BANFF TRAIL howler

THE OFFICIAL BANFF TRAIL COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



www.banfftrailcommunity.ca



Magic Carpet Ride

Family Literacy Program



A family that reads together, grows together.

The Magic Carpet Ride program is for 3-5 year olds and their parents or caregivers. We help families learn to use everyday activities to build a love of literacy and learning. Held at convenient locations across Calgary.



Reading



At-Home Activities



Singing

FREE! Contact us to learn more:

famlit@canlearnsociety.ca (403) 686-9300 ext. 128









Banff Trail Community Association

2115 20 Avenue NW T2M 1J1 • 403-282-2234

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Vice President	Greg Boorman	vp@banfftrailcommunity.ca							
Secretary	Vacant	secretary@banfftrailcommunity.ca							
Treasurer	Kathy Quinn-Bayrack	treasurer@banfftrailcommunity.ca							
Events	Vacant	events@banfftrailcommunity.ca							
Planning and Development	Vacant	development@banfftrailcommunity.ca							
Communications	Vacant	communications@banfftrailcommunity.ca							
Membership	Kristen Street	membership@banfftrailcommunity.ca							
Garden Group	Natasha Freedman	garden@banfftrailcommunity.ca							
Facilities Chair	Pat Oscienny								
Director at Large	John Bannerman								
Director at Large	Alex Lush								
Director at Large	Mark Davis								
Director at Large	Zorina Dalchand								
STAFF									
Hall Manager	Abi Harker	hallmanager@banfftrailcommunity.ca							
Bookkeeper	Theresa Ouellette								
YOUR REPRESENTATIVES IN BANFF TRAIL									
City Councillor	Terry Wong	Ward7@Calgary.ca							
MLA	Luanne Metz (Calgary-Varsity)	Calgary. Varsity@assembly.ab.ca; 403-216-5456							
MP	Corey Hogan (Calgary Confederation)	Corey.Hogan@parl.gc.ca; 403-410-2121							

HOWLER SUBMISSIONS

Do you have an interesting story you think should be in *The Howler*? Know of someone living in Banff Trail who deserves to be featured in our newsletter? How about photographs of our community? If you do, please contact communications@banfftrailcommunity.ca.



Remember, www.BanffTrailCommunity is the place to look for short-notice events, and more community info. Check out BanffTrail Community through social media through the following:

Facebook: @BanffTrailCommunity.ca Instagram: @banfftrailyyc X (Twitter): @BanffTrailYYC







by Anne Burke

Norma Frances Bicknell (née Rose) (1926-2025) passed away at the age of 98 years. Norma was an ardent crusader for many causes dear to her heart—women's rights and equality, saving Nose Hill Park, the South McDougal Area Structure Plan, to name a few. As some remember: "Though it has been a few decades since Norma walked upon the hill, she was always interested to hear about the first reports of crocus blooms in the spring". Another, "From the first kite fly on Nose Hill (to bring attention to it), the recording of animal life and monitoring of plant species no one influenced me more. The past 50 years on Nose Hill were all because of her influence". Moreover, "She led such a great life. I lost touch after I left Calgary and am pleased, she has enjoyed another 30 years since. When we had to fight to keep Nose Hill mostly unpaved, she was the heart and soul behind our efforts." Calgary's Centennial in 1975 was to celebrate the city's first 100 years. I first met Norma when we were fundraising for educational signage on Nose Hill. Without her, there would have been no such Park. Whatever we all did to contribute as volunteers was in her name and avidly following her lead. An astonishing woman who accomplished so much for so many, she enjoyed a well-lived life in all respects. Nose Hill was declared one of Canada's largest urban parks in 1980. There is a lovely colour photo of Norma, with other members of the Nose Hill Steering Committee. She is holding a copy of the Nose Hill Master Plan. In the snow on Nose Hill, Norma appears very happy, even girlish, with a glint in her eye, as well she might. www.calgaryguardian.com/ historical-photos-nose-hill-park/.

Banff Trail Community Association

BOARD MEETING

First Wednesday of every month From 7:00 to 9:00 pm

Executive@banfftrailcommunity.ca

Have questions about hall rentals or availability?

Contact our Facility Manager at 403-282-2234 or hallmanager@banfftrailcommunity.ca

Office hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm



Have you taken a photo in the community that deserves to be shared? The BTCA would like to feature your photo in the Banff Trail Bulletin.



BTCA Memberships

Memberships in the Banff Trail Community Association are free for the year! Registration is still required.

If you would like to become a member and find out about upcoming events and ongoing activities, please fill out the web form at banfftrailcommunity.ca/membership.

CHECKLIST



CALGARY

POLICE

SERVICE

- Remove valuables & garage door openers from vehicles
- Lock vehicles
- Close overhead garage door
- Lock door between garage & house
- Close & lock all external doors
- Ensure windows are shut
- Turn on exterior light

Yielding to Emergency Vehicles

by Alberta Health Services

For everyone's safety, it is important motorists understand how to correctly yield right-of-way to emergency vehicles when their lights and sirens are activated. You can help all first responders navigate roads quickly and safely by following these basic rules.

When an emergency vehicle approaches with lights and siren activated:

- If you're in the middle of an intersection when an emergency vehicle approaches with lights and siren activated, safely clear the intersection; be prepared to pull over.
- On a one- or two-lane road, motorists should move to the right side of the road, slow down, and then stop, remaining parallel with the road. Remember to signal.
- On one-way streets move to the nearest curb, either the right or left.
- On a road with three or more lanes, motorists should move to the nearest side of the road and stop. If driving in the centre lane, move to the right side of the road and stop. Remember to signal.
- Come to a complete stop and wait for the emergency vehicle to pass. Shoulder check for more emergency vehicles before re-entering traffic flow. Remember to signal.
- Emergency vehicles might use any available road space to maneuver. This could include shoulders or turning lanes, etc., in order to safely pass other traffic.

When operating a vehicle:

- Reduce speed to 60 km/h or the posted speed, whichever is lower, when passing any stopped roadside vehicle with flashing lights activated (emergency vehicles, tow trucks, maintenance trucks, etc.). This law applies to the lane immediately next to the stopped vehicles. If you're not in the lane next to the stopped vehicles, it is recommended to reduce speed and leave lots of space between yourself and emergency personnel.
- Do not break the rules of the road in order to give right of way to an emergency vehicle. This could include proceeding through a red light or making an illegal turn. Actions such as these jeopardize all motorists in the area.



- Drivers must place their full attention on the road and the safe operation of their vehicle at all times. The fine for distracted driving in Alberta is \$300 and three demerit points.
- Do not drive within 150 meters of an emergency vehicle with its siren and/or flashing lights on. For reference, 150 m is nearly 1.5 times the length of a football field.





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FOR THE SOLUTION

Why Volunteering in Your Community Matters

Volunteering is one of the most impactful ways to strengthen and support your community. By giving just a little of your time, you can help create a connected, vibrant, and welcoming neighbourhood. Plus, the benefits of volunteering go both ways—it not only helps others but also brings a sense of fulfillment and joy to you.

Why Volunteer?

- **Build Connections:** Volunteering helps you meet new people and build friendships with neighbours you might not have known otherwise.
- Make a Difference: Your efforts can create positive change, whether it is by organizing events, maintaining local spaces, or helping community programs thrive.
- Learn New Skills: Volunteering provides an opportunity to develop new abilities and gain valuable experiences that can be useful in other areas of your life.
- **Feel Good:** Giving back boosts your mood and overall well-being, bringing a sense of purpose and community pride.

Ways to Get Involved

- Event Support: Help at BTCA events like community events, holiday celebrations, committees, or seasonal activities.
- **Community Garden:** Join in on maintaining our community garden—grow fresh produce while fostering environmental awareness.
- Youth Programs: Mentor or assist with youth sports, educational workshops, or art programs. We need volunteers for soccer!
- Local Cleanups: Participate in community cleanups to keep parks and public spaces beautiful.
- **Board and Committees:** Consider joining the community association's board or a committee to help shape future initiatives and events.

Your time and effort can make a lasting impact. Ready to get involved? Reach out to learn about upcoming volunteer opportunities in our community!

Email communications@banfftrailcommunity.ca to learn more.

Thanks, from all of us at BTCA!





Holiday Prep Has Never Been So Easy.

Get a head start on your smile care and maximize your yearly benefits.



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Tailored to Your Tastes

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Book your visit today!



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COOKIES & COCOA WITH SANTA

DECEMBER

SATURDAY 6

3:30PM-6:30PM

BTCA COMMUNITY HALL

2115 20 AVE NW, CALGARY, AB

JOIN US FOR A COZY CELEBRATION FEATURING:

PHOTOS WITH SANTA & MRS. CLAUS, ICE SKATING WITH SANTA. COOKIES & COCOA. GINGERBREAD HOUSE DECORATING COMPETITION, **CHRISTMAS CAROLLERS** AND

MORE FESTIVE FUN!!

Stuffed Red and Yellow Bell Peppers

by Jennifer Puri

Red bell peppers belong to the capsicum family. All bell peppers start out green and progress through the yellow and orange stages before reaching their most flavourful red stage.

Red bell peppers are considered the healthiest because they contain high levels of vitamins like C and A, and antioxidants. All bell peppers offer nutritional benefits but the red, yellow, and orange are the most flavourful.

Bell peppers can be used in every aspect of cooking, but the hollow insides of the peppers make them ideal for stuffing with ground meats, cheeses, and grains as shown in the stuffed red and yellow bell peppers recipe below.

Cook Time: 25 minutes **Bake Time:** 35 minutes

Servings: 4
Ingredients:

4 red and yellow bell peppers

• 1 lb. lean ground beef

• 2 tbsp. olive or canola oil

• 1 tsp. minced garlic

• $\frac{1}{2}$ cup chopped yellow onion

• 1 tsp. minced ginger

• 2 bay leaves

• 1 cinnamon stick

 \cdot ¼ tsp. ground cloves

• ½ tsp. salt

• 1/2 tsp. black pepper

• 2 cups cooked long grain rice

• 2 cups shredded mozzarella or cheddar cheese

Directions:

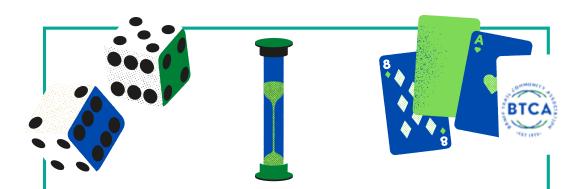
- 1. Preheat oven to 425 degrees Fahrenheit.
- 2. Wash and dry the bell peppers, then slice in half and remove the pith and seeds.
- 3. Brush the bell peppers with a little oil and sprinkle some salt and black pepper. Place the peppers cut side up on a baking tray and roast in the oven for about 10 minutes.





- 3. While the peppers are baking, prepare the filling by heating the remaining oil in a skillet. Then add onions and sauté for a few minutes until softened.
- 4. Next add the garlic, ginger, bay leaves, cloves, cinnamon stick, and the ground beef. Sauté the mixture until the beef turns brown then add a cup of water, cover and cook for about 12 to 15 minutes or until the beef is cooked and the liquid dries up.
- Remove from heat and discard the bay leaves and cinnamon stick before adding the cooked rice and half the cheese.
- 6. Arrange roasted bell pepper halves in a baking dish and spoon the beef and rice mixture into them. Bake on middle rack of oven for about 20 minutes then sprinkle remaining cheese and bake peppers uncovered for about 5 minutes or until cheese is melted.
- Serve with mashed potatoes, garlic bread, or cornbread if desired.

Bon Appétit!



Community Board Game Night

Friday, December 12

7:00 pm - 9:00pm

2115 20 AVE NW

Bring your favourite game or play one of the 30+ games available. Now with Ping Pong tables and snacks!







TIME TO RENEW YOUR BTCA MEMBERSHIP THIS MARCH FOR



Banff Trail Community Association

DID YOU KNOW?

BTCA MEMBERSHIPS EXPIRE EVERY MARCH

YOUR MEMBERSHIP MUST BE RENEWED MIN 30 DAYS TO VOTE AT THE AGM
EMAIL: MEMBERSHIP@BANFFTRAILCOMMUNITY.CA TO RENEW

Doggy Inspiration

Did you know that Chewbacca from Star Wars was inspired by George Lucas' dog! His loyal Alaskan Malamute, Indiana, not only shaped Chewie but also gave his name to another icon - Indiana Jones. Proof that man's best friend can also be Hollywood's best muse!



MENTAL HEALTH MOMENT

Raising Non-Anxious Kids

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

Modern parenting has become highly involved. Many of us may hover, protect, and step in quickly to solve problems for our kids. While this comes from love, too much intervention can make it harder for children to build resilience, confidence, and coping skills. Add in the constant pull of screens and social media, and many kids grow up struggling with boredom, frustration, and independence.

A New Approach: Obstacle Parenting

Instead of removing every challenge, obstacle parenting gives kids space to face small struggles and learn from them. It's about doing less, not more, and trusting that kids can figure things out.

1. Resilience Comes Through Struggle

- Shielding kids from every difficulty robs them of practice in handling life's challenges.
- Small frustrations (like a tricky puzzle or waiting a few minutes for help) build patience and problem-solving skills.

2. Boredom Isn't Bad

- Constant stimulation from screens can dull curiosity.
- Letting kids experience boredom creates space for imagination, creativity, and self-discovery.

3. Screens and Social Media

- Technology isn't going away, but heavy use can lead to loneliness and anxiety.
- Balance matters: limiting screen time, teaching mindful use, and modelling healthy habits are key.

4. Parents Need Restraint Too

- Kids notice when adults are glued to their phones.
- Modelling presence—reading, drawing, or simply sitting quietly—teaches kids that life doesn't have to be constantly filled with screens.

Practical Tips for Parents

- Pause Before Helping: If your child asks for help, wait a few minutes. Encourage them to try first.
- Make Things Just a Bit Harder: Give challenges that require effort—like board games, chores, or puzzles.
- Encourage Real-World Play: Let kids play outside, climb, build, and explore with peers—even if it's messy or imperfect.



- Embrace Boredom: Remind kids (and yourself): "It's okay to be bored." Often, creativity follows.
- Create Screen-Free Zones: Mealtimes, bedtime routines, and family outings can be tech-free moments.
- Model Healthy Habits: Put your own phone down. Show your kids how to be present, curious, and engaged in the real world.
- Build Community: Rely on neighbours, friends, and extended family. Kids need more than just parents they thrive with a wider circle of support.

Obstacle parenting isn't about making life hard for children. It's about giving them space to:

- · Build confidence.
- Develop focus and endurance.
- · Learn how to handle frustration.
- Discover creativity in boredom.
- Grow into resilient, less anxious adults.

Sometimes, the best gift we can give our kids is to step back, let them struggle a little, and trust that they can rise to the challenge.

YOUR CITY OF CALGARY

Green Cart Collection Update

by the City of Calgary

Starting in November, green cart collection will shift to an every-other-week schedule. This seasonal change helps match service to the lower volumes of yard waste we typically see once colder weather arrives.

Weekly green cart collection will return in April 2026, just in time for spring clean-up season when yard waste begins to pick up again.

We understand Calgary's weather can be unpredictable, and to keep the Green Cart program reliable and cost-effective, we set the schedule using long-term trends. This means collection times are based on when green cart volumes usually decline and when snowier conditions are more likely. By planning well in advance, the City ensures the right number of trucks, drivers, and resources are in place to keep the program running smoothly.

There are a few easy ways to stay on top of your collection days and keep things simple:

- Visit calgary.ca/cartschedule to check your cart pickup schedule or sign up for free reminders.
- Download the Calgary Garbage Day app to get automatic notifications about collection days and seasonal changes.

Thank you for helping keep Calgary clean and green, no matter the season!



Green Line LRT Construction is Underway!

by the City of Calgary



Did you know the Green Line LRT SE Project officially broke ground on June 26, 2025? This monumental milestone marked the start of main construction for Calgary's largest and most ambitious infrastructure project to date and since then, progress has been moving full steam ahead.

With \$6.248B in committed funding from The City of Calgary, the Province of Alberta, and the Government of Canada, this project reflects a powerful collaboration dedicated to building a better future for our city. Over the past few months, the Green Line team has been hard at work initiating several key construction activities. If you've travelled through 78 Avenue SE, 114 Avenue SE, or Barlow Trail, you may have noticed active construction zones as part of the early stages of this transformational project.

One major area of focus is the Maintenance and Storage Facility (MSF), located near the future Shepard Station, where site preparation and servicing is well underway. This facility will play a crucial role in keeping Green Line light rail trains running smoothly and efficiently once service begins.

Construction on the Green Line LRT has started, and the benefits will last a lifetime.

To stay informed about upcoming work, timelines, and impacts in your community, visit calgary.ca/greenline and sign up for our newsletter.



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SNOW REMOVAL, CHRISTMAS LIGHTS, AND WINDOW

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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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