

FEBRUARY 2025

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THE OFFICIAL SANDSTONE & MACEWAN COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



Nose Hill Sunset by Jennifer Bidlake Schroeder

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Number of Residents: _____ Children's Ages: _____

Date: _____ Signature: _____

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Leap Year



There are two boxes that must be checked off for a year to be a Leap Year. First, it must be divisible by four; second, it will not be divisible by 100 unless it's also divisible by 400. 2025 does not check off these boxes, but you can still look forward to it because the next Leap Year will be February 29, 2028!

MANY OTHER PACKAGES AVAILABLE!

BATHROOM RENOVATION SALE

SUPREME ULTIMATE

- Remove all old materials from bathroom and job site
- Supply & install new acrylic soaker tub
- Supply & install new toilet with soft close seat
- Supply & install new Delta pressure balance taps
- Supply & install new showerhead & diverter spout
- Supply & install new mold-resistant board
- Supply & install new tile to ceiling
- Supply & install one corner caddy & soap dish
- Supply & install new subfloor
- Installation of new tile flooring
- Supply & install new vanity
- Supply & install new granite or quartz countertops with undermount sink
- Supply & install new Delta vanity tops
- Supply & install new drain system & pop-up stopper

ABSOLUTELY NO HIDDEN COSTS

Some restrictions may apply. Reg: \$15,679

SALE \$11,679
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TUB TO SHOWER CONVERSION

- Remove all old materials from bathroom and job site
- Supply & install one custom shower stall 60" x 30"
- Supply & install new water resistant board
- Tile Schluter base
- Supply & install new tile to ceiling
- Supply & install custom shower doors
- Supply & install new Delta pressure balance taps
- Supply & install new toilet with soft close seat
- Supply & install one corner caddy with soap dish

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SANDSTONE MACEWAN

Community Association

sandstonemacewan.com

Becoming a member is easier than ever!

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Sandstone/MacEwan Community Association Meetings

are held the second Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm at the Berkshire Citadel-Sandarac Drive NW. Everyone is welcome to attend.

February Is Heart Month

by Alberta Health Services



Do you know the signs and symptoms of a heart attack and what to do if someone experiences these? Knowing may make the difference between life and death. Recognizing and responding immediately to the warning signs of a potential heart attack may significantly improve survival and recovery. February is Heart Month: take the time to be heart safe and learn how you can reduce your risk.

Common Signs of a Heart Attack

(Any, or all, of these signs and symptoms may occur)

- Chest discomfort described as simply a mild pressure up to a 'crushing' pain; may also be 'squeezing' or a 'heavy' sensation.
- Discomfort may move to the shoulders, arm, neck, or jaw.
- May include shortness of breath, sweating, or nausea/vomiting.
- Signs may vary person to person and can differ between men, women, and the elderly.

Heart Attack Risk Factors

- Obesity*
- Sedentary lifestyle*
- Smoking*
- High cholesterol*
- Age/Gender
- Family history

Speak with your doctor about how to treat your modifiable (*) risk factors and learn to be heart safe.

What To Do When Seconds Count

- Call 911, immediately. Early treatment can greatly reduce heart damage and be the difference between life and death.
- Treatment starts the moment EMS arrives. Paramedics can provide oxygen, start an intravenous, and perform an electrocardiogram (ECG).
- Paramedics can also administer important medication(s) in the early minutes of a heart attack to lessen heart damage.
- During transport, EMS will share information with the hospital so that definitive treatment can begin immediately upon arrival.
- Take a CPR/AED course. Training is widely available from many reputable organizations. It's easy and could make a significant difference in the outcome of someone experiencing a heart attack.

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Community Association

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our Rinks this Winter!**



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info@sandstonemacewan.com

How to Know if You Are Ready For Couples Therapy or Not

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



There are many approaches to couples therapy such as Gottman Method, Emotionally Focused Therapy, and IMAGO to name a few. The decision to seek couples therapy requires evaluating your relationship and your willingness to work through challenges. The following are some key signs that you may be ready:

- 1. Communication Issues** – Do you struggle to express your feelings without arguing or shutting down? Are there unresolved conflicts that keep resurfacing?
- 2. Feeling Disconnected** – Has the emotional or physical intimacy in the relationship declined? Do you feel like roommates rather than partners?
- 3. Recurring Problems** – Are you stuck in repetitive arguments or unhealthy patterns? Have individual efforts to fix these issues failed?
- 4. Life Changes or Stressors** – Have recent events (moving, new baby or job) put a strain on your relationship?
- 5. Trust Issues** – Has there been a betrayal such as an infidelity or broken promises? Are you struggling to rebuild trust?
- 6. Desire to Improve** – Are you both willing to put in the effort to strengthen the relationship? Do you believe the relationship has potential for growth?
- 7. Mutual Commitment** – Are you both open to exploring therapy, even if one of you is more hesitant at first?
- 8. Individual Challenges Impacting the Relationship** – Are personal issues such as stress, trauma, or mental health affecting how to connect with each other?

If you relate to some of the above, couples therapy could be beneficial. Even if you're unsure, seeking therapy to explore some of these concerns and set goals can be a proactive step.

The following are some signs that couples therapy could be unproductive or even counter-productive:

- 1. Lack of Commitment to Change** – One or both of you are not genuinely willing to work on the relationship. Going to therapy just to 'check the box' or appease the other.
- 2. Blaming Without Accountability** – If either of you is solely focused on blaming the other without reflecting on your own role in the relationship's challenges.
- 3. Unwillingness to Communicate Honestly** – If either of you are unwilling to be vulnerable, open, and honest, your therapist won't have a full picture to be able to help you.
- 4. Hidden Agendas** – If therapy is being used as a way to justify leaving the relationship rather than to repair it, the process won't be effective.
- 5. One of You is Being Forced into Therapy** – If one of you does not want to attend or doesn't believe in the process, lack of engagement can hinder the process.
- 6. Ongoing Abuse** – Couples therapy is not the right setting to address physical, emotional, or verbal abuse. These situations require specialized interventions to ensure safety and require individual therapeutic attention.
- 7. Unresolved Individual Issues** – If personal issues such as active addiction or untreated mental health conditions are dominating the relationship dynamics, individual therapy is a better starting point before engaging couples therapy.
- 8. Timing is Off** – If there are active external factors like intense work stress, a recent traumatic event, or other life circumstances, it will leave little energy or focus for therapy. It may be better to wait.
- 9. Desire for Separation** – If one of you has already decided to end the relationship and sees therapy as a formality, it will obviously prevent any genuine engagement.

Being ready for couples therapy requires mutual willingness and effort, but readiness can evolve with time and self-reflection.

RUNNER UP 📷 PHOTOS



Hockey Rink by Geoff Harding



Ice Crown by Colin May

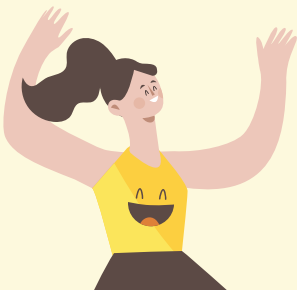


Skate Party by Joan M.



Skate Party (2) by Joan M.

See all photo submissions at sandstonemacewan.com/news/general/smca-photo-contest-2024.



Word of the Month

Eudaemonia: noun (yoo-di-moh-nee-uh)

Happiness, well-being, good spirit.

*We are all trying to experience
Eudaemonia.*



News from the Friends of Nose Hill

by Anne Burke

Natural parkland is green space with a (relatively) low level of maintenance and natural or naturalizing vegetation. Natural areas are accessible (by trail networks) or have limited/little public access. A master plan deals with current and future needs by population for park/greenspace. The Municipal Protected Areas Program demonstrates how biodiversity will be protected, conservation lands connected, and how Canadians will gain an appreciation for local nature. A Municipal Eco Toolkit by the Miistakis Institute for Alberta municipalities will help maintain their natural infrastructure systems (municipal30x30.ca).

Nature Canada is building a web of partners to help Canada achieve its biodiversity conservation goals to protect 30% of land, water, and marine areas by 2030. As of 2022, Canada has only protected 13.7% of land. The Canadian City Parks Report surveyed 35 Canadian municipalities, 2,500+ residents of Canadian cities, as well as park staff and other professionals across the country. One-third of cities said addressing federal biodiversity and land protection goals are a high priority. When 81% of Canadians are living in urban areas, protecting land in urban areas is vital. Cities are in dire need of new space for parks. Park budgets are not keeping pace. Partnerships are critical when cities need policies and structures. Park issues are increasing and require more training and collaborations. Departmental structures can promote collaboration or disconnection. Some residents feel disempowered but still want to engage. Mental and physical health benefits are key although there is a lack of programs. There are nine case studies in the 2024 Report which includes analysis of key data from surveys of both municipal staff and residents of Canadian cities, for new and ongoing issues facing parks, and how to help city staff make better decisions about programs, policies, and funding. Read more at parkpeople.ca.

YYC West Runway Rehabilitation community information sessions

Session d'information publique :
Réhabilitation de la piste ouest de YYC

February 18, 6 - 8 p.m.

18 Février de 18:00 à 20:00

Crossroads Community Association (1803 14 Ave NE)

February 19, 6 - 8 p.m.

19 Février de 18:00 à 20:00

Vivo for Healthier Generations (11950 Country Village Link NE)

February 20, 6 - 8 p.m.

20 Février de 18:00 à 20:00

Vivo for Healthier Generations (11950 Country Village Link NE)

February 25, 6 - 8 p.m.

25 Février de 18:00 à 20:00

Genesis Centre (7555 Falconridge Blvd NE)

February 26, 6 - 8 p.m.

26 Février de 18:00 à 20:00

Genesis Place (800 East Lake Blvd NE, Airdrie, AB)

Learn more about how this project will impact your community:

En savoir plus sur l'impact de ce projet sur votre communauté :

yyc.com/WestRunaway



YYC YEG YUL

BRAIN GAMES SUDOKU

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SCAN THE QR CODE FOR THE SOLUTION



Winter Salad with Green Dressing

by Jennifer Puri



Cranberries are rarely eaten raw due to their acidic and sour taste. They are typically consumed dried, in a juice, sauce, or as supplements. Dried cranberries are typically sweetened with sugar or a sugar alternative.

Related to blueberries, bilberries, and lingonberries, cranberries are a rich source of plant compounds and antioxidants which include flavonoids and polyphenols. These help in keeping blood vessels healthy and cranberries' vitamin C and calcium content assist in maintaining strong bones.

There are a multitude of ways to enjoy cranberries as they can be added to muffins, tarts, breads, stuffing, smoothies, spritzers, sangria, or a salad as shown in the winter salad with green dressing recipe below.

Prep Time: 25 minutes

Cook Time: 35 minutes

Servings: 4

Ingredients:

- 1 small butternut squash
- 2 tbsp. olive oil
- 1 tsp. coarsely ground salt
- 1 tsp. coarsely ground black pepper
- 1 small can sliced pears or peaches, drained
- 1 small can beets drained, rinsed, and cut in halves
- 6 cups arugula or baby spinach leaves
- 1 cup chopped walnuts
- ½ cup dried cranberries

Dressing:

- 2 garlic cloves, chopped
- 3 green onions, sliced
- 1 cup Greek yoghurt
- 1 cup of fresh coriander and parsley leaves
- 2 tbsp. honey
- 2 tbsp. mayonnaise
- Juice of half a lemon
- 2 tsp. olive oil
- ½ tsp. coarsely ground black pepper
- ¾ tsp. salt or to taste

Directions:

- Preheat oven to 375 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Slice butternut squash into 1-inch-thick pieces and remove seeds, pith, and skin.
- Place squash pieces in a bowl and toss with olive oil, salt, and pepper.
- Line a baking tray with foil and place the squash pieces on it. Bake on middle rack of oven for approximately 30 minutes or until tender. Allow to cool and then cut into bite size pieces.
- In a blender place the garlic, green onion, yoghurt, honey, mayonnaise, parsley, coriander, lemon juice, salt, and pepper. Pulse until smooth and then slowly add the olive oil and pulse for a few more seconds.
- Place arugula or spinach leaves in a large salad bowl. Arrange the squash pieces, beets, pear or peach slices around the edges of the bowl and the walnuts and cranberries in the center.
- Serve with green dressing and crusty, sourdough, or ciabatta bread.

Bon Appétit!



Carolyn's Corner: Cut Above the Rest - Expert Pruning Strategies for Large Trees

by TJ Yurko

Tree care is a holistic practice that is part art, part science, and all about the intricate balance between nature versus nurture. Pruning achieves this balance by improving tree health, aesthetics, and safety. By understanding how to achieve this balance, you can keep your trees standing tall for many years to come.

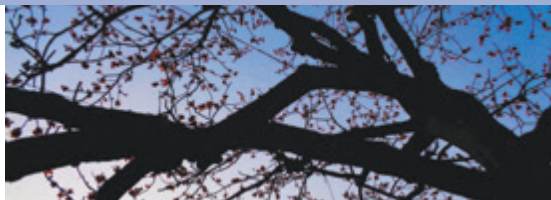
Big Trees, Big Responsibility

Pruning techniques vary based on a tree's age, size, and species. Young tree pruning focuses on developing a strong framework by creating good structure. As trees grow and mature, pruning shifts toward maintaining health and safety. Tree size proportionately affects pruning complexity, with larger trees requiring know-how of chainsaws, ropes, climbing, rigging, and aerial lifts. Tree species also influences pruning response and compartmentalization. Therefore, researching and personalizing a maintenance plan for your tree ultimately helps promote its long-term health and vitality.

Making the Cut

Proper pruning technique is key. Improper pruning cuts cause stress, decline, and even death, so don't bark up the wrong tree with bad pruning habits. Instead, follow these guidelines for proper pruning cuts every time:

- Define pruning objectives.
- Preserve the tree's natural shape.
- Remove dead, damaged, and diseased branches.
- Reduce overextending branches.
- Avoid removing > 25% of the canopy.
- Avoid pruning oversized branches (> 4" diameter).
- Apply the three-cut method for larger branches.
- Make the final cut just outside of the branch collar.
- Use clean, disinfected tools.



Safety First

Safety is paramount when pruning large trees, so use basic safety considerations to prevent accidents and injury:

- Follow ANSI Z133 Safety Requirements.
- Wear CSA-approved personal protective equipment and fall-protection systems.
- Inspect and maintain equipment regularly.
- Ensure work area is clear of hazards.

Pruning is a skilled task that requires exceptional knowledge and precision. When in doubt, consult with a professional arborist to ensure your trees receive the best care possible.

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Winter Sun Safety: Protecting Yourself Year-Round

by Alberta Health Services

When winter arrives, many people living in Alberta may stop thinking about sun safety. However, ultraviolet radiation (UVR) can still pose a health risk, even in the chilly months.

UVR comes from the sun but is invisible to humans. Two of the three forms of ultraviolet light, UVA and UVB rays, reach the earth and can harm you.

Around 65 to 90 percent of all skin cancers are linked to UVR exposure. Melanoma is the most serious type of skin cancer. In Alberta, around one in 42 males and one in 46 females will develop melanoma within their lifetime. From those who develop melanoma, around one in 276 males and one in 674 females will die.

Ultraviolet Radiation Reflects Off the Snow

During winter, UVR can be as harmful as in the summer. The UV Index is a rating of how strong the sun's rays are. The higher the UV rating, the more careful you have to be when outside in the sun.

When skiing, snowshoeing, walking, or skating, you can be exposed to more UVR than you think. Bright white surfaces like snow can double your UVR exposure. Being at a higher altitude can also expose you to more UVR, putting you at higher risk of sun damage.

Protect yourself from the sun during the winter by following these tips:

- Check the UV index (a rating of how strong the sun's rays are) when planning to be outside in the sun. If the UV index is above three, be careful. Consider planning activities in the shade, away from the sun.
- Wear winter clothing that covers as much skin as possible. Most winter clothing will provide good UV protection because of tight windproof construction with multiple layers.
- Some areas that are not always covered by winter clothes are your face, head, and hands.
- Choose a sunscreen that has a broad-spectrum sun protection factor (SPF) of 30 or higher. Apply sunscreen generously 20 minutes before going outside and reapply frequently.

- Wear sunglasses that fit closely and wrap around the face. Try to find sunglasses that reflect or filter out 99 to 100% of UVR light.
- Find out if your medication causes you to be more sensitive to sunlight or heat stress.

Escaping to Warmer Weather? Stay Sun Safe!

While a sunny destination escape is exciting, you might be caught off guard by how strong the sun's rays are in certain climates. Bringing sunscreen, long sleeve shirts, and clothing with good UV protection, hats, sunglasses, and other measures can help protect your skin and eyes from short- and long-term damage from the sun.

A "base tan" from either indoor tanning (also known as tanning beds) or outdoor tanning before a trip will not prevent a sunburn. In fact, it's estimated that indoor tans only give you two to four percent protection from the sun. Tanning equipment usually emits higher levels of UV radiation than the UV radiation outside. Use of tanning beds is not worth the health risks.

Did you know? The World Health Organization has placed UV tanning beds into its highest cancer risk category, ranking tanning beds equal to well-known carcinogens like asbestos and tobacco.

Skin Types: What Is Yours?

The colour of your skin also plays a role in your sun burn risk. The fairer your skin is, the higher the risk. It's important that you know what your skin type is and understand the risks.

| Risk level | Skin Type | How Skin Reacts to Sun |
|------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| High | • Light, pale white | • Always burns, never tans |
| High | • White, fair | • Usually burns, tans with difficulty |
| Medium | • Medium, white to olive | • Sometimes mild burn, gradually tans to olive |
| Medium | • Olive, moderate brown | • Rarely burns, tans with ease to moderate brown |
| Low | • Brown, dark brown | • Very rarely burns, tans very easily |
| Low | • Black, very dark brown to black | • Almost never sunburn, tans very easily |



Nevi are benign melanocytic tumours, also known as moles. They are strongly associated with risk for melanoma. The greater the number of moles on a person's skin, the greater the risk of melanoma. Someone who has more than 100 common moles or more than two atypical moles has a five- to twenty-fold increased risk of melanoma.

Learn more about your skin type and the risks of indoor tanning by visiting <https://www.healthiertogether.ca/living-healthy/limit-uv-rays/indoor-tanning/>.

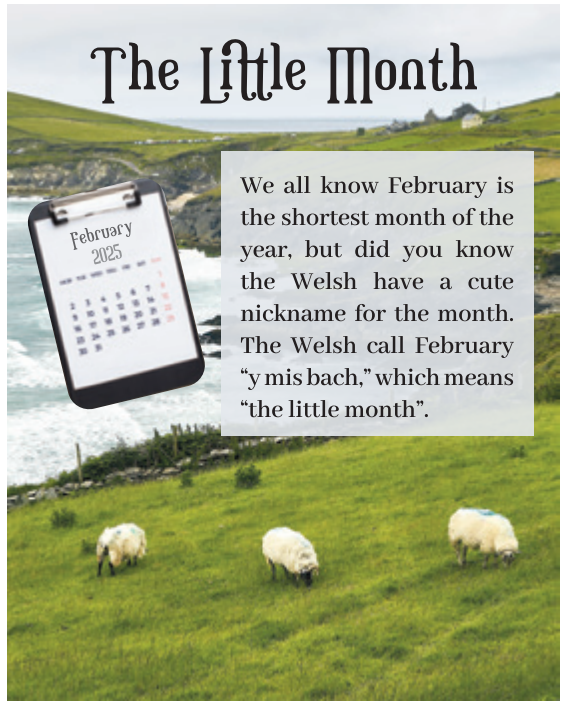
Learn more about skin cancer screening and skin self-exam:

- <https://www.canadianskincancerfoundation.com/early-detection/skin-check/>
- <https://myhealth.alberta.ca/Health/pages/conditions.aspx?hwid=skc1179>

The Little Month



We all know February is the shortest month of the year, but did you know the Welsh have a cute nickname for the month. The Welsh call February “y mis bach,” which means “the little month”.



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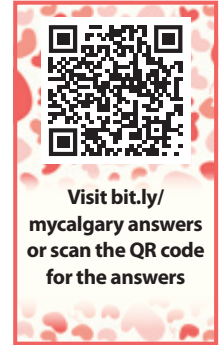
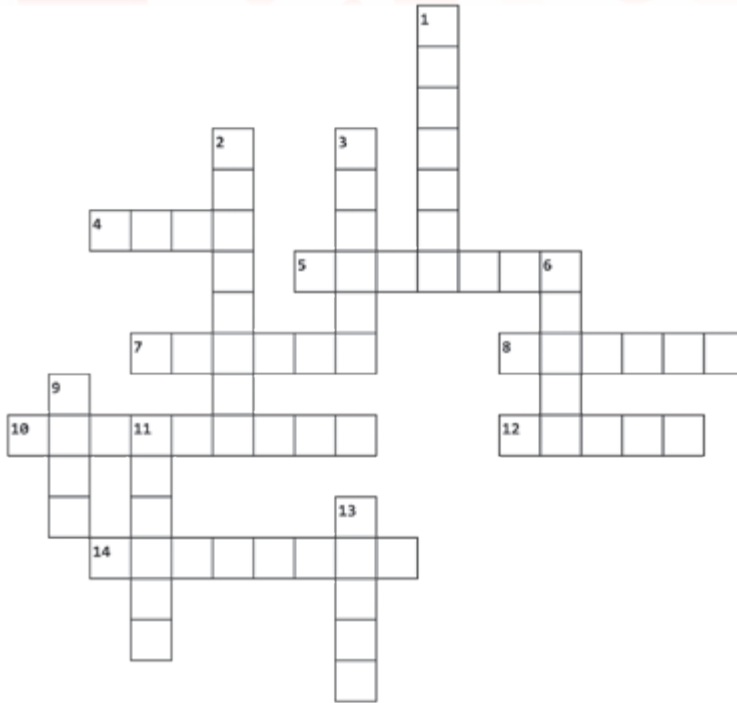
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February Crossword



Across

4. Canadian filmmaker, Denis Villeneuve's sci-fi adventure film _____: *Part Two* first premiered in February 2024.
5. Fleetwood Mac's best-selling album, _____, was released on February 4, 1977, featuring songs such as "Dreams" and "Go Your Own Way".
7. Born on February 1, 1994, England-born pop sensation, Harry _____ rose to fame as part of a boy band before going off on his own.
8. On February 21, 1948, the National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing, best-known as _____, was founded.
10. Something that is typically given to a significant other or friend(s) during the month of February.
12. February is National _____ Month, highlighting the importance of cardiovascular health.
14. Singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist, Joni _____, was inducted into Canada's Juno Hall of Fame on February 5, 1981.

Down

1. In February of 1917, this famous Spanish artist, best known for Cubism made his first trip to Italy.
2. February's purple birthstone, the _____ is believed to be a symbol of protection.
3. The Grammy Award-winning song "No _____" by TLC was released on February 2, 1999.
6. 2025's Chinese Zodiac is this slippery, slithery creature.
9. Angie Thomas' young adult bestseller, *The _____ U Give* was originally published on February 28, 2017.
11. Canadian actor, _____ Page, was born on February 21, 1987, in Halifax, Nova Scotia.
13. _____ History Month was made official by U.S. President Gerald Ford in 1976 and is observed every February.



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SANDSTONE VALLEY



MACEWAN GLEN



Cats, Canines, & Critters of Calgary



Basha and Molly, Elbow Scene



Daisy Nulo and Nulo Pickles, McKenzie Towne



Howie and Pepper, Crestmont



Tucker and Bentley, McKenzie Towne

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