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Dear Brentwoodians,

Putting The Cart Before the Horse, Or Rather the Density Before the Transit

There is no question that Calgary needs densification: our population will continue to grow for the foreseeable future, and the city can't continue eating up farmland and foothills at the present rate. The blanket rezoning plan was a one-size-fits-all attempt that wound up alienating a majority of Calgary voters and is now being reconsidered. One of the major objections that was cited was the impact of reducing off-street parking space requirements while simultaneously significantly increasing the number of people living on a given street or block (see Melanie Swailes' article in this issue).

The objections are based on concerns about street parking availability, safety of pedestrians (especially children or mobility device users who can't see over parked vehicles), and traffic congestion on formerly calm residential streets. A common response is that the inner-city and inner-suburb neighbourhoods most affected are close to transit lines and hubs, so residents are less likely to need cars.

2016 Census figures showed that 93% of households in this city had at least one car, with the average approaching two per household.* Compare this to the dense cities we are trying to emulate: Chicago at 73%, Toronto at 72%, London at 56%, New York at 44%. Calgarians are thoroughly dependent on cars—we even outdo Houston and Phoenix (both at 92%).

It isn't just a cultural love for big trucks and fast cars that drives this dependency we have – it is to a large degree the lack of a real alternative. In the cities with the best transit, commuting with a car is nearly unthinkable: why would anyone choose to deal with traffic and pay for parking and gas, when within a short walk they know that a bus, tram, or train will be arriving in a few minutes to take them efficiently and safely on their way?

Calgary will never be able to achieve the density we need with two cars per household. The only way to reduce our dependency on cars is by expanding transit on a massive scale to make up for decades of neglect and deferred investment.

*Full disclosure: my household has two cars, although one is old and in need of reconditioning and spends most of its life off the road. Both of our cars live in our garage.

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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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. <https://ca.nextdoor.com/agency-detail/ab/calgary/calgary-police-service/>.

For more information or to join Nextdoor, download the app or visit nextdoor.ca today!

CPS Community Safety Guide

<https://brentwoodcommunity.com/2024/11/21/cps-community-safety-guide/>.

Your Representatives in Brentwood

City Councillor: DJ Kelly (Ward 4): ward04@calgary.ca.

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

MP: Corey Hogan (Calgary Confederation)

CPS Community Police Officer: Constable Reinders: pol4241@calgarypolice.ca; 403-428-6342.



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Wednesdays: 1:30 to 3:00 pm

January 7 to March 25, 2026

No Public Skating Date:

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News from the Friends of Nose Hill

by Anne Burke

The Calgary area has been the subject of many geological studies in scientific papers, field guides, and monographs, including glacial mapping of Nose Hill. The top of Nose Hill contains gravel deposited by the ancient Bow River, also carrying sand and mud, flowing east out of the mountains and reaching the level of the present hilltop. There may have been as many as 20 major glacial advances and retreats in what is now the Calgary area.

During the last one to two million years of earth history, ice sheets shaped the landscape. The continuous plain to the north, and on the east and west flanks of Nose Hill, were shaped by glacial meltwater from nearby ice. As the modern Bow River developed, it created a broad valley and the southern flanks of the Hill. A large lake was produced by an ice dam on the River. On its North and East, Nose Hill is bounded by Beddington and Nose Creeks. To the west, Big Hill Springs Coulee is what remains of the earlier glacial spillway system.

Nose Hill provides spectacular views from which to interpret the geological history of the Bow River Valley and its tributaries, as well as the uplands across the valley to the south. The boundary between eastern and western ice sheets is the result of a landslide from Mt. Edith Cavell. As the valley glacier advanced it was deflected southward by eastern ice and glacial erratics (large boulders) mark its former path.



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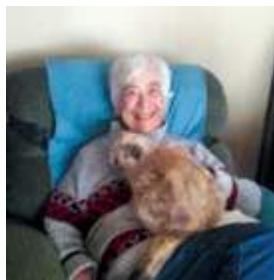
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A Tribute to Margaret Russell

by Lee Hunt



"There wasn't anything not to like about Margaret Russell". Margaret's friend, Marg Hart spoke those words, but the same sentiment would have been shared by her family, gardening friends, University of Calgary colleagues and students.

Margaret died at age 73 on September 4, 2025, in the loving presence of her husband Bill and son Charles. She had struggled with Parkinson's disease for many years.

Margaret lived in Calgary almost all of her life, graduated from William Aberhart High School then U of C, and resided in Brentwood since 1993.

Margaret had a number of interests. She was particularly fond of gardening and plants. At the Brentwood Community Garden where she had a plot for about ten years, she was dubbed "the compost guru" for her particular expertise in that area. Margaret was also an avid reader with a penchant for crime novels. She was especially fond of cats as well.

Academically, Margaret attended U of C where she obtained her B.Sc., M.D., and Ph.D. She achieved the latter in Epidemiology in 1989. In that same year, Margaret joined the U of C Faculty of Medicine (now the Cumming School of Medicine). Her obituary explains that much of her focus was on "preventive medicine advocacy and epidemiological knowledge, [and] she was frequently sought by media including during the COVID-19 pandemic." Research work was particularly important to Margaret as was her relationship with local Hutterite communities. I'm told that in addition to research on vaccination programs for the Hutterite children, Margaret also enjoyed working in the fields alongside colony members.

That "hands on" work in the fields is all part of what Marg Hart referred to as Margaret's "willingness to learn" plus her "modest and unassuming nature."

In tribute to Margaret, a number of her friends have "created a shrine on her desk using potted plants" (Bill). At U of C, the campus flag was lowered to half-mast on October 3. In The Calgary Herald Guestbook, former colleague Crystal Elliott reflected on Margaret as "a tremendous asset to the Department of Community Health Science - I had deep respect for her".

We at the *Bugle* extend our condolences to Bill and Charles plus to Margaret's extended family, friends, and colleagues in the loss of such a caring, admirable human being. She will be greatly missed.

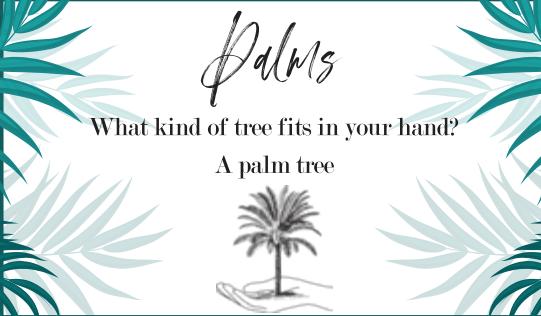




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Palms

What kind of tree fits in your hand?
A palm tree

Staying in Relationships Thinking the Other Person Will Change, Now What?

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

In romantic relationships, the hope that someone will change is incredibly common, and very human. Here's the why:

We fall in love with potential, not just reality. Early connection, chemistry, and shared dreams can make us focus on who someone could be rather than who they consistently are.

Love activates optimism and attachment. Attachment bonds naturally create hope. Our nervous system prefers security over loss, so we hold onto the idea that change will come rather than face the pain of disappointment or separation.

We confuse influence with control. Healthy relationships do involve growth and compromise, but that can slide into the belief that love, patience, or suffering will eventually motivate change in areas that are actually character-based or deeply ingrained.

Familiar patterns feel safer than unfamiliar outcomes. Even dissatisfaction can feel safer than the uncertainty of leaving—especially if someone grew up adapting to others or earning love by tolerating discomfort.

Cultural narratives reinforce it. We're taught that love "fixes," that commitment means endurance, and that leaving equals failure rather than discernment.

Acceptance doesn't mean approval. It means clearly seeing who someone is right now, and asking: Can I live peacefully with this if it never changes? If the answer is no, the work isn't to force acceptance—it's to honor that truth. Real intimacy grows when we choose people for who they are, not who we hope they'll become.

Here are practical ways to shift your inner narration and cultivate acceptance of your partner—without abandoning your own needs or values (unless the situation is unsafe or abusive):

1. Separate "preferences" from "deal-breakers"

Narration shift: "I don't like this" to... "This is uncomfortable, but not unsafe or violating."



2. Replace fantasy with reality statements

Narration shift: "They would be perfect if..." to... "This is who they are today, consistently."

3. Translate irritation into meaning

Ask: What does this trigger in me; fear, unmet needs, old wounds?

Narration shift: "They're the problem" to... "This brings up something important in me."

4. Use compassion without justification

Narration shift: "They shouldn't be this way" to... "I can understand why they're this way, without agreeing or excusing."

5. Practice present-tense acceptance language

Use phrases like: "This is what's here right now." or... "I don't have to solve this today."

6. Stop future-bargaining

Narration shift: "Once X happens, then I'll be okay" to... "If nothing changes, how do I feel about this life?"

7. Name your choice clearly

Narration shift: "I'm stuck" to... "I am choosing to stay for now, with eyes open."

Choice restores agency and reduces resentment.

8. Practice grief, not resistance

Acceptance often requires grieving the partner you hoped for.

Narration shift: "This shouldn't hurt" to... "Of course this hurts."

9. Anchor acceptance in boundaries

Narration shift: "I have to accept everything" to... "I accept who they are and I choose how close I stand."

10. Use curiosity over judgment.

Narration shift: "They're wrong" to... "This is different from me—what does that mean for us?"

BRENTWOOD DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Blanket Rezoning Repeal – One More Round

by Melanie Swailes on behalf of the Development and Transportation Committee

Urban Planning ideas evolve and change over time. Sometimes we can only determine what doesn't work well after the fact. As an example, when the current City Municipal Building opened in 1985 next to the old City Hall, a common criticism was that it "turned its back" on what is now the East Village area. Although the Municipal Building faces Stephen Avenue Mall, the Glenbow Museum, Olympic Plaza, and more, the large scale and form of the building forms an imposing wall, and it has taken decades to revitalize the area behind City Hall.

Every building or planning decision is an experiment, however large or small. You build a garage and soon wish it was just a bit longer to fit your new truck. A new commercial development goes up on a street and has noisy garbage pick-ups very early in the morning that neighbours didn't anticipate. There should always be a continuous feedback loop so that we learn from experience by collecting opinions and making improvements.

Brentwood residents can now view the results of the Blanket Rezoning "experiment", because in communities around us such as Capitol Hill or Bowness there are many examples of newly constructed townhouses or rowhouses which have replaced former single-family homes. What do you like or not like about the new buildings? We will start seeing similar buildings in Brentwood. To date, the Development and Transportation Committee has received two multi-unit Development Permit (DP) applications, each for eight-units on what used to be a single house.

You have the opportunity and the right to comment, but you have to use the chance if you wish to be heard! The City has a mandate to collect public feedback on DP applications. The City's Engage Policy defines engagement as "Purposeful dialogue between The City, impacted or interested Calgarians and other communities or groups to gather information to influence decision-making."

What is the City hearing about past applications? In the first quarter of 2025, the City received 1,527 comments on applications enabled by the citywide rezoning through Development Map (DMAP). The greatest number of comments were around building design (78%), parking/loading zones (76%), site layout (52%), and privacy consideration (52%).

Of all those comments, 1,295 were opposed (85%), 137 were neutral (9%), and 75 (4.9%) were in support of the applications (<https://pub-calgary.escrimeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=327314>).

When 85% of the comments received are in opposition, it's a strong indicator that there are major flaws in the experiment. Building design is the top concern, closely followed by parking. What I've heard repeatedly from Brentwood residents is that eight units on a property is simply too much: many have suggested duplexes (which could have suites), allowing for four units in total, which would also allow for four parking spaces, one for each unit (instead of the current .5 per unit).

The Notice of Motion to Repeal Blanket Rezoning was approved by a 13-2 vote on December 15, with a Public Hearing slated for March 2026. Note that the overwhelming majority vote does not mean that most councillors support a full repeal, but rather that they voted to have the matter addressed in a full public hearing.

You will have a chance to submit your feedback prior to the March Public Hearing by sending a letter or by speaking in person. If you think that your opinions won't matter, consider that there will be other people submitting feedback, including developers, investors, and those who won't necessarily represent your community or your interests. If you want your voice to count, now is the time to speak up to ensure you can help shape policies around development.

Please learn more and get involved. We haven't seen a lot of redevelopment in Brentwood, but we will. For starters, learn about "The Guide for Small-Scale housing" and subscribe for updates (<https://engage.calgary.ca/SmallScaleGuide>). Although the initial engagement is over, this link provides the considerations for building form, site layout, etc. – issues on which you may wish to include feedback in any submissions. Keep an eye out

for information sessions in February and March prior to the Council Hearing.

Next month, I'll focus on specific design aspects. (I am stepping back from Development-related roles, but for now, I've heard from many *Bugle* readers that you do read and follow the DTC articles, so I will continue to write them. Thank you for the support.)

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.



Photo Corner



Photo by Hans Berkhout

GAMES & PUZZLES

Guess the Olympic Sport!

1. Prince Albert II of Monaco competed in this winter sport at the Calgary 1988 Olympics.
2. This sport includes two events: rifle shooting and cross-country skiing.
3. This team sport involves sliding granite stones on a sheet of ice towards a target circle.
4. This sport also known as "skimo" will make its Olympic debut at Milano Cortina 2026.
5. Marit Bjørgen is the most decorated winter Olympian and competed in this sport.
6. This elegant sport is widely recognized as the most popular event at the Winter Olympics.



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Remembering Don Ray

by Jonathan Jucker



The community of Brentwood is closely tied with the University of Calgary, and many of its residents are students, administrators (like me), or faculty (like my wife). Don Ray, who passed away on October 11, 2025, at the age of 76, was a well-loved and vital part of both these communities, and I was lucky to be his neighbour for several years. An emeritus professor of political science, Don was also a family man, mentor, and activist, who made a positive mark on people in every area of his life.

It was not until I attended the crowded memorial service for Don that I learned of his fascinating and unconventional upbringing: born in Manchester, England and raised in Calgary, his parents were vaudevillians who travelled the world putting on a "Wild West" show. It wasn't long before young Don joined the family act as "Billy the Kid", and he quickly became an expert at lasso tricks, a skill he retained even after he turned to academia.

After finishing his Ph.D. at the University of Toronto, he joined the Political Science department at U of C and taught African Politics for 37 years, until his retirement in 2015. His former colleague Susan Franceschet says: "Don was such a lovely colleague to learn from. He was always supportive, especially to new people in the department. I was always impressed by how committed he was to his students."

One such student is Benjamin Adu Gyamfi, now a sessional instructor at U of C. "Dr. Ray was not only my doctoral supervisor but also an exceptional mentor and a friend whose guidance shaped not only my academic

journey but also my approach to critical thinking and research... Dr. Ray's wisdom, kindness, and unparalleled expertise in and enduring passion for African politics, particularly Ghanaian politics and chieftaincy studies left a lasting impact on me and on so many others. He will be deeply missed. I will always be grateful for his encouragement and the confidence he instilled in me throughout my doctoral studies."

Don was also an outspoken advocate against the injustices he saw in the world and was a prominent voice against apartheid in South Africa, and on behalf of Palestinians. His former student and fellow activist with the group Justice for Palestinians Calgary, Rineem Saleh says: "Dr. Ray was truly a one-of-a-kind professor. He knew how to make you feel seen and helped instill the confidence in us to fight for what was right. As a longtime ally and activist, he helped us continue this passion beyond our studies and in his commitment to community organizing. He will be deeply missed."

His activism also encompassed local politics, and he was a long-time chair of the Calgary-Varsity NDP policy committee. At his memorial, MLA Luanne Metz paid moving tribute to his work and vision for our community and Alberta as a whole. He was also a regular sight volunteering at Brentwood community events, easily spotted in his trademark Tilley hat!

He is survived by three adult children, seven grandchildren, and his wife Rosemary Brown. *Bugle* readers know Rosemary well as the regular contributor of "Off the Bookshelf" reviews of books by and about Indigenous writers.

On a personal note, on every occasion that I spoke with Don, I was always impressed by his air of optimism and good humour, even though he understood better than many the injustice and trouble in our own society and around the world. He and Rosemary were wonderful and kind neighbours, and my family missed having them two doors down after we moved a few years ago. We feel deeply the even greater loss of this talented, thoughtful, and compassionate man.



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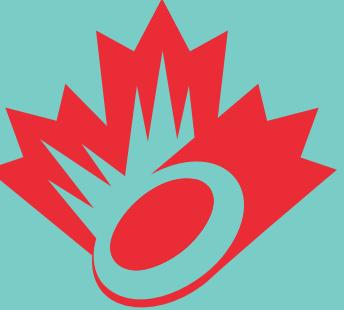


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SOLD! SOLD! SOLD!

VARSITY—VARSITY DRIVE.....SOLD for 98.4% of asking price
VARSITY—50 STREET.....SOLD for 98% of asking price
WEST HILLHURST—5 AVENUE.....SOLD for 98% of asking price

ON THE MARKET

105, 934-2 AVENUE NW (SUNNYSIDE)

Charming and spacious ground-floor corner condo offering around 800 sq. ft. of comfortable, low-maintenance living in a highly walkable location. This beautifully updated 2-bedroom, 1 full 4-piece bath unit features gleaming hardwood floors and fresh paint throughout. The totally renovated bathroom offers contemporary fixtures and a clean, stylish design. Additional updates include newer windows and interior doors. Short walk to shops (Safeway), bus stops, Sunnyside LRT station, next door to Acme Pizza and nearby parks, this condo combines comfort, style, and an unbeatable inner-city lifestyle.

Asking \$274,900 mls# A2275156

34, 1234 EDENWOLD HEIGHTS NW (EDGEMONT)

Perched at the top of Edgemont, this top floor suite delivers sweeping city and Nose Hill views from the living room and private balcony and comes with its own detached garage! The primary bedroom features a 3-piece ensuite; a second bedroom and full bathroom provide flexible space for guests or a home office. Large windows capture light and the panoramic outlook toward downtown. Practical perks include one surface parking stall directly in front of the building plus a rare included single detached garage – a standout in this market (what other condo comes with its own garage?).

Asking \$312,800 mls# A2269367

122 PANAMOUNT DRIVE NW (PANORAMA HILLS)

Well-located and family-friendly, this two-storey townhouse over 1,220 sq.ft. in Panorama Hills faces the open green space, offering privacy and a peaceful outlook. The main level features an open floor plan connecting the living and dining areas to a practical kitchen with a raised breakfast bar and large pantry – perfect for the everyday hustle and casual entertaining.

A covered deck off the kitchen expands your usable space. Upstairs you'll find three bedrooms and convenient second-floor laundry. The primary suite includes a four-piece ensuite accessed through a pocket door and a large walk-in closet. A half bath on the main floor adds convenience for guests. Ideal for first-time buyers and young families.

Asking \$394,900 mls# A2270329

42 COLLINGWOOD PLACE NW (COLLINGWOOD)

An outstanding brand new luxury home in the heart of Collingwood! >3,000 sq.ft. of opulent living space - stacked with plenty of features the builder has planned and executed meticulously throughout the process. At the center is a chef's kitchen with an oversized island, quartz counters and backsplash, LED-under-lighting, full-height cabinetry and a pot-filler above the 36" gas range. A coffee bar with cabinetry and a beverage fridge adds convenience. This home has a legal 2 bedroom basement suite and a double attached garage. Separate furnace systems, with AC installed for the main dwelling unit. Close to the Calgary Winter Club.

Asking \$1,149,900 mls# A2251770

BRENTWOOD—BOULTON ROAD

A beautifully kept bi-level home situated on a 51' x 110' lot in the sought-after community of Brentwood! With ~1,070 sq.ft. above grade, the main floor hosts three comfortable bedrooms and an updated 4-piece bathroom. The fully developed lower level features a spacious family room with large windows, a fourth bedroom, and a full 3-piece bathroom. Walk to all levels of schools, the community swimming pool, library, Brentwood Village shops and the updated Northland Shopping District, and the Brentwood LRT station.

Asking \$649,900 mls# A2260697

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