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Hello, Calgary-Varsity! I'm Dr. Luanne Metz, your new MLA. You can contact to my office at [calgary.varsity@assembly.ab.ca](mailto:calgary.varsity@assembly.ab.ca) or 403.216.5436 with your questions and concerns. Scan below to sign up for my digital non-partisan MLA newsletter to find out more about what we are doing in the Alberta Legislature to represent you!

X @luanne\_metz  @drmetzndp



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# Brentwood COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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## 62 Years in Brentwood

by Lee Hunt

"Things have definitely changed in the past 62 years in Brentwood, but I still have good memories of our earliest days settling in Brentwood." That was an overview as told to me by Susanne Stevens who has resided in Brentwood since 1961.

Susanne and her husband, Stan, parents of four pre-school age children at the time, moved into their Brentwood Blvd home in July 1962. They felt it was time to settle down after many years of living in a trailer and moving from town to town with Stan's job in the oil exploration industry. Since 1961, they had been living in the Acadia Trailer Park which was located where the Brentwood Co-op is today.

Their home was one of few on Brentwood Blvd at the time. As more homes were built and more neighbours moved in, Susanne told me that they all "helped each other with planting grass, borrowing tools, building fences, and exchanging ideas."

In those early days, Susanne recalls that much of what we now know as Brentwood Village Mall was a dairy farm. Similarly, the current tennis courts by Nose Hill Library and the Sir Winston Churchill Rec Centre were another farm – this one owned by an elderly Ukrainian couple named Norhutchka. This is where Susanne bought her eggs for many years. She also recalls being inside the home one cold, wintry day (no electricity, no central heating) and discovering that the couple had a young calf near the wood burning stove to keep the calf warm.

In time, Susanne and Stan had six children. Some of the children played baseball at the Brentwood Community, while others were in Scouts. All played on the large ceramic turtle and the 'push carousel' in what was then known as Turtle Park, now Blakiston Park. The children also enjoyed skating on the rink which was created in the park each year by the City and neighbours. The ice was maintained by Blakiston Road resident Mr. Rayner.

One of Susanne's neighbours, Sharon, described Susanne as "very friendly" and "determined." One example of that determination was the fact that,

"no matter the weather, Susanne would go out for her daily walk." As she walked, Susanne generally whistled – a sound which neighbours came to listen for and enjoy. Sharon also admires Susanne's hard work in raising the six children often on her own while Stan was working up north for months at a time in the winter.

And hard work is definitely in Susanne's genes. Once the children were all in school, Susanne got a part time afternoon job at Brentwood Co-op where she worked in the cash office from 1975 to 1990. From 1980 to 1988, she also took on a morning role at U of C co-ordinating the Employee Credit Union. Still at U of C, she shifted to being the Administrative Assistant for Student Family Housing from 1988 to 2001.

Throughout her years in Brentwood, Susanne has been an active parishioner at St. Luke's Catholic Church – once again volunteering, this time with funeral luncheons and the annual garage sale.

But it isn't all work for Susanne! She also found time to be active in the Confederation Park Seniors group where she participated in cribbage games plus the exercise program. She also volunteered at the front desk. Now that Confederation has merged with the Triwood Seniors, Susanne keeps up with such social events as the St. Patrick's Day celebration, monthly teas, and the Stampede BBQ.

As you can tell, Susanne is a "goer." Though Brentwood may have changed significantly over the past 62 years, Susanne Stevens' enthusiasm, determination, and zest for life certainly have not!



Susanne Stevens by Stewart Stevens

# Off the Bookshelf

by Rosemary Brown

The two most recent books read in Chapters and Chat and the Settlers Book Club were memoirs: *A Two-Spirit Journey* by Ma-nee Chacaby and *Our Voice of Fire* by Brandi Morin. The lives of these two women have followed very different trajectories: Morin is an investigative journalist and Chacaby a Lesbian Ojibway-Cree Elder, but they both experienced trauma as children and poverty, extreme difficulties finding their way in life, and finally healing.

Ma-nee Chacaby's life story was told to Mary Louisa Plummer who wrote the afterword to the book. Here Plummer describes the process that was used, one that ensured the authenticity of Chacaby's voice. Plummer also locates Chacaby's memoir within the literature of told-to narratives. In general, Indigenous men's narratives have focused on events and deeds while those of Indigenous women have emphasized connections to other people and to nature. Ma-nee's story stands out as it also reveals her inner emotional life. Plummer goes on to link Chacaby's story to larger historical trends such as the move from the bush to urban areas and the emergence of the LBGTQ2S+ movement in Canada.

Chacaby, born in 1950, grew up with her grandmother, and after the age of five with her mother in the small community of Ombabika, over 200 kilometres north of Thunder Bay in northern Ontario. She was grounded in Indigenous spiritual teachings and practices by her grandmother and taught how to survive in the bush and to hunt and trap by her stepfather. She shunned girls clothing and loved being out on the trap line. She retained her Ojibway language, only learning English later in life, as she was not sent to a residential school. Home and community life was difficult, however. Her grandmother was the only person she knew who did not drink and she herself began drinking at a very young age. Her mother beat her, and she experienced sexual molestation from several adults in her life.

At 16, her mother arranged for her to marry a much older man. She experienced vicious physical abuse in her marriage until the time when she fought back and finally left for Thunder Bay with the children. She continued to drink and spent time on the streets, while her children were in the care of Child and Family Services. When faced with the choice of becoming sober

or losing her children for good, she turned to AA and eventually trained to become an Alcoholism Counsellor. She worked in this field for years, while raising her family and a younger brother, until failing eyesight forced her to resign. The years that followed enabled Ma-Nee, while living on a very limited income, to explore her sexuality and to build long-term fulfilling relationships with other women. She became increasingly political around gay and other human rights issues while re-engaging with the early spiritual teachings and practices that her grandmother had taught her.

In her fifties, recurrent flashbacks to the physical and sexual abuse she had experienced in the past led to a diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder, for which she entered a treatment program. Today, in her later 70s, Ma-nee is recognized as an Elder, a gay rights activist and organizer, and the centre of a large network of family and long-time friends.

Brandi Morin, a well-known investigative reporter, is Métis, and was born in western Alberta. She also experienced physical abuse and was raised by alcoholic parents. Unlike Ma-Nee, whose mother and grandmother died when she was in her teens, Morin always had her parents' support and love, as well as that of her grandmother for many years, even though she was in and out of foster homes. In her teens she experienced sexual assault and abuse. She gave birth to three children, and it was only her love for them and her strong faith that enabled her to give up the alcohol and turn her life around. Her passion was writing, and with no training or experience she began reporting for local newspapers, first in Manitoba and then in Stony Plain, Alberta.

She focused on Indigenous peoples and issues in her writings, a path she continued to follow as a freelancer. In the process she became increasingly politicized and broke down the walls that usually separate the reporter and subjects; making connections was paramount. This is also why she wanted to write *Our Voice of Fire*. A testament to her resilience, it demonstrates that she has experienced many of the same difficulties faced by those whose stories she tells. She has gained an international reputation for her coverage of Indigenous issues, writing for outlets including the Aboriginal People's Television Network, the New York Times, National Geographic, and Al Jazeera. Despite this success, she has continued

*continued on next page*

to struggle with mental health issues arising from the trauma she experienced as a child and youth, for which she has sought extensive counselling.

Both Brandi Morin and Ma-nee Chacaby overcame great obstacles to achieve productive and fulfilling lives, ones which include caring for the people around them as well as the activism needed to make this world a better place for all. Both books are highly recommended.

You can go online for interviews with both authors and for paintings by Ma-Nee Chacaby. Morin is also on several social media platforms.



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## The Role of the DTC on Community Issues

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

I am constantly amazed by all the volunteers who contribute so much of their time and efforts to the Brentwood Community Association (BCA). Everything from hockey to gardening to *Bugle* proof-reading, and much more! I've met so many of the nicest people, not only other Board members and volunteers, but also many other Brentwood residents. Often this contact is initiated due to a Development Permit (DP) or some other problem or complaint.

We sometimes get asked about the role of our community association regarding planning matters. In Calgary, community associations are considered to be "directly affected" by community planning matters and are therefore entitled to have notice from, and to be heard by, decision makers. In Brentwood, the Development and Transportation Committee (DTC) receives and comments on planning matters, collects feedback from residents or affected parties, and communicates with the City of Calgary.

Essentially, the DTC represents our community and tries to help residents who have a problem or concern. We have taken development cases to the Subdivision Development and Appeal Board (SDAB) and attended Council meetings to provide our feedback. Sometimes we succeed, sometimes we don't. It can be both discouraging and frustrating when we cannot help a resident who has valid concerns that lie outside of our scope. Two recent situations come to mind.

In one, there were significant changes to a Development Permit (DP) after it was circulated to neighbours and the CA. Second-storey windows were installed where there had been no windows on the initial submitted plans. This illustrates a flaw in the DP process: only the initial plans for a new house or addition are circulated, meaning that neighbours and the CA can comment on them. However, if the applicant makes subsequent changes (like adding new windows), there is no easy way for anyone to know about this, and at this point it is past the deadline to appeal or to have changes made to the plans. (Note: It is possible to file a request through Property Research, although this requires submitting a form and arranging a time for viewing the plans).

We have discussed this with the City Planning Department, and they recognize that this sometimes happens. The goal is to eventually post updated information on the website ([www.DMap.calgary.ca](http://www.DMap.calgary.ca)) but that may still take some time, plus a budget for this kind of work. This is not much consolation for anyone who could not have commented on windows that were not there initially!

In several recent cases, there have been DPs for new houses that are replacing existing smaller houses, with the new houses being several times larger (much higher, closer to the setbacks, much larger building footprints). When a three-storey building is proposed next to a bungalow, the discrepancy can be startling; some have been referred to as "monster houses". A common question is whether that is really allowed. In most cases that we have seen, yes, because although the plans for the new houses may extend to the maximum allowable limits of what the Land Use Bylaw (LUB) allows, they often do not exceed the limits. Some of the feedback we have received includes comments about the height, suitability for the area, the lack of sensitivity to neighbouring properties in terms of shadowing or massing, and so on. Residents express disappointment when most of the existing trees will be cut down and when much of the property will be covered with cement, walkways, and garages. Residents have also commented that in an era of climate change and environmental concerns, building very large homes and cutting down trees in favour of air conditioners seems out of touch. Ultimately though, every homeowner has the right to develop a property within the "rules" of the Land Use Bylaw, even if that means a house that is much larger than adjacent homes.

As far as Planning rationale, there are provisions in the LUB, the Municipal Development Plan, and other Guidelines for Infill Development that state that redevelopment should be contextual or sensitive to the area, but since beauty is in the eye of the beholder, that can be difficult to quantify or prove. Two recent cases (one in Varsity, one in Charleswood) were taken to the SDAB, but in both cases, the DP was allowed to proceed unaltered. Neighbours opposing the proposed building could not prove that their use and enjoyment of their own property would be negatively impacted by the planned building next door.

Unfortunately, sometimes matters like this lie outside of the scope of the BCA. We try our best to represent our community



and we do want to hear from you so that your comments can be included in our reviews and feedback to the City.

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](mailto:office@brentwoodcommunity.com) or at 403-284-3477.

*Brentwood*

## Community Association Membership Application

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Dear Brentwoodians,

As I write, the children in our neighbourhood are starting or about to start a fresh school year, and university and college students are starting their semesters as well. For those of us whose work isn't seasonal in nature, the beginning of September always feels like a new beginning, as well as the end of summer. As an aside, I would like to use this platform to express my irritation that CBE schools start back the week before Labour Day, thus depriving families of the chance to have a final week of vacation stretching into the long weekend. If any school trustees are reading this, please take note!

While we often associate the smell of wood smoke with autumn and the cooler weather, the last few days have been a bit excessive, and we can only hope that lower temperatures improve the wildfire situation in BC and lift some of the smoke that we are experiencing. For those looking for ways to get outside once the air clears, take a look at the article elsewhere in this issue from the 4th Elks Triwood Scouts group; they are looking for kids of all ages, as well as adults to serve as leaders (full disclosure: my son is in the Beavers section, and I am a leader with them). It is a great way to get involved in the community and learn about the amazing natural beauty in our own neighbourhood and in and around Calgary.

Finally, BCA Treasurer Lisa Boychuk has provided a report on the casino fundraiser with a thank you to those who participated. I would like to in turn give recognition to Lisa for taking on this extremely important, difficult, and occasionally thankless job! The funds from this will be a huge boon to the BCA and its activities.

### 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](mailto:bcabugle@telus.net).

Yours sincerely,  
*Jonathan Jucker, editor*  
Brentwood Bugle



## Part-Time Community Hall Employee Wanted



Are you retired and still physically fit and looking for occasional work to keep yourself busy and put a little money in your pocket? The BCA is looking for someone to join our team operating the Community Hall (see photo) at the Brentwood Sportsplex. Duties include janitorial work, minor building maintenance, and set up and take down of tables and chairs for events.

Schedule is flexible, evenings and weekends based on hall bookings. If you are interested, please contact Steve Dietrich, Sportsplex Manager at [steve.dietrich@brentwoodcommunity.com](mailto:steve.dietrich@brentwoodcommunity.com).

## BCA Secretary Wanted

See the poster elsewhere in this issue.

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*Liza and the Brentwood Cares Team*

## Seeking Christmas Market Vendors

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the link below. Space is limited so reserve early! <http://brentwoodcommunity.com/2023/03/31/seeking-christmas-market-vendors>.

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**CALGARY MAT & LINEN:** Get high-quality mat and linen services with pick-up and drop-off from Calgary Mat & Linen! We offer expert rental and cleaning for hospitality and healthcare industries. Contact us at 403-279-5554 or visit <https://calgarymatandlinen.com/> to learn more and get a quote. We are located in SE Calgary.

**E.G.K. GENERAL CONTRACTING | COMPLETE HOME RENOVATIONS AND DEVELOPMENTS, INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR WORK:** Framing, drywalling, taping, texturing, tile-work, painting, plumbing, electrical, windows, doors, flooring, insulating, insurance claims, mold remediation, handyman services, and more! 35+ years experience. Licensed, insured, W.C.B. & B.B.B. A+ rating. Contact Erich at egkgencon@gmail.com, or 403-606-2493. Website: www.egkcontracting.com.

**GUTTER DOCTOR:** Home exterior services. We do eavestrough cleaning, repairs, and installation as well as downspouts, fascia, soffit, siding, roofing, cladding, leaf screens, and heat cables. Local business for over 20 years with more than 50,000 happy customers! Licensed, insured, and WCB. A+ rated BBB member. Multi award-winner. Quality work with a warranty! www.gutterdoctor.ca, 403-714-0711.

*continued on next page*

# BUSINESS CLASSIFIEDS

continued

For business classified ad rates contact Great News Media  
at 403-720-0762 or sales@greatnewsmedia.ca

**MOBILE HAIR CREATIONS:** Licensed hair stylist providing professional hair care for seniors in the comfort of your home. Services include haircuts, perms, colours, and sets. Please call or text Annette at 587-580-9027 to book an appointment, or visit <http://mobilehaircreations.com>.

## Thank You Casino Volunteers!

Thank you to all the volunteers that made this casino a success.

On August 11 and 12, volunteers from the Brentwood Community Association and beyond worked at their casino fundraiser at the Elbow River Casino. Casinos are a critical fundraising tool for non-profit groups to help fund programs and keep our facilities running smoothly.

The great thing about working a casino is that you get to spend some time with others from the community, listen to live music, have a free meal, and learn about the working of a casino without spending your own money. I have always found it fascinating that a casino is in fact its own community with long-time "residents" sharing stories of their experiences over the years.

Among the amazing group of volunteers who graciously gave their time to help, we were fortunate to have long-time residents like Bruce and Marg Fraser who are in their 90s; new Canadians who joined our community only a few months ago; and other folks from outside the community just willing to help.

If working a casino does not work for you, we have some vacant positions on the BCA board, so please go to our website or call the office to find out more.

*Lisa Boychuk*

Join our team and make a difference!

# VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Brentwood Community is needing a  
Secretary for our Board Meetings

Position would require taking minutes at the  
Board Meeting on the last Tuesday of the Month.  
(ex July and Dec) and at the AGM in Sept

Please contact Linda at  
403-284-3477 Option 2 or email  
[office@brentwoodcommunity.com](mailto:office@brentwoodcommunity.com)



## Nature's Philosophy

by Victor Timmons



Nocturnal birds in sibilant causerie  
Forest creatures in distant revelry  
While nature's blanket dims their rivalry  
And stills the air to peaceful reverie

How brief is this tranquillity  
As hostile meetings in darkened shrubbery  
Remind, if only momentarily  
That man alone enjoys in camaraderie

# Scouts About - 4th Elks Triwood



## October Updates

We are off! Fall plans made and programs commenced! Cubs have been orienteering and played a giant 'Animal Game' in West Confederation Park with 75 to 100 other Cubs. Scouts have been sailing, participated in the Great Escape game with 200 other Scouts and Venturers, and attended an all-section camp with the Edgemont group. Beavers and Cubs have a Halloween Camp planned at Camp Cadicasu for the end of the month.

## Youth Sections

Scouting has five sections based on age. Scouting is open to both boys and girls.

Section	Ages	Motto
Beavers	5 to 7	Sharing, Sharing, Sharing
Cubs	8 to 10	Do your Best
Scouts	11 to 14	Be Prepared
Venturers	15 to 17	Challenge
Rovers	16 to 18	Go Beyond

## Become a Leader

Anyone 16 years of age or older can be a leader. If you are interested in building youth and community presence, all you need is a sense of adventure. Don't worry about 'having the skills', you can build those along the way!

## Fundraisers

Thanks to everyone who bought our special 4th Elks Label Coffee roasted by Highwood Coffee at the Community Market and Community Cleanup in September. Beavers and Cubs will be coming door to door in November selling delicious Caramel and Belgian Chocolate Drizzled Caramel Popcorn. Buy one bag for \$20 or two for \$35.

For more information, contact us at [4thElksTriwood@gmail.com](mailto:4thElksTriwood@gmail.com) or find us on Facebook at 4thElks.



*Cubs playing animal game*



*Scouts gathering after the Great Escape*

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# SOLD! SOLD! SOLD!

- CHARLESWOOD—CHALICE ROAD.....Sold for 113% of asking price**
- HAWKWOOD—HAWKTREE CIRCLE.....Sold for 99.7% of asking price**
- CHARLESWOOD—23 STREET.....Sold for 99.7% of asking price**
- CHARLESWOOD—23 ST.....Sold for 97.6% of asking price**

## ON THE MARKET



### **5308 BARRETT DRIVE NW (BRENTWOOD)**

A unique location for this lovely four level split with the front curved driveway, over 1,480

above grade + 1,410 sq.ft developed in third & fourth levels. 4 bedrooms, 3 full bathrooms. Freshly painted interior. Facing Barrett Park. Upgrades to shingles, furnaces, water heater and more...close to all amenities.

Asking \$736,000 mls#A2078522



### **2110 - 60 PANATELLA STREET NW (PANORAMA HILLS)**

This two bedroom, two full bathroom and den/office condo apartment on the

ground floor is in the most desirable neighbourhood – Panorama Hills. Freshly painted throughout the unit, close to all amenities, shops, schools & public transit, easy access to Highway 201. Excellent value for a first time buyer or investment.

Asking \$284,900 mls# A2068280



### **3416 - 23 STREET NW (CHARLESWOOD)**

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

Asking \$898,800 mls# A2076551



### **24 CLARENDON ROAD NW (COLLINGWOOD)**

Fabulous curb appeal for this four level split, 2,266 sq.ft, located on an escalated huge pie shaped lot with views

of downtown. Tons of features with upgrades / extension 10 years ago.

Asking \$899,800 mls# A2068878

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