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THE OFFICIAL BRENTWOOD COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



Cover Photo by Angela Leavens



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Dear Brentwoodians,

I was fortunate enough to spend the holidays with loved ones in Ontario, followed by a trip to New York City (I got home late last night).

I hadn't been to New York in over a decade, but it was amazing to be back. Of course, when someone is in another city it is tempting to draw comparisons with your hometown, even though Calgary and New York have very obvious and important differences! In both places there is a lot of obvious wealth, but also a lot of deprivation. Both cities struggle with maintaining their infrastructure, and it often seems like city engineers and work crews are at best keeping one step ahead of major problems.

Some notable differences include the liveliness in the business districts: in Manhattan, every office tower and condo in midtown and downtown has shops and restaurants at street level. The resulting foot traffic and liveliness creates a sense of safety rather than the dead zones throughout much of downtown Calgary, where pedestrians out after 5:00 pm walk past blocks of empty lobbies and locked doors.

It was also striking how easy it is to get around. My wife and I, with an eight-year-old in tow, only used the famous yellow cabs to get to and from the airport (and once when we were late for a dinner reservation). We bought transit passes on our first day and made extensive use of them. Surprisingly, we spent more time on buses than in the subway, and found them to be clean, on time, and offering excellent coverage throughout Manhattan and beyond.

One last thought as it applies to the simmering density debate in Calgary. We don't usually associate New York City with the concept of urban sprawl, but the city's metropolitan area extends across four states, from Stroudsburg, PA in the west to New Haven, CT in the east, and from Poughkeepsie, NY in the north down to Asbury Park, NJ. Many of the towns and cities in this vast catchment area are full of New Yorkers who left apartments and rowhouses for single-family homes in which to raise families and escape the hustle and bustle that draws tourists like my family. As Calgary's inner-city neighbourhoods densify, we will see similar movement to Cochrane, Chestermere, Okotoks, and beyond.

Finally, a gentle reminder about the upcoming charity casino at the Elbow River Casino on May 3 and 4 (see poster in this issue). Please sign up and support the BCA!

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

BRAIN GAMES SUDOKU

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SCAN THE QR CODE FOR THE SOLUTION 



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.

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

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.

Calgary Police Service on Nextdoor!

Calgary Police Service now has a dedicated space to engage with community residents.

You can expect to see posts on the following topics:

- Awareness and updates: events, initiatives, and updates in our community
- Crime trends and prevention: education, resources, and tools
- Community engagement: a place to share concerns, ideas, and feedback
- Emergency alerts: immediate notifications that affect our area

You can find the Calgary Police Service's space on Nextdoor here: <https://ca.nextdoor.com/agency-detail/ab/calgary/calgary-police-service/>.

Your Representatives in Brentwood

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

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

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

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Mondays, 10:00 to 11:30 am
January 6 to March 24, 2025

Wednesdays, 1:30 to 3:00 pm
January 8 to March 26, 2025

No Public Skating Dates:

February 17, 2025

*No public skating on Statutory Holidays

Cost: \$1 per person (pay at the office)

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Brentwood Cares

A Holiday Thank You

Thanks so much to the Brentwood community for helping last year during Christmas and the holidays in so many ways. The Christmas Market and Food Drive helped get the season started and re-stocked the Little Free Food Library heading into winter. Also in November, Di Wu Munk and Fatima Majoka hosted a candle painting workshop, helping start the holiday season.

It was the third year that the bakers and artists at St. Jean Brebeuf School brought some Christmas joy into Carroll Place with cookies and cards for our seniors. We had amazing response to the book and game drive for Carroll Place and to the urgent needs drive for the Mustard Seed.

Horizon Church coordinated 17 Christmas hampers across Varsity and Brentwood, thanks so much for doing this for our community, and thank you to those who contributed to the two hampers that Brentwood Cares took on.

Thanks to all those who supported CBC's Make the Season Kind, tremendous need at the Food Bank, and special thanks to Laura and Chris Grant for coordinating the bike for the auction, it raised \$2,000.

New members are always welcome. Meetings are irregular, as needed. Interested in helping build our community, have an idea to make Brentwood better? Please reach out to cam.howey@gmail.com.

Cam Howey

The Little (Now Big) Food Library Welcomes Community In 2025



It has been many years since I first heard Jewel's song "Hands," and it left its impression on me, particularly her reflection that "Only Kindness Matters." I wondered,

does kindness hold such an important space in our human interactions? More than 20 years later and now teaching ethical social work practice at the University of Calgary, I can't emphasize kindness enough.

2024 feels like it's been a really tough year, locally and across the globe, as far too many people live a daily reality of economic insecurity, violence, and other barriers to well-being. Some among us, or those who we love, may also be navigating other challenges that can feel like heavy

burdens. At these times, I am reminded that kindness is an essential companion of fairness, compassion, and a belief in our shared humanity. Like our soaring grocery prices, these values can sometimes appear out of reach when we spend too much time on social media. But the kindness within and among us is easy to see in the Brentwood Food Library, now into its fifth year. Our community food box continues to be a space where kindness is practiced, and compassion is grown.

Last year our Food Library experienced several notable moments. One occurred in early November when I received a call from the United Filipino Entrepreneurs Association asking if we would like them to build us a larger food pantry. Within two weeks of that call, our new box was standing, with plenty of room for non-perishables, as well as the weekly deliveries of bread and specialty items that pop in now and again, such as the fruits and veggies of summer and fall harvests. A special thanks to Anthony, Rodel, and their team for this community service.

In December, good friends Joan and Randy Farkas from the community of Tuxedo held a wonderful fundraiser for our Food Box, raising over \$2,400 in food and gift cards through Randy's amazing cooking and the donations of 30 women foodies interested in a good cause. With all this extra in hand, our Brentwood Cares team hosted a Free Meal Giveaway on December 23 at our family home for anyone in need, no questions asked. The delicious meals were supplied at a discount from our friends at the Italian Supermarket (thanks to Marco and his team!). My teen Parisa, along with friends Sebastien, Emilio, Leroy, Maile, and Shayna, filled the house with laughter as they baked muffins for the incoming visitors, some of whom stayed for tea and a chat. Lou from Carroll Place dropped by to shepherd our teens to the residence to pass out a stack of meals. Friends prepared little gift bags with warm socks and Christmas chocolate that were given out with the warm meal. Stories and laughter were shared, along with the good feeling of making a difference, even a small one, before going off to our own Christmas and holiday preparations.

Hope and humanity can always be found in the smallest acts of kindness, and I am blessed to experience these every day. It would take several pages to share the many stories of our Elves and Secret Santas who support our (now) Big Food Library throughout the year. You know who you are, and I am grateful.

Liza Lorenzetti on behalf of my family Arya and Parisa, and the Brentwood Cares team.

What Does “Contextual” Mean and Why Does It Matter?

by Melanie Swailes on behalf of the Development and Transportation Committee

Blanket Rezoning was approved by Council in May 2024, and came into effect on August 6, 2024. As of that date, the new Land Use Bylaw allows for dwellings of up to eight dwelling units (four main units plus four secondary suites) to be redeveloped on most lots previously zoned to allow for a single-family detached home. No land-use redesignation (rezoning) is required because properties which were previously zoned as R-C1 (single-family) are now R-CG (multi units). This has some significant impacts on the “build form” of new houses – the “how-it-looks” aspect of a new development.

Since August, the City has received about 190 R-CG applications: the “C” means “Contextual”, so these applications are in older, established communities such as Brentwood. (In new communities, R-G is the zoning designation.) The difference is that “Contextual single detached and contextual semi-detached dwellings are types of homes built within older residential communities (typically built before 2008) and follow rules that keep a similar look and feel as the street.”

This means that any new dwellings should fit into the neighbourhood by keeping a similar “look and feel” as identified above, especially in relation to adjacent houses. As an example, measure the distance from the sidewalk to the front of your house. Now measure the distance of two neighbouring houses on each side of you (ask the neighbours first!). The average is the contextual front setback for your property. Under the old zoning rules, a new home could be up to 1.5 meters (4.9 feet) in front of the adjacent homes. Anything more would have required a relaxation of the zoning bylaw.

In most of Brentwood, existing houses are set quite far back from the sidewalk, often about 20 feet or more. Front yards are large, and most have some mature trees or other landscaping in front. Under the R-CG rules, the front setback can now be as little as three metres (just over nine feet). If a house is torn down, the new building (including single homes) could be built much closer to the sidewalk than all the surrounding homes. The

impact might be a loss of sunlight for the neighbouring homes, especially if the new building reaches to the maximum R-CG height of 11 m (36 feet). There is also an impact on trees, especially large coniferous trees which require a lot of room in which to spread. Will Brentwood still have beautiful, mature fir and spruce trees?

During the information sessions for Blanket Rezoning, the front setback was not an aspect that I ever heard discussed. Also, Development Permits are no longer circulated to Community Associations, and no signs are put up in front of the property, so there is no opportunity to submit comments/feedback or to appeal a basement suite application. These changes are the result of the Blanket Rezoning approval.

Most people agree that we need more housing and that redevelopment in older communities will happen. How important do you think it is that densification and redevelopment should respect and fit in with what already exists in each community? City Council thought it was important and directed Administration to “draft a Rowhouse How-to Guide that identifies contextually appropriate design strategies for rowhouse developments.” There were 12 additional recommendations, and most were intended to involve some collaborations with interested Community Associations, residents, and industry. The goal was to identify “contextually appropriate design strategies (including but not limited to building height, placement and treatment of windows, air conditioners, waste and recycling bins, and landscaping)”.

This Rowhouse How-to Guide is targeted to be delivered to Council in the third quarter of 2025, with an updated Guide brought forward in 2026. In my opinion, this is too late. By then, hundreds of R-CGs will have been approved, all without “contextually appropriate design strategies.” Neighbours who find themselves next to a row of air conditioners or many overlooking windows will not have the benefit of guidelines with which to oppose such intrusive building components.

What To Do About It?

If you think it is important that changes should happen in a more sensitive and contextual way in established communities, then you need to speak up. Talk to your Councillor and other elected officials. It’s an election year, so also talk to your candidates and ask a lot of

questions. Take part in any engagement opportunities such as on the City's Engage website (<https://engage.calgary.ca>), contribute your comments, then sign up for updates. Support your neighbours if they ask for your help with a DP next to them. Join your Community Association so we can contact you about engagement events or online surveys. It is possible for development to take place in a respectful and contextual way, but if you don't comment, then developers are the ones setting the plans for what might be built next to you. You may or may not like the result, but once it's built, you have to live with it.

If you would like to join our Community Association or the Development and Transportation Committee, you are always welcome to do so. Contact the office at office@brentwoodcommunity.com or at 403-284-3477.



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The Great 
Joni Mitchell

Canada's Juno Hall of Fame features many incredible artists from over the years. A very special addition was made on February 5, 1981, when Alberta-born singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Joni Mitchell joined those honoured. Way to go, Joni! She really couldn't be any cooler.

Off the Bookshelf

by Rosemary Brown

Chapters and Chat recently read *Reflections on Allyship* by Andrea Menard and Marc Bhalla. Menard is a Métis lawyer and scholar whose father's family had ties with the Red River settlement in Manitoba. She has extensive experience working with many First Nations and Métis communities. She holds a Master of Law from Osgoode Hall Law School and teaches there and at the Law Faculties at U of C and U of A, focusing on decolonization and systemic discrimination. At Osgoode, Menard met Marc Bhalla, who was working on a Master of Law in Dispute Resolution. Bhalla is bi-racial and a first-generation immigrant whose father was born in India.

Menard and Bhalla became collaborators in 2018 to develop the Authentic Allyship Project, designed to offer "practical steps to help allies understand the truth [and genocide] and Indigenous world view and how to support Indigenous communities." Their projects include the development of curricula for law associations and faculties, a journal, and the book *Reflections on Allyship*.

This short book is a collection of essays introducing the authors and offering insights into what authentic allyship entails. While some of their ideas are similar to others we have discussed in the past, others offer fresh perspectives on the issue of allyship.

They discuss authentic allyship as a lifelong commitment, rather than "sporadic short-term actions." It involves "consistency and integrity" and a willingness to examine oneself to decolonize

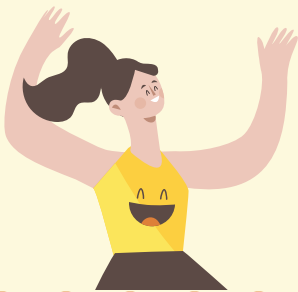
oneself. It's about unlearning "social dominance" and "re-examining one's assumptions and knowledge."

It is about following the lead of Indigenous peoples as they know what the solutions to their problems are. As an ally one should support these efforts. Starting points are the 94 Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada and the Calls for Justice from the Final Report on Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls in Canada.

Read *21 Things You Need to Know About the Indian Act* by Bob Joseph and look for Indigenous content in the art forms one already enjoys: music, literature, poetry, theatre, film, etc. Learn from the Land and from Indigenous Elders. Learn about tribal courts and Indigenous Laws. Instil Indigenous knowledge and law in all systems.

Make it "socially unacceptable" to make anti-Indigenous and racist comments. Intervene when comments are being made even if Indigenous people aren't present. Use humour "to get the message across."

The list goes on. It is up to us as non-Indigenous peoples to take up the challenge of what Menard and Bhalla suggest if we wish to become "authentic allies."



Word of the Month

Eudaemonia: noun (yoo-di-moh-nee-uh)

Happiness, well-being, good spirit.

*We are all trying to experience
Eudaemonia.*



Congratulations

by Lee Hunt

My article this month is about two groups and one individual who have earned our praise. In two cases, the kudos go to local schools, while the third celebrates a former Brentwoodian.

Brebeuf School

Congratulations and thanks to Grade 7, 8, and 9 students for their Christmas kindness to the residents at Carroll Place. In what has become a “yearly tradition,” the students baked cookies for 28 residents who signed up to receive them. Each participating resident also received a card handmade by the Brebeuf students. One recipient, Betty, told me, “I received gingerbread cookies and shortbread cookies – both my favourites.” She went on to say, “It means a lot to receive the cookies and nice card – they make me feel a part of Brentwood”.

Simon Fraser School

This past December, the CBC radio show “The Calgary Eyeopener” invited listeners to send in “Calgary themed” lines to replace the originals in the song, “The Twelve Days of Christmas”. Simon Fraser teacher, Kate Payne, heard the CBC request and ran it past the students in her Grade 7 Humanities class. The students were enthusiastic about the idea. They came up with the line, “On the third day of Christmas my true love gave to me three Flames jerseys” to be followed by the earlier selected “Tegan and Sara and the flood of 2013”. They recorded their third day lyrics along with the second and first days and sent the tape to the CBC. As the saying goes, “The rest is history.” The new Simon Fraser line was selected, and the Grade 7 Humanities students were quite excited to hear themselves singing on the radio!

King Charles III Coronation Medal Recipient

On November 29, 2024, former Brentwood resident, Lou Winthers, received the King Charles III Coronation Medal from MP Len Webber. Lou lived in Brentwood with her husband and two daughters for 13 years. According to the medal citation, Lou has “served as a nurse, healthcare manager, fundraising professional, and volunteer.” She co-founded Hospice Calgary which operates Rosedale Hospice plus offers support for those nearing death

and for their grieving families. Lou also established the Canada Northwest Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Research Network. Currently she is on a committee to develop the “Calgary General Hospital Commemorative Park Plaza in Bridgeland to honour the legacy, leadership, and 108-year service of the Calgary General Hospital and its School of Nursing.” Lou is so deserving of the King Charles III Coronation Medal.

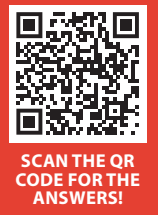
Congratulations to all. You are models of creativity, sharing, and community caring.



GAMES & PUZZLES

Guess the Couple!

1. These two periodic elements make for a salty pair.
2. These semi-aquatic rodents mate for life and form strong bonds with their partners.
3. These two Disney pups celebrate their 70th anniversary in 2025.
4. This British celebrity supercouple are fondly known as Posh and Becks.
5. This fictional couple’s sweet love story started in an office of all places!
6. This prehistoric couple lived amongst dinosaurs with their daughter, Pebbles.



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ChargeYYC: Helping Calgarians Install EV Chargers in Multi-Residential Buildings

by The City of Calgary



The City of Calgary opened ChargeYYC for applications on January 28! This pilot program is designed to support residents living in apartments, townhouses, rowhouses, and other multi-residential buildings to install electric vehicle (EV) chargers. This initiative is part of The City's commitment to prepare for the future of low carbon mobility.

Building owners and property managers can apply into Phase One of the program for financial incentives of up to \$4,000 to develop a plan to install EV chargers in their buildings. ChargeYYC aims to simplify the process and reduce the costs associated with EV charger installations, making it easier for more Calgarians to own electric vehicles.

Motor vehicles are a major contributor to Calgary's greenhouse gas emissions, making programs like ChargeYYC essential for achieving the city's climate goals. The first phase of the program focuses on planning, with future phases offering additional financial incentives for installation.

For more details and to apply, visit calgary.ca/chargeyyc.



by Anne Burke

Natural parkland is green space with a (relatively) low level of maintenance and natural or naturalizing vegetation. Natural areas are accessible (by trail networks) or have limited/little public access. A master plan deals with current and future needs by population for park/greenspace. The Municipal Protected Areas Program demonstrates how biodiversity will be protected, conservation lands connected, and how Canadians will gain an appreciation for local nature. A Municipal Eco Toolkit by the Miistakis Institute for Alberta municipalities will help maintain their natural infrastructure systems (municipal30x30.ca).

Nature Canada is building a web of partners to help Canada achieve its biodiversity conservation goals to protect 30% of land, water, and marine areas by 2030. As of 2022, Canada has only protected 13.7% of land. The Canadian City Parks Report surveyed 35 Canadian municipalities, 2,500+ residents of Canadian cities, as well as park staff and other professionals across the country. One-third of cities said addressing federal biodiversity and land protection goals are a high priority. When 81% of Canadians are living in urban areas, protecting land in urban areas is vital. Cities are in dire need of new space for parks. Park budgets are not keeping pace. Partnerships are critical when cities need policies and structures. Park issues are increasing and require more training and collaborations. Departmental structures can promote collaboration or disconnection. Some residents feel disempowered but still want to engage. Mental and physical health benefits are key although there is a lack of programs. There are nine case studies in the 2024 Report which includes analysis of key data from surveys of both municipal staff and residents of Canadian cities, for new and ongoing issues facing parks, and how to help city staff make better decisions about programs, policies, and funding. Read more at parkpeople.ca.

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 19 Brown Crescent N.W.....Listed & Sold for 101% of asking price in 1 day
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