

JULY 2024

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THE OFFICIAL BRENTWOOD COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



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Dear Brentwoodians,

New Mural

As reported by Lee Hunt last month, the Brentwood Community Association will be painting a mural under the Crowchild underpass where Brisebois Dr NW becomes 40 Ave NW.

They are looking for volunteer artists and artist assistants to help out during July/August. Approximately 30 to 40 youth (ages 10 to 20) are wanted to help paint, and adults are wanted to help with prepping the wall and providing refreshments. If you or your child would like to help, please contact office@brentwoodcommunity.com.

Blanket Rezoning

Development and Transportation Committee Chair Melanie Swailes reports on the outcome of the City Council hearings and vote – regular readers will not be surprised to learn that she is very disappointed not only with the result, but also with the process, and the sense that many of the councillors had their minds already made up. Nevertheless, our community owes her a great deal of thanks for her attention to this issue and her time and hard work representing Brentwood. She is an exemplar of the kind of connected, engaged, and passionate neighbourhood resident that make our communities great.

Correction

At some point during the editorial process, my June column had the word “times” replaced with “percent”, which fouled up my numbers and my point. I fully expect to get some mail about this from the mathematically minded in our community, but I’ll take the opportunity to reiterate.

Between 1980 and 2024:

- Average annual wage in Canada increased, cumulatively, by 2.6 times or 260%.
- Consumer prices increased, cumulatively, by 3.6 times, or 360%.
- Average house prices increased, cumulatively, by 10.4 times, or 1,040%.
- Top CEO pay increased, cumulatively, by 74.9 times, or 7,490%.

Apologies for belaboring the point, but I think it is important to present these figures correctly to illustrate the stark change in how society’s wealth is distributed and the impact this has had on housing accessibility.

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





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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

Buy Nothing Brentwood

Give freely; share creatively! Post anything you'd like to give away, lend, or share; ask for anything you'd like to receive or borrow.

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.

You can expect to see posts on the following topics:

- 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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Photo Corner



Downed Poplar after May storms in Brentwood. Photo credit to Steve Dietrich.



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BRENTWOOD DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

After Blanket Rezoning...

Submitted by Melanie Swailles on behalf of the Development and Transportation Committee

Imagine that you and a group of coworkers, 20 people in total, decide to order pizza one day. An administrator is chosen to place the order and asks for input. 17 people request pepperoni, two say vegetarian, and one person wants Hawaiian. The administrator reports that “some” want pepperoni, and “some” want vegetarian (ignoring the Hawaiian option); while technically true, this report fails to convey an accurate picture of what has been said. Administration then determines that vegetarian is better for you so that’s what will be ordered. They feel they know what is best for the group as a whole, so even though a vast majority wanted pepperoni, that’s not what will happen. What would your reaction be?

At the time of writing (in May), blanket rezoning has been approved. There seem to be some legal challenges still underway, as well as a review of the process. The final minutes have not yet been released, nor do they have details of some of the proposed Amendments. There will likely be updates in the media or online by the time this issue goes to print.

When writing *Bugle* articles, I’ve always tried to write factual and accurate information. I’ve often been told I am being too neutral and should be providing more insights and personal opinions, although more recently, one person did write that I was presenting a biased viewpoint. No pleasing everyone.

This month, this is my own opinion as I am reassessing my Development and Transportation Committee (DTC) role. After the lengthy blanket rezoning public hearings, I am completely disappointed and disillusioned by the process and by what I witnessed at council. If I no longer believe in the validity and importance of our community role in the development process, then I have a hard time telling “my” residents that their opinions matter and that they should get involved.

First, I’d like to thank every single person who took the time to write thoughtful and well-researched letters. Those letters, plus a well-attended meeting, plus a great deal of research were the basis for our BCA submissions opposing blanket rezoning. I was also part of a group

of 52 representatives from CAs across the city who met with the mayor to discuss our concerns, plus I spoke at Council on April 29.

The Blanket Rezoning Public Hearing was the longest Public Hearing in Calgary’s history (15 days), with 736 Calgarians presenting at Council and 6,101 Calgarians submitting written statements, over 13,000 pages in total. The majority of speakers at Council (about 70%) were opposed to blanket rezoning, and the written letters were about 88% against. Despite this overwhelming and unprecedented opposition, blanket rezoning was approved by a 9 to 6 vote.

In the end, regardless of how much public feedback, it all comes down to just 15 votes: 14 for the Councillors plus one for the mayor. (Should the public have had a direct say? Although a plebiscite was debated at Council, it too was defeated.) The Councillors voting in favour of blanket rezoning were Jennifer Wyness, Jasmine Mian, Raj Dhaliwal, Richard Pootmans, Courtney Walcott, Gian-Carlo Carra, Kourtney Penner, Evan Spencer, plus Mayor Jyoti Gondek.

The six Councillors who opposed blanket rezoning were Sonya Sharp, Sean Chu, Terry Wong, Andre Chabot, Dan McLean, and Peter Demong. Some Councillors, especially Sonya Sharp and Andre Chabot, presented numerous Motions for amendments, but almost all were outvoted again and again.

At the conclusion of the lengthy Hearing, the task of Administration was to summarize the letters and comments into a What We Heard (WWH) report, which is available here: <https://pub-calgary.escribemeetings.com/FileStream.ashx?DocumentId=286586>. If you wrote or spoke, do you see your comments included? Do you think this accurately represents all of the public input?

In my opinion, City Administration failed completely with the WWH report: much of the citizen feedback was ignored, and therefore the report is inadequate, incomplete, and misleading. The WWH summary does not mention specifics such as lot coverage (60%), drainage, massing, shadowing, windows overlooking, heritage, or community character, all of which were brought up over and over again by speakers. The WWH report spends more time rationalizing why change

should happen, rather than addressing the reasons for the massive opposition.

Statements such as “we’re all dealing with change” and “change is incremental” are dismissive and minimize the disruption that is faced by a homeowner who lives next to a single house that changes into an eight-unit building. Speaker after speaker in opposition to blanket rezoning told emotional stories about why they bought their home and why they love their area, and how they worked and saved to make that possible. Most acknowledged that change will happen and most agreed that more housing is needed, but they wanted a stronger voice regarding how and where changes should happen. During this whole debate, I never heard a single inner-city builder talk about what they love about communities. Developers see dollars where residents see a permanent home.

On my street, there are still some original owners who purchased their house in 1964 or 1965. None of them planned to wait until 2024 when the house would be worth \$700,000! Homes were not seen as commodities to be bought and sold, they were first and foremost homes. What we lose with blanket rezoning is two things: one is the right to a Council Public Hearing before the land use is changed and the other is the sense of stability that has guided our community for over 60 years.

Communities change over time, but blanket rezoning puts developers and investors in charge of how they change. They do not have a stake in the community, they build a project then move on to the next one. They don’t come and help seniors rake leaves or shovel sidewalks; they don’t fill our Brentwood Cares food box. They don’t care about the students renting our older homes with suites, the same ones that will be torn down in favour of more expensive units.

Give communities a stronger voice within their own communities. We will figure out where to put density and various housing forms. We want the seniors to stay in our communities, and we will determine housing types that work. R-CG is not the right form: too many stairs for an aging population, for one thing. There were so many good ideas presented at Council; harness some of that energy and experience.

I have lost faith in the process at City Hall. When 13,000 pages and two weeks of hearings, with an overwhelming number of residents in opposition, cannot sway the outcome, I am left wondering what the point is of spending so much time and energy on a seemingly hopeless task.

That said, there have been many good things that have come out of this lengthy process, all of them related to the wonderful people I have met! Connecting with residents from within Brentwood, as well as other CA board members from throughout the city has led to new friendships and a renewed appreciation for my own community. Thank you for that.

Enjoy your summer and happy holidays.

If you would like to join our Community Association, you are always welcome to do so. Contact the office at office@brentwoodcommunity.com or at 403-284-3477.



The Tipi Project is Coming to Brentwood!

July 18 to 29

The City of Calgary has been working with Treaty 7 Nations to include amenities in parks relevant to Indigenous Peoples and provide space for celebrating culture.



As part of this project, the Blackfoot and Tsuut’ina tipis will be making a visit to our neighbourhood this summer; watch our social media for information on various events and opportunities that will be open to the community.

For more information visit <https://www.calgary.ca/parks/tipi.html>.

In Memory of Ernie Forre

by Lee Hunt

Ernie Forre was a humble, hardworking man who cared greatly for his family and friends.

Ernie was born in 1931 and raised in Bawlf, AB. After completing grade nine, Ernie worked in a Bawlf auto repair shop for two years, then went to a service station in Camrose and began his apprenticeship through NAIT.



Ernie and Claire (née Peter) were married in Bawlf in 1954 then lived in Camrose until 1965. In that year, Ernie, Claire, and their four children moved to Calgary so that Ernie and his good friend Bram and wife Rita (both also from Camrose) could become business partners in a Petro Canada station on 9 Ave and Centre St N. Later the pair ran a Texaco station at 16 Ave and 4 St NW. Business was good, but the hours (7:00 am to 7:00 pm, seven days a week) kept Ernie away from Claire and his growing family too much. So, in 1980, Ernie switched to a job at the Foothills Hospital Maintenance Department with better hours. He retired in 1980.

Much of that “extra” time was spent helping the Brentwood community. For many years, each winter, Ernie and his brother-in-law Gordon Cook created the Brentwood outdoor rink by the Skate Shack and Old Hall. For a number of years, the two men flooded the rink using a hose from the Skate Shack. Eventually, Ernie and Gordon created an ice flooding machine. When I interviewed Ernie and Claire for a *Bugle* article in 2012, Ernie described the machine, “It consisted of a 45-gallon barrel mounted on two wheels. It had a four-foot wand on the back to spray warm water on the ice through gunny sacks to make a smooth surface. Minus 22 meant no ice activities, so that’s when we were out flooding.” When I commented to Claire that Ernie must have returned home frozen, she replied, “Ernie just got accustomed to it.” Anything so that the neighbourhood children and teens could enjoy skating and hockey.

Still in the community spirit, Ernie and Claire bought a debenture to support the building of the Brentwood Sportsplex in 1976. Ernie also put in numerous hours helping to actually build the Sportsplex.

The pair were avid square dancers – initially with the Brentwood Twirlers group which danced in the Old Hall. Eventually they joined the Dots and Dashers Square dance group and got to square dance in the Opening Ceremonies of the 1988 Calgary Winter Olympics. Ernie was also a driver for international Olympic athletes which he especially enjoyed and through which he established a large pin collection! After the Games, the drivers and their spouses were all invited to a big social event at the Red and White Club. It was a very special occasion which Ernie and Claire especially enjoyed.

Those Olympics highlighted much of Ernie’s character – he liked to help others and worked hard at whatever he took on. Claire told me that Ernie always showed compassion and consideration toward others. She told me that, “Ernie was more of a serious person, sort of a Jack of all trades who could build or fix anything.” He helped many neighbours build their fences and because Ernie had 11 grandchildren, one year he made wooden Valentine’s hearts for all of them.

After Ernie’s obituary appeared in *The Calgary Herald*, long-time friends Rita and Barry wrote about, “The cinnamon buns and other baking which Ernie kindly brought for the service station staff to share at coffee”. Ken, who worked for Ernie as a high school student, commented “At a pivotal point in my life, Ernie offered me support, kindness, and caring”.

Throughout their marriage, Ernie, Claire, plus the children often took holidays – using a tent and small trailer. Over the years, the family visited much of Canada and the US. In their retirement years, Ernie and Claire travelled in a motorhome plus often joined a tour group from Camrose and thus got to meet up with old friends.

We at *The Bugle* extend our condolences to Claire plus all of Ernie’s family. Indeed, Ernie lived a full life. Ninety-two years of achievement, travelling, and caring. He will be missed.

A Special Message from Claire Forre

We would like to thank our family, friends, and neighbours for the much-appreciated support we’ve received over the past few months.

Also, thanks for the cards, flowers, food, and good wishes after Ernie’s passing on April 18, 2024. It’s so important and comforting to live in this community where people care for one another.

Claire Forre and family



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News from the Friends of Nose Hill

by Anne Burke

The guided free Nose Hill Flower Walk on Tuesday, July 9 at 7:00 pm will meet at the parking lot on 14 Street and 64 Avenue NW. You are also invited to another exciting plan for a pair of weed pulls at the south-end of Nose Hill by the Winter Club, on Saturday, July 13 and Sunday, July 21 from 9:00 to 11:30 am. The Nose Hill ecologist (andrew.phelps@calgary.ca) says, for dense infestations, that early season pulling allows for a more effective application of herbicide throughout the whole plant later. July and early August are the busiest times to catch many weed species before they go to seed. Events are booked early to beat the heat. Jim Davis, the Program Coordinator for Activations and Education for Calgary Parks and Open Spaces, will assist and said to let him know of any questions at jim.davis@calgary.ca. He wrote: "Yes, we have been working to schedule two volunteer projects to address Canada and Notting Thistle at Nose Hill Park. The current plan is to start at 9:00 am on both days, ending around 11:30 am. We will be meeting at the Park's parking lot at the corner of the Winter Club and working on the south-end of the park, moving clockwise to the west/north. The event is open to up to twenty volunteers working alongside a couple of Parks' staff who will give safety and task demos and bring all required tools. Prospective volunteers should wear closed-toe shoes and long pants, clothing suitable for weather conditions that day, and bring gloves if they have them. We also will have gloves available. Parks' staff will map the event, track weed removals, and drop them at a designated facility".

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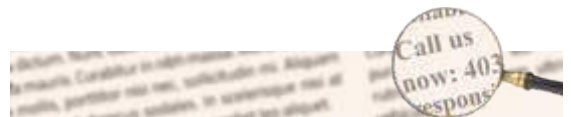
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Off the Bookshelf

by Rosemary Brown

In the Settlers Book Club we read the recently published *As Grandmother Said: The Narratives of Bessie McGuinness*, as recorded in 2011 by Dr. Bruce Starlight from the Tsuut'ina Nation.

Bessie (1883-1987) was a matriarch of the Tsuut'ina Nation, and she and her son Willie Little Bear (1912-1989) shared many stories with Bruce as he grew up.

The narratives are written in Tsuut'ina with English translations, and the book is part of the language revitalization project in the Nation. Tsuut'ina is a Dene language and the dialect spoken here is the Big Plume dialect. Only 20 speakers remain and as such it is considered to be an endangered language. The language is a tonal one with 30 consonants and four vowels.

There are nine narratives in all. Several relate to how the Tsuut'ina separated from the Dene. The rest include stories related to how the earth was created, how the Tsuut'ina met the Blackfoot, the roles of men and women, the origin of the teepee, and how the Tsuut'ina came into possession of the Beaver Bundle.

While offering glimpses into history and culture of the Tsuut'ina Nation, the book is a teaching tool for those wanting to learn the Tsuut'ina language. Language revitalization is critical for Indigenous Peoples globally as one impact of colonization has been the endangerment and in some cases extinction of these languages.

Article 13 of the United Nations declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIP) states that "Indigenous peoples have the right to revitalize, use, develop and transmit to future generations their languages, oral traditions, writing systems and literature."

Here in Canada, which is a signatory to UNDRIP, the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action 13 to 18 concern language revitalization. While some have been fulfilled, as with many of the Calls to Action, insufficient funding has been provided by the Federal government to realize full implementation.

The 2024 Federal Budget is no exception. Here is what Carla Lewis, the Chair of the First People's Cultural Council in BC had to say about it.

"Generations of oppressive and assimilationist federal and provincial policies have aimed to wipe out First Nations languages. Through dedication and hard work, our people have fought for language rights to keep our languages alive. But many of our languages have few speakers left and most fluent speakers are elderly. Our languages hold our culture, history, and ways of being. We can't over-emphasize the urgency of the situation and we can't wait another five years to get the funding needed to breathe life into our languages that were stolen from us. We need long-term, sustainable funding now. We need sufficient funding for each and every language across Canada. We are beyond frustrated at being expected to do this urgent work with insufficient resources. This is not reconciliation."

For settlers sincerely interested in reconciliation, we can learn more about what language revitalization projects exist in Treaty 7 and speak out to the federal government about the need to sufficiently fund such programs.



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How to Grieve the Loss of a Pet

by Nancy Bergeron, R.Psych. | info@nancybergeron.ca

The loss of a pet can be a profoundly painful experience. For some of us, we know the time is coming. For others, it is unexpected, and may be thrust upon us due to an accident or profound acute illness. Pets become an integral part of our lives. For most of us, they are an extension of our family. They provide us companionship, unconditional love, and emotional support. Grieving the death of a pet is a deeply personal process. Understanding the different ways to cope with this loss can help in navigating this intensely difficult time.

First, it's essential to acknowledge the depth of our grief. Society sometimes downplays the significance of losing a pet, which can make us, as owners, feel isolated and misunderstood. We must recognize that our feelings are valid. It's important to allow ourselves to mourn without guilt or embarrassment. Grief is a natural response to losing a beloved companion, and our emotional pain reflects the bond we shared with our pet.

Creating a space to express our emotions is vital. Journaling about our pet and the joy they brought to our lives can be therapeutic. Writing down memories, silly and special moments we shared, helps in processing our feelings. Some individuals find comfort in creating a memorial for their pet. This can be as simple as a photo, an album, a dedicated space in the home for an urn, or a ceremony to honour their memory. These acts of remembrance can provide solace and a sense of closure.

Sharing our grief with others who understand can also be comforting. Talk to family members and friends who are empathic and supportive. Joining support groups, either online or in-person can connect us with people who have experienced similar losses. They can offer understanding and compassion. These communities provide a safe space to share your feelings and receive emotional support.

Professional support can be incredibly beneficial as well. Pet loss can sometimes trigger or exacerbate existing mental health issues. Speaking to a therapist that specializes in grief can help us navigate our emotions and provide us with strategies to cope with our loss. Therapy can offer a structured environment to work through our grief and help us find ways to heal.

Allowing ourselves to feel joy, and remembering our pet with fondness is also part of the grieving process. It's normal to feel sadness, but we need to try to balance it with positive memories. Celebrating the life of our pet rather than focusing solely on their passing can help shift our perspective. We could make a donation, volunteer, or plant a tree in their honour. These acts of kindness can create a lasting legacy for our pet and help bring purpose to our grief.

Practicing self-care is important during this time. Grief can take a toll on our physical and emotional health. We must ensure that we are eating well, getting enough sleep, and doing things that bring us comfort and relaxation. Physical activities such as walking and yoga can help release built up stress and tension. Meditation and mindfulness help keep us present and focused.

Finally, we need to be patient with ourselves. Grief is not linear; it comes in waves and can be unpredictable. There is no set timeline for mourning the loss of our beloved pet. Over time our grief will lessen, and our happy memories will be more present. We must take care of ourselves during this time. Eventually, we will come to accept that our pet may no longer be with us, but the bond we shared and love we felt will always be a part of us.

"There is a cycle of love and death that shapes the lives of those who choose to travel in the company of animals. It is a cycle unlike any other. To those who have never lived through its turning or walked its rocky path, our willingness to give our hearts with full knowledge that they will be broken seems incomprehensible. Only we know how small a price we pay for what we receive; our grief, no matter how powerful it may be, is an insufficient measure of the joy we have been given." Suzanne Clothier

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