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Please submit your best captioned photos along with your name for the photo credit and where the photo was taken to news@great-news.ca.

If you'd like to see your work on our social media channels—Twitter and Facebook—submit your social media information as well.



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Editorial Submissions

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All advertisements and editorial submissions must be submitted by the 1st of the month for the following month's publication.

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GREAT NEWS PUBLISHING  **28** YEARS

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The information contained in this newsletter is believed to be accurate, but is not warranted to be so.

Great News Publishing does not endorse any person or persons advertising in this newsletter. Publication of any advertisements should not be considered an endorsement of any goods or services.

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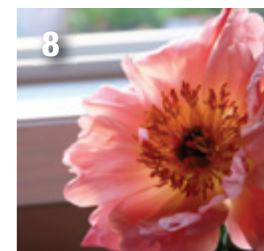


Photo by Arina Gerasimova





**Strathcona Park • Christie Park
Signal Hill**

ELECTED OFFICIALS



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 Fax: 403-268-3823
 Email: ward06@calgary.ca
 Web: www.calgary.ca/ward6



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 Calgary, AB Canada T3H 0N6
 Phone: (403) 216-5439
 Fax: (403) 216-5441
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MP Ron Liepert
Calgary Signal Hill
 #2216, 8561 8A Avenue SW
 Calgary, Alberta T3H 0V5
 Phone: 403-292-6666 • Fax: 403-292-6670
 Email: ron.liepertC1A@parl.gc.ca

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	511	
Weather Information		
Gamblers Anonymous	403-237-0654	



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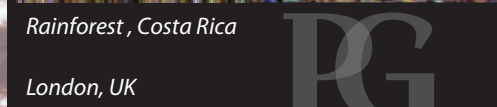
Kazan, Russia



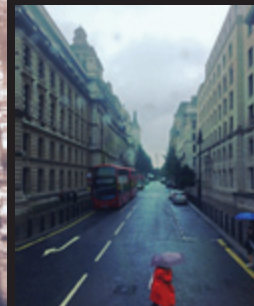
Fairmont, BC



Fairmont, BC



Rainforest, Costa Rica



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PG



Flower in my house



Glenmore Park, Calgary



View from my window

PHOTO GALLERY

Photos by Arina Gerasimova



CALGARY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Book Discussion Groups

Our NEW Book Discussion Groups happen at every community library and feature new books and topics every month. No need to register—just drop in and travel the world of ideas with your neighbours! Visit worldofideas.ca for details.

Bill's Book Café with David Ward

Take in *Bill's Book Café* with Library CEO Bill Ptacek and CKUA's David Ward. It's guaranteed to be a lively discussion of *Chronicles: Volume One* by Bob Dylan. Memorial Park Library
March 21 | 7:00 pm

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Is Our Investment in Daylight a Rip-off?

by Vanessa Gillard

Daylight saving time is a bit of a contentious topic in some circles. It is always a bit of a pain to reset the stove or coffee maker and if you have kids it's a new bedtime routine struggle all over again, twice a year. Likely no one has avoided a schedule mix-up or a tardy appearance due to this bi-annual occurrence, but the advent of the smart phone and other smart home technologies, which change the hour difference automatically, has perhaps alleviated many of those spring and autumn woes for the most part.

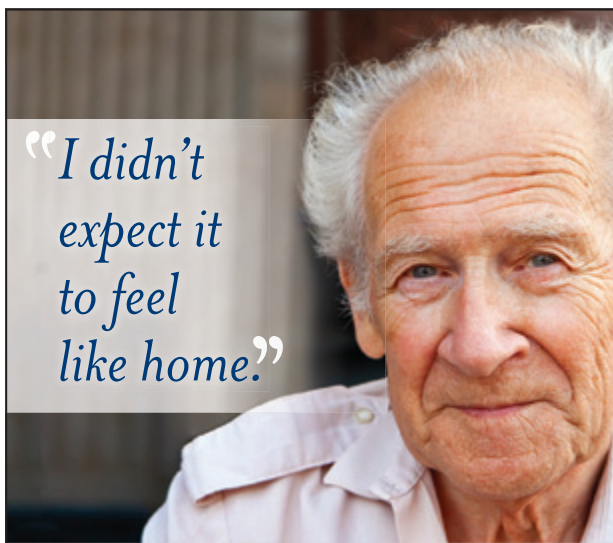
On its face the purpose of daylight saving time (DST) is to give us more light and time in the day to get things done; human beings tend to operate better during daylight hours and certainly many appreciate the opportunity to take in a little more vitamin D, particularly during our long Canadian winters. But the origins of DST are actually a little more pragmatic than simply avoiding seasonal affective disorder.

Benjamin Franklin first suggested the concept in 1748 and found it was met with little enthusiasm at the time, but a couple hundred years later, during WWI, the con-

cept was popularized among Germans to save precious coal during that age of austerity. The concept quickly caught on and made it to some Canadian cities as early as 1916, though there has never been a consensus on whether the practice is useful or not, and Saskatchewan has never been on board.

The ever-efficient Germans introduced DST to reduce fuel cost. The gain or loss, respectively, of that hour was intended to lower use of artificial lighting and heating in the evening, but it's debatable how much was saved, as more was often needed in the morning anyway. A little over a century later the reports of heart attacks, road related accidents, and even spikes in suicide rates following DST have not made much of an argument for the century-old tradition, and the amount of light many Canadians see the next day can be negligible.

It would seem there is little in the way of reason to explain this circadian rhythm disruptor to the average person in 2017, but most Canadians will dutifully set their clocks forward on March 12th this month, like it or not.



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Brooke	14	403-212-1014	Yes
Brooke	18	403-874-3111	Yes
Destynee	14	403-875-3069	Yes
Elizabeth & Michelle	21	403-918-2035	No
Hannah	12	403-246-6578	Yes
Izzy	16	403-863-1453	Yes
Izzy	16	403-863-1453	Yes
Izzy	16	403-863-1453	Yes
Jayde	17	403-481-3315	Yes
Karl	15	403-212-1014	Yes
Kyla	15	403-217-0282	Yes
Lauren	15	403-217-3249	Yes
Makayla	17	587-888-9389	Yes
Meg	12	403-702-6327	Yes
Megan	18	403-266-4610	Yes
Nabila	47	587-215-2673	Yes
NEGIN	43	403-217-5778	Yes
Olivia	17	403-246-0203	Yes
Priya	17	403-471-1033	No
Rahell	14	403-999-2851	Yes
Sarah	16	403-702-5549	Yes
Sarah	16	403-702-5549	Yes
Sophia	14	403-708-0601	No
Yasmin	15	403-402-9244	No
Yena	20	403-479-7911	Yes

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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.



Signal Hill Real Estate Update

Last 12 Months Signal Hill

MLS Real Estate Sale Price Update

	Average Asking Price	Average Sold Price
January 2017	\$607,000	\$600,000
December 2016	\$623,900	\$601,000
November 2016	\$660,000	\$635,000
October 2016	\$650,000	\$630,000
September 2016	\$669,900	\$636,500
August 2016	\$694,500	\$678,250
July 2016	\$689,950	\$672,500
June 2016	\$682,450	\$658,500
May 2016	\$607,400	\$589,750
April 2016	\$655,000	\$620,000
March 2016	\$629,900	\$617,000
February 2016	\$624,900	\$604,000

Last 12 Months Signal Hill

MLS Real Estate Number of Listings Update

	No. New Properties	No. Properties Sold
January 2017	12	5
December 2016	3	10
November 2016	18	13
October 2016	13	13
September 2016	11	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

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

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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
January 2017	\$574,950	\$562,250
December 2016	\$690,000	\$668,000
November 2016	\$589,450	\$564,500
October 2016	\$679,000	\$711,000
September 2016	\$652,450	\$618,000
August 2016	\$699,900	\$675,000
July 2016	\$759,000	\$758,000
June 2016	\$679,000	\$652,500
May 2016	\$649,500	\$635,000
April 2016	\$549,900	\$533,000
March 2016	\$742,450	\$721,250
February 2016	\$799,800	\$777,500

Last 12 Months Christie Park
MLS Real Estate Sale Price Update

	Average Asking Price	Average Sold Price
January 2017	\$0	\$0
December 2016	\$800,000	\$757,500
November 2016	\$850,000	\$800,000
October 2016	\$799,900	\$767,000
September 2016	\$0	\$0
August 2016	\$975,000	\$930,000
July 2016	\$0	\$0
June 2016	\$929,900	\$895,000
May 2016	\$897,450	\$860,000
April 2016	\$859,900	\$855,000
March 2016	\$669,900	\$629,000
February 2016	\$0	\$0

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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APRIL 8-9, 2017 KITTIES N' BLOOMS CAT SHOW – SHOULDICE ARENA

The 2017 Kitties 'N Blooms annual cat show will be presented by the Calgary Cat Association again this year. From rex to Persian there are cats of every fancy at this show. Judges from around the continent show off the entrants and award ribbons for various categories. Vendors will also be in attendance to sell various cat paraphernalia. More info: www.calgarycatshow.com



APRIL 23, CALGARY JAZZ ORCHESTRA PRESENTS THE MUSIC OF BENNY GOODMAN & SUITE JUBILATION CD RELEASE – RIVER PARK CHURCH

The Calgary Jazz Orchestra, Johnny Summers, and the NWSO are back to bring you Suite Jubilation; a remarkable 11-movement suite composed for full jazz orchestra and choir by Johnny Summers. This popular Canadian composition sparked a recording project to share this music with everyone. Adults \$30 door/\$25 advance, Students \$20 door/\$15 advance. More info: www.calgaryjazzorchestra.com



APRIL APRIL APRIL APRIL

YOUR COMMUNITY/CITY EVENTS AT A GLANCE...

- ❖ **April 1, MAKEFASHION 5.0 - Telus Spark Science Centre**
 MakeFashion is a world renowned fashion-tech show featuring designs debuted by international wearable technology designers from across the globe. From animated ties that display the wearer's favourite patterns, to dresses that read brainwaves and playback dreams, MakeFashion designers are inspired by fashion with high-tech functionality. More info: www.sparkscience.ca
- ❖ **April 7-9, Make it! The Handmade Revolution (craft show) – Big Four Building.** Since 2008, Make It has grown to become one of the most popular and well-attended craft fairs in Canada. Each year, more and more conscious shoppers buy from our "Makies," which in turn allows them to do the work they love. The event will feature over 175 "Makies," food trucks, a charitable silent auction, live music and a beer gardens. More info: www.makeitshow.ca
- ❖ **April 17-23, Calgary Underground Film Festival – various venues.** Founded in 2003, CUFF is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to programming films that defy convention. Actively looking to showcase titles in all genres, from horror, sci-fi and fantasy to comedies, thrillers and music-related films; you never know what you will encounter at CUFF and that's half the fun. More info: www.calgaryundergroundfilm.org
- ❖ **April 18-May 7, Calgary Performing Arts Festival (formerly Kiwanis Festival) – Mount Royal University**
 In 1931, a small group of eager musicians decided to take their love of music to the next level by creating the Calgary Music Festival and today, as CPAF, it is one of the largest amateur competitive festivals in North America. Featuring piano, string, vocal, musical theatre and much more, this festival has a gem for everyone. More info: www.cpafestival.ca
- ❖ **April 20, LOVE HER presented by Ovarian Cancer Canada – Hotel Arts.** LOVE HER is back, bigger than ever and celebrating with an evening of fashion, comedy, cocktails, music and exciting live and silent auctions. Founded in 1997, Ovarian Cancer Canada supports women and their families living with the disease by raising awareness among the general public and health care professionals. More info: www.ovariancanada.org
- ❖ **April 21-22, The 2017 Dairy Classic Championship Show – Stampede Grounds**
 This dairy cattle show is held in the Agriculture Barns and is offering the Youth Judging Clinic in addition to the breed shows once again this year; the Jersey Show on Friday, April 21, 2017 and the Holstein Show on Saturday, April 22, 2017. Admission for all of the events is complimentary. More info: www.ag.calgarystampede.com



Explore nonfiction books with your child and discover . . . anything and everything!

Children love to read about real people, places, and events. Nonfiction books present real information in engaging and interesting ways. However, most children read a lot more fiction than nonfiction, so spend some extra time helping your reader learn how to navigate a nonfiction book.

Nonfiction books do not have to be read from cover to cover. Readers can use the table of contents and index to jump right to the information they are most interested in.

As natural learners, young readers are drawn to books that give information about something or explain something they've always wondered about. With a little help and guidance about 'how-to' read nonfiction, you can feel good about introducing your child to a new world of information and great new vocabulary words.

Explore these nonfiction books or ask your school or public librarian for other suggestions:

First Human Body Encyclopedia by DK Publishing
 This beginner's encyclopedia shows what's inside the human body and how things fit and work together — through fascinating facts and close-up photographs. (Age 6 and up)

Frogs by Nic Bishop
 Stunning color photographs of frogs as well interesting and quirky facts show how these beautiful, creatures survive in the wild. (Age 4-8)

Our Solar System by Seymour Simon
 This beginner's guide to our solar system is filled with facts, engaging text, diagrams and charts, maps, and remarkable photographs. (Age 6-9)

With thanks to Reading Rockets

*Calgary Reads helps children learn to read with confidence and joy. Help further our work by supporting our annual fundraiser, the **CBC Calgary Reads Big Book Sale** happening **May 12-14, 2017 at the Calgary Curling Club.** Please donate used books for our sale starting Monday April 17 to Friday April 28 at the Calgary Food Bank and Tuesday May 2 to Sunday May 7 at the Calgary Curling Club. For full details of where and when and what we can accept, visit: calgaryreads.com*


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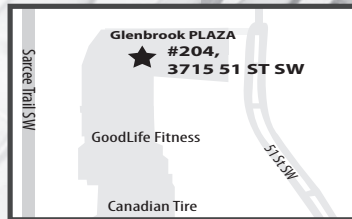
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Sat, April 1 @ 6:30-9pm
Sun, April 2 @ 6:30-10pm

Dinner will start at 5pm each day



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We hope you are having a great early spring. At Calgary Humane Society our dogs are enjoying the first few sprigs of green in our dog park (though our volunteers are less enthused about the early spring mud!). Spring also means that Easter is just around the corner and our school field trips have been asking some great questions about rabbits! Today, we wanted to share 5 of the best questions we've heard!

- 1. How much work is a rabbit?** Like all pets, rabbits take a lot of time and attention. Rabbits need regular feeding, cleaning, grooming, playtime, vet care and attention to be happy and healthy. Some people think that rabbits are OK to be left alone at home for a weekend, but this is not true, they need care every day.
- 2. How long can rabbits live?** Rabbits come in many breeds and different breeds have different lifespans (just like dogs!). An average rabbit lifespan is 8-12 years, but at the shelter we have met people with rabbits who are more than 16 years old!
- 3. What should rabbits eat?** Rabbits have a food pyramid just like people! Rabbits should have access to fresh hay all of the time. In addition to hay, rabbits at the shelter eat rabbit pellets every day and get vegetables as a treat from our awesome bunny huggers. Your rabbit's vet is the best person to tell you how much a rabbit should eat.
- 4. Do rabbits need to go to the vet?** Absolutely! Rabbits should have regular check-ups. To get your rabbit a check-up you will need to find an "exotics" veterinarian – they have special training about how to look after rabbits!
- 5. Are rabbits a good pet?** For some people rabbits are a great pet, but just like any animal they are not the best choice for everyone. If your family is looking for a pet our adoption counselors would love to help you find the perfect new friend!

A big thanks to all of the classrooms that have visited the shelter and asked us such good questions! If you or your family is interested in learning more about rabbits and other pets, we would love to meet you! We have just finished renovating our rabbit room at the shelter and our adorable bunnies cannot wait to show off their new home. You can visit any time during our opening hours which are available at www.calgaryhumane.ca.

Happy spring everyone!



**MLA Calgary - WEST
Mike Ellis**
Unit 234, 333 Aspen Glen Landing SW
Calgary, AB, Canada T3H 0N6
Phone: 403.216.5439
Fax: 403.216.544
Email: calgary.west@assembly.ab.ca

I wanted to take a moment in this newsletter message to write to you about services that my constituency office offers to you. My office and staff are available to you at Unit 234, 333 Aspen Glen Landing SW (just above CIBC) or via telephone to 403-216-5439 or email to Calgary.West@assembly.ab.ca.

In addition to connecting you with me, my staff can help with concerns or issues you may be having with provincial government services or departments. While we are not a main intake for any Government of Alberta program or department, we can make enquiries, and help to facilitate resolutions where necessary. Some matters may also require us to connect you with your Member of Parliament (Ron Liepert) or your City Councillor (Richard Pootmans).

My staff can assist you in requesting congratulatory greetings from the Lieutenant Governor, Premier, or other dignitary for significant birthdays or wedding anniversaries. I also have a small quantity of Alberta pins that are available to constituents going on trips or receiving guests.

These are just some of the things that are available to you from my office in Calgary. I encourage you to give my office a call at any time to learn more.

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As 2017 unfolds Albertans remain concerned with the many uncertainties that exist in their everyday lives. It is my hope that when the calendar closes on this year the future will become a little more clear.

Politics in 2017 promises to be a little closer to home. It seems that after federal and provincial elections in 2015 the political scene shifted south of the border last year culminating in the election of President Trump in November. Uncertainty around his actions is likely to continue for sometime however there will be a lot of political action taking place in our province.

The provincial PC's will be electing a new leader this spring and that could lead to some interesting developments on the provincial scene. There are two federal by-elections in Calgary this spring, the federal Conservative leadership in May, a federal NDP leadership in the fall and municipal elections in Alberta in October.

All of this will result in extensive media coverage throughout the year and re-focus Albertans on issues important to each and every one of us rather than watching politics south of the border. All of this political activity provides an opportunity to become involved and make a difference, regardless of political affiliation.

This is especially true at the municipal level. This year marks the first time municipal officials will be seeking re-election after serving a four year term. Who represents you on council or with one of the two school boards is important and I encourage constituents to get involved in this fall's civic vote.

This year also marks the 150th anniversary of confederation and there will be all kinds of activities in our communities leading up to July 1. Again I suggest finding out what your community is planning, get involved and feel a part of the festivities. Our office is willing to assist in communicating events and where possible provide 150th materials.

Meanwhile the business of governing the country continues and the House of Commons sits until mid June. As a member of the Conservative official opposition, I am always available to listen to concerns of constituents and ideas on how to make our province and city a better place. There is no doubt we face a lot of challenges in 2017 but Albertans have always been creative and entrepreneurial in solving the most difficult of issues. I have no doubt that will continue as we move through these difficult times.

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"Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29)

Wednesday Lenten Services at 7pm
March 1- April 5 2017

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 Communications & Community Liaison:
 Eileen Badowich, CAward6@calgary.ca
 www.calgary.ca/ward6 •

Accessibility

An accessible city benefits everyone, including people with disabilities. The City is committed to offering a variety of accessible services and programs to participate in your communities. They include:

- Waste and Recycling
 - Call 3-1-1 if you are having problems identifying between your blue recycling cart and black garbage cart because of vision loss. The City can provide free tactile and Braille plaques on your carts!
- Accessible transit and transportation options
 - Calgary Transit Ctrains and buses are equipped with ramps that can be lowered, as well as the Calgary Transit Access program, where eligible customers can book trips.
- Accessible recreation facilities and adapted programs
 - For example, the Killarney Aquatic & Recreation Centre includes wheelchair access and pool lift, gentle fitness programs, and fee assistance.
- Seniors Services Home Maintenance
 - This City-funded program helps low income seniors to live safely and securely in their own homes, including basic yard care, snow removal, house cleaning, interior & exterior painting and minor repairs. Call 3-1-1 to apply, no referral necessary.
- Assisted services for Council Meetings
 - Call to 3-1-1 in advance of your plan to attend a City meeting or event to request captioning, assistive listening devices, an American Sign Language in-

terpreter, large print, Braille print materials, or relief areas for your guide dog.

For additional resources and a full list of services, visit calgary.ca/accessibility

Nature Day Camps

As we inch toward spring, the City is ready with programs to engage the kids outdoors. Calgary Parks is offering Nature Day Camps for children between 4-12 years, connecting them with the natural world through hands-on activities and outdoor play. Guided by experienced educators, campers will explore bugs, birds, plants and animals while gaining a better understanding of nature and their place within it. Camps take place at Inglewood Bird Sanctuary and Ralph Klein Park, and pre- and post-camp care is available. Spring camps begin at the end of March, and registration is now open for summer camps.

For more information, search "Nature Day Camps" at calgary.ca

Ward Community Event Fund

Finally, we're excited to announce that Council has approved an increase to the Ward Community Event Fund for 2017 to \$15,000 per ward to celebrate Canada's 150th Anniversary! If your community association or community-based group is hosting an event or undertaking initiatives to enhance your community, you can apply for assistance from this fund.

For more information, search "Ward Community Event Fund" at calgary.ca

2017 Councillor Chats & Ward 6 Open House Dates

Councillor Chats

Saturday, **April 8, 2017** from 9 a.m. – Noon at SCA Community Association, 277 Strathcona Drive SW

Ward 6 Open House

Wednesday, **May 3, 2017** from 5 – 8 p.m. at Glendale Community Association, 4500 25 Avenue SW



The Gray Partridge

Article by J.G. Turner

Photo by Daniel Arndt (no changes made from <https://www.flickr.com/photos/ubermoogle/18050433104/>)

The Gray Partridge, also known as the Hungarian Partridge, was introduced into Alberta when 70 pairs were imported from Hungary and released in 1908 near Midnapore. The smallest of Alberta's game birds, the Hungarian Partridge has an average length of 12 in./32 cm, a wingspan of 21 in./54.5 cm wingspan, and a weight of 15.6 oz./435 grams. Its neck and tail are short, its body is stout and its wings are short and rounded. This bird lives up to its name with grey legs and a grey bill as well a dark u-shaped patch on its belly, a rusty face and chestnut bards on its flanks. This game bird is

the only partridge whose breast is decorated with fine wavy lines (vermiculated) of black, white and brown. A reddish brown tail and unmarked, chestnut outer wing feathers can be seen in flight.

Fun Facts:

- Originally found in Europe and Asia, this game bird was brought to live on flat agricultural land in southern British Columbia, south central Saskatchewan and Alberta.
- The Gray Partridge lives in grassland and parkland regions of Alberta but there is also a separated population in the Peace River area.
- Its habitat is open grassland, farmland and grain fields, which have an adjacent area of woody cover for hiding in. It prefers to live on the border between scrubland and areas of cultivation.
- Although this bird can fly, it prefers to spend most of its time on the ground foraging for seeds.
- The Hungarian Partridge is a ground nesting bird, creating a grass lined nest hollow in long grass or under a bush.
- The hen produces some of the largest clutches of any bird species, averaging 16-18 and can lay up to 22 eggs at one time!
- Prior to courting, males engage in prolonged battles to establish breeding territories.
- When it is flushed, it explodes from cover with a clatter of wings and rapid cackle, taking a low and fast flight path to new cover.

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



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DAYHOME AND BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL CARE IN STRATHCONA PARK SW: Beginning September 1, Play and Learn Childcare will have openings for full-time and part-time childcare. Before and after school care will have openings for children 5-12 years of age. For information call Lorraine at 587-352-2449 or 587-352-5337.

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The Indoor Gardener

by Cindy DeJager

Fancy Ferns

I love, love, love ferns!

Ferns thrive in medium filtered light to low light and require humidity, but with a little bit of effort you can successfully nurture these beautiful plants. A few important tips to get you started: pot your fern in a plastic container rather than clay because the plastic will retain moisture. Choose a peat moss laden soil mixture with lots of organic matter in it. Choose north facing light for your fern.

Here are some ferns that can be found in most garden centres:

Crocodile Fern

Microsorium musifolium 'Crocodyllus'

Medium to bright light and high humidity

May grow 4 feet tall and wide.

Lemon Button Fern

Nephrolepis cordifolia 'Lemon Button'

Medium to bright light and high humidity

May grow 3 feet tall and 4 feet wide.

Maidenhair Fern

Adiantum raddianum 'Fritz Luth'

Medium to bright light and high humidity

May grow 2 feet tall and wide.

Rabbit's Foot

Humata tyermanii

Medium to bright light and high humidity

May grow 2 feet tall and wide.

Staghorn Fern

FYI: Staghorns don't need to be grown in soil so you often see them mounted and grown on walls or posts.

Platynerium bifurcatum

Medium to bright light and high humidity

May grow 6 feet tall and wide.

Bird's Nest Fern

Asplenium nidus

Medium to bright light and high humidity

May grow 5 feet tall and wide (but usually 1-2 feet indoors).

Silver Brake Fern

Pteris cretica 'Mayi'

Medium to bright light and high humidity

May grow 2 feet tall and wide.

Kangaroo Paw Fern

Microsorium diversifolium

Medium to bright light and high humidity

May grow 2 feet tall and wide.

Boston Fern

Most common indoor fern.

Nephrolepis exaltata 'Fluffy Ruffles'

Medium to bright light and high humidity

May grow 7 feet tall and wide (but usually 2-3 feet tall and wide indoors).

IN & AROUND CALGARY

EMS – Burns and Scalds

Alberta Health Services, EMS continue to respond to emergencies each year where a young child has sustained severe burns or scalds. These incidents often occur inside the child's own home. Common causes include a child accidentally tipping hot liquids onto themselves, touching hot surfaces (stoves), or making contact with electrical outlets. Fortunately, incidents such as these can be avoided by taking preventative measures.

Degrees of burn

- 1°: Affects only the top layers of the skin; appears red like a sun burn; discomfort is generally tolerable;
- 2°: Deeper and much more painful than 1° burns; broken skin or blisters commonly develop;
- 3°: Severe: the deepest layers of skin and tissue are injured; may appear charred or leathery.

First Aid for burns

- Skin may continue to burn if not aggressively cooled. Immediately douse burns with large amounts of cold water.
- Cover the burn with a sterile dressing, or at least clean material to protect infection;
- Over the counter medications may be used for pain. Adhere to directions given on the label;
- Seek further medical attention, as required.

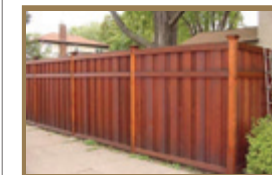
Prevention of burns

- Check the temperature of your hot water tank. Temperatures as high as 60°C / 140°F will scald a child in just seconds;
- Use placemats instead of tablecloths. Tablecloths can be yanked downward causing hot drinks, or food to spill on a child;
- Turn pot handles to the back of the stove and ensure cords from kettles, slow cookers, and other electrical appliances cannot be reached;
- Avoid picking up a child while holding any hot liquids;
- Ensure electrical outlets are made secure by installing commercially available safety devices which prohibit access;
- Keep children away from areas where appliances are in use (kettles, irons, hot stoves).

If you require immediate medical attention, call 9-1-1



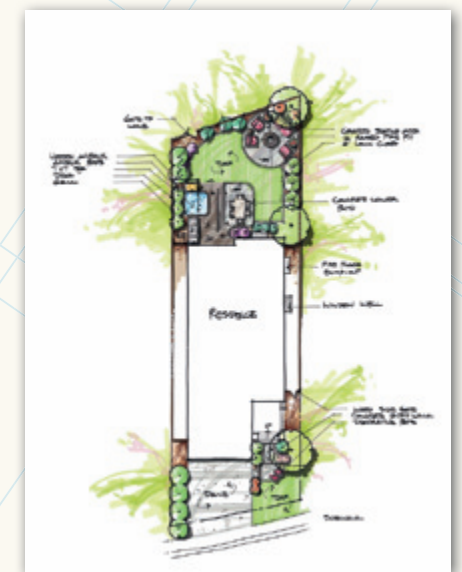
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To have your Family profiled (Story and Professional Pictures) in the next edition of this Community Newsletter, please send us an email to W@great-news.ca



Ask Charles

I heard that if someone calls themselves a “contractor,” they don’t need to have a licence to provide property management services. Is that true?

No, that’s not true. The truth is it doesn’t matter what a person calls themselves. If they are providing property management services and they are not the owner of the property or an employee of the owner, they require a licence from the Real Estate Council of Alberta (RECA).

The *Real Estate Act*, which RECA administers, defines property management as:

1. leasing, negotiating, approving or offering to lease, negotiate or approve a lease or rental of real estate;
2. collecting or offering or attempting to collect money payable for the use of real estate;
3. holding money received in connection with a lease or rental of real estate; and
4. advertising, negotiating or any other act, directly or indirectly for the purpose of furthering the activities described in items 1-3.

Licensed property managers can find suitable tenants, deal with nuisance tenants, draft lease agreements, and regularly inspect and maintain property on behalf of a property owner. It is up to property managers and the property owners to negotiate the specific tasks the property manager will provide, but ultimately, before providing property management services, the property manager needs a licence.

Property manager licensing provides vital protection for property owners. Individuals must complete comprehensive education before becoming licensed as a

property manager, they must also provide a Certified Criminal Record Check to RECA prior to receiving a licence, and there are ongoing education requirements.

If a property owner is working with a licensed property manager, they have the added protection of the Consumer Compensation Fund. The Fund compensates consumers who suffer a financial loss as a result of fraud, breach of trust, or a failure to disburse or account for money held in trust by an industry member in connection with a real estate trade, mortgage deal, or property management services.

If you work with an unlicensed property manager, and the property manager disappears and takes rental payments or damage deposits with them, your only recourse is through the courts.

As a property owner, you’re not required to hire someone to manage your rental or investment property, but if you do, take steps to protect yourself. Ensure that the company and individual you hire are licensed to provide property management services in Alberta. You can check if someone is licensed through RECA’s website at www.reca.ca.

“Ask Charles” is a monthly question and answer column by Charles Stevenson, Director of Professional Standards with the Real Estate Council of Alberta (RECA), www.reca.ca. RECA is the independent, non-government agency responsible for the regulation of Alberta’s real estate industry. We license, govern, and set the standards of practice for all real estate, mortgage brokerage, and real estate appraisal professionals in Alberta. To submit a question, email askcharles@reca.ca.

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Hamsters, Gerbils, and (the best) Guinea Pigs!

Small rodent-sized pets, otherwise affectionately known as pocket pets, include mice, rats, gerbils, hamsters and Guinea pigs. These little animals are not expensive to maintain and can be an entertaining pet, especially if space is limited. The basic requirements of most pocket pet species are similar and the life expectancy for most species is in the two to four year range; except for the Guinea pig which has a life expectancy of eight years.

Pocket pets should be kept in cages specially designed for their needs or aquariums with a good wire top. Openings in the wire should be small enough to prevent escape and not too large to allow a foot to be caught or twisted. Surfaces should be metal, smooth plastic or glass to allow proper cleaning. Cleaning should be done weekly with tunnels and small corners scrubbed with a bottlebrush. Chlorhexidine based cleaners are best. Many products make good bedding but avoid cedar shavings which can cause respiratory and skin problems, and never use straw.

Feed a commercial diet appropriate for your pet. Buy in small quantities and store food in sealed dark containers to ensure freshness, and that vitamin content is not diminished by exposure to light and air. Small amounts of fresh fruits and vegetables should be provided daily. Avoid abrupt changes in diet. Avoid iceberg lettuce, fruits with pits; and outdoor grasses or dandelions possibly exposed to chemicals. Clean food dishes daily and use dishes that cannot be tipped. Use an inverted water bottle and change the water daily. Monitor your pet's stools and urine for amount or change in appearance. This could be your first clue if a problem is developing.

Exercise is important, especially to Guinea pigs. Buy the largest cage you can and add the appropriate sized

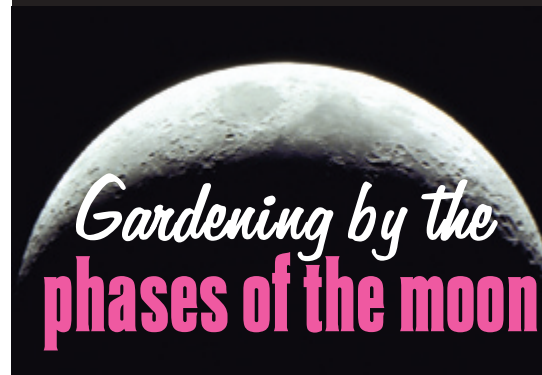
wheel for hamsters and gerbils. Exercise balls are fun but can be dangerous; I once saw a Guinea pig left in a ball in direct sunlight dead of hyperthermia. Gentle handling allows you to monitor your pet for illness and reduces stress as your pet becomes comfortable with you.

A nest box is nice so long as condensation doesn't form inside and appropriate bedding allows air circulation. Toys make a more stimulating environment. Paper towel rolls, wooden spools, and most commercial products are great.

A hamster is probably the favorite pocket pet of the pet industry but it is a solitary territorial creature. Only get one! Guinea pigs, my personal favorite, need a much larger cage but it can be uncovered. Pigs can't climb, and they are social animals, so get two and you can have them spayed or neutered. Guinea pigs are prone to scurvy, a vitamin C deficiency, and they must be given a daily source of fresh fruit and vegetables. Guinea pigs need fresh hay, preferably Timothy hay, to aid digestion. I really like rats and they make wonderful smart pets. I had pet white rats at university, but unfortunately, it is illegal to own a pet rat in Alberta.

Obviously there is a bit to learn if you get one of these "pets in your pocket" so buy a book or get on the internet and learn about your prospective choices before purchasing. Our local Calgary Humane Society has pocket pets for adoption. Many veterinarians now treat these small exotic pets routinely as our knowledge of their care has increased exponentially in recent years.

Jennifer L. Scott B.Sc., D.V.M.



Gardening by the phases of the moon

March 5 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.

March 12 Full Moon (waning)
As the moon wanes, the energy is drawing down. Strong gravitational pull but moonlight is decreasing putting energy into the roots.

March 20 Last Quarter (waning)
Decreased gravitational pull and moonlight. A resting period. Dry herbs, flowers and fruit. If you want to control growth or encourage rooting, perform the necessary activities during the waning moon.

March 27 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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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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: The Calgary Performing Arts Festival seeks volunteers for the 2017 Festival, April 18 to May 6 at Mount Royal University. Positions are available mornings, afternoons, evenings and Saturdays. For more information contact Holly at 403-283-6009 or volunteer@cpafestival.ca.



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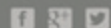


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