

APRIL 2023

DELIVERED MONTHLY TO 2,230 HOUSEHOLDS

RENFREW reflections

THE OFFICIAL RENFREW COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



**SAVE A BUNCH
OF CASH**

Expert advice | Excellent rates
Better mortgages



403-771-8771

anita@anitamortgage.ca



Your Patio Furniture Superstore!

YETI **Wicker Land Patio** **weber**

TRAEGER **BBQ LAND** RATANA **Modern Patio**

Located Three Blocks East of Chinook Mall
6125 Centre Street S, (403) 258-2506
WickerLand.ca

OFFICIAL

PLUMBING & HEATING

Plumbing Services
Furnace Install & Repair
Drain Cleaning
Boiler Install & Repair
Electrical

\$50

Service Call Fee



403-837-4023
info@officialplumbingheating.ca
official-plumbing-heating.ca



When You Step Out, WE Step In

Vacation and Vacant
Home Watch Service for
Insurance Requirements

Lynda Binder | Launa Germiquet | Pam Taylor
☎ 1-844-3-ATTEND ✉ info@greatattenders.com



Need Momentum in your life?

With our programs, you can...

**Train for a
Good Job**



**Manage and
Save Money**



**Start a
Business**



Are you ready to **Get Started**?
Visit momentum.org or call **403-272-9323**

Presidential Raccoon

In 1926, US President Calvin Coolidge was sent a raccoon who was supposed to be cooked for Thanksgiving dinner! Coolidge decided instead to adopt the critter. The family named her 'Rebecca' and gifted her with an engraved collar saying, "White House Raccoon."



Renfrew Community Association

Bottle Drive



Help Support the various initiatives at the Renfrew Community Hall

Collection Date:
The Last Saturday of Every Month



Drop-off Location:

Renfrew Community Hall
811 Radford Road NE
Donation Open from
9:00am-noon

Please stack neatly by the front door bench. Thank you!

For more information & other information about your Community Centre, please visit:

www.renfrewyyc.ca



Thank you for supporting us with your donation!

RENFREW COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

President	Mary-Grace Linton	president@renfrewyyc.ca
Vice-President External	Vacant	vp.external@renfrewyyc.ca
Vice-President Operations	Kurt Thorsen	vp.operations@renfrewyyc.ca
Secretary	Nancy Lutz	secretary@renfrewyyc.ca
Treasurer	Vacant	treasurer@renfrewyyc.ca
Past President	David Barrett	past.president@renfrewyyc.ca

DIRECTORS

Communications	Jhernelyn Parinas	communications@renfrewyyc.ca
Community Health and Wellness	Aysia Stante	wellness@renfrewyyc.ca
Events and Volunteers	Vacant	volunteer@renfrewyyc.ca
Information Technology	Curtis Linton	master@renfrewyyc.ca
Membership	Kara Levis	membership@renfrewyyc.ca
Planning and Development	Wade Belbin	planning@renfrewyyc.ca
Social Room	Mike Stante	social@renfrewyyc.ca
Transportation and Mobility	Yaman Alchirazi Alsabbagh	traffic@renfrewyyc.ca
Director at Large	Heike Pauli	director1@renfrewyyc.ca

HALL RENTALS

Visit our website for details: www.renfrewyyc.ca hallrentals@renfrewyyc.ca

OTHER CONTACTS

Renfrew Community Garden	Lisa	rcacommunitygarden@gmail.com
Airport Community Consultative Contact	Eva	c/o contact@renfrewyyc.ca
Newsletter Editor	Mikki	newsletter@renfrewyyc.ca

the Gutter Doctor

- Gutters • Downspouts • Fascia
- Soffit • Siding • Roofing • Cladding
- Gutter Cleaning

403-714-0711 • gutterdoctor.ca

SCAN HERE TO VIEW ADDITIONAL RENFREW CONTENT

News, Events,
& More



Crime
Statistics



Real Estate
Statistics



JELLY BEAN DANCE

APRIL 14, FRIDAY

6:00PM - 9:00PM

6:00PM CHILDREN 8 & UNDER ONLY

7:00PM EVERYONE IS WELCOME



- ADMISSION \$5
- FAMILY \$20
- CONCESSION
- DOOR PRIZES
- LIVE DJ
- 811 RADFORD RD



Renfrew Community Garden Update

by Lisa Mulder

By this time of year, we are anxious to get our gardens started. But living and working in Calgary, we know that spring can be unpredictable, and summers are short. Early frosts, late frosts, heavy spring rains, heavy late spring snowfalls, even hail tends to thwart our most earnest spring efforts. Here are some of the strategies that we can employ to get an early start to gardening and avoid some traps.

First, as soon as the ground begins to defrost, you can start preparing your garden beds. This is a great time to clean up the dead stuff from last summer, supplement with compost, and turn your soils. Although methods differ, I like to top with compost and then turn the soil with a large spade shovel without overly disrupting the soil structure. Then I smooth the surface with a metal rake. My garden is ready to go!

Then there are seeds that you can sow as soon as the ice is out of the soil, even in March. These guys don't care about spring frost or snow: radishes, spinach, and lettuce. In fact, these vegetables thrive in cold weather, and you'll find that as soon as the weather warms up, they are finished. The trick to getting lovely, plump, red radishes is to harvest them in June!

A few weeks later when the temperatures are more consistently above 0°C, you can plant your hardier vegetables: Swiss chard, beets, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cauliflower, cabbage, collards, English peas, kale, kohlrabi, leeks, mustard greens, parsley, turnips, and onions. Some of our community gardeners love to plant carrot and potato seeds at about this time. They are planted and covered (covered by some soil and even a cloth or burlap), which helps to insulate them from unexpected frosts.

Finally, save your hot weather vegetables for planting in mid-May; by this time, the risk of frost is almost completely over. These include tomatoes, eggplant, beans, cucumbers, peppers, squash (including zucchini and pumpkin), and melons. Most need longer growing seasons than our summers can provide, so either start them indoors in March or buy them ready to go at your local greenhouse in May.

Despite our best efforts, we can't predict the weather. In one recent year, the spring rains were so overwhelming that it washed away my lettuce seeds several times. Now I buy up to four packets of lettuce seeds just in case I have to replant. Some of our community gardeners subscribe to the idea that it is easier to cover small seedlings early in the spring to protect against late spring frosts than it is to cover large plants in the fall to protect against early autumn frosts! In the year that I put in my garden, we didn't finish the bed until June 7, and everything was planted after that. Nevertheless, we had a great harvest! So don't overly stress out about getting everything in ASAP; regardless of how early or late you start, you'll have an amazing summer of gardening!

There are some amazing articles and information about spring gardening online. And don't forget to check out the Renfrew Community Garden at <https://renfrewcommunitygarden.wordpress.com/>.



Disclaimer: The opinions expressed within any published article, report, or submission reflect those of the author and should not be considered to reflect those of Great News Media or the Community and/or Residents' Association. The information contained in this newsletter is believed to be accurate but is not warranted to be so.

Great News Media and the Community and/or Residents' Association do not endorse any person or persons advertising in this newsletter. Publication of any advertisements should not be considered an endorsement of any goods or services.

COMMUNITY CLEAN UP

Renfrew Community Association

811 Radford Road NE

Saturday, June 3 9am - 2pm

Volunteers Needed
Email: director1@renfrewyyc.ca

Scan me for
more info:



Yard & Household Waste

Electronics, Metals, Tires, Bicycles, BBQs

Clothing, Small Household Items, Furniture

Treasure Area - leave an item / take an item

NO CHEMICALS, OILS, PAINT, COMMERCIAL WASTE

GAMES & PUZZLES

Trivia: Calgary Edition

1. What year did the Calgary Flames win the Stanley Cup?
2. What was Calgary's original name?
3. What iconic indie pop duo hails from Calgary?
4. In 1969, what cocktail did Walter Chell invent in Calgary?
5. Who was Canada's flag bearer at Calgary's 1988 Winter Olympics?



**SCAN THE QR CODE
FOR THE ANSWERS!**



Renfrew Community Association

SOCIAL ROOM PUB

FRIDAY NIGHTS - 7PM ONWARDS

Family Friendly (closed long weekends)

Keeping Honeybees for the Wrong Reasons

by Nichol Piniak

As a fitting phrase for the broad realm of keeping bees, the title of this article has been borrowed with permission from a wise man, who lives right here in Calgary. There are many kind people who want to partake in the making of a better planet and, perhaps, provide a learning opportunity for their children. My goal is to use some of my experiences, and some wisdom from individuals such as Ron Miksha, the aforementioned wise man, to help you make an informed decision because it's actually a bigger one than you might think, with many considerations. I'd like to start with the matter of economics.

People have many reasons for taking the plunge, but ultimately you will find yourself surprised by the cost of a single bee colony. By the time you buy your bees, take some courses, and acquire the required tools, you will have a substantial investment. There are thrifty ways to get started but, unless you have a particular set of skills and are fortunate enough to have contacts that might be able to assist you in acquiring bees, you will still find yourself spending a lot of money; it's unavoidable. You might reason that the honeybees will pay for their own upkeep with honey and other hive bi-products; however, this expectation should be considered in the context of some very important challenges. In 2020, Ron did a survey of 300 Calgary beekeepers. Approximately 20% responded and 75% of respondents stated that economics was a motivating factor (making honey for the family or selling it to earn cash) in their decision to keep bees. Over 50% of this group also made their choice based on a desire to help flowers, bees, and the environment, by keeping honeybees.

Regardless of why, climate change is real and is truly impacting the city and rural areas. It will take time to adapt, but in the meantime, not only are farmers struggling from the effects, but the increased dryness and lack of moisture is a profound problem. You might see flowers on plants, but this does not mean those flowers are brimming with nectar, which is what bees eat and store to become honey. Nectar must be abundant to support a single honeybee colony. Honeybees are a super organism that will fight for survival, even

between colonies, and there are a surprising number of beekeepers in every district. A single hive will have between 40,000 to 80,000 bees and most hobby beekeepers have multiple hives. When I was keeping bees, I witnessed many colonies become stressed from the hot weather which, in turn, causes the flowers to produce little to no nectar. I would watch the colony work in vain and then resort to robbing nearby hives that were weaker, hoping to survive winter.

An Alberta winter is a long period, and the bees need food from the last flowers of fall to the first ones in spring. If the flowers are dry or not present, beekeepers will often replace nectar with a blend of sugar and water. This is costly and not an adequate nutritional replacement for floral nectar – it's supposed to be used as a temporary and emergency supplement for bees when their natural source of nectar is unavailable. If an eager beekeeper is out of pocket and eyeing their bees to "earn their keep," they may decide that removing a portion of honey is a way to recover some money, but there are two fundamental problems. It is easy to remove more resources than a colony can afford. The "solution" to this is feeding syrup is a 1:1 blend of sugar and water. However, a large portion of what the bees store on this substitute is just stored sugar water, not the honey we know and love and it does not provide the bees with the nutritional value they need to survive a harsh winter and/or prolonged spring. Feeding syrup during climate events or to compensate for removing too much honey leads to a vicious cycle of costs and false expectations – weigh it all carefully before proceeding.

My last words are this, please spare a thought for our native bees and other pollinators. When you see the phrase "save the bees," these are the bees that are truly at risk due to climate change. They are the ones that we rely on that are native to our region; we need them. If honeybees, which require considerable time, money, and manpower, are permitted to consume what nectar is available within the confines of the urban environment, then what are we leaving for the bumblebees and other native pollinators?



VOLUNTEER

Bartenders Are Needed

Join the Social Committee today!



QUALIFICATIONS:

- RCA Community Member
- ProServe
- Friendly
- Community minded

To find out more information, email social@renfrewyyc.ca or go to our Volunteer Portal at <https://renfrew.getcommunal.com>

Register for your free membership
or free renewal online today and...

BECOME A VIP MEMBER

WWW.RENFREWYYC.CA/MEMBERSHIPS

Membership Types

- Regular Adult or Regular Family (voting)
- Associate, including Business (non-voting)
- Seniors 65+ & Full Time Students (50% off rates)
- City of Calgary Fair Entry Program Cardholder

Questions or need in person signup?

Email: membership@renfrewyyc.ca

BUSINESS CLASSIFIEDS

For business classified ad rates contact Great News Media
at 403-720-0762 or sales@greatnewsmedia.ca

OFFICIAL PLUMBING & HEATING: Small company, low overhead, excellent warranties, and great rates. Specializing in residential service and installs. Services include furnace service and replacement, hot water tank service and replacement, leaks, clogs, gas fitting, and more. Licensed and insured. Why wait? Call today and get it fixed today! Available 24/7, we accept debit/VISA/MasterCard. Call 403-837-4023 or email info@officialplumbingheating.ca. www.official-plumbing-heating.ca.

RENFREW MORTGAGE BROKER: SAVE A BUNCH OF CASH! As a Calgary mortgage broker, I have helped your neighbors navigate their purchase, refinance, and renewal options. If you are looking for expert mortgage advice, excellent rates, many options, and better financing, Call Anita at 403-771-8771 | anita@anitamortgage.ca | Licensed by Avenue Financial.

LANDSCAPING & WINDOW CLEANING: Weekly yard care starting at \$39. Decorative mulch, rock, soil and sod installation. Window or gutter cleaning starting at \$109; interior or exterior. Garden beds, stone patios, walkways and rock walls. Deck and fence builds, small concrete jobs and synthetic grass installation. A+ Member of BBB. Licensed and 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.

GUTTER DOCTOR: Home exterior services. We do eavestrough cleaning, repairs, and installation as well as downspouts, fascia, soffit, siding, roofing, cladding, leaf screens, and heat cables. Local business for over 20 years with more than 50,000 happy customers! Licensed, insured, and WCB. A+ rated BBB member. Multi award-winner. Quality work with a warranty! www.gutterdoctor.ca, 403-714-0711.



Tiny Tots is Back!

WHAT IS Tiny Tots?

Renfrew Community Association Tiny Tots Co-operative Playgroup is a committee of parent volunteers who provide a program geared towards children not yet in school (age 5 and under). It is a parented, non-structured playtime where children can have fun, as well as learn and develop their skills in sharing, interactive play and creativity.

And it's a great way for parents to socialize with their neighbours!

WHERE IS Tiny Tots?

The RCA Tiny Tots program runs out of the West (lower) hall of the Renfrew Community Association. The facility includes access to washrooms and a change table as well as a variety of toys, train tables and mats available for use.

WHEN IS Tiny Tots?

Tiny Tots will run 3-4 days a week based on volunteer availability. Based on input from participants on the days and times that would serve our community best, Tiny Tots will be open from 9:30am-11:00am on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, and 11:30am-1:00pm on Wednesday. The program will operate on a drop-in system so once you are registered, you can come along as often as you like!

Want to learn more?

We are looking for participants and volunteers on an ongoing basis.

To learn more or to get involved please sign up at

https://renfrew.getcommunal.com/member/parent_programs/415

or email TinyTots@renfrewyyc.ca



Child's First Dental Visit

Come Celebrate With Us

At Alpine Dental, we recognize that your child's first dental visit is exciting. We think it is exciting too and want to celebrate the occasion with you. We will make the experience as fun as possible and still achieve all the necessary goals for a dental visit.

We will: Present your child with a personalized children's dentistry book. Celebrate with a goody bag. Take pictures of your child's visit, which we will print out to take home and also email to you.

Along the way, we will also:

- Complete a cavity risk assessment
- Offer anticipatory guidance
- Examine your child's teeth for decay
- Examine your child's gums and soft tissue for disease or problems
- Determine when x-rays and fluoride treatments should be started
- Evaluate the way that your child's teeth fit together, i.e. "the bite"
- Identify any potential problems or deleterious habits
- Show you and your child how to properly clean his or her teeth at home
- Answer your questions or concerns



AT ALPINE DENTAL WE GIVE YOU A REASON TO SMILE!

✧ **FEEL THE SPARKLE IN YOUR SMILE AGAIN!** ✧

All patients receive **FREE teeth whitening FOR LIFE.**

Ask us for details.



Dentistry with a Personalized Caring Approach.

We are dedicated to working closely with you to create a high quality treatment plan that matches your oral health goals and needs. We work together as a team to provide a thorough, personalized treatment plan in a friendly atmosphere. Give us a call, or better yet, come on in and see us.

- Dr. Laura Brescia

All services performed by a general dentist

Open Evenings & Saturdays

Find Out More: alpinedentalcare.ca

☎ (403) 294-1077

 **ALPINE DENTAL**

📍 #100, 180 9th St. NE

YOUR HOME **SOLD**

THOMAS KEEPER



954 Drury Avenue - Bridgeland

Listed at \$2,200,000



1015 Drury Avenue - Bridgeland

Listed at \$998,000



121 James River Landing - Sundre

Listed at \$624,900



510 7 Street NE - Bridgeland

Listed at \$554,900



56 6 Street NE - Bridgeland

Listed at \$545,500



407, 2130 17 Street SW - Bankview

Listed at \$167,900

“KEEPER,
A Trusted Name in
Real Estate”
403-542-8084



Not intended to solicit properties already listed by another Realtor.
Properties listed by Tink Real Estate 709 Edmonton Trail NE. Information herein deemed reliable but not guaranteed.

