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EDITOR'S SCRIBBLINGS



Dear Brentwoodians,

Last month I wrote "by the time you are reading this spring will be just around the corner." Today as more heavy wet snow falls and snarls traffic around Calgary, I am eating my words! Maybe I jinxed things. But even this week's precipitation doesn't seem to have changed meteorologist's warnings about the dry summer we will be facing. As promised, this month two local gardeners, Kathy White and Lisa Boychuk, offer advice about reducing your garden's water needs. Planting in this way also offers the benefit of encouraging pollinators, not to mention reducing the amount of ongoing yard work needed.

I know many readers look forward to the Development and Transportation Committee reports, especially as the City holds possibly contentious hearings on blanket rezoning later in April. When this issue arrives in your mailbox, we may know the outcome of this already, but regardless of how things go, rest assured that the BCA, represented by Melanie Swailes, will be a strong advocate for our community. Many thanks to her and the DTC for their tireless work!

Finally, another big thanks to everyone who keeps sending in their photos. We received some really great shots from readers for this issue, but they were winter-themed so I will be keeping them for future covers when they match the season.

Photo Contest

The *Bugle* is looking for Brentwood's best amateur photographers to provide cover images each month. If you have a great snap of our neighbourhood saved on your phone or posted on your social media feed, send it in for a chance to be featured on the cover of an upcoming issue! Photos must be 300 DPI or higher (i.e. from a newer model phone or good digital camera) and 2400 x 1600 pixels minimum size. If submitting pictures of minors, please make sure that you have direct, express permission to submit the picture from a parent or guardian. Send your photos, or any questions, to bcabugle@telus.net.

Yours sincerely,

Jonathan Jucker

Editor, Brentwood Bugle



4-H Alberta Six-Week Intro Clubs Popular Among Calgary Families

by Lori Nielsen, Senior Program Coordinator for 4-H Intro Clubs



Ever since the launch of the initiative in September, 4-H Alberta's Intro Clubs have achieved success in various communities throughout Calgary. This pilot program has now hosted four introductory clubs dedicated to introducing the youth to the world of 4-H with two more currently running in April. Among these clubs are the renowned Explore 4-H program, a baking club, and four daytime homeschool clubs, each tailored to cater to the diverse interests of the young individuals in the region.

Youth programs like 4-H help develop positive well-being in young people. The 4-H Intro Club initiative is a great way for young people to develop important life skills and make new friends without a huge time commitment. This innovative program offers a refreshing alternative to year-long commitments, making it highly accessible for families with busy schedules.



4-H Intro Clubs will continue to be offered in various locations throughout the city until July. There will be two new clubs offered this spring including a six-week program starting on May 1 at the Kingsland Community Hall from 6:00 to 8:00 pm, and a "touring" club in June. The program is open to youth ages 9 to 18 and is limited to 15 members per club. Email introclubs@4hab.com or visit www.4hab.com/member-programs for more information.



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My Low Maintenance Garden

by Lisa Boychuk

I am by no means a knowledgeable gardener, but the best thing I learned about gardening is that it is forgiving and a “try, try again” venture.

A couple of years ago, I decided on a “sweat equity” project for the spring and summer. I ended up removing my struggling lawn in my north-facing front yard and replacing it with a perennial/pollinator garden. I wanted a low maintenance, drought resistant garden, and plants that attracted bees, birds, and butterflies.

After bringing in soil and mulch (mulch is a friend of water), the choice of plants was amazingly fun. I planted various types of Thyme, Hardy Fuchsia (really spreads), Bee Balm, Day Lillies, Red-twigged Dogwood, and some other bushes. I coupled this with some spring bulbs (those that survived the squirrels) and a dappling of annuals for colour. The birds helped out by supplying a few errant sunflowers that the bees loved.



I had so much fun! — I am going to plant some Clover and Thyme in a section of my yard (isolated due to spread). Clover is great for bees, has great ground cover, stays green, is drought resistant, and doesn't need to be mowed (depends on variety planted).

My tips besides my general advice of try and enjoy:

- Watch your sun patterns when choosing plants – my front yard gets more sun than I thought.
- Watch where trees are so you can choose plants that can compete for water.
- When planting, remember to leave space – plants grow over the seasons and bare spots fill in.
- Plants can be moved – it doesn't have to be perfect; it just has to be a start (that is coming this year).



by Anne Burke

A breeding bird monitoring survey in Nose Hill Park recorded a total of 70 species. Of 44 species tested, 22 were nesting and 22 were only visitors. Another 26 were random observations (not part of the survey). Birds flying over and not using the habitat were excluded from analysis. To assess how populations have changed over time, when a previous study was compared, a few species occurred in one year but not in both. However, the overall decline was in nesting grassland birds. The recent test recorded all birds observed during the breeding season (early June to early July) for ten minutes between sunrise and 10:00 am. A total of 23 circular plots surveyed on eight occasions were recorded with GPS technology and mapped. The habitats described and photographed were mostly tall or low shrub and woodland. The result was the disappearance of four (and decline of three) nesting grassland bird species. Here are some of the causes: human disturbance, loss of native grassland by non-native plants, lack of grazing, climate change, bird species outside Calgary, and off-leash dogs on the escarpment (slopes), especially during the breeding season. For effective conservation and management strategies, City Parks must continue to monitor breeding birds. World Migratory Bird Day was created in 1993 and celebrates a migratory bird's spectacular migration; it is dedicated to raising awareness about the need to conserve migratory birds and their habitat. Aligning with the cyclic nature of bird migration in different hemispheres, it is officially celebrated on the second Saturday of May in Canada and the U.S, so on Saturday, 11 May in 2024. The official theme will focus on the topic of insects and their importance for migratory birds. For more information and resources, visit www.birdday.ca.



Brentwood Cares - Little Food Library and More!

With your donations and support, we continue to stock the Brentwood Cares Little Food Library twice daily, for use by people of all ages and circumstances, from elders to students.

Unopened, sealed items can be dropped off in the library itself or in the box beside the door at 3624 Boulton Road at any time. Hats off to Brentwood for your continued support!

Liza and the Brentwood Cares Team

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Check out the Buy Nothing Brentwood/Charleswood/Collingwood Facebook page, or buynothingproject.org.

Calgary Police Service on Nextdoor!

Calgary Police Service now has a dedicated space to engage with community residents.

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- Awareness and updates: events, initiatives, and updates in our community
- Crime trends and prevention: education, resources, and tools
- Community engagement: a place to share concerns, ideas, and feedback
- Emergency alerts: immediate notifications that affect our area

You can find the Calgary Police Service's space on Nextdoor here: <https://ca.nextdoor.com/agency-detail/ab/calgary/calgary-police-service/>.

Your Representatives in Brentwood

City Councillor: Sean Chu (Ward 4): ward04@calgary.ca; 403-268-3727.

MLA: Luanne Metz (Calgary-Varsity): Calgary.varsity@assembly.ab.ca; 403-216-5436.

MP: Len Webber (Calgary Confederation): len.webber@parl.gc.ca; 403-220-0888.

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Brentwood Community is needing a Secretary for our Board Meetings

Position would require taking minutes at the Board Meeting on the last Tuesday of the Month. (ex July and Dec) and at the AGM in Sept

Please contact Linda at 403-284-3477 Option 2 or email office@brentwoodcommunity.com

Off the Bookshelf

by Rosemary Brown

According to the article “Anishinabe N’Oon Da Gaaziwin: An Indigenous Peacemaking and Mediation Nexus,” UNDERIP or the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, reaffirms their right to identity and culture and their right to “dispute resolution processes that understand their culture”. This article also points out that several TRC calls to action call for cultural competency and skills-based training in conflict resolution.

Furthermore, while traditional peacemaking processes varied, they all contained the common elements of “spiritual laws, traditional medicines, ceremonies, teachings and songs, and the circle.” The article then describes a hybrid approach to decision making and conflict resolution, drawing on both Indigenous traditional and western approaches.

This provides a context for our last selection in the Settlers Book Club:

Akak’sTIMAN: A Blackfoot Framework for Decision Making and Mediation, co-authored by Reg Crowshoe and Sybille Manneschnidt.

Reg Crowshoe, from north Piikani in southern Alberta, grew up immersed in the Blackfoot language, ceremonies, and culture, although he also attended residential school at times. He runs the Sun Dance, Thunder Bundle, and other ceremonies, and is committed to the preservation and teaching of Blackfoot ways of knowing to Blackfoot youth and non-Indigenous institutions.

Sybille Manneschnidt has worked with the Piikani for over twenty years. She is a psychologist, health consultant, and a sessional instructor at the University of Lethbridge.

Akak’sTIMAN begins with a brief overview of Blackfoot history up through the early twentieth century, and then briefly describes the social structure of the Blackfoot, starting with the family and extended family, discussing relations between men and women and adults and children. Traditionally, families came together in different hunting and gathering bands based on kinship, and when the bands gathered in

the summer, they formed the tribe. Many Blackfoot also became members of tribal societies dedicated to purposes such as warfare and internal policing.

Summer gatherings were important for settling disputes, arranging marriages, and engaging in ceremonies to restore balance among people and with nature and ensure the survival of the tribe. Central to these ceremonies were ceremonial bundles such as the Sun Dance Bundle, the Beaver Bundle, and the Thunder Pipe Bundle. There were society bundles and individual or personal bundles. Ceremonial bundles were always held by both male and female bundle keepers who were held in high regard within the tribe. Bundles consisted not only of the sacred objects they contained but the teachings and songs that accompanied them. The origin stories associated with these bundles are shared and bundle items are described.

The book moves on to describe the Blackfoot circle structure used in these different ceremonies, accompanied by diagrams showing the position of circle participants. It explains how the circle structure can be adapted for use with western health, child welfare, and business systems, often based on different worldviews and values. Blackfoot circle structure emphasizes the involvement of the community in decision making and the use of the talking stick to maintain non-hierarchical relationships. The goal of the circle structure was to reach solutions agreed upon by all participants. Western systems for child welfare, health, and business are often hierarchical in nature, excluding the community and relying on outside experts.

While short, *Akak’sTIMAN* offers insight into Blackfoot ways of knowing, being, and decision making, enhancing our appreciation of the culture of the people on whose lands we live, work, and play. The book contains many photos as well as diagrams, and describes how the Indian Act transformed traditional leadership, and how traditional methods of ensuring health, well-being and childcare were supplanted by Western systems. Although published in 2002, it also demonstrates how Reconciliation can be enacted in a meaningful way.



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Scouts About - 4th Elks Triwood



May Updates

It's been a busy year for the 4th Elks Triwood Beavers and Cubs. This winter, Cubs and Beavers visited the Fire Department, built decorations with residents at Bethany, and undertook a snowshoe adventure in Confederation Park. Cubs had camp outs at AHEIA camp Alford to try snow shoeing, archery, ice fishing, and more, while the Beavers did a sleep over at the 18th Scout Hall in Bankview. The Beavers and Cubs are looking forward to some more hikes in the spring, canoeing, and going to horseback riding camp at the end of May.



Beavers building origami decorations with residents at Bethany.

Follow us on Facebook to see updates on all our activities!

Fundraisers

Look out for Beavers and Cubs who will try to come to every door in Triwood on May 25 for our final bottle drive of the year. Thanks to everyone who has supported the group in the past through bottle drives and our popcorn, coffee, and chocolate fundraisers.

Drop-off Bottle Drives

May 25 - Drop your bottles off at the TCA community centre. Scouts will be on hand to help unload and get rid of used bottles. We will also do our best to come door to as many Triwood homes as possible.

Coffee and Chocolate Sales

We were on-site at TCA Spring Market on April 28. Sales will continue through May.

This year we are selling Highwood Coffee roasted right here in Charleswood as well as Purdys milk chocolate and dark chocolate bars. Contact/text Kim at 403-803-2199 or WhatsApp to order in advance while supplies last.

Become a Leader

We need leaders to make these programs happen. If you are new to scouting or want to get back into Scouting and are interested in building your outdoor skills along with your youth, there is a place for you at 4th Elks. Contact us at 4thElksTriwood@gmail.com.



Cubs having a go at scuba diving at the Dive Shop.



Cub Moritz on his first camp catching his first fish!

Brentwood's Dedicated Volunteer Coordinator

by Lee Hunt

"My family and I moved to Brentwood in 2017. We selected this community for its quiet ambience and easy access to schools and university." When Mohan Sivagnanam, his wife, and their two sons first moved to Calgary, they settled on Brentwood for the same reasons as many of us.



Mohan wasn't content to simply live in Brentwood, he also wanted "to take part and get involved in community activities." For that reason, he joined the Brentwood Community Association (BCA) in 2017, then became its Volunteer Coordinator the following year. Mohan believes that "the more volunteers, the better the community can thrive." In his role as Volunteer Coordinator, Mohan's primary job is to find volunteers for Sportsplex ice maintenance, community soccer coaches, Brentwood Cares, and casino shifts for the BCA.

BCA President Bonita McCurry especially appreciates Mohan's "dedication to helping our community. BCA could not operate without volunteers and Mohan works hard to see that volunteer slots are filled." Mohan, in turn, tells me that, "It gives me a sense of fulfillment to take part in community development."

Mohan was born and educated in southern India and lived very briefly in Houston, TX. He has his PhD in Chemical Petroleum Engineering and now works as a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Calgary. No wonder he loves Brentwood's proximity to the U of C!

Away from work, Mohan enjoys playing squash, gardening, and camping with his family. And speaking of family, Mohan and his wife have two sons who both take part in ice skating and soccer offered by the BCA. Mohan and his sons are also very experienced 3D printing hobbyists.

Mohan is a staunch supporter of Brentwood and encourages others to also help out. If you are over 15 and would like to volunteer to help with community soccer, Sportsplex maintenance, or casinos, please contact Mohan at Mohan.Sivagnanam@brentwoodcommunity.com.

Thanks, Mohan, for your ongoing hard work on behalf of our community!

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Gardening Tips for Drought Conditions

by Kathy White

- Rainwater is ideal for garden watering – use a rain barrel to store rainwater and direct the downspouts on the house eavestroughs to run into the garden, rather than the driveway or path.
- Check your garden's dryness before watering – stick your finger into the soil and if it is dry to the first knuckle, water. If not, no need to water.
- Water the garden at ground level rather than up high. The foliage does not need to get wet!
- Water the garden in the cool of the morning, not the heat of the day, to prevent excess evaporation.
- Mulch applied around the plants will help with moisture retention and will discourage weeds from taking over.
- When choosing plants for your flowerbeds, select drought tolerant varieties. Often the plants with silver leaves are drought tolerant.
- Watering by hand uses less water than watering with a sprinkler. Lawns can get by without additional water. Prioritize your veggies and flowers rather than lawn.
- Soil that has had organic matter added to it (compost for example) will be healthier and will retain moisture better.
- The City of Calgary has information available to help with water-wise gardening: www.calgary.ca/water/programs/yardsmart.html.
- The Calgary Horticultural Society also has information available at: www.calhort.org/.



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Beauty and the Chimera

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Calgary Confederation
Len Webber, MP
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Dear Ward 4 Residents,

Emergency Preparedness Week is May 5 to 11, 2024! Emergencies can occur unexpectedly, and being prepared beforehand is essential for your safety, your family's, and your community's well-being.

Throughout this crucial week and beyond, it's crucial for Calgarians to prepare for emergencies by understanding local hazards, staying informed with alerts, and creating an emergency action plan. Download our plan at calgary.ca/getready.

Building a strong community network is equally important. Establish connections with neighbours, coworkers, and friends to enhance safety measures during crisis.

For comprehensive guidance on emergency preparedness and details regarding community events during Emergency Preparedness Week, visit calgary.ca/getready.

Celebrate Neighbour Day 2024 on Saturday, June 15, and join in fostering stronger community bonds! This year, we invite you to take part by organizing a block party with your neighbours. The good news is, obtaining permits for block parties and greenspaces is absolutely free for Neighbour Day. Make sure to apply for your permits by May 31, 2024, through calgary.ca/NeighbourDay. As an added bonus, consider inviting esteemed guests like the Mayor, your local councillor, or even arranging for a visit from a police officer or a fire truck to drop by your event. Plus, there's an opportunity to win fantastic prizes, including the chance to enjoy 30 minutes of live musical entertainment at your block party.

Neighbour Day fosters community connections, enhancing neighbourhoods where neighbours support each other. Share your Neighbour Day experiences on social media with #YYCNeighbourDay and explore calgary.ca/NeighbourDay for details.

Thank you all for your attention.

Best,

Councillor Sean Chu

How Much Is Too Much?

As we conclude another tax season, many Canadians are asking where all their tax money is going. Canadians work hard to pay their taxes and they rightfully expect it to be spent wisely.

The reality is the current government has been spending money at a much higher rate than it collects taxes to pay for it and so our debt keeps increasing. Our national debt has more than doubled since 2015 and now sits at a whopping \$2.2 trillion (\$2,200,000,000,000).

The problem with a debt so large is that it requires us to pay more in 'debt servicing' charges. In 2023/24, we paid \$46.5 billion which is 36% higher than the year before.

In fact, we will spend more to carry this massive debt each year than we do on healthcare. We spend \$16 billion more on carrying this debt than we do on childcare benefits. Imagine what we could afford if we were not spending that money each year just to carry debt.

Most concerning is the fact that interest payments are up 36%, but revenues are up by just 3%. Canada cannot afford to keep paying out more than it collects – something has to give.

Recent Nanos polling shows 63% of Canadians want the government to lower its expenses. Interestingly, 38% of respondents want the money that would be saved to go toward repaying government debt, while 25% want tax cuts. Only 9% want higher spending and most of this group want higher taxes to pay for it. Only 2% want increased spending through more borrowing.

Canada cannot afford more debt. Nothing will put our precious social programs more at risk than to have them based on a weak fiscal foundation. If Canadians want to ensure our social programs and benefits programs are there when we need them, we need to get our spending under control.





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344, 5201 DALHOUSIE DRIVE NW (DALHOUSIE)

Rare find! An amazing apartment unit with two bedrooms, two full bathrooms, one titled underground heated parking stall, & a storage unit in this adult condominium complex--The Phoenician in Dalhousie. Very convenient location--short walk to shops, Safeway, banks, restaurants, Dalhousie LRT station, & bus stops.

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BRENTWOOD—BRENTWOOD ROAD

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Beautiful townhouse with three bedrooms, 3.5 bathrooms, and a fully developed basement. Just a short walk from the Crowfoot Crossing district, this location is minutes away from the LRT, public transit bus routes, multiple schools, gyms, and shopping.

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