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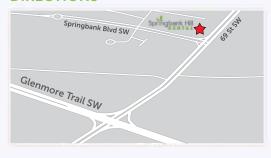
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COUNCILLOR RICHARD POOTMANS' REPORT







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AHS Addictions Hotline	1-866-332-2322
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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
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The Signal Hill Annual Christmas Lights Competition

The Community Association will be hosting the annual Christmas Lights Competition again this year! Everyone is welcome to join in and become part of the Parade of lights!

The highlights of the event will include:

- Registration on SHCA.ca for the decorators extraordinaire
- Prizes for first, second, and third place (go to SHCA.ca to learn more!)
- Voting feature on the website for everyone to join in and pick their favourites
- A map for the rest of the community to follow, view and be inspired

If you want more information please contact Joceli Marina 474-0790 or Social@shca.ca



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Fostering Friendship with

The VANDEKERKHOVE FAMILY

Photos by Emilie Tatlock Photography

hen the Vandekerkhoves moved to Signal Hill seven years ago, it was primarily so that they could be close to family and work, but now they can't imagine living anywhere else in the city. Phil and Mary Jane Vandekerkhove have six children: Philip (18), Anthony (16), Dominic (15), Gerrilyn (9), Maria (6), and Clara (3). This family of eight loves their cul-de-sac and all of the friends that everyone has made in the community.

Phil is originally from Langley, B.C. and is the eldest of five children in a close-knit family. While going to school when he was younger, he worked at the family-owned business. Phil Sr. and Sally, Phil's parents, have 12 grand-children, and are both originally from Winnipeg. Phil's parents are now in White Rock, B.C. and continue to run the family business, while also spending much of their time with their children and grandchildren. Phil, Mary

Jane and their family drive out to visit Phil's parents as well as host them when they make the trip out to Calgary.

Mary Jane is originally from Medicine Hat, Alberta and is the ninth child of ten. Mary Jane grew up surrounded by music, which is one of the reasons she is in music education and encourages her children to take up the art as well. Her mother, Helen, fled Germany during World War II and her father, Lambert, fled from Holland shortly after the war. Her father, Bert, who was a Chartered Accountant and a great promoter of higher education, passed away in 2001. Helen lives in Medicine Hat and is proud of her 10 children, 43 grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren. Helen, pictured in the family portrait, stays with Mary Jane and Phil two months of the year.

Phil graduated from the University of British Columbia with a major in Finance and continued his studies to become a chartered accountant. Mary Jane did her combined studies in Violin Performance at Eastman School of Music in New York and the University of British Columbia, where she and Phil met. In 1997, the two were married in Medicine Hat at St. Patrick's parish surrounded by many friends and family. Soon after, the newlywed couple moved to Calgary. Currently, Phil works in the oil and gas industry and Mary Jane teaches at the Mount Royal University Conservatory. She also performs at various venues throughout the city.

While teaching at Mount Royal University, Mary Jane initiated the Performance Outreach Program at the Conservatory in 2015. With this program, she organizes approximately 18 concerts a year. Her own children have performed twice at the Manor Village and Wentworth retirement residences in the Signal Hill community as part of this program.

Both Phil and Mary Jane do not have much spare time in between their work, helping with the kids' homework, driving the kids to all of their different activities, and helping the kids practice their instruments. Weekends consist of family nights, which include, card games, board games, extended family events, as well as the kids' various concerts. Sunday mornings are reserved for church at the Holy Name Catholic Church. They enjoy being a part of this vibrant parish. Family holiday time is usually spent out at their cabin in Invermere where the family unwinds while they hike, mountain bike, go out boating, water ski in the summer, and ski in the winter.

Philip, the eldest child, unfortunately was not able to make the family photo shoot as he was busy with his studies at Mount Royal University; he is taking Policy Studies. He's very passionate about history and politics at both a local and international level. Once he completes his undergrad, he hopes to study law. Philip lifeguards at Westside Recreation Centre as well as at Sikome Lake in the summer.

Anthony studies cello at an intense level. He has won prizes at a local, provincial, and national level. He has been involved in the Performance

Outreach Program and played various gigs in Calgary. Anthony is currently in grade eleven at Western Canada High School. He hopes to pursue a career in cello performance. Anthony has played soccer for many years with the Rangers soccer club.

Dominic is in grade ten IB at Western Canada High School, and especially enjoys math and science. He's a real academic who loves to compete! (That's what happens when you have two older brothers.) Dominic is ambitious and hard-working. He loves to play soccer and has also played for many years with the Rangers soccer club. He is currently captain of his team. Along with his brothers, Dominic enjoys skiing, long boarding, and swimming.

Gerrilyn's extra curricular activities include her attendance at the Danscott Dance School. She participates in several dance competitions throughout the year. She is also completing her grade six piano in Royal Conservatory of Music as well as her grade four voice.

Maria plays cello and sings. She is an encouraging teacher to her little sister Clara. Both she and Gerrilyn will be singing in the Cowtown Opera Christmas Concert this year, while continuing to take

part in the Performance Outreach Program.
Both Maria and Gerrilyn attend St. Thomas Aquinas Elementary School. Gerrilyn is in grade four and Maria is in grade one.

Clara is not in grade school yet, but is looking forward to joining her sisters at St. Thomas Aquinas. Mary Jane stays with her at home during the day and teaches her reading and creative art. Clara and Maria both attend ballet classes at the International School of Ballet and all three girls are in CanSkate.







The children also have many friends from their schools that live in the area, which makes it easy for all of the kids to get together. Children in their cul-de-sac get along with each other and often make their own play dates on a daily basis. The moms occasionally arrange a night out to Shillelagh's pub and all of the parents make the time to plan an outing at least once a year. These great neighbours also arrange block parties throughout the year so that everyone in the neighbourhood can experience the same sense of community that the Vandekerkhoves experience.

To have your family profiled (story and professional pictures) in the next edition of this community newsletter, please send us an email to W@great-news.ca



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Diabetes is a complex disease with many causes and no known cure. In Alberta, an estimated 303,000 people have been diagnosed with diabetes and a further 600,000 live with prediabetes.

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Diabetes

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Proposed changes to the Canada Pension Plan – what you need to know

Suzanne Smith-Demers - Consultant

The federal and most provincial and territorial governments reached a tentative agreement to amend the Canadian Pension Plan (CPP) scheduled to be phased in starting in 2019.

For most Canadian employees, the proposed amendments mean receiving higher CPP benefits when they retire, compared to the benefits they would receive under CPP as it is now structured.

Currently, the CPP retirement benefit is 25% of average adjusted earnings. The proposed amendment will increase this benefit to 33% and will be phased in over a six-year period starting in 2019. The current limit on insured earnings covered by CPP is \$54,900 rising to a maximum amount of \$82,700 by 2025.

Starting in 2019, contributions from employees and employers will increase by 1% to 5.95% of wages, phased in from 2019 to 2025. To somewhat offset the increase in contributions, there will be a federal tax deduction for employee contributions. Additionally, the CPP contribution on income between \$54,000 (2016 limit) and the new maximum of \$82,700 is expected to be lowered to 4% rather than 5.95%.

It will take 40 years of contributions to realize the full enhancement of benefits. Here are some examples*:

Although the amended CPP will enhance CPP retirement benefits for many Canadians, the new benefits will undoubtedly fall far short of your pre-retirement income. That's why it's still important that you have a comprehensive retirement savings plan in place.

*Source: George and Bell Consulting Inc.

Age in 2016	Salary in 2016	Current CPP benefit at age 65	Enhanced CPP benefit at age 65	Annual increase with enhancement
20	\$20,000	\$17,844	\$23,544	\$5,700
40	\$40,000	\$19,752	\$23,888	\$3,636
60	\$55,000	\$15,000	\$15,216	\$216



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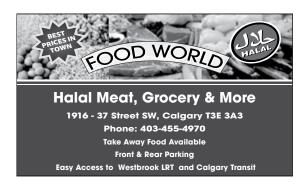


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Signal Hill Real Estate Update

Last 12 Months Signal Hill
MLS Real Estate Sale Price Update

	Average Asking Price	Average Sold Price
November 2016	\$660,000.00	\$635,000.00
October 2016	\$650,000.00	\$630,000.00
September 2016	\$669,900.00	\$636,500.00
August 2016	\$694,500.00	\$678,250.00
July 2016	\$689,950.00	\$672,500.00
June 2016	\$682,450.00	\$658,500.00
May 2016	\$607,400.00	\$589,750.00
April 2016	\$655,000.00	\$620,000.00
March 2016	\$629,900.00	\$617,000.00
February 2016	\$624,900.00	\$604,000.00
January 2016	\$639,900.00	\$613,000.00
December 2015	\$704,400.00	\$675,000.00

Last 12 Months Signal Hill
MLS Real Estate Number of Listings Update

	No. New Properties	No. Properties Sold	
November 2016	19	13	
October 2016	16	13	
September 2016	12	8	
August 2016	7	8	
July 2016	14	10	
June 2016	11	18	
May 2016	16	14	
April 2016	23	15	
March 2016	21	11	
February 2016	14	8	
January 2016	13	5	
December 2015	4	6	

To view more detailed information that comprise the above MLS averages please visit **signal hill.great-news.ca**

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER AD SALES



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CALGARY WILDLIFE

Snow White: The Snowy Owl

Article by Cheryl Bowman Photo by Andrea S. H. Hunt

The Snowy owl, a majestic bird, is the largest owl in North America by weight. The Snowy owl is 52–71 cm long, with a 125–150 cm wingspan. The adult male is completely white while females and young birds have some dark spots. Snowy owls migrate to Alberta during the winter months, after spending the spring and summer in Alaska. The Snowy owl is the provincial bird of Ouébec.

Fun Facts:

- The Snowy owl is an exceptional hunter:
- The Snowy owl can fly silently due to the fact that its flight feathers are tipped with soft down, allowing this predator to swoop down silently on its prey.
- The Snowy owl has exceptional hearing and sight, allowing it to capture its favourite prey, lemmings, as lemmings are unable to hide under the snow to avoid capture.

- Snowy owls are crepuscular, which mean they hunt and are active both day and night, whereas other owls are nocturnal and hunt at night.
- Snowy owls form a monogamous pair and vigorously defend their territory, even against large carnivores such as wolves.

On average, the Calgary Wildlife Rehabilitation Society (CWRS) receives 4-6 Snowy owls per year. These birds have a well-known migration pattern in Alberta and because of this, treatment must be administered quickly to avoid the Snowy owl being 'over summered' (whereas the risk to other migratory birds is being 'over wintered'). Releasing the Snowy owl in time for their regular migration allows this majestic bird a greater chance of survival.

Should you discover an injured Snowy owl, please visit our website at www.calgarywildlife.org for more information or contact the CWRS at 403-239-2488 for assistance.

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SCA Real Estate Update

Last 12 Months Strathcona Park MLS Real Estate Sale Price Update

Average Asking Price	Average Sold Price
\$589,450.00	\$564,500.00
\$679,000.00	\$711,000.00
\$652,450.00	\$618,000.00
\$699,900.00	\$675,000.00
\$759,000.00	\$758,000.00
\$679,000.00	\$652,500.00
\$649,500.00	\$635,000.00
\$549,900.00	\$533,000.00
\$742,450.00	\$721,250.00
\$799,800.00	\$777,500.00
\$679,450.00	\$662,500.00
\$634,700.00	\$622,000.00
	\$589,450.00 \$679,000.00 \$652,450.00 \$699,900.00 \$759,000.00 \$679,000.00 \$649,500.00 \$549,900.00 \$742,450.00 \$799,800.00

Last 12 Months Christie Park MLS Real Estate Sale Price Update

Average Asking Price	Average Sold Price
\$850,000.00	\$800,000.00
\$799,900.00	\$767,000.00
\$0.00	\$0.00
\$975,000.00	\$930,000.00
\$0.00	\$0.00
\$929,900.00	\$895,000.00
\$897,450.00	\$860,000.00
\$859,900.00	\$855,000.00
\$669,900.00	\$629,000.00
\$0.00	\$0.00
\$600,000.00	\$592,800.00
\$509,900.00	\$504,500.00
	\$850,000.00 \$799,900.00 \$0.00 \$975,000.00 \$0.00 \$929,900.00 \$897,450.00 \$859,900.00 \$669,900.00 \$0.00

To view more detailed information that comprise the above MLS averages please visit **strathcona.great-news.ca** or **christie park.great-news.ca**

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Calgary FirefightersMessage

Christmas Trees

Many Calgarians put up Christmas trees to celebrate the holidays. To prevent a fire in your home, remember to:

- Get a freshly cut tree. When a tree is green and well watered, it is less likely to catch on fire.
- Get a tree that is moist and green. You can tell if a tree is moist because very few needles fall off when the butt of the tree is tapped on the ground, needles bend instead of break, and the tree stump is sticky with resin.
- Use a tree stand with a broad base for good balance and a large water reservoir to ensure that the tree is ALLWAYS in water.
- Do not set your tree up near a heat source such as a radiator, television, fireplace or heating register.
- Ensure when selecting a tree location that it does not block exits, doors or windows.
- Never use lit candles on your tree.
- Always choose flame-resistant or flame-retardant and non-combustible decorations for your tree and elsewhere in your home.
- After the holidays, properly dispose of trees as soon as possible using the city of Calgary's Christmas tree recycling program.

Candles

Just like indoor and outdoor holiday lights, we use candles during the holidays to make our homes beautiful and celebrate the season. To help prevent a fire started by a candle;

 Keep candles away from curtains, paper, furniture or anything that can easily catch fire.

- Adults should always supervise when a candle is being lit. Children should never be left alone to light a candle or use matches.
- Keep candles in sturdy, stable holders and place them on stable surfaces away from drafts, children or pets.
- LED candles are safe alternative to burning candles

Kitchen fires

During the holidays, we often celebrate by inviting friends and family over to enjoy a meal. Cooking fires are the leading cause of house fires and fire injuries. Learning how to prevent cooking fires is important during the holidays and all year. Remember to NEVER leave cooking unattended.

Home escape plans and holiday visitors

If you have family, friends or guests staying with you over the holidays, be sure to share your home escape plan with them when they arrive.

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

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BEFORE & AFTER RENOVATION PROJECT





BEFORE

AFTER





BEFORE

AFTER





BEFORE

AFTER

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Westhills my babysitter list

Name	Age	Contact	Course
Hannah	12	403-246-6578	Yes
Brianna	13	403-686-1717	Yes
Brooke	14	403-212-1014	Yes
Destynee	14	403-875-3069	Yes
Sophia	14	403-708-0601	No
Rahell	14	403-999-2851	Yes
Lauren	15	403-217-3249	Yes
Yasmin	15	403-402-9244	No
Allison	15	403-475-3122	Yes
Kyla	15	403-217-0282	Yes
Karl	15	403-212-1014	Yes
Izzy	16	403-863-1453	Yes
Sarah	16	403-702-5549	Yes
Sarah	16	403-702-5549	Yes
Izzy	16	403-863-1453	Yes
Izzy	16	403-863-1453	Yes
Olivia	17	403-246-0203	Yes
Jayde	17	403-481-3315	Yes
Makayla	17	587-888-9389	Yes
Priya	17	403-471-1033	No
Megan	18	403-266-4610	Yes
Brooke	18	403-874-3111	Yes
Elizabeth & Michelle	20	403-918-2035	No
Yena	20	403-479-7911	Yes
Negin	43	403-217-5778	Yes
Nabila	47	587-215-2673	Yes

Calling All BABYSITTERS

Enroll free at mybabysitter.ca and choose the Calgary communities you would like to babysit in.

Calling All PARENTS

Visit mybabysitter.ca and find available babysitters in and around your community.

Disclaimer: We recommend for your own peace of mind that references be checked when choosing your babysitter. This babysitter list is provided as a service to the community and is governed by the terms & conditions outlined at mybabysitter.ca.



MP CALGARY SIGNAL HILL RON LIEPERT

#2216, 8561 8A Avenue SW
Calgary, Alberta T3H 0V5
Phone: 403-292-6666 • Fax: 403-292-6670
Email: ron.liepertC1A@parl.qc.ca

As we approach the end of 2016, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on a few of the events of this past year since being elected Member of Parliament for Calgary Signal Hill.

I was privileged to be selected vice chair of the House of Commons Finance committee and it has been a busy 12 months. The Standing Committee held pre-budget consultations earlier this year prior to the introduction of the 2016 budget. The timeframe between the consultations and introduction of the budget was too short to have much impact on the actual document introduced in the House. Pre-budget consultations for the 2017 budget have just concluded and hopefully more of what was heard in our travels across the country will actually find its way into the budget next spring.

An important piece of legislation that was introduced this past year was Bill C-14 – Medical Assistance in Dying. Based on constituent feedback, I voted in favor of the bill which will provide comfort to many who face an end of life decision.

2017 will mark Canada's 150th Birthday and celebrations will occur throughout the year. Please feel free to contact our constituency office if you are planning an event and are looking for items you can use for this exciting occasion.

Locally, we are all too aware of the economic hardships that many Albertans are facing with the downturn in the economy and unfortunately the next 12 months may be just as difficult. Although we are seeing some small increases in commodity prices, industry will not make major investments until the situation stabilizes. 2017 will also see the conclusion of most capital projects still under construction in Alberta and there is little on the drawing board for the future. This is one time when I hope I am totally wrong but indications for the next period of time continue to be worrisome.

In addition, the devastating fires in Fort McMurray displaced many families from their homes and with the help of Albertans, we are now in a period of rebuild. This fall has also been difficult for the agriculture community as many fields remain unharvested due to the weather. All of these difficulties makes this time of year hard on many families. I would ask that you continue to show the compassion and generosity we are known for by helping out neighbors and associations that are endeavoring to ease the burden on those affected during this holiday season.

Please let me express my sincere gratitude for your support and feedback over this past year and I look forward to representing you in Ottawa in 2017. Wishing you, your family, and friends a safe and joyous holiday season.







COUNCILLOR, WARD 6 RICHARD POOTMANS

PO Box 2100, Station "M", Calgary, AB T2P 2M1 403-268-1035 • C: 403-660-6692 F: 403-268-8091 • E: Ward06@Calgary.ca Communications & Community Liaison: Eileen Badowich, CAward6@calgary.ca www.calgarv.ca/ward6 • 📢 💓

December Community Newsletter

The Ward 6 team sends warm wishes to you and your family this holiday season. I enjoyed speaking with many of you at several events held this fall including: 37th Street Mainstreets Open House, Griffith Woods Debris Clean-up Event, the Ward 6 Community Traffic Safety Meeting, the Remembrance Day Ceremony at Battalion Park, two Sarcee Trail & Richmond Road Interchange Study Open Houses, as well as a Councillor Chat last month. I wanted to take this opportunity to share with you some City services that may come in handy!

Free Public Wi-Fi

Public Wi-Fi is a City program that provides Wi-Fi service in select city facilities or locations. The City has partnered with Shaw; the service is available to any member of the public at no charge. Shaw is providing Shaw Open (available to Shaw customers), and Shaw Guest (available free to the public, with the creation of an account).

Expanding public Wi-Fi to public spaces like recreation centres and CTrain stations is part of the City of Calgary's Customer Commitment. It's about investing in projects and initiatives that positively impact the customer experience. You can currently access public Wi-Fi at several LRT stations and City of Calgary facilities, please visit calgary.ca/publicwifi for a complete list.

Calgary Transit is currently working with Shaw to install Wi-Fi on the West (Blue) LRT line. Cable and mounting installs are underway and public Wi-Fi is anticipated to be available by the end of the year.

Snow & Ice

Before you step out of the house after a sprinkle or a dump, be sure to check calgary.ca/snow. You can type in your address to see if you are affected by a snow route parking ban, and when to expect clearing in your community. This one-stop-shop for all things snow and ice also has road conditions, and pathway and sidewalk snow clearing maps. You can stay up-to-date on expected weather conditions and Calgary Transit service updates if you use public transit to get around. Be sure to check here for how to prepare for a heavy snowfall as well as FAQs. Use this portal to report a problem to 311. Stay safe this winter season and be prepared for whatever weather comes our way!

Christmas Tree Recycling Program

By recycling your real Christmas trees, you help keep 35,000 trees out of the landfill! This helps our collection crews stay on schedule during a busy time. Each January, the City collects real Christmas trees from homes that receive black cart garbage collection. Temporary drop-off locations are also available if you do not receive black cart garbage collection. Please remove all decorations, tinsel, plastic and string before placing your tree out for collection. You can leave your real Christmas tree next to your black cart which will be chipped into mulch and made available for residents for garden/yard use, which can be picked up for free from the East Calgary Landfill. For more information visit calgary.ca and type in Christmas tree recycling program.

Buy one chocolate bar, get one free*!

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COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Deadline - 1st of each month for the next month's publication Contact news@great-news.ca

- ◆ Free announcements: lost/found, household items for sale, wanted, garage sale, student/senior services, etc.
- **♦** Forty word limit

FREE ENGLISH CONVERSATION CAFE (ESL) AT THE **SCA COMMUNITY CENTRE.** Practice speaking English at this fun conversation class for adults provided by St. Martin's Anglican Church. Tuesdays 9:30-11 am September 13 - December 13, 2016. All welcome. Contact Laura at 403-612-9949 or email community.stmartins@yahoo. ca for more info or to register.

COOKING WITH FRIENDS - a fun cooking class where we share recipes, cook together and have lunch with new friends. All Welcome. Childcare available with preregistration. Thursdays, 10:30 -1 pm, September 15 - December 8, 2016 at Knox Presbyterian Church. Contact Laura at 403-612-9949 or email community.stmartins@ yahoo.ca for more info or to register.

LOVE TO SING? Want to experience the benefits of singing in a welcoming vocal community? Vocal Latitudes may be the choir for you. A non-audition World Music community choir, Vocal Latitudes meets Tuesday evenings from September to May in a convenient central location. For more information, see www.vocalatitudes.org.

FOR SALE - DOWNSIZING: Just like garage sale in my residence. Too many items to list. Something for everyone. Call Ernest Jones 403-255-1955



MLA CALGARY - WEST MIKE ELLIS

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With winter weather already here, it is hard to believe that we are already nearing the holiday season.

This is my first community newsletter submission since the passing of former Premier Jim Prentice. I want to take a moment in this article to acknowledge the passing of the late Premier and share with you Jim as I knew him.

Many of you will remember that I was first elected in a by-election in October of 2014, along with Premier Prentice. I was honoured when Jim asked me to run for Calgary-West and join his team. We worked together many times on the campaign trail during that election. Even while being the Premier, he still found time to door knock almost every night. He also went door knocking with me in Calgary-West on a few occasions during the by-election. I was struck by how well he was able to connect with people at the door. He was a compassionate man, and took the time to listen to the stories of folks he met, as he offered them his vision of a better Alberta.

After our election, even in the turbulent eight months that followed, Jim always made time for his caucus colleagues, including me. I will remember him fondly as a mentor, and as an incredibly capable and kind politician. On behalf of Calgary-West I have extended my condolences to his wife Karen, and their three daughters. Farewell, Jim, you will be sorely missed by all Albertans and indeed, all of Canada.

Mike Ellis, MLA





In 2016, Hanukkah from in the evening of Saturday, December 24th until the evening of Sunday, January 1st. During Hanukkah, on each of the eight nights, a candle is lit in a special menorah (candelabra) called a 'hanukkiyah'.



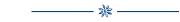


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