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THE OFFICIAL BRENTWOOD COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



Cover Photo by Grayson Pratt



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Dear Brentwoodians,

Celebrations for the BCA's 60th anniversary are being planned and you'll see announcements elsewhere in this issue seeking volunteers and helpers for some of these events. This is timely, because the month of March was designated by the City of Calgary as Community Associations Month in recognition of all the hard work done by the volunteers who make up these organizations. I can vouch for the tremendous amount of time, planning, and energy that the BCA members dedicate to the community, and I am hopeful that our community members will come forward to help celebrate Brentwood over the coming months. Our columnist, Lee Hunt has more to say on the importance of volunteering in her regular space.

Acknowledgement is also due to Cam, Liza, and all the other helpers who continue to make Brentwood Cares a success. From an idea to support the community in those scary first weeks of the COVID-19 pandemic, it has blossomed into a neighbourhood institution that helps those in need in Brentwood and beyond. A well-earned celebration is in the works, so look for the update in the following pages for details.

It seems that the Brentwood Cares food library is also of interest to some of our smaller, furrer community members – scan the QR code below to see who surprised Liza one day this winter!



Photo Contest

The Bugle is looking for Brentwood's best amateur photographers to provide cover images each month. If you have a great snap of our neighbourhood saved on your phone or posted on your social media feed, send it in for a chance to be featured on the cover of an upcoming issue! Photos must be 300 DPI or higher (i.e., from a newer model phone or good digital camera), 2400x1600 pixels minimum size, and portrait orientation. If submitting pictures of minors, please make sure that you have direct, expressed permission to submit the picture from a parent or guardian. Send your photos, or any questions, to bcabugle@telus.net.

Yours sincerely,

Jonathan Lucker, editor

Brentwood Bugle

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News, Events, & More	Crime Statistics	Real Estate Statistics


Brentwood COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

www.brentwoodcommunity.com | Community Centre, 1520B Northmount Drive NW

Mailing Address: 5107 33 Street NW T2L 1V3 • Email: office@brentwoodcommunity.com • 403-284-3477

Linda Van Holst – Office Manager • Steve Dietrich – Arena Manager

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Brentwood's 60th Anniversary

Brentwood Logo Contest

Help us celebrate Brentwood turning 60! We're looking for a positive Brentwood logo for printing on stickers, T-Shirts, posters, and perhaps other swag. Contest is open from March 1 to April 15, please submit image (.prn, .jpg, or .pdf, and roughly 7.5"x10") to Brentwoodcares@brentwoodcommunity.com by April 15.

Must have Brentwood, but then it's your imagination!

Think Brentwood is beautiful, it's better in Brentwood, I love Brentwood...

Winning logo will be used throughout the year, on the July Bugle cover, and we'll try to get you some wonderful Brentwood Swag with your logo and of course with your name on it.

How Long Have You Lived in Brentwood?

This year, the Brentwood Community Association is celebrating its 60th birthday.

Bugle columnist Lee Hunt would like to interview anyone who has lived in Brentwood for the entire 60 years – so, if you have lived in Brentwood since 1963 or earlier, and are willing to be interviewed, please call Lee at 403-284-1083.

Thanks!

Volunteers Needed!

Brentwood is turning 60 next year, and the Brentwood Community Association is assembling an Anniversary Committee to plan events to mark this milestone. They are looking for volunteers, so if you are interested, please contact Linda Van Holst at the BCA office: office@brentwoodcommunity.com or 403-284-3477. Let's all help to make this a year to remember and celebrate our great community!



Save the Date

BCA 60th Anniversary Events

JUN 17

NEIGHBOUR DAY

Petting Zoo and Bouncy Castle 11am - 5pm

JUL 29

GALA DINNER & DANCE

Live Band 6:30pm - 1am

NOV 04

CHRISTMAS MARKET

Looking for Artisans! 10am - 4pm

WWW.BRENTWOODCOMMUNITY.COM

National Pet Day

April 11 is National Pet Day! On this day, we show our love and appreciation to our furry, feathery, or scaly friends, even those still in need of a home. Pet Day is also used to advocate against animal violence and cruelty. This April 11, be sure to shower your pet friends with care and love, whether it means your own pet, someone else's, or a shelter animal in need.



Calgary's Secret Weapon

by Lee Hunt

In a recent Herald article, Calgary Olympic skier and Canadian Hall of Fame inductee Ken Read wrote about "Calgary's secret weapon – our volunteer ethic."

I think that this "volunteer ethic" is very active in Brentwood. Just survey some of the volunteer driven projects already completed – fence murals, the new playground at Captain John Palliser School, and the large community murals painted by local youth. Brentwood Cares coordinates weekly food deliveries for the Calgary Food Bank and also operates the Little Free Food Library at 3624 Boulton Road NW. The majority of our Brentwood sports teams are coached by volunteers, while our entire Brentwood Community Association (BCA) Board is made up of volunteers.

Now is your opportunity to volunteer – by helping out with the 60th anniversary celebration of the BCA. Good-natured volunteers are still needed to help with the Neighbour Day Block Party, the Banquet and Dance, plus Music in Blakiston Park.

Where are your strengths? Planning, decorating, supervising the bouncy castle, stringing up lights, setting up tables, helping with the bike parade? Or perhaps you sing or play a musical instrument? There is a role for everyone! The BCA 60th Anniversary Committee is looking for more volunteers. Why not sign up now? Your skills are needed.

It doesn't matter how long you have lived in Brentwood – for two months or 20 years or more. As current volunteers told me, one has lived in Brentwood for two years, while another was born, raised, and is still living here – and she is now over 55 years of age!

Echoing Ken Read's sentiments, committee member Lisa told me that, "It is important to engage with all residents to keep the community alive and thriving." Cam added that, "In today's increasingly isolated society, the 60th Anniversary will be an opportunity to connect, have fun, and build new connections."

When asked why they are helping out with the 60th, Bonita replied, "I enjoy organizing events that are fun for the kids and adults alike." Melanie added, "The nice thing about a special event such as the 60th is that the

time commitment is finite and limited... it is a chance to jump in, try something new, and maybe make a new friend or find a new interest."

So... how about it? Prove Olympian Ken Read correct about Calgary. Become part of the "secret weapon" to help Brentwood remain one of the top scorers in Avenue Magazine's annual list of Best Neighbourhoods.

Volunteer today to help create a fun and memorable 60th Anniversary for the BCA. To sign up, just email Linda at office@brentwoodcommunity.com or call her at 403-284-3477, ext. 2.



Acrobatic Skunks



Shy and about the size of a squirrel, the spotted skunk has a unique way of warning its attackers to back off. When threatened, this tiny skunk will flip itself into a handstand with legs splayed out. It will also puff up its tail to look bigger. If the threat remains, these tiny acrobats will then spray their attacker from upside down!

Is Your Secondary Suite Safe?

Submitted by Melanie Swailes on behalf of the BCA Development and Transportation Committee

Does each bedroom have a window exit? Are there wired-in (not battery-operated) interconnected smoke and carbon monoxide alarms? Is there a protected exit route from the basement to outside? Are there drywall barriers between suites and drywall barriers in the mechanical room to meet the safety code requirements?

How important are these elements? Very! This year has already seen several tragic basement fires. On January 4, 2023, a man and four cats were killed following a fatal house fire in Dalhousie. Fire crews were called for reports of smoke coming from a basement suite and found the deceased man. On February 17, 2023, the Calgary Fire Department responded to 911 calls for a house fire in Penbrooke Meadows. Crews were met with high heat and flames on entry and proceeded to the basement where they found a 71-year-old male occupant that had suffered fatal injuries from the fire. (Source: CBC and CTV News)

Many of the current secondary suite regulations can be traced back to a horrible fire in January 2009 in the community of Parkdale, in which three people died in a basement fire. The owners of the house were subsequently charged with numerous offences, including not having windows that meet building code, not having security bars that could be easily opened, and not having a hard-wired smoke detector. (Source: CTV News)

In March 2018, City Council approved amendments to the Land Use Bylaw, making it possible for property owners to develop a secondary suite without needing approval from City Council on each individual suite. At the time, during the Council debate, many speakers mentioned the Parkdale fire, and safety was frequently cited as vital for all secondary suites. Legalizing suites was seen as a means of ensuring safety because suites would require a Development Permit, a Building Permit, and an inspection.

Once all of those steps had been completed, a suite would be added to the mandatory Registry. The Registry is a Bylaw requirement, not an option. If you wish to check out a Secondary Suite, enter the property address at www.secondarysuites.calgary.ca. If the suite is on the Registry, it has been inspected and approved. If it is not on the Registry, the question is why not?

In Brentwood, since 2018, Development Permits for 124 Secondary Suites have been approved. Currently, there are only 83 suites on the Secondary Suite Registry. What accounts for the difference?

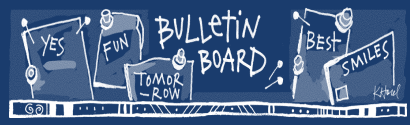
Some could be due to a time lag between the time a Development Permit (DP) is approved and work is done to comply with the Building Permit. Some could be because an applicant decided not to proceed with a secondary suite. Some could be because some of the work could not be completed yet (for example, installing a larger window or a window well in the winter). However, many of the applications appear to be in limbo for a year or longer. This means that the applicants have completed the Development Permit stage but have not completed all the steps towards legalizing the suite.

Why does it matter? Because the DP only considers some aspects such as the parking or windows, but other details such as smoke detectors or wiring are only addressed at the Building Permit (BP) stage. Without proceeding to the BP and ultimately, the Registry stage, there is no assurance that a suite has been inspected or that it complies with Building Codes: there is no way of assessing safety.

Why wouldn't an applicant complete all the stages? Some applicants cite the cost of complying with all the regulations, for example, the requirement for wired-in smoke and CO2 detectors. Battery-operated detectors are cheap and easy to install, but they require frequent checking to ensure that batteries are still working. Not all landlords will routinely replace or check batteries, so a hard-wired system is required. Is it expensive? Yes, more expensive than battery-operated detectors, but wired-in systems are more reliable and safer.

Even if costs to bring an illegal suite up to code are deemed high, there are many reasons to legalize the suite regardless:

1. Safety. Nobody wants to deal with a fire, let alone an injury or death.
2. The Alberta Building Code has standards that are there for a reason. They are consistent and a means of knowing that construction was done in a safe and legal manner.
3. When you develop a secondary suite, you are building an investment. There will be costs to that investment,



no different than any other business. Trying to save money by not complying should not come at risk to a tenant. In Calgary, a homeowner has the right to apply to build a secondary suite, but this right also carries the responsibility to ensure it is done properly.

- 4. Insurance and liability. Homeowners with a non-approved suite should check if their mortgage lender or insurance company will cover their loss in case of significant damages in an illegal suite. There's a common misconception that an existing policy will cover a suite but if a homeowner fails to let the insurer know about the suite, they open themselves up to significant risk and the possibility that coverage may be denied or that the existing insurance policy will be voided.
- 5. The City of Calgary is waiving the cost of the DP and Registry (about \$700) until the end of 2023. You will still need to pay for a BP and any renovation costs, but the DP cost is waived completely.

Let's make every suite in Brentwood a safe one. As per the City of Calgary, "A legal suite is a safe suite."

Still on the topic of suites, a frequent source of complaints is with regards to exterior property maintenance, such as snow removal in winter and lawn mowing in the summer. If you are a landlord, there are two options available to you: hire a service company for routine yard maintenance or have tenants shovel or mow as needed. If you expect your tenants to do the maintenance, please ensure that they have the proper tools. If you are renting to students, for example, it is unrealistic to expect that they will have their own lawnmower or yard tools. Please help your tenants and your neighbours by providing the resources as needed.

If you are interested in community planning and redevelopment issues, we welcome new members to join us. We meet at 7:00 pm on the first Monday of every month in the Sportsplex Boardroom. Contact the BCA for more information at office@brentwoodcommunity.com or at 403-284-3477.



Casino Coordinator Needed!

If you are interested in taking on the role, which involves recruiting volunteers and submitting paperwork to AGLC, please contact Linda Van Holst at 403-284-3477 or linda.vanholst@brentwoodcommunity.com.

Brentwood Cares - Little Food Library and More!

With your donations and support, we continue to stock the Brentwood Cares Little Food Library twice daily, for use by people of all ages and circumstances, from elders to students.

Items can be dropped off in the library itself or in the box beside the door at 3624 Boulton Rd at any time. Because of COVID-19, please only donate sealed and unopened items. Hats off to Brentwood for your continued support!

Liza and the Brentwood Cares Team

Buy Nothing Brentwood

Give freely; share creatively! Post anything you'd like to give away, lend, or share; ask for anything you'd like to receive or borrow.

Check out the Buy Nothing Brentwood/Charleswood/Collingwood Facebook page, or buynothingproject.org.

Your Representatives in Brentwood

City Councillor: Sean Chu (Ward 4): info@seanchu.ca; 403-268-3727.

MLA: Jason Copping (Calgary-Varsity): Calgary.varsity@assembly.ab.ca; 403-216-5436.

MP: Len Webber (Calgary Confederation): Len.Webber.c1@parl.gc.ca; 403-220-0888.



Happy Birthday, Charlotte Brontë!



You've likely heard of at least one of the three Brontë sisters, all famous for their canonized novels. Born on April 21, 1816, Charlotte was the eldest and is best known for writing *Jane Eyre*. She was once urged by poet Robert Southey to abandon her writing because she was a woman. How fortunate that Charlotte didn't listen!

Three Year Anniversary of Brentwood's Little Free Food Library!

Join us on April 23 from noon to 2:00 pm to celebrate our community.

Potluck and donations for the Brentwood Free Food Library.

Dear Brentwood Neighbours,

April 2020 is the date that the Free Food Library opened amidst the uncertainty, social isolation, and economic challenges that were exacerbated by the pandemic.

It has been three years now, and our community has been steadfast in providing ongoing barrier-free mutual aid to our neighbours. The motto for the Food Library has become: Give, Take, Trade, Care, which quite aptly represents the exchanges and relationships that have been fostered through the presence of the Food Library and all the other acts of kindness and community care in Brentwood.

The Brentwood Cares team is so proud that our community has been recognized for our compassion, which has extended beyond our boundaries to reach out to neighbours both locally and globally including our support for Migrant Workers and Girls' Education in Pakistan.

Let's meet on Liza and Arya's lawn (3624 Boulton Rd NW – home of the Food Library) on April 23, anytime from noon to 2:00 pm, to celebrate our community with a potluck and some cheer. If you have bottles to donate, we will take them for the school project. Everyone is welcome!

Please RSVP to Liza at lakloren@ucalgary.ca if you plan to attend. Include Little Free Food Library Potluck in the subject.

Little Free Food Library (3624 Boulton Rd NW)

Thanks for the tremendous support this winter. Demand continues to grow and many times throughout the day the box is empty. We are still experiencing some days of below freezing temperatures, so stable goods (like nuts, peanut butter, fish in oil, rice/pasta, cereal, and dried fruit) are helpful to have. But canned goods are warmly welcome again.

Donations of cash or gift cards are always welcome, please use the mailbox and ring the bell or text 403-606-6949 so it gets picked up.

Food Bank Hamper Drivers

More drivers are always welcome! Soon enough it will be summer, and with vacations, any extra drivers will be greatly appreciated. Have an hour or so free on a Tuesday to Thursday in the morning? Please email cam.howey@gmail.com for more details.


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brntwdca@telus.net
403-284-3477

Off the Bookshelf

by Rosemary Brown

The further I delved into Tessa McWatt's *Shame on Me: An Anatomy of Race and Belonging*, the more absorbed I became. McWatt's fluid and poetic writing style draws one in, and the structure of the book is intriguing.

McWatt was born in British Guyana, emigrated to Canada when she was a child, and in later years moved to England where she teaches creative writing at the University of East Anglia. She is a prolific writer.

Shame on Me, published in 2019, is a memoir. It recounts experiences from McWatt's childhood, youth, and adult years, and chronicles her search for what she is in the world, as well as where she belongs. This search was inspired by her multiracial heritage and the question she was posed as a young child in Canada: "What are you?" These led to many interesting philosophical musings on identity and identification. McWatt makes herself very vulnerable to her readers, but as she has stated in interviews, she felt she needed to move beyond addressing these issues through the characters of her novels and to put herself on the page, a need prompted by increasing racial violence in the world.

Her experience as a person of mixed racial heritage is organized within the framework of the human anatomy: nose, lips, eyes, skin, ass, bone, and blood. Interspersed with her personal stories, which shift in time and space, are discussions around the function of various body parts—functions which are shared by all of us regardless of racial heritage.

She describes the work of several European scientists who classified human beings on the basis of these anatomical details, all of whose projects centred Caucasians as superior and othered people from different racial backgrounds.

McWatt undertook family history research, including visits to parts of the world she thinks her ancestors came from. She also underwent Jungian psychoanalysis and took two different DNA tests as part of her journey to find herself. The DNA testing, which basically confirmed what she suspected about her heritage, also led her to ponder the mystery of common ancestors thousands of years ago, as well as the continual movement of human populations in the far past.

The insights she gained from all aspects of her search, especially Jungian psychoanalysis, led her to an understanding that it is not what she is but who she is that counts. It's about who she is in the world in relationship to other people and the natural world around her. She moves beyond the need to be in one particular place or social location, and to realize that she is everywhere.

Along with this shift in thinking is an increasing awareness of the need for social activism to address inequities wherever they may exist. She sees intersectional approaches as the only way forward. She also addresses the fact that many identities are also mediated by class. For her, the new "plantation slave owners" are the one percent who control most of the world's wealth and resources.

Shame On Me is rich in such observations. Not all have been touched on in this review so I strongly encourage folks to read this latest book selection from the Settlers' Book Club.

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?



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FOR THE ANSWERS!



Jason Copping

MLA, Calgary-Varsity
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Budget 2023: Securing Alberta's Future

With a forecast surplus of \$2.4 billion in 2023-24, Budget 2023 provides the opportunity for our government to invest in Alberta's future, providing security for Alberta families and communities.

Balancing the Budget and Creating Jobs

Building on Alberta's strong foundations, including low taxes, a skilled and educated workforce, and an efficient regulatory environment, Budget 2023 enhances Alberta's business climate even further by making strategic investments that support key and emerging sectors.

Record Investment in Healthcare

Our government continues to invest in healthcare this year by committing an additional \$965 million to health to build a stronger public healthcare system for Albertans.

Continued Investment in Our Students

The UCP has increased investments in K-12 education, directly addressing inflation and rising enrolment growth in schools, meeting students' increasingly diverse needs, and building and refurbishing schools to meet both current and future demand. We are also increasing post-secondary seats and providing more supports for these students.

Making Life More Affordable

Budget 2023 continues to provide relief through our Affordability Action Plan. Albertans continue to benefit from ongoing programs such as the fuel tax relief program, electricity rebates, natural gas rebates, and monthly \$100 affordability payments for eligible seniors, families, and Albertans on certain benefit programs.

We are building a province that is stronger and more resilient than ever. For more information on the budget, please visit <https://www.alberta.ca/budget.aspx>.

As always, if you have questions or concerns feel free to reach me through email at calgary.varsity@assembly.ab.ca or call 403-216-5436.

As you may know, I am the United Conservative Candidate for Calgary-Varsity. Our campaign team is reaching 200 strong and I would sincerely appreciate your support, both on our team, and on election day. Please reach out to me at jason@copping4varsity.ca if you are interested in volunteering for my campaign. And thank you all for relating your questions and concerns. I am delighted that knowledgeable and engaged citizens in the riding keep holding me to account.

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8			5		1			9
			6		9	7		
		4		7				5
4	8							6
		2				4		
9							1	8
6				8		3		
		3	1		6			
7			3		5			2

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