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THE OFFICIAL BRENTWOOD COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



## BRENTWOOD WALKERS

Cover Photo by Cathy Richardson



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# Brentwood COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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**News, Events, & More**



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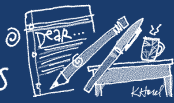


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Dear Brentwoodians,

Just as the February issue was going to press, police attended a homicide that occurred in a Brentwood residence. I don't think any of us believe that our (or any) neighbourhood is immune to the problems in our society, but nonetheless it is shocking when we are confronted with them.

One means of protecting ourselves is by staying aware of activity in our community. It is important not to overreact to every small occurrence out of the ordinary, but sometimes in hindsight we can identify patterns and signs of trouble. To this end, Calgary Police are establishing a presence on the NextDoor social media platform, which offers another conduit for community members to reach out with concerns.

An even better way to be—and feel—safe in our community is by being active and engaged. Get out and about if you are able and get to know your neighbours. A great example is set by the Brentwood Walkers group, as profiled in Lee Hunt's "People In Your Neighbourhood" and starring on our front cover.

Another way to strengthen ties in the community is to help those that need it. *The Bugle* often runs reports from the Brentwood Cares group, which started during the pandemic and continues to help people in our community (and beyond) by accepting and distributing donations of food, clothing, books, toys, etc. Cam, Liza, and company are committed to community-building in many ways, for instance by promoting food literacy, live music, and other opportunities to come together. If you are interested in receiving updates from Brentwood Cares, or learning about ways to contribute, please contact Cam Howey at [cam.howey@gmail.com](mailto:cam.howey@gmail.com).

**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

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## News from the Friends of Nose Hill

by Anne Burke

As many of you are aware, there is an annual global community science competition which documents urban diversity in 460 cities.

Find Wildlife. Take a Picture or Record. Share! Public bioblitzes are held across Calgary with local stewardship groups. The challenge engages citizen scientists in finding and documenting plants, animals, and other living organisms in urban areas. Since parks are for everyone, use only designated pathways and trails. Respect wildlife and keep your distance. Use designated garbage bins. Keep dogs leashed and pick up after them. Respect other visitors.

The 2023 City Nature Challenge involved taking pictures from April 28 to May 1, and then identifying them. In all there were over 1.8 million observations, nearly 58,000 species, and 66,394 participants. For example, Urban Bee Flies were among one of the species identified and they are important pollinators in Calgary. One of Calgary's most observed butterflies, in spring and fall, was the Mourning Cloak. Common Greenshield Lichen and Red-stemmed Feather Moss were also observed in Calgary. A Water Strider was observed in Bowness Park. A Boreal Chorus Frog was also observed in a threatened wetland of Calgary. The Canada Goose in Calgary's urban ecosystem was also observed. An Orange-Crowned Warbler in Weaslehead Natural Area was also identified. Find pictures of all these species and more at [www.citizenblitz.ca/](http://www.citizenblitz.ca/).

Yes, the City Nature Challenge will take place again this year. The dates for the event are April 26 to April 29: Taking pictures of wild plants and animals. April 30 to May 5: Identifying what was found. Canadian and global results will be announced on Monday May 6, 2024. This will be the sixth year for Calgary Region participation and there are awards for the top cities. It can be any plant, animal, or any other evidence of life found in the City. Take a picture of what you find or record a sound. Be sure to note the location. Share your observations. The set up for the project page, working with the global organizer team for materials, and more can be found at: [www.inaturalist.ca/projects/city-nature-challenge-2024-calgary-metropolitan-region](http://www.inaturalist.ca/projects/city-nature-challenge-2024-calgary-metropolitan-region).



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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 Road at any time. Hats off to Brentwood for your continued support!

*Liza and the Brentwood Cares Team*

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## Your Representatives in Brentwood

**City Councillor:** Sean Chu (Ward 4):  
[ward04@calgary.ca](mailto:ward04@calgary.ca); 403-268-3727.

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

**MP:** Len Webber (Calgary Confederation):  
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## What Do Blanket Zoning Changes Mean to You?

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

Calgary City Council is going to vote on “blanket rezoning” in April and if approved, it will allow for rowhouses and multifamily development on all properties previously zoned as R-C1 – single-family housing. This is a very significant change because it includes not only potentially eight units next door (four units plus four suites) but also because it allows for much greater lot coverage (leaving less green space or trees) and greater building height (more shadowing or overlooking). It’s difficult to balance increased densification within a community while still preserving some of the sense of community and the aspects residents enjoy most. Many of our residents tell us, “I bought R-1 for a reason” so let’s take a look at what zoning means in the first place.

### Why Do We Need Zoning?

Imagine you live on an acreage where your nearest neighbour is a full kilometre away. Both of you are unlikely to impact the other through your activities. Regardless of whether you raise chickens, use power tools, sing, or yodel, the neighbour won’t hear you or be affected by what you do. Similarly, the size and shape of your home are unlikely to impact the neighbour. You could build an expansive house, three storeys tall, with windows all around, and there won’t be a negative impact from massing, shadowing, or loss of privacy.

But in the city, those aspects definitely matter because when people live closer together, the desires and interests of one person may not align with others around them. Some basic regulations are needed to try to minimize potential areas of conflict. These fall into three broad categories: Bylaws, Building Codes, and the Land Use Bylaw (zoning).

Bylaws regulate behaviours, providing basic rules and enforcement for matters such as noise levels, garbage, smoking, etc. Building Codes usually fall under Provincial jurisdiction and specify how construction is to happen – the size of beams or walls, the type of cement, wiring regulations, and so on, with the goal of ensuring safety and standardization for construction.

The City of Calgary Land Use Bylaw (LUB) regulates the use (i.e. residential, retail, commercial) and the intensity (i.e. the maximum height, the number of housing units) of development that can be constructed on any particular property in the city.

Zoning is an important stabilizing influence in a city. It provides certainty for what can or cannot be built next door to you. Historically, zoning separated housing from other less desirable activities, to ensure for example that you wouldn’t have a blacksmith or a pig farm next door. While blacksmithing activities aren’t a big concern anymore, we still separate different types of properties and uses. Some areas of a community have high rises, some have shopping malls or commercial stores, while others have single-family houses. Over time, some people may wish to change what can be built on a property, and the owner of a property does have the right to apply for a change of zoning.

Changing the zoning is a serious matter as it will affect the use of that parcel of land long into the future. Therefore, one of the main considerations in evaluating a rezoning application is the impact on adjacent properties. The Community Association, neighbours to a site, and other affected people have an enshrined right to weigh in before a decision is made. The Municipal Governance Act (MGA), the Municipal Development Plan (MDP), and the City’s Engage policy all include public input and feedback on any decision that will impact them.


Rezoning requires a Council Hearing, and it usually happens on a case-by-case basis where the merits of rezoning a property are discussed and debated. A “blanket” rezoning is rare because it covers many properties and residents at once. The current proposed rezoning impacts 500,000 households, which will see changes to what is allowed on their property and the properties around them.

Most people are not against changes over time in their community. They are however, concerned about balancing the often-competing interests of densification with the reality of losing trees and greenspace, being overshadowed by a much larger building, loss of parking, and most of all, losing the sense of security that zoning provided to them. It can be a difficult challenge for the City and for residents.




Rezoning is not an abstract concept. It is the foundation of your neighbourhood where you have built your home and your life. I'll end with a quote: "the people who live in a neighbourhood are the world's experts on that particular place. Any project to improve things should be guided by the community's wisdom, not the dictates of professional disciplines. This is the most important lesson about making great neighbourhoods we have learned in 30 years of work." (Source: Project for Public Spaces).

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### A Salute to Longevity and Friendship

by Lee Hunt

Some 20 years ago, the Brentwood Walkers Group was formed. The “Charter Members” were Cathy R., Susan R., and Sally C. According to Susan, she was outvoted two to one and thus was named President!

Initially, the women walked to Northland Village from their respective homes and then walked for about an hour in the mall which at the time was fully enclosed. Generally, they walked in the early evenings.

Over the years, four other walkers joined them – “Even some from other communities”, Cathy joked!

The group eventually moved to walking outdoors in Brentwood and then beyond. Now, after 20 years, as Susan put it, “Name any park in Calgary and we’ve likely walked there!”

The group’s walking time slot is now in the daytime and destinations have branched out to include walks in Cochrane (where the Wolf Sanctuary was a particular highlight) and Diamond Valley where they walked the four kilometres between the former towns of Black Diamond and Turner Valley before stopping for lunch.

This “stopping for lunch” seems to be a frequent theme – especially when one of the walkers is celebrating a milestone birthday. With some walkers now in their 60s and others in their 70s, there are a number of “milestones” and consequently numerous special lunches!

Yes, these intrepid walkers enjoy their exercise together, but even more importantly they value the friendships which have flourished over the 20 years. As Cathy put it, “We have all helped one another through the challenges of whatever life throws at you.”

Kudos to the Brentwood Walkers for their perseverance and camaraderie over the past 20 years!

**Shown in the cover photo of the Brentwood Walkers:**

Front Row (L to R) - Cathy R., Debbie F.  
Back Row (L to R) – Sally C., Barbara L., Michelle D., Susan R.  
Missing from photo – Colleen F.



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# Off the Bookshelf

by Rosemary Brown

*True North Rising*, written by Whit Fraser and published in 2018, is an informative and fascinating read. Fraser, who is married to Governor-General Mary Simon, spent decades in the North as a radio reporter. He was based in both Iqaluit (formerly known as Frobisher Bay) and Yellowknife and travelled extensively across the North to cover the stories of the day.

The book is not a linear chronology. Instead, it intersperses developments in his personal life with portrayals of the many individuals he met on his travels; and their connection to the many issues he covered.

Among the personalities he met, many of whom became his friends, were Jonah Kelly and Joe Tobey, who broadcast for the CBC in Inuktitut, and Chipewyan and Dogrib respectively. Kelly created new words in Inuktitut and was known for the comparisons he made between the experiences of Indigenous peoples in the North and those of Blacks in the United States. Joe Tobey was a well-known and respected hunter, who took Whit on many hunting expeditions.

Fraser also met many young Indigenous rights activists who later became politicians and land claim negotiators. These include Stephen Kakfwi, who became Premier of the Northwest Territories, as well as Tagak Curley, John Amagoalik, and Senator Charlie Watts, all involved in the creation of Nunavut.

The issues and events he covered were wide-ranging. These included but were not limited to the Canada-U.S. dispute over Arctic sovereignty; Canadian government restrictions on hunting and the use of numbered disks instead of names for the Inuit people; the Thomas Berger Enquiry into the potential social and economic impact of the proposed Mackenzie Valley Pipeline; the rise of Indigenous rights organizations in the face of Canada's promotion of unfettered northern resource development; the Repatriation of the Canadian constitution and the inclusion of aboriginal rights; and the creation of Nunavut.

In between Fraser's depictions of people and events he provides details of his personal life. We learn how Fraser landed his first radio gig and then his job with the CBC in the North and later in Ottawa and Edmonton.

He married at the age of 20 and had three children. Fraser describes how he almost lost his job with the CBC when he spoke out against the Mackenzie Valley pipeline at the Norman Wells hearing, provoked by the racist "loathing" of the residents of Norman wells against Indigenous peoples. He shares his past struggles with alcohol, smoking, blackouts, and his weight. He talks about how he first met Mary Simon and married her years later, after his divorce from his first wife. We learn about our Governor-General's upbringing immersed in Inuit culture and the many roles she played in Northern issues and politics before becoming Governor General in 2021. After he left the CBC in 1991, Fraser remained active, working on northern circumpolar issues and engaging with projects like Students on Ice together with Mary.

Some of my favourite moments with this book included his awe at witnessing 300,000 caribou, stretching nearly ten kilometres, during migration; the sound of church bells heard against the panorama of the northern lights; his learning that one could tell how cold it was outside by the rapidity and pitch of the squeaks made by one's footsteps over the snow; and the very sweet story of how Mary Simon's parents met, married, and enjoyed a life-long relationship.

Fraser's passionate commitment to the North and its peoples permeates every page of *True North Rising*, making it a very interesting and enjoyable read.



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Dear Residents,

Stay informed about the ongoing road projects in your area and ensure hassle-free navigation through the City of Calgary Roadway Activities Map. This interactive map consolidates details on construction projects, repair work, and special events across Calgary. Visit [maps.calgary.ca/RoadwayActivities/](https://maps.calgary.ca/RoadwayActivities/) to plan your routes with ease.

For more City of Calgary maps, explore the Map Gallery at [mapgallery.calgary.ca/](https://mapgallery.calgary.ca/).

Join us for Calgary Unplugged, an annual family-friendly Earth Hour event, on Saturday, March 23, 2023, at the Central Library (800 3 Street SE). From 7:00 to 9:30 pm, enjoy music and entertainment while learning about environmental actions in Calgary. Bring your personal lighting and dance to the DJ when the lights go down for the Earth Hour party!

If you can't make it to the event, participate in Earth Hour by turning off nonessential lights and unplugging from electronics at 8:30 pm. Take this time to reconnect with people, play games, or engage in hobbies. Share your Earth Hour participation on social media using #EarthHour and #EarthHourYYC.

Calgary Unplugged is hosted by The Arusha Centre's Climate Program, with support from The City of Calgary and community agencies.

Thank you for your attention.

Best regards,

*Cllr. Sean Chu*

### Life or Death

Canadians will have access to medical assistance in dying (MAiD) when their only condition is mental illness. The only question is when.

In the past, I supported MAiD legislation because we need to have a legal framework around life and death choices and decisions.

This is a complex issue with strong opinions on both sides. It was important that my constituents were heard and so I quoted from the many letters I received during my House of Commons speech.

I am a big proponent of hospice and palliative care which must always be a viable and available option to someone contemplating MAiD. As a member of the House of Commons on Health, I worked on these palliative care issues across Canada. I strongly feel that Canadians should have access to the support and care that they need during the toughest times in one's life.

Advanced requests for MAiD are definitely something the federal government needs to consider. I look forward to a debate on this particular issue and am interested to know what safeguards are proposed to ensure any legislation would work as intended.

However, I do not support the expansion of MAiD to cases where mental illness is the sole eligibility reason. I spoke about this at length in the House of Commons and shared the very personal story of Anton and how he helped me come to this decision. You can read the speech at [www.lenwebbermp.ca](http://www.lenwebbermp.ca).

As I said in my speech, "We need to put vulnerable Canadians back in control of their lives. We want to see them get the help they need and provide them with the social and mental health supports they need. We must never give up on them and allow them to prematurely choose MAiD over access to mental health care."




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MLA Calgary - Varsity

**Luanne Metz**

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✉️ calgary.varsity@assembly.ab.ca

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### Budget 2024

We began sitting for the Spring 2024 Session of the Legislature on February 28, 2024, and the government introduced the 2024 Alberta budget.

As Official Opposition Health Critic, I will be taking a lead role in scrutinizing the health budget. To prepare for this, I'm consulting with healthcare experts, frontline workers across the province, and everyday Albertans trying to access healthcare. In this budget, I will be looking for a long-term, evidence-based plan that makes the most effective use of money to recruit and retain health care workers, and to improve access and quality of care.

We cannot effectively increase spaces to care for people without enough staff. We must immediately focus on retention of our workforce. We cannot let the system crumble further.

### Town Halls

On February 24, I hosted a "Your Pension Is Yours" town hall, to give constituents such as yourself a chance to share your thoughts on changes to the CPP. It remains clear that the vast majority of Albertans just do not want Alberta to leave the CPP, nor do they want politicians having control over their hard-earned retirement money.

On Thursday, March 21, I will be hosting a Health Care Town Hall in Parkdale, with an open house from 2:00 to 4:00 pm, and a town hall at 6:00 pm. With government health care reforms looming, and the system crumbling, there needs to be a serious refocus of the reforms to support frontline workers. I want to hear from the health care workers, the people who have been affected by this crisis, and you. If you are interested in attending, you can find more information at [linktr.ee/mlametz](https://linktr.ee/mlametz), or email my constituency office at [calgary.varsity@assembly.ab.ca](mailto:calgary.varsity@assembly.ab.ca).

If you are interested in reading more in-depth about issues affecting Albertans, and what I am doing to represent you, please sign up for my digital newsletter at [linktr.ee/mlametz](https://linktr.ee/mlametz)!



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**PANORAMA HILLS—PANAMOUNT DRIVE**.....**SOLD** for 99% of asking price  
**BRENTWOOD—BEAVER ROAD**.....**SOLD** for 92% of asking price  
**TUSCANY—TUSCANY BLVD**.....**SOLD** for 99.6% of asking price

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