

FEBRUARY 2015

DELIVERED MONTHLY TO 3,000 HOUSEHOLDS

THE DEER RIDGE JOURNAL

THE OFFICIAL DEER RIDGE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

**BABYSITTER LIST
INSIDE**



Deer Ridge

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NEWSLETTER AD SALES

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Deer Ridge Community Association



Box 43052
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Visit our website at www.deerridgeca.com
If you have any questions or concerns, please
contact us at DeerRidgeCA@gmail.com

Board of Directors & Community Contacts

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Vice president	Gordon Miller	403-278-3353
Treasurer	Laura Rivero	403-452-0181
Secretary	Barb Chapin	403-285-9492
PAST PRESIDENT		
Past President	Karen Stevenson	
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Director of Membership	Dawn Wallace	
Director at Large	Alana Somers	403-984-3901
Director at Large	Lanis Anderson	
Director at Large	Katrina Porter-Belisle	403-441-9029
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Building Safe Communities	Katrina Porter-Belisle	403-441-9029
Movie in the Park Coordinator	Alana Somers	403-984-3901
Casino Coordinator	Bob Hall	403-278-6817
Casino Coordinator	Laura Rivero	403-452-0181
Ice Rink Coordinator	Gordon Miller	403-278-3353
Tennis Court Coordinator	Larry Lemieux	403-278-2199
Trico Representative	Karen Stevenson	403-278-3353
Newsletter Advertising	Great News Publishing	403-263-3044

OUR VISION

We will be a safe community with established programs and facilities, committed volunteers, and we'll be financially stable.

OUR MISSION

To enhance the quality of life in Deer Ridge for today and the future by establishing and fulfilling the common goals, needs and interests of our community.



MESSAGE FROM THE DEER RIDGE BOARD

Good day,

February is here and the days are getting longer. Here is looking forward to some upcoming events.

Deer Ridge Skate – Thank-you!

We would like to thank all of those that attended the Deer Ridge Winter Skate on January 10, 2015. It was a great afternoon at the Deer Ridge Community Ice Rinks. Those who attended enjoyed free hotdogs and hot chocolate along with the two wonderful ice surfaces (compliments to the ice rink volunteers). Thank you all for making the Deer Ridge Winter Skate a wonderful afternoon.

Help with the Ice Rinks

Halfway through winter and time is running out to get hands-on ice rink maintenance training from Gord Miller. This is the last season Mr. Miller will be taking care of the ice rink surfaces and facilities. If you would like to volunteer and take advantage of the training now, please contact Gord directly at 403-278-3353.

Call-out for Casino Volunteers

Each year, the Deer Ridge Community Association receives financial support from the Alberta Lottery Fund. These funds directly contribute to on-going facility operations such as the ice rinks and tennis courts, as well as planned improvements such as was done with the Yellowknife playscape rebuild last year.

In order to receive the funds from the Alberta Lottery Fund, the community must provide a list of volunteers to fill casino positions for two dates. If we are unable to meet the volunteer requirement, there may be a risk of not receiving funding. Previous experience is not required. Training and supervision are provided.

At this time the dates have not been set but if you are interested, please contact the Deer Ridge Community Association. A list of volunteer positions and dates will be provided soon.

Snow Angels

Are you interesting in being a Snow Angel, do you know someone who needs a Snow Angel, would you like to nominate a Snow Angel?

You can contact the City of Calgary by dialling 311. The City's "Community Home Assistance and Maintenance Program for Seniors" may be able to help those in need of assistance. The City also maintains a "Mow/Snow" list of persons providing maintenance services (some may include a fee for service).

It is easy to be a Snow Angel, just pick up a shovel and have at it. You may also contact the publisher of this newsletter: "Great News Publishing" and place a free "Community Announcement" offering to be a snow angel in your community.

Councillor Peter Demong's Ward 14 Talk - February 28, 2015

Join Councillor Demong at his next Ward 14 Aldertalk at Willow Ridge Community Association (680 Acadia Drive SE), noon to 2 p.m. If you have any Community or City concerns or questions to ask the Councillor, this is a great forum to talk to the Councillor directly.

Do you have suggestions for your community? Would you like to volunteer on the Board?

The next board meeting is:

Date and Time: Tuesday, February 17, 2015 at 7 PM

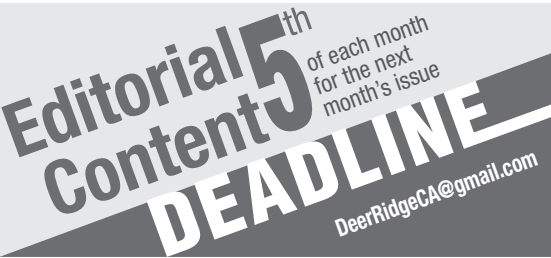
Location: The Trico Centre - Meeting Room 9

You may also contact the Deer Ridge Community Association by visiting the website: DeerRidgeCA.com, or by email: DeerRidgeCA@gmail.com. You may also like us on Facebook and follow on twitter: @DeerRidgeCA.

Thank you for your support and participation in the community!

DWallace, Membership Coordinator

Deer Ridge Community Association





DEER RIDGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM

Deer Ridge Community Association memberships expire August 31st, 2014. If you have not already renewed or purchased a 2014-2015 membership and would like to support your community, please fill out the form below and send it along with a cheque payable to the **Deer Ridge Community Association**. Are you wondering if you live in Deer Ridge? If you have received this letter, or the Deer Ridge Review community newsletter, in your mail-box then you live in Deer Ridge (see map). Thank-you in advance for your support because without the support of the community at large we cannot operate successfully.

What does your membership pay for? What are your benefits?

- Community Gardens
- Movies at Yellow Slide Park
- Community Newsletter
- Community Planning & Development
- Reconstruction of Children's Playgrounds
- Hockey & Pleasure Skating Rinks Community Safety/Clean Up
- Support for Community Soccer Fields
- Social Events
- Community Tennis Courts
- Deer Ridge Community has representation on the Trico Centre for Family Wellness Board and is a Community Partner with the Trico Centre. As a resident of Deer Ridge, you are eligible for saving on the many Trico membership options and programs.
- Your Community Association is your voice of the community to the City of Calgary on important issues.



Stay current with ongoing updates at website: www.deerridgeca.com/

Membership Application Form - Just fill in the form below and mail, with a \$15 cheque payable to Deer Ridge Community Association, to: DVPO Box 43052, Calgary, AB T2J 7A7

Or give to any current Member of the Deer Ridge Community Association Board. Your new membership card will be mailed to you.

If you would like to be notified by e-mail of upcoming community events or would like to be advised of community volunteer opportunities, please include your e-mail address below. (Will be used for community notifications only.)

2014-2015 DEER RIDGE MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Family Surname(s)/First Name(s): _____

Address: _____ Postal Code: _____

Primary Contact Number: _____

Secondary Contact Number _____

E-mail: _____

Free Red Cross Babysitter's Program

The Deer Ridge Community Association is sponsoring a Red Cross Babysitter's Program for children of Deer Ridge Community Member households.

The course date is tentative, pending enrolment, for Saturday, March 7, 2015 from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm. There will be breaks for snack and lunch. Students must be at least 11 years old and have permission of their parent/guardian to attend.

The Deer Ridge Community Association is covering the costs for the program however there is a \$15.00 advanced deposit required to be paid to the Deer Ridge Community Association. The deposit will be returned in full upon attendance of the course or, if notification is provided three weeks in advance of class date.

A current 2014-2015 Deer Ridge Community Association Membership is required (one membership per household). Please see the Membership Form page in this newsletter to renew/apply.

The program is being instructed by "Alberta Health and Safety Training Institute" (AHSTI).

The following is the program description provided by AHSTI:

This course is designed for responsible adolescents of 11 years and up who want to become a babysitter or may already be one. Red Cross Babysitter courses covers the responsibilities of a babysitter, safety tips for children of all ages, feeding and diapering babies, basic child care skills, and what to do in case of an emergency. Basic first-aid is also covered with rescue-breathing, choking, cuts, burn, etc. Each student will receive a Red Cross babysitter's manual, and a Red Cross Babysitter's completion card.

The following items are covered in this Red Cross - Babysitters Program class:

- Canadian Red Cross
- The Business of Babysitting
- Caring for Babies
- Caring for Toddlers
- Caring for Preschoolers
- Caring for School-aged Children
- Injury is No Accident: Creating Safe Environments
- How to Handle Emergencies and First Aid

At this time, enrolment is limited to 15 students. For further details or to sign-up for the program, please contact Membership Co-ordinator:

Dawn Wallace

Tel: (403) 606-7331

Email: dawn.wallace@shawbiz.ca

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Deer Ridge my babysitterlist

Name	Age	Contact	Course
Aliyah	12	403-248-2525	Yes
Amanda	13	587-899-8983	Yes
Ayden	15	403-880-4809	Yes
Brandie	33	403-802-2940	Yes
Calla	15	403-278-8736	Yes
Catherine	26	514-293-1395	Yes
Chery	42	403-875-8997	Yes
Chloe	17	587-998-0876	Yes
Christiane	18	403-991-0355	No
Claire	15	403-259-8680	Yes
Dakota	14	403-993-7525	Yes
Eden	14	403-225-2595	Yes
Garrett	16	403-708-7312	Yes
Georgia	22	403-660-3831	Yes
Gillian	15	403-259-8680	Yes
Heather	27	403-719-5371	No
Irfana	50	403-398-5219	Yes
Jane	49	403-467-3607	Yes
Jessica	24	403-970-5385	Yes
Jonahley	50	403-837-6348	Yes
Karena	15	403-808-8226	Yes
Maria	12	403-238-1766	Yes
Marina	13	403-708-3657	Yes
Mary	13	403-225-3366	Yes
Mattea	14	403-245-1436	Yes
Melinda	15	403-669-9770	Yes
Molly	13	403-630-5365	Yes
Nicole	16	403-862-8692	Yes
Rhys	14	403-399-7509	Yes
Sabrina	15	403-512-3171	Yes
Samantha	16	403-826-8398	Yes
Sarah	19	587-893-8109	Yes
Sonya	19	403-389-5921	Yes
Tierza	17	403-568-7298	Yes
Tierza	17	403-568-7298	Yes

in & around your community

MEND

Do you have a child aged 2 to 4 years?

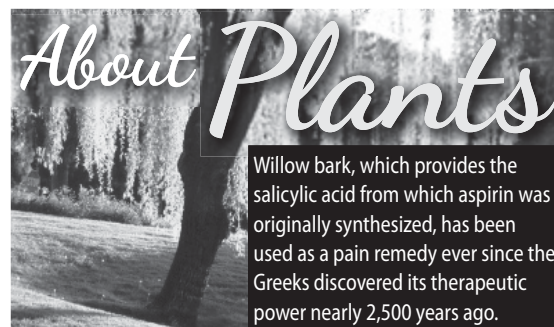
A FREE healthy lifestyle program for children ages 2 to 4 years and their families

AGES 2 - 4

10 sessions of fun family activities, information and active play to help you and your children lead fitter, happier, healthier lives!

Location: Southland Leisure Centre

For more information contact: Zoe Flowers-Reitsma
403-648-6576.



Calling All BABYSITTERS

Enroll free at mybabysitter.ca and choose the Calgary communities you would like to babysit in.

Calling All PARENTS

Visit mybabysitter.ca and find available babysitters in and around your community.

Disclaimer: We recommend for your own peace of mind that references be checked when choosing your babysitter. This babysitter list is provided as a service to the community and is governed by the terms & conditions outlined at mybabysitter.ca.

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your COMMUNITY business of the month

Around The Bend

Deer Ridge Community

Around The Bend is your local source for fresh soft pretzels and pretzel sandwiches. We believe in providing fresh fuel for your body through our house-made pretzels, buns, sauces, dips, and sandwich fillings. Our chef, Rob, has his diploma in Le Cordon Bleu Culinaire and brings his unique takes on fresh sandwiches, sauces and food to the Deer Valley Marketplace. He completed his chef training at the California Culinary Academy and returned to his native Calgary to pursue his culinary career.

Rob spent his formative years at this end of Calgary and was even a member of the 1991 City Champion Bantam Colts football team that is based out of the Deer Run Community Centre. Deer Run and Deer Ridge are vibrant and diverse communities, and Rob wanted to bring the unique concept of Around The Bend to these unique communities.

Around The Bend produces soft pretzels and pretzel buns daily. We start early so that our dough can rise and the pretzels and buns can be produced by hand. Our sauces and dips are all made in-house from scratch and our meats and sandwich fillings are roasted, grilled and prepared fresh in-house as well. You will not find deli meat on your sandwich at Around The Bend. We don't do fillers or preservatives! Try our soups and crisps (our take on fresh French Fries) that are done fresh in-house, from scratch. If you are looking for a place that will help you in your quest to find real food that is really good, we are just Around The Bend!

Our goal is to offer fresh and local products to our customers. We are working with local suppliers and farms to source as many of our products as possible from Calgary and the surrounding areas. For example, our sausage is

currently produced and supplied by Meadow Creek Sausage out of Claresholm. We are working to finalize agreements with other local suppliers for our other meats and vegetables.

We are located in the Deer Valley Marketplace shopping centre and we are, literally, Around The Bend from all the other stores. We are in the same building as the Co-op and are two doors to the right of their entrance (right across from the CIBC).

Around The Bend is open to serve you fresh soft pretzels and sandwiches Monday through Saturday from 11:00am to 8:00pm. Come visit us and see how good fresh can be!



Unit 3, 1221 Canyon Meadows Drive SE
403-523-0989

info@justaroundthebend.ca www.justaroundthebend.ca

Fresh Fuel for Your Body!

Bring in this advertisement and receive 15% off your next order* at Around The Bend



Come see how good fresh can be! Try our fresh soft pretzels or pretzel sandwiches, baked fresh daily, with our house made sauces, dips and fillings.

We are located in the Deer Valley Marketplace, 2 doors west of the Co-op entrance, across from CIBC.



*One redemption per advertisement. Cannot be combined with other offers.



11150 Bonaventure Drive SE. • www.tricocentre.ca

Trico Centre's Third Annual 40-Day Fitness Challenge

If you began a fitness and wellness program in January and are looking for a great way to keep your motivation up, why not take part in Trico Centre's 40-Day Fitness Challenge?

In its third year, the challenge runs from February 9 to March 20. Each time you work out for a minimum of 30 minutes, record your session on the chart and compete for prizes. You can choose any type of exercise you enjoy – strength training, cardio, yoga, aqua or one of 70 drop-in fitness classes offered each week and included with your membership. There will also be special challenges each week - complete the challenge and earn a day off from working out.

Prizes include draws for an annual pass and three personal training sessions. As well, there will be weekly draws for all participants who record a workout during that week.

The challenge is free for members. Not a member? You can still participate with a 40-Day Challenge Pass available for \$110, valid for the duration of the challenge.

Give your workouts a boost this month by taking on the Fitness Challenge at Trico Centre.

Family Day at Trico Centre

Monday, February 16 is Family Day. Bring the whole family in for a fun day at Trico Centre and receive 50% off pool and Leisure Skate admissions. Check our website for times and additional details.

Trico Centre is located at 11150 Bonaventure Drive SE. Residents of partnered communities pay 20% less for memberships than those who reside outside partnered communities. Phone: 403-278-5176 or see www.tricocentre.ca to find out more.

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Why: Why do X's at the end of a letter signify kisses?

Because: In the Middle Ages, when people were unable to read or write, documents were often signed using an X. Kissing the X represented an oath to fulfill obligations specified in the document. The X and the kiss eventually became synonymous.



Deer Ridge Real Estate Update

Last 12 Months Deer Ridge
MLS Real Estate Sale Price Stats

	Average Asking Price	Average Sold Price
December 2014	\$0	\$0
November 2014	\$439,140	\$435,500
October 2014	\$399,363	\$389,875
September 2014	\$378,900	\$373,950
August 2014	\$433,320	\$424,380
July 2014	\$398,650	\$400,375
June 2014	\$417,960	\$413,560
May 2014	\$413,422	\$406,666
April 2014	\$466,600	\$468,866
March 2014	\$359,680	\$371,000
February 2014	\$342,400	\$334,225
January 2014	\$348,700	\$348,485

Last 12 Months Deer Ridge
MLS Real Estate Number of Listings Stats

	No. New Properties	No. Properties Sold
December 2014	1	0
November 2014	2	5
October 2014	5	4
September 2014	2	2
August 2014	7	5
July 2014	5	4
June 2014	4	5
May 2014	7	9
April 2014	7	3
March 2014	6	5
February 2014	3	4
January 2014	6	7
Total	55	53

To view the specific SOLD Listings that comprise the above
MLS averages please visit deer-ridge.great-news.ca

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CONCRETE CUTTING FOR BASEMENT WINDOWS & DOORS & FLOORS: New openings or enlargements cut into foundation for basement windows and doors. Enlarge your existing basement windows to meet fire code for bedrooms, from cutting basement windows, doorways to supply and install quality windows, window-well, weeping-tile, core drilling, excavation and anything concrete cutting. Call 403-570-0555. Email: info@asapconcretecutting.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.

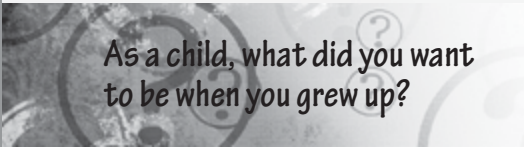
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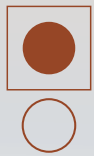
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As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?



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Yoki and Jeff's Parkland Report

Our 2014 Sales and Percentage of List Price Achieved

140 Parkridge Pl	101%
14544 Parkside Dr	98.7%
451 Parkvalley Dr.....	96.7%
180 Parkview Way	98.7%
131 Parkvalley Dr.....	97.3%
936 Parkwood Dr	99%
231 Parview Cr.....	98.4%
451 Parkview Cres.....	104.3%
13820 Park Estates Dr	98.9%
124 Parkland Grn	99.2%
32 Parkwood Rise.....	97.5%

***Fewer 2014 Sales due to lower inventory of homes for sale.**



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This is not intended to solicit properties now listed for sale



Jeff Nichol
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École Sam Livingston Elementary School

École Sam Livingston Elementary School has had a busy welcome to the New Year!

The New Year also brought “La semaine de la francophonie” to the school in an annual celebration of French Canadian culture. From January 28 to February 1, students and staff participated in a variety of French activities. The week began with a special breakfast of croissants and hot chocolate. Students learned about the Quebec Winter Carnival and created illustrations of French phrases which are displayed throughout the school. In addition, School Council hosted a family craft night with a traditional “Sugar Shack”.

Sam Livingston is proud to acknowledge two students from grade 6 who have been recognized as notable young writers. Their writing selections were chosen to be included in the Young Writer’s Annual Anthology of Verse which is published by the Poetry Institute of Canada, and Fledglings an anthology of young writers’ stories published by Dragonshoard Fantasy Publishing.

Studies amongst the students in January and February span a range of diversity. The Kindergarten children focused on winter animals and nutrition, grades 1-2 experienced indoor tennis, studied several Canadian communities and examined magnetism in science with the help from the Calgary Science Network. Grades 3-4 tested their engineering skills in a science unit that required them to build bridges as well as continued their studies of cultures from each continent. Constable Kathy Macdonald of Calgary Police Services visited the grade 3-6 students with a presentation about Online Safety. A special presentation for parents on this topic was also held. The grades 5-6 continue to work on a musical production of “The Legend of the Great Bear” as they examine legends and stories in language arts. We look forward to welcoming Michael Kusugak a visiting author, on March 4 and 5.



Feline Winter Woes

As the weather turns colder, we are less likely to want to be outside for extended periods of time. The same can be said for our pets. It seems unfair however, that cats are often treated differently than our canine companions. Dogs are brought in the house or put in a heated garage and provided with beds and blankets to keep them warm. But cats are often thought to be fine when left outside in the frigid weather. Simply put, they aren’t.

Although some may believe that cats are meant to wander and hunt, this is not the case. They are domesticated animals who need our care. Their built-in coats are not enough when the temperature goes below freezing.

Visit any animal shelter during the winter and you will invariably see cats who are suffering from frostbite, especially in their extremities. Cats left outside often lose the tops of their ears because they’ve been frozen so badly. If their ears, noses and toes are being frozen, you know they are feeling the cold everywhere else.

Responsible cat owners and guardians understand the value of their pets to their families, their well-being and to society and treat them accordingly.

But we all know that even when we are diligent about protecting our pets and keeping them inside, cats escape and get out of doors or windows every day in our city. They are curious creatures after all. Unfortunately, they may not always find their way back home.

We can all help to protect our own feline family members by providing licenses and permanent identification. This helps to ensure that if they do get out, they can be returned safe and sound. Identification shows others that your cat indeed has an owner and makes it easy to identify and contact you.

This winter, we can all help to change the plight of our city’s cats. If you see a cat wandering in your neighbourhood, you can check to see if he has identification. If you have the cat in your possession and he is wearing a license, call 3-1-1 to have an officer come to pick up the cat. In absence of a license, you can take the cat to the Calgary Humane Society or a vet clinic. You can also bring the cat to the Animal Services Centre if it is during regular business hours.

CALGARY BOARD OF EDUCATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Website: <http://www.cbe.ab.ca> • Email: boardoftrustees@cbe.ab.ca

What does a Trustee do?

As a Board of Trustees, we are elected to govern the Calgary Board of Education (CBE) in accordance with the School Act of Alberta. Our job is to represent, lead and serve parents, students and all Calgarians in matters of public education.

Our focus is on students and student achievement. On behalf of the community, Trustees provide leadership for the CBE by defining its mission, the results we want to achieve for students and expectations we have for how the CBE will operate. We then monitor actual performance against these expectations. This monitoring takes place at public board meetings.

Trustees also engage our parents and communities. We want to ensure we are delivering and maintaining a school system that reflects local priorities, values and expectations. Trustees are expected to communicate the views and decisions of the board back to their constituents.

Finally, Trustees are advocates for the CBE and its students. Education is regulated and funded by the Government of Alberta. Our advocacy work includes talking to the Minister of Education, MLAs and other government officials about the needs of our students and our school system.

Overall, the job of the Board of Trustees is to listen to our communities; guide the work of the school district; and approve plans, policies and the annual budget. Trustees are expected to make decisions that consider the needs of the entire school system, rather than the only representing the interests of our ward constituents.

We want to hear from you on matters concerning student learning and public education in Calgary. Your input on topics and issues related to kindergarten to Grade 12 education is important to us.

We welcome your comments, feedback and questions. You can contact the Board of Trustees at boardoftrustees@cbe.ab.ca.

Follow the Calgary Board of Education on Twitter @yycbedu.



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Sun (mid-Sept to mid-May) - noon – 5:00 pm

February at the Fish Creek library

Computer Technology Coaching. Drop in for one-on-one, volunteer help on using the Internet and Microsoft Office products.

Tuesdays, January 6 to April 28, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Baby Playdate. Bring your baby to the library for a relaxing hour of mixing and mingling with other babies and caregivers. Ages up to 23 months with a parent/caregiver. Wednesdays, January 7 to April 29, 11:30 - 12:30 p.m.

Drop-in Family Storytime. Drop in for stories, songs and finger plays the whole family can enjoy. Ages 2 to 5 with a parent/caregiver.

Thursdays, January 8 to April 30, 10:15 - 10:45 a.m.

Drop-in LEGO Club. Join us to build, create and explore! LEGO provided.

Thursdays, January 8 to April 30, 4 - 5 p.m.

New Friends and Neighbourhood Group for Women. Join other women as you improve English skills, share experiences and learn about community resources. Free childcare. Presented by the Calgary Immigrant Women’s Association.

Tuesdays, January 13 to April 28, 1 - 3 p.m.

Welcome to Canada: Engaging Newcomers in Volunteerism and Networking. Are you new to Canada? Would you like more information about gaining volunteering experience and expanding your networking circle? Join us for to learn strategies to become active civic participants. In partnership with the Calgary Bridge Foundation for Youth, School Settlement Program. Register by calling 403.875.4662 or 403.777.6074. Ages 18 and up. Saturday, February 21, 1 - 3 p.m.

CPO in Your Library. Canadian Natural Resources Limited presents Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra Musicians in concert - classical favourites for all ages! Monday, February 23, 12 - 1 p.m.



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community

cont'd ■ ■ ■

calgary reads

Show your love... With the gift of a book

February 14 each year is International Book Giving Day. The aim is to get books into the hands of as many children as possible.

The Book Giving Day is a global volunteer initiative and encourages people worldwide to give a book to a child. If you'd like to be part of this meaningful movement on February 14, you might:

- 1. Give a book to a friend or relative**
Celebrate International Book Giving Day by giving a child a new, used or borrowed book.
- 2. Leave a book in a waiting room or lobby**
Choose a waiting room where children are stuck waiting and there are few to no good books available. Purchase a good book, and deposit your book covertly or overtly in your waiting room of choice. The goal here is to spread the love of reading to kids, so choose a fun book, nothing controversial.
- 3. Donate a Book**
Wrap up a box of books that your children have outgrown and get them in the hands of children who could really use a book or two. Donate your books to a local organization serving children in need, a library, children's hospital, or shelter.

There are nonprofits locally and internationally that work year round to give books to children. Calgary Reads brings books to children who may have few through several programs including their Reading Rally special events held in area schools. Local businesses purchase books and their employees join in the fun to read aloud to small groups of children. It's all part of the commitment to increase literacy skills and build children's reading confidence and joy!

For lists of great children's books by age and resources to help your child develop critical literacy skills and develop a joy of reading, visit calgaryreads.com.

Remember too: Adult and children's books can always be donated to the CBC / Calgary Reads Big Book Sale that occurs each May.

CALGARY WILDLIFE



Short-eared Owl

Fly by Night

Article By: Katie Fisher
Picture By: Daniel Arndt

Owls provoke the thought of a wise creature, perched high in the trees, surveying over his kingdom below. Not all owl species fit this description, especially the Short-eared Owl. Aside from his skill and cunningness, he is in fact, quite the opposite of this notion.

He is medium sized, ranging from 13-17 inches in length and 7-17 ounces in weight. His feathers are brown, accented with tones of cream. They earn their name, "short-eared", from the small tufts of feathers on the sides of their head, resembling ears.

The Short-eared Owl chooses a life in the open country. He takes comfort soaring over the prairie meadows, across the marshes, to the open tundra and beyond. He is a popular owl species who spans all across the world, from the Hawaiian Islands, to the Northern-most tip of North America, the Southern-most tip of South America and throughout the Eurasia landmass.

When he settles and chooses a home for himself, he builds his nest in the grass on the ground, not in a tree like the owls we think of. The Short-eared Owl keeps his home hidden in the vegetation, lining it

with weeds, grass and feathers. If a predator lingers too long, the owl will lure them away by hopping, appearing to have an injury. Once his home is no longer threatened, the Short-eared Owl will take off, leaving his foe behind.

When the Short-eared Owl does decide take off, he doesn't fly up to the tree tops like we would assume. Instead, he flies close to the ground with a choppy flight pattern, due to irregular wing beats.

His diet is quite different in comparison to the small songbirds that litter our backyards. Rather than feeding on nuts and seed, he prefers to prey on small mammals, such as: mice, voles, bats, insects and small birds. He hunts mostly at night by flying low to the ground, listening carefully, trying to locate his next meal. Once located, he will bite the back of the skull to kill it, or swallow it whole.

If you come across an injured Short-eared Owl, please contact Calgary Wildlife Rehabilitation Society wildlife hotline at 403-239-2488.

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 Email: Calgary.Fishcreek@assembly.ab.ca
 Website: www.heatherforsyth.com

February is a wonderful time of year to gather together with family and celebrate community and love.

On a personal note, I want to assure all the people of Calgary-Fish Creek that after the rocky week in Alberta politics just prior to Christmas, I am excited to be in my new role as the interim leader of the official Opposition. Never before have I been more steadfast in my resolve to work ever more diligently on your behalf.

MLA Floor Crossing

Albertans remain in a state of shock. The betrayal they feel as they contemplate the scandalous abandonment of democratic principles held by once-trusted politicians will not heal quickly; nor should it. However, I assure you I will continue to work to fulfill the mandate you elected me on.

Opposition

Following are some comments from a column I wrote for the Calgary Herald December 30, 2014. The full article will be on my web page.

Let us be clear: Albertans have not lost the opposition they elected. I am here as the new interim leader and leader of Alberta's official Opposition. My colleagues and I will continue to hold this government to account.

We believe the people of our province deserve not only an effective Opposition, but a group of individuals fiercely committed to putting forward positive ideas that will lead to an even better and stronger Alberta. We will continue to be the fiscal watchdog for Alberta. We will work relentlessly to ensure Alberta has the tools in place to keep our markets free and to grow our economy. And of course we remain fully committed to strengthening democracy.

Upcoming Session and Budget

Writing this column early in January I can tell you, at this point, no dates have been set for either. By standing order, session will start the second Tuesday of February.

However, government can easily push that date back and it's assumed they probably will. So right now, both the start date for session and budget are up in the air.

Calgary Drop-In Center

If you received a new computer this holiday season, why not donate your old one to the Calgary Drop-In (DI) Center. In 2013, the DI distributed over 500 computers which helped people find employment or get a better job, to complete school work, and, in some cases, may have prevented homelessness. DI's Computers for Low-income Calgarians (CLIC) Program relies on donations of desktop computers, laptops, and accessories to provide free computers to low-income Calgarians. Your donation will provide low-income individuals and families with the tools they need to improve their lives. The DI can pick up computer donations (depending on the amount of computers being donated). All data stored on the computer is destroyed and the DI can provide a certificate of assurance upon request. All parts that cannot be used are recycled and no recycling fees are charged to the donor. Each refurbished computer is installed with the Windows operating system, purchased from the Microsoft Authorized Refurbisher Program. Every donated computer helps someone in need. Calgary Drop-In Center: 1 Dermot Baldwin Way SE Calgary 24 hours/day, seven days a week.



When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, "Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping." To this day, especially in times of disaster, I remember my mother's words and I am always comforted by realizing that there are still so many helpers—so many caring people in this world.

~Fred Rogers



**COUNCILLOR. WARD 14
PETER DEMONG**
www.calgary.ca/ward14
ward14@calgary.ca or 403 268-1653

Hi, Ward 14! February is a difficult month to write for. Things change quickly in the months leading up to February. The City's budget is decided in November, Christmas is in December and, of course, the New Year follows. Throw a 'curve ball' into that mix and it can be quite a busy time of year at City Hall. But what makes a February column truly tough to write is the fact that it must be written between Christmas and January 1. It's a time of year that has a very specific mindset.

I am currently preparing to thoroughly examine my 2015 property and business assessment details. When you read this, you will have had yours for about a month. Property and business assessments are more of a January topic. They are mailed in January, and that is when the 60 day "Customer Review Period" begins. The Customer Review Period is your opportunity to ensure that your property or business assessment is accurate.

I mentioned the Customer Review Period in detail last month, but it deserves this reminder. I devote so much of my time to scrutinizing the big ticket items that affect how much we all pay in taxes. It would be foolish for me to neglect the simplest thing that I can do; reviewing my assessment details. It would be foolish for you too. You have until March 6, and can find more information at www.calgary.ca/assessment.

Drop-in sessions for the planned Macleod Trail and 162 Ave Interchange—another topic deserving of a reminder—will be taking place in February. There will be two held at Bishop O'Byrne High School: one on February 18 between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m., and another on

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February 20 between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. You can find the details at www.calgary.ca/macleod162ave.

Some may remember giving feedback on preliminary plans for the interchange in October. The sessions in February will be a progress report, and another opportunity for you to provide input on what will be a major improvement for travel in south Calgary, and a critical piece of infrastructure for Calgary's transportation network overall. The planning study is expected to be complete this summer, and shovels are expected to be in the ground this year. The goal is to open to traffic in late 2017.

Round two of Aldertalk for 2015 is coming up soon. The first was at the Parkland community centre last month, and thank you to all those engaged citizens who shared their thoughts. The upcoming Aldertalk session will be at the Willowridge Community Centre (680 Acadia Drive SE) between noon and 2 p.m. Everyone is invited to join in the discussion, and I think you will find—like I always do—that it is quite interesting.

Until next month you can view the upcoming Aldertalk schedule at www.calgary.ca/aldertalk, and don't hesitate to contact me if there is something you want to discuss.

FEBRUARY MOON CALENDAR

	
Full Moon Feb 3	Last Quarter Feb 11
	
New Moon Feb 18	First Quarter Feb 25

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Deadline – 1st of each month for the next month's publication

Contact news@great-news.ca

- ◆ Free announcements: lost/found, household items for sale, wanted, garage sale, student/senior services, etc.
- ◆ Forty word limit



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~Dr. Seuss

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Calgary HEALTH LINK 24/7	403.943.5465
Calgary Police – Non Emergency	403.266.1234
Calgary Women's Emergency Shelter	403.234.7233
Child Abuse Hotline	1.800.387.5437
Child Find – Alberta	403.270.3463
Distress/Crisis Line	403.266.4357
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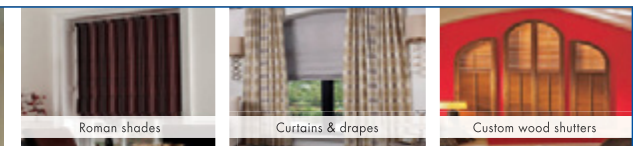
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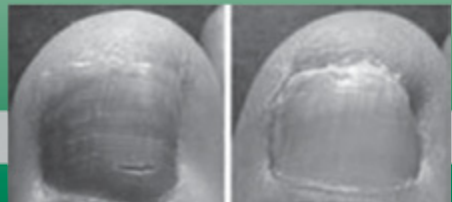
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