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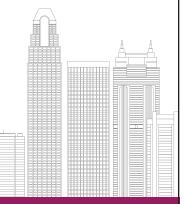
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One Odd Animal









Platypuses are one odd but cute animal! They share genes with birds, reptiles, and mammals. This might have been why when the first stuffed platypus was brought from Australia to Europe, people thought that the creature was a hoax. To them, it looked like several animals had been expertly sewn together by a taxidermist!



BRAIN SUDOKU

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FIND SOLUTION ON PAGE 8



SCA UPDATE

Memberships and Volunteer Opportunities:

Please visit springbankcommunity.com to join as a household or individual resident.

If you see a role where you can help out Springbank Community Association as a volunteer, please email info@ springbankcommunity.com. We need your voices to be heard!

SPRINGBANK ELECTED OFFICIALS



MP John Barlow, Foothills 109 - 4 Avenue South West (Main Office) High River, Alberta T1V 1M5 403-603-3665 John.Barlow@parl.gc.ca



Councillor Kevin Hanson Division 1 | Elbow Valley, South Springbank 403-463-1166 krhanson@rockyview.ca



Councillor Don Kochan (Mayor)
Division 2 | North Springbank
587-435-7172
dkochan@rockyview.ca



MP Blake Richards, Banff-Airdrie 16 - 620 1 Ave NW Airdrie, AB T4B 2R3 403-948-5103 blake.richards@parl.gc.ca



MLA Miranda Rosin Banff-Kananaskis Banff.Kananaskis@assembly.ab.ca

SPRINGBANK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Board of Directors					
President	Karin Hunter				
Vice-President	Al Schmidt				
Treasurer	Ian Galbraith				
Secretary	Terry Dowsett				

Directors at Large

Directors at Large
Jan Erisman
Lynn Munro
Stu Pritchard
Rhonda Rankin

SCHS Community Youth Representative

Jordan Inverarity

Please contact us at president@springbankcommunity. com if interested in working with the board.



Membership Builds Community

Membership in the Springbank Community Association is a \$5 yearly fee for individuals or \$10 for households – included in membership is such benefits as a vote at the Annual General Meeting, details will be sent out and communicated to members. The SCA is also working hard to develop more programs, events, and activities within the Springbank Community and look forward to partnering with you to do that.

Visit springbankcommunity.com/membership-join/ to learn more!

Springbank Community Association Board of Directors

The first official board in 1940 consisted of 7 members: J.C. Buckley, Samuel Copithorne, Thom Hodgson, James J. McKnight, John D. McLaurin, Ernest Robinson, and Herbert Smith.

Meet your Springbank Community Association Board Karin Hunter, President

B.Comm., CFA. Karin brings a diverse background in planning, analysis, and facilitation. Karin is passionate about enhancing recreation and culture opportunities for all residents of the Springbank area, from children through to seniors.

Al Schmidt, Vice President

B.Sc., MBA, CPA CMA. Al brings more than 35 years of real estate project management to the board, involving strategy, design, finance, marketing, construction, and property management. He is process-driven and believes that organizational responses must be consistently driven by long-term vision and stakeholder objectives. Al relocated to Springbank from west Calgary in 2018 and is committed to preserving and improving our quality of life, even as Calgary's westward advances challenge traditional life patterns for residents of Springbank.

Terry Dowsett, Secretary

B.A.I.E.Terry has called Springbank home for over 30 years. She has been involved with the Springbank Community Association for nearly as many years and was a founding member of the Springbank Historical Society which completed a historical inventory of over 600 buildings in the community. She was the recipient of the Rocky View Special Projects Citizenship Recognition Award in 2002.

Ian Galbraith, Treasurer

BA, FICB. Ian's background includes almost 3 decades as a commercial manager in banking, as well as HR, benefits, operations, and wealth management/investments. Since early retirement, he currently sits on various boards in a variety of capacities, including the Subdivision and Development Appeal Boards for Rocky View County, and has spent 10 years in the Performing Arts, including the role of technical director for a University Theatre.

Members at Large

Jan Erisman

B.l.D. with distinction. Jan is a commercial and residential interior designer, as well as a Masters basketball athlete, basketball coach, and 30-year resident. She is a volunteer

board member for the Springbank Area Structure Plan and the Rocky View West Recreation Board, over 20-year member of the Springbank Community Association, STAPA member, and founding member of the Springbank Historical Society. Jan strives to celebrate the incredible history of Springbank while promoting the community.

Lynn Munro

B.Ed. with distinction. Lynn grew up on a mixed farm and now actively participates on her husband's family ranch in north Springbank. Her two sons are the sixth generation of family to live in Springbank. She has been a committed volunteer to our local schools and sports, including minor hockey and football, and believes longevity of community is achieved through enhanced local facilities.

Stu Pritchard

Stu has been a resident of Springbank for the last 35 years. He is a retired senior IT marketing and sales executive with expertise in oil and gas information technology. Stu has lectured at the undergraduate and graduate level and is also experienced working overseas as a specialist. He is an active downhill and cross-country skier in the winter season and a cyclist in the summer. Up until the not-so-distant past, he and his family bred, raised, showed, and rode Tennessee Walking Horses.

Ronda Rankin

CPA, CGA. Ronda Rankin is a Springbank resident and an active outdoor recreational participant who enjoys running, hiking, and cycling in and around the community. As the president of Springbank Trails and Pathways Association (STAPA), she would like to see a safe, integrated, and sustainable system of trails and pathways in Springbank that link to the neighbouring cities of Calgary, Bragg Creek, and Cochrane. She has served in various volunteer and community organizations including the Rocky View West Recreation District Board.

Jordan Inverarity, Youth Director at Large

Jordan is a Grade 12 student at Springbank Community High School. This is her third year on the community board where she has been learning about the workings of a board and how to be a better member of the community. Jordan is an active contributor to the monthly e-newsletter. She is eager and excited to incorporate the voice of the youth throughout the community!



BRAIN SUDOKU

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New Year's Eve in Times Square is quite the spectacle, with live entertainment, fireworks, and a ball drop at midnight. But did you know that the first New Year's celebration held in this square had a slightly different purpose? In 1904, Adolph Ochs organized the event to celebrate the new headquarters of his publishing company, The New York Times!

TAKE ON WELLNESS

New Info to be Added to Food Labels

from Alberta Health Services

Sugar is a carbohydrate and is found naturally in fruits, vegetables, and dairy products. Sugar is also added to food and drinks to improve taste, texture, or shelf life.

Too much sugar, however, can lead to dental cavities in children, and may lead to people eating more calories than we need.

To help you make lower sugar choices, look for a new frontof-package symbol that will appear on some packaged foods in Canada. Food companies have until 2026 to put a front-of-package label that will tell you if a food is high in sugar, sodium (salt), or saturated fat.

The new nutrition label will have a black-and-white symbol of a magnifying glass and will be beside any ingredient the food is high in. This symbol can help you when you are grocery shopping, so you can choose foods that are low in sugar. Regular pop, candies, chocolates, frozen desserts, and baked goods add the most sugar to Canadians' diets.

To lower the amount of sugar in your diet:

- Choose water to drink instead of regular pop, juice, or other sweetened drinks.
- Try baking at home and lower the amount of sugar in your recipes.
- Choose snacks such as fruit, yogurt, or nuts more often than candies, chocolates, frozen desserts, or baked goods.
- Choose plain milk or plain yogurt instead of flavoured ones. You can mix in fruit, unsweetened granola, or nut butter to plain yogurt to give it extra flavor.
- Limit the number of prepackaged foods you eat with the "high in sugar" label.



MENTAL HEALTH MOMENT

The Nine Superpowers of a Hug

by Nancy Bergeron RPsych | info@nancybergeron.ca



The past few years of limited physical contact have taken their toll as something essential has been missing. We celebrate, comfort, and show our affection with it. Yes, I'm speaking of a simple hug. The average length of a hug is three seconds. However, when a hug lasts at least 20 seconds, there is a therapeutic effect on the body and mind. Psychotherapist Virginia Satir stated, "We need four hugs a day for survival. We need eight hugs a day for maintenance. We need 12 hugs a day for growth." There is a great deal of scientific evidence related to the importance of hugs and physical contact. Here are nine of their superpowers:

1. Stimulates Oxytocin

Oxytocin is a neurotransmitter that affects the brain's emotional centre, promoting feelings of contentment, reducing anxiety and stress, and even making mammals monogamous. When we hug someone, oxytocin is released into our bodies by our pituitary gland, lowering both our heart rates and our cortisol levels. Cortisol is the hormone responsible for stress, high blood pressure, and heart disease.

2. Cultivates Patience

A hug is one of the easiest ways to show appreciation and acknowledgement of another person. The world is a busy, hustling-bustling place. By slowing down and taking a moment to offer sincere hugs throughout the day, we're benefiting ourselves, others, and cultivating better patience within ourselves.

3. Prevents Disease

Hugs have a direct response on the reduction of stress which prevents many diseases. The Touch Research Institute at the University of Miami School of Medicine says it has carried out more than 100 studies into touch and found evidence of significant effects, including faster growth in premature babies, reduced pain, decreased autoimmune disease symptoms, lowered glucose levels in children with diabetes, and improved immune systems in people with cancer.

4. Stimulates Thymus Gland

Hugs strengthen the immune system. The gentle pressure on the sternum and the emotional charge this creates activates the Solar Plexus Chakra. This stimulates the thymus gland, which regulates and balances the body's production of white blood cells, which keep you healthy and disease free.

5. Nonverbal Communication

Almost 70 percent of communication is nonverbal. The interpretation of body language can be based on a single gesture and hugging is an excellent method of expressing yourself nonverbally to another human being.

6. Boosts Self-Esteem

Hugging boosts self-esteem, especially in children. Tactile sense is all-important in infants. A baby recognizes its parents initially by touch. From the time we're born, our family's touch shows us that we're loved and special. The association of self-worth and tactile sensations from our early years are still imbedded in our nervous system as adults. The cuddles we received from our mom and dad while growing up remain imprinted at a cellular level, and hugs remind us at a somatic level of that. Hugs, therefore, connect us to our ability to self-love.

7. Stimulates Dopamine

Low dopamine levels play a role in the neurodegenerative disease Parkinson's, as well as mood disorders such as depression. Dopamine is responsible for giving us that feel-good feeling and is also responsible for motivation! Hugs stimulate brains to release dopamine, the pleasure hormone. Dopamine sensors are the areas that many stimulating drugs such as cocaine and methamphetamine target.

8. Stimulates Serotonin

Hugging releases endorphins and serotonin into the blood vessels. The released endorphins and serotonin cause pleasure and negate pain and sadness, and decrease the chances of getting heart problems, help fight excess weight, and prolong life. Even the cuddling of pets has a soothing effect that reduces stress levels. Hugging for an extended time lifts one's serotonin levels, elevating mood and creating happiness.

9. Activates Parasympathetic System

Hugs balance out the nervous system. The skin contains a network of tiny, egg-shaped pressure centres called Pacinian corpuscles that can sense touch, and which are in contact with the brain through the vagus nerve. The skin response of someone receiving and giving a hug shows a change in skin conductance and suggests a more balanced state in the nervous system.

Make the new year a good one by using the superpower we all have. But don't forget to ask permission first!



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