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HAYSBORO COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETINGS

Third Wednesday of every month, from 7:00 to 9:00 pm at Haysboro Community Hall. All residents welcome to attend.

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION CONTACTS

President	Stephanie Thomas	stephaniet@haysboro.org
Vice-President	Andrew Forsyth	andrewf@haysboro.org
Treasurer	Jean-Sébastien Jetté	jsjette@haysboro.org
Secretary	Isabelle Piche	isabellep@haysboro.org
Director, Communications	Warren Monteiro	warrenm@haysboro.org
Director, Planning	Arden Turnbull	ardent@haysboro.org
Horn Editor	Donna Mack	editor@haysboro.org
Social Media		social@haysboro.org
Lawn and Snow Coordinator	Morgan Turigan	hcalawnsnow@haysboro.org
Casino		casino@haysboro.org
Haysboro Preschool	Julie Christianson	preschool@haysboro.org
HCA Administration	Diane Ward	info@haysboro.org, 403-253-1563
Hall Rentals	Julianna Enciu	rentals@haysboro.org
Director, Facilites	Mathew Cooper	

COMMUNITY CONTACTS

Ward 11 Councillor

MLA Calnary Acadia

ma v odigat j v todata	Sidira Sattori	403-640-1363			
Police Liaison District 6	CST Jake Tyerman	pol4473@calgarypolice.ca, 403-428-6600			
Southwest Communities Resource Centre		403-238-9222			
Southland Youth Justice	Kathy Hutchings	calgaryyouthjustice.com, 403-244-8201			
Business Advertising	Great News Media	sales@greatnewsmedia.ca. 403-720-0762			

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Kourtney Penner

Diana Ratten

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well, this winter has certainly been unique with waves of warm and cold periods, but it has not stopped the community from enjoying our outdoor facilities. I hope you have had a chance to enjoy the rink, fire pit, and perhaps the skate shack.

On February 22 and 23, volunteers stepped forward to assist with our biggest fundraising event of the year, the casino fundraiser at the Elbow River Casino. Many thanks to all who dedicated their time and evenings to this.

Through February, the board had the opportunity to review various grant opportunities offered through public, private, and non-profit organizations. These are typically aimed toward facility maintenance, upgrades, and community events. We continue to pursue key grants geared toward the facility, but there are many opportunities. If you are interested in championing an application for a program that interests you, please come to one of the board meetings. We'd love to have you!

The board also discussed rental of the community hall spaces. Demand is strong and there is no shortage of bookings given the quality and value we offer. Please consider the hall spaces should you have a wedding or family gathering. We encourage its continued use for community members.

In January, you may have seen the flyers that the City has distributed regarding The City of Calgary's Housing Strategy and the proposed citywide rezoning. Please take the time to review those materials and the city website as they will present important changes to our community. Should you wish to discuss this with fellow community members, consider attending a Planning Committee meeting.

I wish everyone a wonderful March. Hopefully spring will be upon us shortly.

Sincerely,

Andrew Forsyth

Vice-President



THE HAYSBORO COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEEDS YOUR HELP!

CALL FOR COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS!

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COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

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OPEN HCA BOARD POSITIONS:



HCA HALL INDEPENDENT PROGRAM CONTACTS

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The Misunderstood Magpie

by James Early



The black-billed magpie. The noisy neighbour. The squirrel bully. The six am summer alarmist. The aggressive dive-bomber at nesting season.

They seem to be everywhere in Calgary, often holding court in backyards across the city at such a decibel that some (no names mentioned) are prepared to throw snowballs in their general direction to have them move on.

Those peanuts that you leave out for the blue jay, or the northern flicker? Gone. Gobbled up by the black and white omnivorous bird with a voracious appetite.

I've spoken to plenty of neighbours about magpies; about how noisy they are and how aggressive they can be. Generally, I am told, they're a pest. A nuisance, ruining the backyard aesthetic and vibe. Rats with wings, as they were once described to me.

I recall when I was young and growing up in the U.K., glass milk bottles were still being delivered to the door by the local milkman. My mom would rush to bring in the milk because if it was left for a moment too long, the silver cap was pecked open and taken, seemingly to add some shiny, silver decorative pieces to the (Eurasian) magpie's nest.

So, what's the deal with magpies? Are they misunderstood?

Well, in short, yes. Let me explain.

First and foremost, the black-billed magpie is native to Calgary and the area. It belongs here. For that reason alone, its presence in Calgary is cause for celebration. Its ecosystem remains intact.

Also, it is a beautiful bird with the contrast of black and white; the sheen of the blue-green iridescent wings and tail; and the subtle 'curtsy flicks' of its tail as it perches on fenceposts or bird baths.

Also, that loud and 'annoying' noise is, in fact, just a small sample, not only of the magpie's wide vocal range, but its very high intellect. The magpie can mimic the sounds of other birds, can recognize human faces, bring gifts

to (and form friendships with) humans who engage cordially with it, and have even been known to hold funeral-type ceremonies for fallen relatives.

Magpies perch on moose, feasting on ticks that live on the moose's fur, which is particularly useful for juvenile moose who could succumb to tick-born disease if left unchecked. In fact, magpies will generally eat anything. In urban settings, magpies clean sidewalks and streets of discarded food scraps.

The black-billed magpie also holds cultural significance for Indigenous peoples, it was an early warning system for incoming danger, and helped alert Blackfoot hunters to the location of game.

Black-billed magpies generally have a wide and stable range in North America, and in Canada the black-billed magpie is rated as a species of 'least concern' by the International Union for Conservation of Nature. Estimates from 2015 suggest that the Canadian population of the black-billed magpie could be between 500,000 and 5,000,000 adults.

However, threats still loom, largely from climate change. Spring heatwaves pose a risk to young magpies in the nest, and with a warming climate comes the greater risk of wildfires, which can burn magpie habitat.

According to data from the Audubon Society, the black-billed magpies' range could shrink drastically with uncontrolled warming of the earth. At 3.0 degrees Celsius warming above preindustrial temperature levels, Calgary would likely be one of the few major urban centers whose climate may still be livable for the black-billed magpie.

So, like it or not, the black-billed magpie is here to stay.

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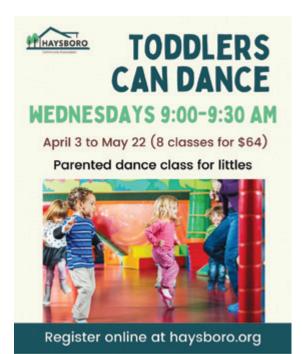
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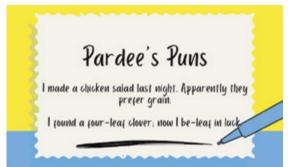
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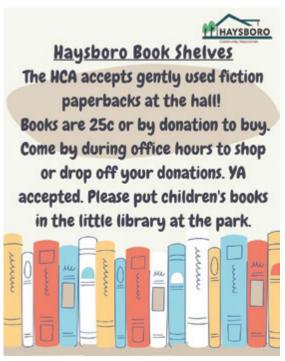
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We acknowledge that the Haysboro Community Association is on Treaty 7 land—the traditional and ancestral territory of the Blackfoot Confederacy: Kainai, Piikani, and Siksika, as well as the Tsuu T'ina Nation and Stoney Nakoda First Nation. We acknowledge that this territory is home to the Métis Nation of Alberta, Region 3 within the historical Northwest Métis Homeland. We acknowledge the many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit who have lived in and cared for these lands for generations. We are grateful for the traditional Knowledge Keepers and Elders who are still with us today and those who have gone before us. We make this acknowledgement as an act of reconciliation and gratitude to those whose territory we reside on or are visiting.







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