

NOVEMBER 2024

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THE OFFICIAL BRENTWOOD COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



Cover Photo by Praveen Anand



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News, Events, & More



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Dear Brentwoodians,

Have you ever been to a place where good public transit is a given? I have Swiss heritage, and on my trips to that country I have found getting around by public transportation to be incredibly easy – even when in the company of elderly relatives or infants in strollers. Buses, trams, and trains there are clean, safe, and accessible; they are frequent and punctual; cover all the neighbourhoods in the larger towns and cities as well as extending into remote villages; and connections between city transit and intercity rail are seamless.

It should be obvious now that I am mentioning this in light of the recent cancellation of the C-Train Green Line. It is true that the project as proposed didn't go far enough north or south, or connect to the airport, but these objections only serve to illustrate how far behind our city has fallen in this area. When discussing transit, Calgarians complain about infrequent bus service; having to walk long distances to stops; and notably of late, the security and safety situation. These are all valid concerns, which unfortunately lead to lower transit use and therefore less appetite to fund expansion.

But as our city grows, so will our need to get around. We can keep building new roads – except that we know that adding lanes to existing expressways, or building new ones, only adds to the problem. Traffic engineers use the term “induced demand” to explain how, according to a University of California at Berkeley study published in 1998, every ten percent of additional road capacity is met with a nine percent increase in traffic within four years. And of course, there is the environmental cost of automobile commuting – and yes, even electric cars have a much larger carbon footprint than mass transit.

So why can't Calgarians enjoy the same level of transit as the citizens of Zurich or Geneva? Switzerland is an exceedingly wealthy place, but so is Alberta. What is lacking here is the will and the vision to give our city the safe, convenient, and reliable transit we deserve. It wasn't always so – in 1945 the Calgary Municipal Railway had a dense network of tramlines covering places like Inglewood, South Calgary, Bowness, and Tuxedo Park.

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



BRENTWOOD OUTDOOR Ice Skating Rink

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP KEEP THE ICE RINK CLEAN
GUIDANCE WILL BE PROVIDED

5107 - 33RD STREET NW

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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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Mondays, 10:00 to 11:30 am

September 9 to December 23, 2024
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September 11 to December 18, 2024
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No Public Skating Dates:

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Volunteer With Us *— we have both individual and group volunteer opportunities available*



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Whose Opinions Matter?

by Melanie Swailes on behalf of the Development and Transportation Committee

“We want to hear from you. Your input will help us make important decisions.” These are the opening words on the City Building “Engage” website at <https://engage.calgary.ca/citybuilding>.

Many years ago, in a university marketing class I learned that only a very small number of people who have a complaint will ever bother to write a letter. The professor stressed that for every person who writes, there may be many others who feel the same way but only complain to their friends or neighbours. The person who writes might be just the “tip of the iceberg” so their comments should be taken seriously. If customers do not feel listened to or heard, or feel dismissed, they are likely to spread their discontent by telling others about their negative experience.

Feedback matters. Travel review sites for hotels or restaurants routinely ask for your feedback, and customers have an expectation that their input matters. Credible websites post the negative reviews as well as the positive ones: sometimes what matters most is how the company deals with feedback received, even if it is not positive or what they wanted to hear. The important part is that customers expect that if they take the time to post their thoughts or experiences, the person on the other end will listen and respond.

What If We Could Rate the City and Assign Stars Based on Our Experiences?

When it comes to development, the City of Calgary has clear processes and procedures in place which provide “a means through which neighbours, community associations, and other affected individuals and organizations can provide feedback.” (<https://www.calgary.ca/development/permits/process.html>). The information that is gathered is to be used to “influence decision-making” (the Engage policy, <https://engage.calgary.ca/about>).

But what if the feedback from the community differs greatly from that of a developer or a deemed City interest? Recent examples include the proposed closure of the Inglewood Pool, the potential sale of part of

Richmond Green Park, and Bowness residents fighting to keep a small “park” area within their community. The Engage policy requires that input be used to “aid decision makers in understanding the perspectives of people potentially impacted by City decisions. Public input is balanced with factors like budgets, regulations, and best practices.”

When the Engage portals continually ensure us that our opinions matter, but then fail to reflect what they have heard, credibility is lost. Blanket rezoning remains the biggest example of this: 6,101 Calgarians submitted a total of over 13,000 pages, with 88% opposed. “We want to hear from you” ... but only if your opinion supports the pre-determined outcome. There has to be a better way.

I recently attended an online session with Larry Beasley, a noted Canadian Urban Planner, and the author of *Vancouverism*. He made this very powerful statement: “You start from one basic principle as a planner: Citizens are as smart or smarter than you are, and they have a lot more information at the local level than you can ever have.” (Thanks to Better Infill Edmonton who hosted the session. The full transcript and video can be viewed at www.betterinfill.ca.)

Mr. Beasley went on to say, “Neighbourhoods are one of the fundamentals of a liveable city. Cities are getting so huge and complex that local sense of place is becoming even more important. Neighbourhoods are at the essence of what I think good communities are about...What cities also have to do is always have a conversation going with residents, with people at the neighbourhood level. It’s one of the fundamentals, that if government is going to govern with its people, it has to listen to the people.”

Regarding infill and densification, Mr. Beasley commented that, “In principle ... adding opportunity for infill is not a bad idea. On the other hand, when you’re dealing with a sitting community, there are more edges to implementing than there would be if it’s a new community, because people are there, people are being hit one way or another. So, you’re obliged as a government, but also as citizens, to then say, ‘All right, let’s now talk about what’s not working, what was excluded, what was not talked about during the policy formation?’ and you can evolve the policy constantly.

That is the organic way that cities find the agenda and programs they need. They don't just all come out of thin air. They come out of trial and error and talk and review."

Mr. Beasley's talk offered better ways of approaching planning and redevelopment in a manner that includes communities, rather than treating them as opposition or a barrier to get around. Most people I talk with recognize the need for more housing and support increased densification if it is contextual and sensitive to the area. Posting Engage surveys online is not the same as a face-to-face meeting with residents. Our communities are not blank slates. Our opinions matter and we need a strong voice at the table when issues impact us.

Read and learn! Check out these books from Calgary Public Library:


- *Vancouverism* by Beasley, Larry (2019)
- *Broken City: Land Speculation, Inequality, and Urban Crisis* by Condon, Patrick M.
- *The Tenant Class* by Tranjan, J. Ricardo
- *Homesick: Why Housing Is Unaffordable and How We Can Change It* by O'Brien, Brendan

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.



RIVER HORSE

Did you know that hippopotamuses can't swim! Despite spending most of their time in the water (almost 16 hours per day) they are unable to float on the water because of their dense bones. Instead, they gallop, quite gracefully, on the riverbed.



Brentwood

Community Association

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Off the Bookshelf

by Rosemary Brown

For those interested in education in this country, I highly recommend *Valley of the Bird Tail: An Indian Reserve, A White Town and Reconciliation*. This 2022 non-fiction work is co-authored by Andrew Stobo-Sniderman and Douglas Sanderson (Amo Binashi). Stobo-Sniderman is a lawyer and journalist from Montreal. After beginning this book, he reached out to Sanderson, his former mentor in the Faculty of Law at the University of Toronto and a member of the Opaskwayak Cree nation in western Manitoba, to collaborate with him.

The reserve in the title, the small Ojibway community of Waywayseecappo, signed onto Treaty 4 in 1877. Across the Bird Tail River lies the small town of Rossburn, originally settled by English farmers. Towards the end of the 19th century the federal government launched a major campaign to attract immigrants, especially Ukrainians, to “settle” and farm the prairies. Due to land shortages and repression in Russia, one million Ukrainians came to Canada, many settling near Rossburn.

Despite their proximity, Waywayseecappo and Rossburn were socially isolated from one another. White people held racist attitudes and assumptions about their Indigenous neighbours, while in Rossburn itself a social hierarchy existed with the English on top and the Ukrainians on the bottom, subjected to discrimination: during World War II many Ukrainians were detained and had their voting rights revoked.

The book follows several generations of a family from Waywayseecappo and a Ukrainian family from Rossburn, interspersed with biographical sketches of several federal politicians and bureaucrats in order to show the impact of government policies on Waywayseecappo.

Residential schools were created to remove Indigenous children from their families, communities, and cultures. However, over time the schools became increasingly expensive to run due to the increasing number of Indigenous children

attending; the phasing out of the residential school system, and the creation of government-run day schools, was driven by a desire to spend less on the education of Indigenous children. This was also the motive behind the shift from day schools to integrated schools off reserve.

The children of Waywayseecappo experienced all of these policy shifts. At first the community supported sending their children to an integrated school in Rossburn, as the quality of education in the federal day school was so poor. However, in 1982, because of the discrimination faced by their children, the community withdrew their children from the school in Rossburn and set up their own school in an old arena in Waywayseecappo.

Federal government funding for this school was insufficient, so while students no longer faced discrimination, their educational needs were not being met. Waywayseecappo was not able to hire enough teachers and those they attracted were often poorly qualified. As a result, classrooms were overcrowded, and turnover was an ongoing issue. The dropout rate was high, students were not reading at grade level, and those who made it to the high school in Rossburn found themselves far behind their white counterparts and most never finished.

This was the situation when Troy Luhowy became principal of the school in Waywayseecappo in 2010. Of Ukrainian heritage, when he analyzed his budget and compared it to provincial public schools, it became clear that the province of Manitoba invested far more in public education than the federal government did in on-reserve education. Furthermore, the federal dollars that followed students from Waywayseecappo when they attended high school in Rossburn did not match what the province was investing. The Band Council had to make up the difference, which constituted a further drain on the community.

Soon after his appointment, Luhowy and Colleen Clear Sky, the Director of Waywayseecappo Education, approached the local school district, and together they sat down with representatives of the Federal and Provincial government to develop a project to test what would happen if Indigenous

students received the same funding as their provincial counterparts.

As rural populations were declining, the public school district was losing provincial funding; meanwhile the population of Waywayseecappo was increasing, so bringing Waywayseecappo into the local school district would address this revenue shortfall.

Since that time the school in Waywayseecappo has been able to recruit more and better qualified teachers and reduce class sizes. As students are now part of the local school district, they can access sports opportunities, counselling, computers, and other specialized programs.

Reading levels have improved, there are fewer “incidents” at school, attendance has improved, and Ojibway language and culture classes have been introduced. Throughout the school district, Maureen Twovoices of Waywayseecappo leads workshops on Indigenous history and culture, but there is still a long way to go to improve relations among Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in the area.

The authors end the book with a discussion of how Indigenous communities could become more self-sufficient and less reliant on government funding. They believe that increasing Indigenous jurisdictional control over land, resources, and taxation—thereby breathing life into self determination and self government—is the only way to move towards true Reconciliation.

Photo Corner



By Jeff Loomis

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We Did It!

by Lee Hunt

Yes! Brentwood's newest mural is now complete! It is located in the underpass where Brisebois Drive NW goes under Crowchild Trail to become 40 Ave NW.

Spearheaded by the Brentwood Community Association, the 6,500 square foot mural reflects the flora and fauna of Brentwood. The bobcat has been a particular hit!

It has been an honour to co-coordinate the mural with Community President, Bonita McCurry.

In the October *Bugle*, I thanked artists Layla Folkmann, Lacey Wilburn, plus their assistant Leanne Kembel.

I also thanked our major funders, our Brentwood donors, youth leaders, plus so many adult volunteers.

This edition, I want to thank the 52 youth who so energetically helped paint our new mural. Special gratitude goes to:

Abigail, Deepshika, Leiylah, Qudisia, Adalyn, Divina, Louise, Rayah, Afraza, Dominic, Luka, Reem, Alex, Ella, Macy, Rina, Alishbah, Emily D., Madelaine, Sam, Allie, Emily E., Maitri, Sarah, Amanda, Emily Y., Maliha, Sophia, Annie, Eva, Mariana, Tiffanie, Avery, Finn, Matthew, Tobias, Aziz, Florian, Melissa, Travis, Bodi, Graham, Mila, Wisdom, Bodie, Juliane, Myles, Celia, Kateri, Nathan, Chloe, Kayla, and Nicolas.

If you've not yet seen Brentwood's new mural – why not do so today? Park in The Village lot and walk to the mural.



Photo by Eva Gustavson



Photos by Diane Draper

Float Like a Butterfly

The female Queen Alexandra's birdwing, the largest butterfly in the world, boasts a stunning wingspan of 25 to 30 centimetres! These magnificent butterflies make their home in the lush rainforests of Oro Province in Papua New Guinea. Talk about a tropical treasure!



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News from the Friends of Nose Hill

by Anne Burke

For two weeks in fall 2024 about 800 goats grazed a 58-hectare area of the Rubbing Stone Hill Natural Parkland Zone in Nose Hill Park. The number of goats has increased from past years because it allows the same amount to be done in half the time. Like elk and bison, the herd of livestock reduces overgrown vegetation, shrubs, and trees in grasslands. Parking was limited when the Nose Hill 64 Avenue NW parking lot partially closed to accommodate moving the goats in and out of the park. Program Ambassadors were on site at Nose Hill Rubbing Stone Hill north of the parking lot. As a precaution, parts of the park and pathways were temporarily fenced off to public access during this grazing period. Park users were asked to follow all posted signage and closures. They were not to approach the goats and were directed to avoid electric fences used to contain the animals. Cyclists should have slowed down near grazing areas. Visitor dogs had to be kept on leash for their safety because off-leash herding dogs were working in the park.

In 2016 City Council approved an amendment to the Parks and Pathways bylaw to permit targeted grazing and help recover rough fescue habitat. Depending on terrain, there have also been goats in Confluence Park, McHugh Bluff, and Ralph Klein Park, while sheep were used in an area of the Weaselhead. Goats are preferred for woody material and undergrowth, but sheep are considered better for pasture-like areas. Other methods of vegetation control combine mechanical (hand pulling) and chemical spraying. The use of grazing comes with value added for biodiversity which helps native seeds to germinate and grow. The City gains both citizen interest and engagement to promote public education.

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E.G.K. GENERAL CONTRACTING/RENOVATIONS AND HANDYMAN SERVICES: Drywall, taping, texturing, painting, tile work, t-bar ceilings, flooring, plumbing, water line breaks, flood and fire restoration, mold remediation, electrical and more. 40+ years of experience. Licensed, insured, carry W.C.B. B.B.B. accredited A+ rating. Check out my website at www.egkcontracting.com or call Erich at 403-606-2493.

FALCONER HANDYMAN SERVICES LTD: Stucco patching, re-stucco, small renovations, flooring, drywall and painting, foundation parging, and small concrete work. We can also build or fix decks, fences, etc. No job is too small. Fully insured. WCB and BBB member. For free estimates, please call Wes at 403-809-3644 or email handyfalconer@gmail.com.

JEFFREY ELECTRIC: Friendly, professional electrical service for your next residential project, large or small. 10 years serving Calgary, City Qualified Trade, Master Electrician, licensed, insured. Very competitive rates for quality electrical work. Service panel upgrades from 60 amp to 200 amp. Car chargers, aluminum rewiring, custom kitchens and basements. Free estimates. www.cejelectric.com or call Clayton at 403-970-5441.

SNOW REMOVAL, CHRISTMAS LIGHTS, AND WINDOW CLEANING: Snow removal starting at \$110 to \$155 per month. Christmas light installation starting at \$150. Early season discounts! Window and gutter cleaning starting at \$99; interior/exterior/screens. Mulch, rock, sod, and soil installation. A+ Member of BBB, Licensed. Insured. WCB. 403-265-4769 | YardBustersLandscaping.com.

NEIGHBOURHOOD CONFLICT? Community Mediation Calgary Society (CMCS) is a no-cost mediation and conflict coaching service that can help you resolve problems and restore peace! We help neighbours be neighbours again! www.communitymediation.ca, 403-269-2707.

Joke of the Month

Dogs can't operate MRI machines.

But catscan.





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WAI**



Top #8 Team in the year of 2023

SOLD! SOLD! SOLD!

BRENTWOOD—BRISEBOIS DRIVE.....LISTED & SOLD for 101% of asking price

ON THE MARKET



3320 BOULTON ROAD NW (BRENTWOOD)

Stunning brand new, custom-built two storey home in Brentwood. 3,630 sq.ft. plus legal basement suite with separate entrance, high ceilings, total of 7 bedrooms, 3 with ensuite, 5.5 bathrooms, 9 ft. ceiling in basement. Double detached garage. Short walk to all levels of school, Brentwood LRT station, University of Calgary and shopping.

Asking \$2,199,000 mls# A2153745

ON THE MARKET



4912 CARNEY ROAD NW (CHARLESWOOD)

Corner lot in Charleswood. This bi-level property is the perfect family home featuring 1,390 sq.ft. above grade with a fully developed basement, 4 total bedrooms, 2 full bathrooms, and hardwood flooring throughout the main floor. A wonderful family home with a great location that is quiet, away from busy traffic, near loads of amenities, and in an established neighbourhood. Just minutes away from John Laurie, Market Mall, and the University of Calgary.

Asking \$769,900 mls# A2170037

ON THE MARKET



226,1920-14 AVENUE NE (MAYLAND HEIGHTS)

Well maintained lowrise apartment complex in Mayland Heights. This loft style end unit boasts 9 ft. ceilings with 2 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms. Plenty of counter space in kitchen. Lots of natural light flows in from the dining room windows. In-suite laundry. In-floor heating system. Close to downtown, shopping, restaurants and major roads.

Asking \$318,900 mls# A2168781



401-7 STREET SW MEDICINE HAT

An excellent opportunity to own the corner commercial building in a high traffic location in SW Hill-Medicine Hat. This vacant side used to be a medical foot clinic, it has 4 exam rooms, an office, reception area, kitchen, bathroom, and laboratory. It can be used for any type of business! Whether it is a dentist's office, a law firm, a medical office, for real estate, or for something else; this is the spot! The rubber membrane of the roof and the rooftop furnace/air conditioning unit were updated a few years ago.

Asking \$619,900 mls# A2141032

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