefit your financial future:

1. Immediately use your refund to make your 2016 Registered Retirement Savings Plan (RRSP) contribution and you'll get the benefit of nearly an extra year of potential long-term tax-deferred growth, plus a tax deduction against your 2016 income.
2. Contribute to investments held in a Tax-Free Savings Account (TFSA). You will not be taxed on the income generated by these investments and you can make tax-free withdrawals for any purpose at any time.
3. Invest it. If your RRSP and TFSA are topped up, consider adding your refund to your non-registered investments. A tax-efficient strategy is to hold stocks and equity based mutual funds outside of an RRSP or TFSA because these types of investments are taxed using a more favourable capital gain income inclusion rate plus dividends from many Canadian corporations are eligible for the dividend tax credit.
4. Set up a Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP) to fund your children's future education costs. Contributions to investments within an RESP can grow tax-deferred and they may qualify for Canadian Education Savings Grants (CESG) of up to 20% of your contributions.
5. Pay down costly, high-interest credit debt and then pay down non-deductible debt such as your mortgage – a single prepayment could potentially save hundreds, even thousands of dollars in interest payments.
6. If your refund is large, consider parking that cash in a short-term investment that you can access without penalty. That way, you'll have a ready source of money for a rainy day.

Tax refunds are nice...make sure they are used to enhance your long term financial growth.



Elisabeth Fayt

How often must something happen, before it occurs to you?

A few years ago, I was out running errands with my son who was four at the time. I realized I was running late for a meeting and there was no way I would make it at the pace we were going, so I decided to play a little game with him. I said, “Hey, let’s have a race and see who can run the fastest” and we both started to run. After a few seconds, he stopped dead in his tracks and said “Mom, why are we racing?”

It was like the whole planet stopped whirling in space at that moment. I bent down to his eye level and responded “Good question, we’re not going to race anymore.” Without another word, we casually continued at our normal pace and arrived a half hour late for my meeting, which was irrelevant, as the other person had also been running late. She had not even arrived yet!

The experience had a profound effect on me. What came to light was that I had been sporting a pattern of rushing, of racing the clock and packing too many commitments into a small space of time. It clearly wasn't serving me well.

How often did this happen, before it occurred to me? I'd hate to count, but it definitely occurred to me that day.

As May is the month we celebrate Moms, this is a call-out to all Moms living in the fast lane. Slow down and take time to savour each moment. Be present with your children. Bend down to their eye level and give them your full attention. The whole planet will stop whirling in space. You won't miss anything. Trust me, I know from experience.



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Hello!

One of the things I enjoy most as MLA for Calgary-Elbow is learning about the organizations in the community that assist the people of Calgary and Alberta. There are great organizations that are building stronger community, helping us stay in shape, and helping our neighbours. This month things got even better when I was honoured to present some of these organizations with Community Facility Enhancement Program (CFEP) grant funds.

CFEP grants are in place to nurture the characteristics that make Alberta communities unique. Funds can be directed towards a study, capital project, or a special need that the organization may have, including building, renovating or upgrading facilities.

This year, in Calgary Elbow, several organizations were awarded Community Facility Enhancement Program grants.

In June 2013 the Elboya Heights Community Association hall was severely damaged by flood waters. Community Centres and clubhouses are the heart of the community, where neighbours come together for preschool programs, playgroups, senior's programs, community events, and indoor and outdoor sport. Unfortunately, since the flood, the residents of Elboya Heights have not had a place to participate in these kinds of activities. The association was awarded money under the grant program that will be directed towards rebuilding their hall.

Developmental Disabilities Resource Centre of Calgary is a non-profit, charitable organization that started their important work in 1952. They offer programs and resources for children and adults with disabilities, their friends and family, and other people in the community. They work under the belief that communities are stronger when people of all abilities are involved in activities that are meaningful to them. Funds provided will be used for facility renovations to allow DDRC to keep

offering these programs. To find out more about the organization, visit www.ddrc.ca.

Garrison Curling Club's mission is to create a great curling experience both on and off the ice. The club opened in the fall of 1961, and has grown since then to over 1,000 members and host to over 10 leagues. They have programs for new to experienced curlers. CFEP funds will be used for facility renovations to ensure the growing club is there for new members who enjoy the club's relaxed atmosphere and camaraderie. To learn more about the Garrison Curling Club, visit www.garrisoncurling.com.

I offer my congratulations to these organizations and thank them for making our community stronger. If you know of an organization or group that could benefit from a CFEP grant, please visit <http://culture.alberta.ca/community/community-grants/community-facility-enhancement-program/> to find out more!

We have a new website!

Please visit www.calgaryelbow.ca to keep up to date on what's happening in Calgary-Elbow and in the Legislature. You can also get in touch with us any time at Calgary-elbow@assembly.ab.ca.

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Keeping the water flowing in Ward 8

The neighbourhoods that make up Ward 8 are some of the oldest and most historic communities in Calgary. The countless number of Century Homes, Beltline's Central Memorial Park, Wildwood's Sandstone Quarry Mines, Mission's Rouleau House, the list goes on. This history lends so much character, charm and warmth of each neighbourhood. That said, with inner city neighbourhoods comes aging infrastructure and water mains. There's currently a total of 208km of water mains in Ward 8, with the oldest pipe being cast iron and dating back to the 1910 era and the newest pipe being PVC and installed in 1992.

Interestingly, water main breaks in Calgary spiked in the 1970's with our city experiencing a peak in 1982 with 1,813 breaks per year. In response to these rising rates, The City allocated a budget of \$35M per year (2015 dollars) and implemented innovative asset management programs like enhanced data collection, inspection technologies, and risk analysis techniques. This strategy cut main breaks in half to approximately 900 per year by the early 1990's. Now, in 2016, the City's efforts have resulted in a drastic 85% reduction in breaks and a savings of \$150M over the last 31 years.

I was surprised and happy to see that in Ward 8 specifically, we've seen a significant drop in breaks over the last five years, from 45 breaks in 2010 to only 23 in 2015. This is thanks to the aggressive installation of corrosion protection on our water mains. While our city's population steadily rises and our water network continues to grow, the proactive approach The City has taken will allow us to continue to reduce the numbers of main breaks and most importantly, reduce capital spending.

One of my biggest goals when I chose to run for City Council was to make sure that more of Ward 8 residents' taxes flowed back into their neighbourhoods. Seeing the increased service life and reliability of the water mains in our communities is a great example of how we're working to make our neighbourhoods better.

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BY THE LIGHT OF THE MOON

Gardening by the phases of the moon

May 6 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.

May 13 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.

May 21 Full Moon (waning)

As the moon wanes, the energy is drawing down. Strong gravitational pull but moonlight is decreasing putting energy into the roots.

May 29 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.

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~continued on page 25~

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Spragg's Meat Shop

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It's Barbecue Season! Get Piggy Wit It

Spragg's Meat Shop's Local, Free-Range Pork Is Sizzling Hot!

In 2002, Greg Spragg received a gift that marked the beginning of his family's future business, Spragg's Meat Shop. His wife, Bonnie, surprised him with three little pigs, the first of many to live on their farm located in Rosemary, Alberta.

Their farm to plate focus was working well in a limited sense, but they had a vision of becoming something more than small-scale farmers with restricted supply and distribution methods. By November 2005, Spragg's Meat Shop officially opened its doors.

Since then, the business has grown and developed significantly. Expanding into processing allowed Greg and Bonnie to raise their hogs, process the meat and market their pork products all within Rosemary, Alberta. Pork can be custom cut to any specifications, from rind on shoulders, to tomahawk chops, to boneless ribs.

In addition to their main retail location in Rosemary, Spragg's Meat Shop's local, free-range pork products can be found at the Calgary Farmers' Market, The Market on Macleod, and select products can be found at Community Natural Foods, Planet Organic in Calgary and Edmonton, SPUD Calgary and all Calgary Co-op locations.

Greg and Bonnie Spragg work hard to produce the best pork for Calgarians, from the day the pigs are born, to the day the pork chops are cut, bacon is smoked and the roast is marinated.

As we move into barbecue season, Spragg's Meat Shop wants you to be fully prepared to chill and grill all summer long with their **Sizzle Certified Value Pack**.

Included in the **\$150 Sizzle Certified Value Pack**:

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The Spragg family hopes that you get as much enjoyment eating their pork as they do getting it to your table.

For barbecue tips, recipes and more, or to reserve your Value Pack, visit: www.spraggsmeatshop.com.

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On March 22nd, our government unveiled our first budget. This budget takes essential steps to grow the middle class and revitalize the Canadian economy. It reflects a new approach that puts people first and delivers the help that Canadians and Albertans need now.

For 30 years, we have seen the gap between rich and poor widen and the middle class shrink. To address this, we have introduced a middle-class tax cut, and raised taxes on the wealthiest one percent. The new Canada Child Benefit - which will put \$930M into the pockets of Albertan families - will lift hundreds of thousands of children out of poverty. When Canadians have more money to save, invest and grow the economy, everyone benefits.

It's been tough for Alberta over the last few years, and our government recognizes that. Alberta is facing unemployment levels we haven't seen in decades. The EI changes introduced last month will make a big difference for many families and individuals struggling with unemployment, many for the first time in their lives. EI benefits for Albertans will be extended in some instances to up to 70 weeks and wait times reduced. We have also increased federal transfers to the province by \$320M per year in addition to the \$251.4M provided by the fiscal stabilization payment.

The current economic trend is not Alberta's challenge, it is Canada's challenge, and we will meet it together.

With the introduction of this budget, we are beginning to address those challenges and will work with Provincial and Municipal leaders to identify priorities now, and opportunities in the months and years ahead. In our cities, we will invest in transit infrastructure, and Alberta municipalities will receive over \$300 million towards those investments over the next two years. We are also going to accelerate our investments in federal infrastructure projects, to create jobs, and to continue providing the services Albertans rely on from the federal government. This investment in Alberta will be over \$110 million over the next five years.

Finally, we know that global oil prices will stabilize and rebound, and we need to be ready when it does. That's why we are investing \$50 million over two years in research to develop Canada's hydrocarbon resources in cleaner, more sustainable ways. This will both reduce greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change and make Canadian oil more attractive in the global marketplace.

Our new approach puts people first, and it invests in growing the middle class. It also reflects a belief that is the spirit of Alberta's rich history of innovation and collaboration. By investing today in our future we know Alberta and Canada's best days are ahead.

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