

NOVEMBER 2023

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THE OFFICIAL BRENTWOOD COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



Cover Photo by Margaret Rye



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Dear Brentwoodians,

I am writing this the day after our family's traditional Thanksgiving dinner, which thanks to leftovers has already stretched to today's lunch and dinner and will continue to fill sandwiches and soup containers for a while yet. It is a good moment to reflect on how fortunate my family is, in times when many in our community are struggling to make ends meet. There are many ways that those of us who are able can help, and a great one is to keep contributing to the Little Food Library that has been operated by the tireless people at Brentwood Cares since the early days of the COVID Pandemic. A tip of the hat to Liza Lorenzetti, Cam Howey, all their helpers, and all the people in our neighbourhood who have kept it full and ready for those who need it.

I Have Some Competition!

Most readers are accustomed to turning to the *Bugle* every month for information about BCA events, stories about the people and places in our community, and goings-on in city hall that might affect us.

I thought we were the only game around until this weekend, when I was presented with a hot-off-the-press copy of the *Brentwood Buzz*. Distributed by bicycle from headquarters on Bennett Crescent, I am not sure how far it has reached into the community, but the entrepreneurial young journalists Iris and Elio, whose byline graces the newsletter, have done a great job and should be proud of their work. Journalism is a fundamental component of a healthy society, and it is great to see kids show an interest at an early age – I hope they are encouraged to continue keeping us updated on what's happening around our community!

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) and 2400 x 1600 pixels minimum size. If submitting pictures of minors, please make sure that you have direct, express permission to submit the picture from a parent or guardian. Send your photos, or any questions, to bcabugle@telus.net.

Yours sincerely,
Jonathan Jucker, editor
Brentwood Bugle

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In Memory of Marg Cook

by Lee Hunt

Marg Cook, who recently passed away at age 93, could perhaps be fondly described as “a whirling dervish” – dedicated to her family, community, church, and travel.

Born and raised in Bawlf, AB, Marg was the eldest of nine children. The younger siblings dubbed her “The Boss” (long before Bruce Springsteen took on that title) as she caringly helped to raise them. Marg’s sister, Claire, (also a long time Brentwoodian), recalls that since her parents spoke only German at home, Marg started Grade 1 unable to speak much English at all. Marg turned out to be such a quick learner that she skipped to Grade 2. Meanwhile, at home, Marg taught Claire and their brother Ernest how to speak English.

After high school, Marg became a registered nurse at Edmonton’s General Hospital School of Nursing. She applied her nursing skills in Daysland, Edmonton, Peace River, and Calgary. Just last fall, Marg attended the 70th anniversary of her Nursing class.

Marg married Gordon Cook in 1954. Initially, the pair lived in Detroit, Michigan, then in 1968, they moved to Brentwood in Calgary. But there was a slight glitch – their new house was not quite finished. So, Marg and Gordon plus their then five children (their sixth child was born after the move to Brentwood) moved in for a month with sister Claire and brother-in-law Ernie who had four children. As Claire laughingly puts it, “All Marg and I did for that month was cook and clean for 13 people!”

Both families were very active in our Brentwood Community. Gordon and Ernie helped to build the Skate Shack and invented a machine to flood the ice. Meanwhile, Marg and Claire bought all the food to sell at the concession, while their sons did cleanup at the Skate Shack. In addition, Marg helped out with the Bingos – then a regular feature at the Sportsplex.

Marg was a “regular” at the Brentwood Community Association Seniors’ Teas and had already purchased her 2023-24 BCA membership.

Marg was also very active at St. Luke’s Church where she volunteered when the church housed families from Inn from the Cold. Generally, Marg took the overnight shift which meant that she helped set up the cots, cooked supper, and visited with the families. Marg was also part of the church’s Grief Support Team paying visits to patients in hospital or home. Marg attended Mass each Sunday along with her daughter, Rose.

Marg loved seeing new places. When Gordon was alive, they travelled throughout eastern Canada as far as Newfoundland and Labrador, as well as into the US northern states and down the west coast. Claire and Ernie often joined in these vacations. Claire especially remembers fondly a jaunt with Marg and Gordon from Toronto to the Maritimes in a rented motorhome. And they all returned home to Calgary still friends! After Gordon’s passing, determined to carry on, Marg joined friends on an enjoyable trip to Ireland.

When asked how she will remember Marg, Claire told me that one of her fondest memories will be of a recent five-day visit she and Marg had with their three other sisters - one travelled from California, two from Camrose. The five sisters spent three full days together reminiscing and laughing.

Indeed, Marg Cook’s death will leave all who knew her saddened – but also smiling as we recall the bounce and joy of this “whirling dervish”. We at *The Bugle* extend our condolences to Marg’s family and friends.

Beaver Moon

Traditionally, the full moon in November is called the Beaver Moon because, in need of warm furs for the winter, people in the Colonial Era set beaver traps to catch them before the lakes froze over. This year, the Beaver Moon will be on November 27!



Brentwood Cares

Brentwood Cares New Members Always Welcome

The craziness of December is a month away, and it is the busiest month for Brentwood Cares as well, as we look for ways to bring joy and happiness into Brentwood and beyond.

You might ask, "Why are you asking for more help? I'm too busy."

I recently discovered the work of Sanjiv Chopra, a professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School and brother of Deepak (must have been an interesting family). In a post called *4 Things That Are Important for Happiness*, Sanjiv mentions:

- Friends
- Forgiveness
- Give ("For Others"): Getting involved in charity and donating money to help others has shown to be one of the most happiness inducing and fulfilling ways of spending your time, money, and efforts.
- Gratitude

Another Harvard Prof, Canadian Ashley Whillans, comments in her TEDx Cambridge talk *A Simple Strategy for Happiness* that the best way to feel you have more time is by giving it away (volunteering).

Interested in being part of Brentwood Cares? Email cam.howey@gmail.com.

Thanks,
Cam Howey



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Big Thanks to Horizon Church for Making Brentwood a Wonderful Community



Finding Dory – Sportsplex Movie Theater – September 25

Nathan Hildenbrand, Josh Rice, and the team at Horizon Church do so much to help make Brentwood a great community to live in, supporting our community in so many ways. Especially this year as Brentwood is celebrating its 60th anniversary. I'm sure we've missed a few they quietly do, but in the last year the Horizon Church has organized:

- Christmas hampers
- Sock drive for the Mustard Seed
- Free hot chocolate fest
- Summer BBQ series
- Worked to arrange a community cleanup (City didn't allocate for 2023)
- *Finding Nemo* Movie Night Food Drive for Little Food Library
- Little Food Library support as more members join Horizon

Social engagement is so important and is being increasingly recognized for its massive impact on our health and happiness. It also impacts security, and employment, as shown by a landmark 85-year study on relationships by Harvard psychiatry professor Dr. Robert Waldinger: www.hsph.harvard.edu/health-happiness/2023/02/27/the-good-life-a-discussion-with-dr-robert-waldinger/.

Thanks so much to Horizon Church's many contributions to Brentwood,

Cam Howey, Liza Lorenzetti

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Joke of the Month

What did the yoga
instructor say when
his landlord tried to
evict him?

Namaste.



Will a New Zoning Bylaw Make Housing More Affordable?

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

Regardless of whether you pay a mortgage or pay rent for your home, your costs have likely increased significantly in the past year. Many people are trying to make ends meet or finding themselves priced out of a very tight market. On September 14 and 15, at a Council Committee meeting, many people spoke about their struggles and frustrations with trying to find suitable or affordable housing. "Affordability" in this case is defined as "people or households have access to a variety of housing options where they do not have to spend more than 30% of their income on shelter." Everyone needs a home, plain and simple, although the ways to get to that point are not anywhere near as straightforward.

What are Some of the Main Recommendations?

Some of the items include using City-owned lands for non-market affordable housing, providing incentives or distributing money to enable affordable housing construction, efforts to speed up the planning process ("cutting red tape"), advocating to the federal and provincial governments for additional support, and fast-tracking the City's plans to develop density and affordable housing around transit sites. Those items have broad support from most Councillors and most of the Calgarians who spoke at the public hearing. However, three of the recommendations raised significant concerns or objections.

Do you support "upzoning" (also known as "blanket rezoning") if it means that eight dwelling units could be built on every current R-C1 ("single-family") lot in Calgary? This is known as "R-CG" zoning, and it would allow for a four-unit townhouse plus four secondary suites for a total of eight separate dwelling units on a single property. What else would change regarding lot coverage and building heights? While a single-family home can cover up to a maximum of 45% of the property, an R-CG can cover 60% of the property. While a single-family R-C1 home can be built to a maximum height of 10m (almost 33 feet), an R-CG can be built up to 11m (36 feet). Given the many bungalows in

Brentwood, the increased height difference can be quite jarring, plus lead to massing and shadowing.

Do you support the removal of parking minimums? This would allow for the developer to decide if on-site parking will be provided, or how much might be provided. Right now, a townhouse with four units (plus four suites) would need to provide four off-street parking spaces. If the parking minimums are removed, no parking spaces will be required (it would be up to the developer to determine). The reasoning is that this would make it cheaper to build, although it is not clear how there could be assurance that the presumed savings would be passed on to buyers or renters.

Do you support removing the right to a public hearing on some types of developments? Currently, under the Municipal Government Act, planning process requirements include the right to a public hearing. The recommendations would advocate to the Government of Alberta for legislative change to allow affordable housing to be defined in a manner that exempts it from a public hearing. The intention is that this would increase certainty and reduce timelines for developers and providers.

How was all this determined? The Housing and Affordability Task Force (HATF) consisted of 15 individuals from City administration, the development industry, and social organizations, but did not include any Community Associations or members of the public at large. The Task Force created numerous detailed recommendations, almost 80 items in all. After two days of Public Hearings, a "Special Meeting of Council" was held on a Saturday and the recommendations were approved.

Some Councillors wanted to vote on some of the recommendations individually: the chairperson of the Council meeting will often allow requests for some items to be voted on separately. That was not the case here. It was an all or nothing vote and the entirety of the HATF (with minor amendments) was passed by a majority in Council. Blanket rezoning remains the item that seems to be the most divisive because it is such a major change.

Is Blanket Rezoning Necessary? Will It Provide "Affordable" Housing?

Opinions differ. Some people think that building more of any type of housing will increase supply and

ultimately bring down prices. However, density does not necessarily equal affordability. As an example, research from Patrick Condon, a noted UBC Professor in urban design, indicates that “The City of Vancouver, since the 1960s, ... has more than tripled the number of housing units within this small center city – all through “infill” development. If any place should have shown the affordability benefits of adding housing supply, it would have been Vancouver. The real-world evidence proves that increases in allowable density increase land price, i.e., increase the level of land rent, with most of the rent ending up in the pocket of the land speculator.”

Where R-CGs have been built in Calgary in the past five years, in areas such as Capitol Hill or Altadore, individual rowhouse units seem to sell for \$600,000 or even \$700,000 to \$800,000 and up per unit, hardly affordable. Each rowhouse in a set of four often costs about the same as the entire house and property that was torn down and replaced. Some of the older stock housing that rented for a lower price because it was “old” is then no longer available for families in that area and the new housing rents for a much higher price.

Another problem is that City administration does not appear to have answers to questions about how affordability could be guaranteed, or if it will even be monitored. For example, if a developer builds an R-CG unit with no parking, those savings should, in theory, make each unit cheaper, but by how much? If the cost of a unit is based on market pricing, then there is no way to determine if savings are passed on. There is also no requirement for a small-scale builder to build affordable, as opposed to luxury units, in the first place (although large-scale apartment style buildings may require a percentage of affordable units, to be determined on a case-by-case basis).

What Happens Next?

Because blanket rezoning involves a major change of land use, the following steps have to take place before it can be implemented, likely sometime in the second quarter of 2024.

- Preparation and mapping by City Administration
- Notifying all affected property owners
- Public engagement

- Administration prepares a recommendation for Council, incorporating public feedback
- A public hearing of Council where Calgarians can share their views
- A final decision by Council

The Task Force recommendations will impact you so learn more and get involved. For details on the Task Force, visit the main website at engage.calgary.ca/HATaskForce.

On that same website page, on the right side, under Document Library, there is a link to the Recommendations. In the BCA hall, we will post information on the bulletin board. Please also check the BCA website for updates.



Brentwood Arena Public Skating

Mondays from 10:00 to 11:30 am

September 11 to December 18, 2023 | January 8 to March 25, 2024

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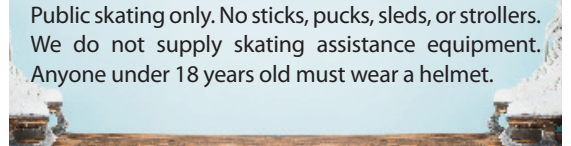
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No Public Skating Dates: October 9, December 25 and 27 2023, February 19, 2024

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Off the Bookshelf

by Rosemary Brown

On the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation, I am writing this review of *Living in Indigenous Sovereignty*, co-edited by Elizabeth Carlson-Manathari and Gladys Row. The book is organized into different sections, each with rich and thought-provoking introductions followed by essays by diverse individual settlers striving to infuse reconciliation and decolonization into their daily lives and activities.

Carlson-Manathari is an Assistant Professor of Social Work at Laurentian University. Gladys Rowe is a member of the Fox Lake Cree Nation in northern Manitoba. She earned her Ph.D. at the University of Manitoba with a dissertation entitled *Resurgence of Indigenous Nationhood: Centering the stories of Indigenous full-spectrum doulas*.

Living in Indigenous sovereignty means “being in relationship with one another and the land in ways that center Indigenous knowledge systems, governance structures, and priorities”.

It requires a deep paradigm shift in our thinking and understanding. It requires us to “see ourselves as characters in the stories of Indigenous people and not the main characters in our own”.

It means acknowledging ourselves as not just settlers but occupiers on Indigenous land, regardless of how we obtained this land. This includes recognizing that “the root of colonization was dispossession from the land”.

It means understanding that treaties created relationships not only between us and Indigenous peoples, but with the land itself. Relationship does not necessarily mean friendship but instead kinship and that therefore we have responsibilities for these relationships. It means accepting our reciprocal relationship with Mother Earth with its consequent obligations to treat the land not as property but as spirit. It means loving, respecting, and learning from the Earth and carrying out our responsibilities to nurture and protect her.

It means decentering ourselves, and following the lead of Indigenous peoples defending the land. This entails listening and asking how we can be of support, rather than insisting on what we perceive to be the solutions.

It means understanding how we are socialized into accepting colonialism and colonization as the norm and to be conscious of the dynamics of power and oppression and our responsibility to challenge racism and other forms of oppression within ourselves.

It means being accountable to Indigenous peoples and to the land.

It also means working with other settler occupiers to support each other in this journey of shifting paradigms and ways of being, of not becoming mired in guilt and fear of making mistakes, in order to take collective action in support of Indigenous struggles. The stories in this book offer interesting accounts of how individual settler occupiers have done so on a local level.

It means going beyond what we have become aware of on the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation and transforming ourselves and our relationships to Indigenous peoples and the land. It requires humility and the recognition that this is a life-long journey. I encourage everyone who is marking this day in one way or another to read this book and to move to action.

For information about the Settlers Book Club, where we read and discussed this book, please go to settlersbookclub.com.

In Chapters and Chat we read *113 Pathways to Justice: recommendations by the Alberta Joint Working Group on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls*. Released in 2020, one year after the publication of *Reclaiming Power, Reclaiming Place—the final Report of the National Enquiry on MMIWG—113 Pathways* is focused on the changes that need to be made here in Alberta to guarantee the safety and well-being of Indigenous women and girls in this province. For those who read the final report, the themes discussed will be familiar. What’s important for us as readers, however, is that it provides a plan of action to which we can hold our provincial government and institutions accountable. Let’s do so.

For more information on Chapters and Chat, go to <https://www.nativecalgarian.com> › book-club.



Brentwood Learn to Skate Program



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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.

Unopened, sealed items can be dropped off in the library itself or in the box beside the door at 3624 Boulton Rd. at any time. Hats off to Brentwood for your continued support!

Liza and the Brentwood Cares Team

Buy Nothing Brentwood

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

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

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We've all used Google Images, but do you know the reason it was created? On July 12, 2001, Google invented this search engine because so many people had searched for pictures of Jennifer Lopez' green Versace dress. Can you imagine that kind of impact?!

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110 PANAMOUNT DRIVE NW (PANORAMA HILLS)

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Asking \$413,900 mls# A2081898

2716 CRAWFORD ROAD NW (CHARLESWOOD)

An outstanding bungalow located near the top of Charleswood Heights on a quiet treed street with tons of features, over 1,350 sq.ft. Upgrades in the last few years renovated kitchen with maple cabinet, skylight replaced in 2019 and more. Fully developed basement. Double detached garage. Close to all amenities, all level of schools, Foothills and Children Hospitals and Brentwood LRT station.

Asking \$755,900 mls# A2080002

1306, 1010 ARBOUR LAKE ROAD NW (Arbour Lake)

Beautiful top floor condo apartment unit with Rocky Mountain views, 2 bedrooms, 2 full bathrooms. Highlight of this lovely unit: laminate flooring throughout, open concept floor plan and kitchen with raised breakfast bar. Vaulted ceiling in family room with gas fireplace, and has direct access to balcony to enjoy the Rocky Mountains view. Master bedroom with walk-in closet, 3 pce ensuite. Close to all amenities.

Asking \$363,900 mls# A2083809

3416-23 STREET NW (CHARLESWOOD)

An outstanding bungalow located in a quiet treed street in the high demand area of Charleswood. Total of 3 bedroom, 2 full bathroom. Upgrades include light fixtures, furnace, hot water tank, shingles, electrical panel and more. Short walk to Canmore Park and the Confederation Park/Golf Course.

Asking \$849,900 mls# A2076551

24 CLARENDON ROAD NW (COLLINGWOOD)

Fabulous, curb appeal four levels split located on an escalated huge pie shape lot (8188 sqft) with view of downtown. Total of 4 bedroom, 3.5 bathroom. Third level (above ground) offers den/office, 2 pce bathroom, gleaming hardwood floor in a large family room. Open concept, bright west-facing living room with bow window and wood-burning fireplace, gourmet kitchen with skylight. Private sunroom and outdoor fireplace for social gathering. Master bedroom comes with luxurious 5 pce ensuite. The lower level has been set up for a self-contained illegal bachelor with separate entrance. Close to all amenities.

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A unique location of this lovely four level split with a front curved driveway, over 1,480 above grade + 1,410 sq.ft developed in third and fourth levels. 4 bedroom, 3 full bathroom. Freshly painted interior. Facing Barrett Park. Upgrades include shingles, furnaces, water heater and more. Close to all amenities.

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PANORAMA HILLS--PANATELLA STREET

Two bedroom, two full bathroom and den/office condo apartment on the ground floor in the most desirable neighbourhood of Panorama Hills. Freshly painted throughout the unit. Close to all amenities, shops, schools, public transit, and easy access to Highway 201. Excellent value for a first time buyer or investment.

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