

SEPTEMBER 2024

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your BRENTWOOD bugle

THE OFFICIAL BRENTWOOD COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



Cover Photo by Charlie Bodner



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Brentwood COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION


www.brentwoodcommunity.com | Community Centre, 1520B Northmount Drive NW
 Mailing Address: 5107 33 Street NW T2L 1V3 • Email: office@brentwoodcommunity.com • 403-284-3477
 Linda Van Holst – Office Manager • Steve Dietrich – Arena Manager

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News, Events, & More



Crime Statistics



Real Estate Statistics



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Dear Brentwoodians,

Further to Melanie Swailes's discussion of short-term rental companies elsewhere in this issue, I have to confess that I am grouchy about self-styled "tech" companies whose business model seems to be taking something that already exists (e.g. hotels, taxis, delivery services) and finding ways to avoid regulation, taxes, and worker protection in order to keep prices low and profits high. Often this is done by lobbying politicians—who are all too often out of touch with developments in technology—into believing that products or services repackaged with an app are somehow new things. One good example is the way that Calgary City Council was convinced that motor vehicles, in the form of electric scooters, should not only be permitted on sidewalks but banned from roadways. Meanwhile, human-powered bicycles are confined to roadways unless ridden by a child.

Back to School

Speaking of children riding bicycles, when this issue hits your mailbox or email inbox the children of Brentwood will be back to school. One of the great features of our community and neighbouring areas is the selection and diversity of schools available for our kids. This of course means lots of 30km/h zones and crosswalks, including the new centreline signs. I hope drivers bear in mind that come September there will be lots of kids making their way to school on foot or by bike as long as the weather permits—so please drive carefully and be patient!

New Playground

Brentwood's schools also offer a wealth of play options for local kids in the evenings and on weekends. It is always exciting news when a new playground is planned. Long-time Brentwood resident Sara F. sent the following:

"I love Brentwood. It's an incredible community to live and raise a family. Our humble Brentwood bungalow is where my husband and I have lived for 15 years. It's where we started our family and continue to raise our children. We live walking distance from St. Luke School, which is where (between a few children) they've attended for eight years. St. Luke School has a modest playground, but my children have still spent countless

hours hanging from the monkey bars and sliding down the slides. But the playground is scheduled for removal in July 2025, so the time has come to make new memories on a new play structure."

The Brentwood Community Association has been supportive of the parents and students of École St. Luke in their quest for a new play structure.

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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* All Triwood residents receive the friendly neighbourhood 10% discount.



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.



BRENTWOOD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

DATE: September 5th, 2024
TIME: 7:00 pm
LOCATION: Brentwood Sportsplex Hall
 1520B Northmount Dr NW

*Registration starts at 6:30 pm
 Meet and greet social following AGM.*



JOIN US ON THE ICE TODAY!

BRENTWOOD LEARN TO SKATE

GROUP LESSONS

THURSDAYS: 6:00-7:00 PM
SATURDAYS: 10:45-11:45 AM

Registration for the new skating season will start July 2nd, 2024.
 The skating season runs from September 12th, 2024 to March 15th, 2025!

Ages 3+

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What I Learned on My Summer Vacation

Submitted by Melanie Swailes on behalf of the BCA Development and Transportation Committee

I travelled through BC and Alberta this summer, and each community—whether a small town or neighbourhood in a large city—has a unique feel. But everywhere we went, we also saw reminders that change can come to communities suddenly and unpredictably.

Jasper Wildfires

On July 22, two wildfires were burning outside of the town of Jasper and an evacuation order was issued. As of August 1, the town remains vacated: residents are still scattered throughout BC and Alberta or further afield, depending on where they found a place to stay with friends, family, or at a hotel or campground.

The fire hit close to home: my brother and his family are long-time Jasperites. For a few anxious days we followed updates as the fire progressed. The relief was incredible as we found out that my brother's family was one of the lucky ones who still had a home to return to, but sadly many have lost everything: 358 of about 1,100 houses and buildings in the town were destroyed. Imagine leaving your home suddenly with only a few clothes or possessions, not knowing what you might return to.

What has struck me since is the strong community bonds, wanting to rebuild, focusing on what it means to be a Jasperite. We may take our communities and our Community Associations for granted, but when there is an emergency, they are the first point of contact because they already have facilities and volunteers. The City of Calgary opened an emergency reception centre in Montgomery, while other organizations offered support and access for evacuees including the YMCA, Calgary Public Library, Heritage Park, and others. Community matters!

As Jasper rebuilds, many Development Permits will have to be processed, with the added complication of National Park regulations. Rebuilding will be difficult and expensive, and some residents may sadly not be able to return to their former lives. The location is a challenge since construction materials and workers

will have to come a long way, and the latter will need accommodations, already in short supply before the fire.

Short Term Rental (STR) Impacts

One reason for the shortage of housing in places like Jasper is the proliferation of short-term rentals such as Airbnb, bookable online from anywhere in the world. It's easy to see the appeal of STRs for vacationers who want more than a hotel room, and for property owners who can earn much more renting by the week or month than with year-long leases. The result is that these units are no longer available for those seeking long-term housing.

Workers in tourist areas such as Jasper or Vancouver Island towns cannot find a place to live because existing dwellings are increasingly becoming STRs. Local news reflects mixed opinions, as many residents feel STRs are changing their communities. Investors buying up homes for use as STRs compete with buyers who are looking for a place to live and stay long-term. Who is housing for: tourists or residents/workers? Some BC communities now require short-term rentals to operate with a business licence, while others have added legislation that would allow only primary homeowners to rent out their home (either a portion of the home or the entire home while the owner is away), but enforcement remains a problem. No easy solutions, but huge impacts on communities.

Working From Home

While staying in Comox (with family, not in a short-term rental!), one weekend we saw three moving vans on the street. In each case, the new homeowners were young couples moving from Greater Vancouver to work remotely from a new, more affordable home in a smaller community where they can have a yard, more space, and a quieter lifestyle. Work-From-Home (WFH) has made it possible to keep your job in Vancouver while living in a small town on Vancouver Island. Likewise, you can live in Chestermere, Airdrie, or Strathmore and work remotely in Calgary, perhaps driving into the city only on occasion.

This trend has made smaller towns suddenly attractive to young workers, not just to retirees or farmers and ranchers, and home prices in these towns may rise with increased demand. There will be demand for home office space in new housing, and a need for high-

speed internet in outlying areas. Cities will change too, potentially seeing a “hollowing” out of downtown or more dispersed employment outside of the core, raising issues such as whether transit should still be focused on getting people to and from the city center.

What I learned on my summer vacation is that changes and development issues never take a rest! The most important thing that we can do is stay informed. Join your Community Association. Attend an open house regarding a project in your area. Learn about the pros and cons of any new proposal. Talk to your Councillor or your MLA and let them know how you feel. Don't be afraid to write letters or pick up the phone.

If you are interested in community planning and redevelopment issues, we welcome new members to join us. We meet at 7:00 pm on the first Monday of every month in the Sportsplex Boardroom. Contact the BCA for more information at office@brentwoodcommunity.com or at 403-284-3477.



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Hearts will be displayed around the new playground

<https://stluke.cssd.ab.ca/playground-society>





Has The Long Wait Ended?

by Lee Hunt

After months and months of uncertainty, we strongly hope to be creating a mural in the underpass where Brisebois goes under Crowchild and comes out as 40 Ave. In fact, by the time The Bugle comes out in September (I am writing this article in early August), the new mural could be well underway – or perhaps even finished!

Once the City gives final approval, Brentwood will receive money from three sources to finance the mural – Brentwood Community Enhancement Fund, The Calgary Foundation, and Activate YYC. We have also applied for an Inspiring Neighbourhood Grant but do not yet know whether we will receive it.

Four artists applied to create the mural. All submitted lively and appealing designs, so the decision was difficult. The judges selected the design entered by Lacey and Layla Art. Our grateful thanks go out to all four artists for contributing and to the community judges who made the tough decision.

The current plan is to begin the mural on August 22 and wrap up in early September. We have hired two artist assistants to work primarily with the 20 Brentwood young people who have volunteered to paint. Calgary Co-op and Freshco have both offered to provide food and refreshments, while volunteers from Brentview Baptist Church will coordinate the food tables.

Special thanks to Brentwood Mural Committee members Bonita McCurry, Lisa Boychuk, Linda Van Holst, Melanie Swailes, and Lee Hunt. Also, thanks to Eric MacKenzie, Paul Donker, and Dallen Osachuk who have helped us navigate the City bureaucracy. Additional thanks to Shiney Choudhary and Erin Davis who canvassed local businesses for support, and Isabel Chan who is handling communication and media for our mural project.

If you would like to donate financially to the mural, please contact Linda at office@brentwoodcommunity.com. Thank you.

So, here's hoping that the long wait is over!

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Brentwood Cares

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Monday, September 30

Brentwood Cares helped host “Making Visible our Shared History: The Context for Renaming Institutions.” Crystal Fraser and Sara Komarnisky presented slides on residential schools and the 150 Acts of Reconciliation. We had small group discussions focused on personal acts we can all take. For me it was reading and encouraging local engagement in Canada’s National Day of Truth and Reconciliation. People may remember the emails about local Indigenous sources for orange shirts last year.



Having the Blackfoot Tipi come to Blakiston Park this summer was an unexpected opportunity for engagement. It was interesting listening to Siksika Elder Adrian speak about pre-contact science, the impact of the words we choose, and talking about the power of voice. He also spoke about his involvement in the Calling Home Ceremony for Indigenous veterans, and those Indigenous warriors who lost their lives fighting for us in WWI, WWII, and the Korean War. Adrian talked about the injustice done to the veterans, who when they came home were denied the housing and education grants given to the others who served.

Liza Lorenzetti shared a quote from the Honourable Murray Sinclair: “Education is the key to reconciliation - education got us into this mess and education will get us out of it.”

Planning is currently underway for Brentwood Cares to mark the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

Cam Howey

Little Food Library 3624 Boulton Rd NW. Can You Help?

Times continue to be tough for many Calgarians with the triple whammy of inflation, high rents, and minimum wage unchanged since 2018. The doubling of Calgary Food Bank Hamper demand between early 2023 and spring 2024 is perhaps the best sign of the strain on families. My estimate (I've asked for 2024 numbers), is that baby hampers are up tenfold from 2013!

Looking for non-perishable items like:

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- Macaroni and cheese
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- Pasta and sauce
- Canned fish or meat
- Peanut butter
- Powdered milk
- Soup – Instant/Canned
- Canned fruit or vegetables
- Granola bars, nuts, dried fruit

Check your pantry for items you won't use or that are close to best before (<https://www.usda.gov/media/blog/2013/06/27/you-toss-food-wait-check-it-out>). Collect food at a garage sale or community event – thanks to Dave and Calgary House Concerts.

Cash/gift cards always welcome and help fill need. Please text 405-606-6949 before dropping these off.

Interested in Joining Brentwood Cares?

New members always welcomed, email Cam.howey@gmail.com to get on the email list.

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World Coconut Day



September 2 is World Coconut Day! It's a day dedicated to celebrating all things coconut - from the refreshing water to the versatile oil. Whether you're enjoying a tropical drink or cooking up a coconut curry, it's the perfect day to appreciate this amazing fruit!



MLA Calgary - Varsity
Dr. Luanne Metz
 Opposition Critic for Health
 ☎ 403-216-5436
 ✉ calgary.varsity@assembly.ab.ca
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Constituency Office New Location
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Happy Hobbit Day!

September is a legendary month in Hobbit history! On September 21, 1937, J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Hobbit* hit the shelves, kicking off the journey through Middle-earth. Then, on September 22 — known as Hobbit Day — both Bilbo and Frodo Baggins, two of the most cherished hobbits ever, celebrate their birthdays!



Off the Bookshelf

by Rosemary Brown

A Grandmother Begins the Story interweaves several narratives by award-winning author, poet, and journalist Michelle Porter, a member of the Manitoba Métis Federation who teaches creative writing and Métis literature at Memorial University in St. John's.

Her characters span five generations of women. Else or "Mame" is in the afterlife; her daughter Genevieve is dying of cancer; her granddaughter Lucy wishes to die; her great granddaughter Allie is estranged from her mother Lucy and gave her daughter Carter up for adoption; and finally, there is Carter herself. Also present with consciousness and voice are a bison, the Earth, and even Genevieve's car. Once one figures out the relationships the novel moves along at a rapid pace, from one short tale to the next and back again.

Along the way many important themes are touched on: the impact of the disappearance of the bison herds on the grasslands, residential schools, the child welfare system, intergenerational trauma, marital and family relationships, motherhood, the importance of music, and the loss of and search for identity and family.

Porter packs a lot into these interconnected slices of life and is well worth reading.

The other Settlers' book club selection was *Becoming Kin: An Indigenous Call for Understanding the Past* by Patty Krawec. Krawec, of Anishinaabe and Ukrainian descent, is from the Lac Seul First Nation in Ontario and is host of the podcast *Medicine for the Resistance*.

In the foreword Nick Estes, an Indigenous scholar and activist from the US, sketches the terrible toll that colonization and capitalism have wreaked on the world, especially when it comes to economic disparity and climate change. He refers to those who have amassed wealth from these processes as the "fat takers."

Krawec paints a path forward, one grounded in understanding the past and how we came to be in the situation we find ourselves today. The first part of her book is a recapitulation of the impact of ongoing colonization in the US and Canada: many of the themes are familiar but addressed in new ways.

At the heart of colonization and the ensuing economic disparity and environmental degradation is the

dispossession of Indigenous peoples from their lands. This was based on very different attitudes and understandings towards land and the relationship Indigenous peoples have with it. For Europeans, the land was a commodity with resources to be extracted, and economic progress was to be based on accumulation instead of sharing.

Colonization and the commodification of land "severed Indigenous relations with the land and the land's relation to the Creator." Colonization has meant "endless cyclical losses—of lives, lands, and histories." This has led to intense feelings of grief, not only for people but the land itself.

For Krawec, the land expresses grief through flooding and fires and dust. But "grief is the persistence of love" and it is in this spirit that Krawec writes that settlers have two paths or roads before them—one is green and lush, and the other is barren. Choosing the green and lush road entails "Becoming Kin", building different relations with the land and its life, and especially Indigenous peoples.

What does "Becoming Kin" mean? Krawec states that "Land Back" means "sharing and changing our relationship to the land. Decolonization involves returning some land and changing our behaviour towards the land. We also need to stand in solidarity with Indigenous peoples when they engage in protest to defend their lands." As Nick Estes says, "land defenders are the ancestors of the future."

Becoming Kin with Indigenous peoples means building relationships with them and "putting our stories together," including those of our ancestors. Not doing so means the continuation of "silenced identities and erasure."

She argues that we need to claim all our ancestors and their legacies, even if problematic. Coming to grips with the historical relationship when becoming kin involves "having difficult conversations." She points out that while many of our ancestors came here fleeing oppression, Indigenous peoples had nowhere to flee the oppression of colonization.

Krawec also says that "being a settler or colonizer is not what we are but what we do. We are not responsible for past colonization, but we are responsible for addressing the consequences. And it is being accountable that frees us to act."

She suggests the following possible actions for building relations:

- Go to where Indigenous people gather
- Listen
- Stand alongside Indigenous peoples in their campaigns for justice
- Volunteer
- Speak to and organize the people around us
- Join Indigenous-led groups
- Write letters, speak out, and donate

Krawec offers more insights and ways to think about our historical and present relations with the land and Indigenous peoples. The divergent paths, one green and lush and the other barren, lie before us. What choice will we make?





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