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Hounsfield Heights – Briar Hill Community Association

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Outdoor Soccer	Camacho, Germàn	calgarycityfc.ca

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Louise Riley Library	Johnson, Larissa	larissa.johnson@calgarylibrary.ca
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CONTACT

Mailing Address: Box 65086, RPO North Hill Calgary, AB, T2N 4T6
Board Room / Gym - 1922 – 14 Avenue NW

Parking: West of the Louise Riley Library, accessed via the library driveway. Hall/Gym is located NE of our parking lot, just across the soccer field.

Phone: 403-282-6634

Email: admin@hh-bh.ca

Beacon Submissions: beacon@hh-bh.ca

Boardroom/Gym Bookings: bookings@hh-bh.ca



For the latest news, programs and events, please visit our Official HH-BH Community Association website at www.hh-bh.ca.



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Have an idea for a great community program or event? Send your ideas to events@hh-bh.ca.

City Engagement on 14 Avenue NW Project

The “14 Ave NW Mobility Improvements Project” will redevelop 14 Ave NW between 14 Street and 24 Street NW, “to improve connectivity, mobility, safety, and accessibility”. The City first proposed this project in 2021, but there wasn’t a budget to proceed during COVID. The project is now proceeding, with the need for redoing the infrastructure even greater than before. The redevelopment will likely include better transit interfaces, sidewalks, pedestrian crossing, etc., and may be a good improvement to the area. The City is conducting an Engagement on this project from January 27 to February 17. Look for the City’s advertisements and more information from the Community Association, to provide your opinions and feedback on this corridor. The City plans engagement at SAIT, Louise Riley Library, Lions Park LRT, and North Hill Centre.

The City did a round of engagement in 2021. Aspects of the proposal in 2021 that caused the most concern were mostly west of 19 Street, and included a traffic circle at 14 Ave and 20 Street, bike lanes on 14 Ave west of 19 Street with a loss of parking, and the loss of the left turn lane coming out of Briar Hill on 14 Ave. Some neighbours did like the bike infrastructure. The City has the previous feedback and we don’t know what exactly the proposals will be at time of writing. Here are some things I feel important to consider.

Cycling: The long-term plan for the Crowchild Trail revamp moves the Crowchild pedestrian/cycling bridge from the west end of 14 Ave to the west end of 12 Ave – potentially making the 14 Ave route a “path to nowhere” (it is frustrating to see the Riley LAP and Calgary Plan documents do not match with the Crowchild Plan). There is also a path already on the north side of 16 Ave, and there is supposed to be another cycle lane put in just south of the sound wall in Briar Hill (promised but not yet completed). We mentioned to the City the idea of spending a limited budget to connect the Lions Park path to those 16 Ave paths, by constructing a path on the boulevard on the east side of 19 Street, from 14 Ave to 16 Ave. The budget should also be spent on other Lions Park pathway improvements, passing the station and the pinch point near 16A Street. Another consideration is that the Riley LAP Mobility Study found that 14 Ave west of 19 Street is not a stressful cycle on the road as it is.

Parking: In the first engagement, some neighbours were concerned about parking needs from Lions Park Plaza, and with the LAP allowing larger commercial uses there, parking overflow for patrons is a valid need and concern. I feel such parking should be on the collector road and not be forced onto the side streets. In addition, the corner lots in Briar Hill adjacent to 14 Ave are likely locations for increased density and row houses – again, the parking needs from these larger number of units should be anticipated. I feel redevelopment west of 19 Street should not disregard parking needs on 14 Ave.

Traffic Flow: Many neighbours were understandably concerned about losing a left turn lane for exiting eastbound out of Briar Hill on 14 Ave. The proposed traffic circle at 20 Street wasn’t well received, and could inhibit the flow at the light at 19 Street. And if this left turn becomes challenging, then residents may start exiting other ways, such as 12 Ave, which would cause tie-ups there. In short, the flow of all modes and the ‘knock on effects’ of changes need to be fully considered. The City, more recently, mused about the number of traffic lanes on 14 Ave between 14 and 19 Streets, near the LRT and mall. I responded that personally, I think a single lane in each direction is fine, if buses have bus bays to pull off and, importantly, there are left turn lanes for the various library, mall, and Renaissance parking entrances. A lower (40 km/h) speed limit may also be appropriate.

Pedestrian Safety: Improvements to inhibit jay walking by the LRT would be helpful, as would much wider sidewalks in the whole station area. Improvements to the Lions Park pathway at the pinch point at 16A Street would help pedestrian safety there, and the pedestrian bridge near 16A Street is in serious need of maintenance (which may not be part of this project).

The above reflects what I read in the first engagement report and my personal observations, and I and the rest of the Community Association board are very interested to know what other residents think. Please reach out to discuss and/or answer questions at land.use@hh-bh.ca.

Beth Atkinson

Director – Land Use, Hounsfield Heights – Briar Hill Community Association



VISION AND MISSION



Vision

A peaceful, central, residential community with friendly neighbours connected through vibrant public space and activities.



Mission

Inspire and support residents to build our community together through volunteering, social and recreational activities, and partnerships.

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Together Let's Send Winter Down the Drain

by *The City of Calgary*

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If the storm drains in your area are covered with snow and difficult to find, visit calgary.ca/stormdrains and use our map to find the location.

We're Here to Help If Your Storm Drain Is Frozen

If water is pooling on your street and you suspect the storm drain is frozen, contact 3-1-1. We have specialized boiler equipment that pushes out steam to get the storm drain thawed and running again.

- Submit a "Storm Drain/Catch Basin Concern" through the 3-1-1 web or mobile app.
- Take a photo and attach it to your request. This goes a long way in helping us respond on a priority basis.

Our crews respond to requests attending first to areas impacting public safety and where excess water may cause property damage.

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed within any published article, report, or submission reflect those of the author and should not be considered to reflect those of Great News Media or the Community and/or Residents' Association. The information contained in this newsletter is believed to be accurate but is not warranted to be so.

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8-1-1 Health Link (24-Hour)	403-266-HELP (403-266-4357) Distress Centre and SeniorConnect (24-Hour)
Health advice (including dementia advice) from a registered nurse.	Crisis support and urgent social work response (including if you are concerned about a senior at risk in the community).
3-1-1 City of Calgary (24-Hour)	403-943-1500 Access Mental Health
Information on all City of Calgary services. www.calgary.ca	Non-urgent advice on navigating the addiction and mental health system.
2-1-1 Community Resources (24-Hour)	403-705-3250 Elder Abuse Resource Line (24-Hour)
Information and referrals for community and social services. www.ab.211.ca	Confidential information and support, or to report a suspected case of elder abuse.
Telephone language interpretation service available on all lines.	

Let's Talk...

Feb. 11, 2025

TIME: 2:00 pm
Doors at 1:30 pm

Join us as we continue our Let's Talk series and discover "What Brings People Together"

This month, Mary Snow will be discussing pet companionship and how pets make a difference in our lives and community. Mary will be accompanied by her very friendly, well behaved, low-energy small dog - Beringer (Berry).

Please come and say hi to Mary and Beringer!

HH-BH Community Centre 1922 - 14 Ave NW ◀



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Riley Local Area Plan – City Rushed Revision Adding Significant Density to Our Community Will Go to Full Council Shortly

As we communicated in December, Council sent the Riley Local Area Plan (LAP) back to City Administration “to prioritize greater density around Transit Oriented Development sites” in our community. The new Riley LAP will replace the Hounsfield Heights – Briar Hill Area Redevelopment Plan (ARP), which has guided the redevelopment of our neighbourhood since the late 1980s. The updates made by administration were done very quickly. They are very significant in both Hounsfield Heights (HH) and Briar Hill (BH) and make the fundamental changes to our community much worse. Administration held some online and in person “conversation series” sessions in December, but these sessions only ‘informed’ us of their new plan - there was no further fulsome well-advertised engagement on the revised plan.

The latest proposal can be found here: engage.calgary.ca/Riley/Realize, click on their “Proposed Riley Communities Local Area Plan click here”; for the whole LAP document, and scroll down for an interactive scanner that highlights the striking comparison of the Scale Map and Urban Form Map, from May 2024 to December 2024.



The biggest changes are in Scale. As expected, they added twelve storey areas to our community, including in places where currently there are single-family homes. They changed the area between 14 Street and 15 Street NW from three and four storey to twelve storey, even though the access to the area north of 11 Ave NW is

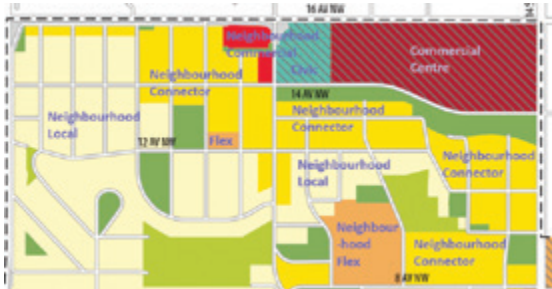
very poor (from the lane off the north end of 15 Street), and the area between 11 Ave and 10 Ave is very sloped. None of these lots would have practical access off 14 Street, and the burden of traffic, parking etc. will fall to 15 Street. There are also issues with large structures in these locations, as the Sears gas plume is beneath this area. Comments about these practical concerns were not heeded in the “conversation series”, only the distance to the Lions Park and SAIT stations seemed to matter. Vistas for many in HH could be blocked by this huge change. 26 storeys are now proposed for all of the Riley Park Village (old Grace Hospital) site, adding to this issue. Twelve storey was also added to the Seventh Day Adventist Church site area and maintained on the Highlander Plaza.

Six storeys are maintained on the north side of 13 Ave NW, over Lions Park Plaza, and below the escarpment in HH, where it further impedes vistas and discourages the retention of the affordable Cedar Brae complex. Six storeys have been added to 19 Street NW between 14 and 12 Ave, and also to the west side of 18A Street, and over the plaza near Green Park. It has also been added on the north half of the blocks on 20A Street, 21 Street, and 21A Street, between 14 and 16 Ave, where we have repeatedly pointed out the poor egress from the one-way lane. There was nothing but three storeys in these BH locations before this revision.

Four storeys have been added to the southern half of the same blocks on 20A Street, 21 Street, and 21A Street, and also on the 20 Street cul-de-sac in BH. It is also added along the north side of 12 Ave both near the commercial in BH and throughout HH, and also in the whole area north of 11 Ave, on 15, 16, and 16A Streets in eastern HH. Please look carefully at the map above, or online, to see how these changes affect your home.

The Urban Form map has also changed. The main change is a much larger area of ‘Neighbourhood Connector’ over much of HH and BH. Connector is described as being “along higher activity, predominantly residential, streets”, and yet City Administration has extended it over an even larger portion of the quiet residential roads of our community. The main implication of the Connector designation is that H-GO (extra tall (12 m) and extra dense row houses) are allowed in this area. The Urban Form map extends the concept of permitted H-GO over roughly half of our community, intensifying the already passed R-CG (regular 11 m tall row houses). This map also changes the Highlander and Lions Park Plazas to

Neighbourhood Commercial (from Neighbourhood Flex), which now allows “the widest range of commercial uses”, and broadens what these lands might be used for.



This proposal has a very large area of apartments with limited setbacks, limited room for trees, significant traffic burden on quiet streets, significant change in privacy and noise, and significant burden on infrastructure, all imposed on a currently grade-oriented single-family community. The Community Association has spoken about reasonable compromise and the effects on our community. We are not expecting “no change”, but very little of our concerns have been heard (even simple ones, e.g. indoor access to shopping on the Mall site is still not well addressed), and our ideas for mitigation of impacts have been dismissed (e.g. well-designed semi-detached infills to blend in with existing homes). And this is not a matter of equity - consideration of the existing communities needs to apply to all existing communities, whether modest or more upscale, that pre-existed the LRT construction and these plans. Whilst we cannot expect “no change”, no-one should experience dramatic fundamental change to the nature of their communities either.

This concept that existing stable communities should be respected is in the Municipal Development Plan (MDP) and Transit Oriented Development (TOD) guidelines, and up to now it was well understood. The MDP says “ensure infill development complements the established character of the area and does not create dramatic contrasts in the physical development pattern”. There are many other similar statements in both the MDP and TOD, but clearly the proposed LAP is ignoring the MDP and TOD and is a very dramatic change. In addition, the City is also working on replacing the Municipal Development Plan with the “Calgary Plan”, and these concepts of considering context and respecting the citizens and communities that are

already there do not appear to be included anymore... Personally, I think it is grossly unfair and unreasonable to ignore context like this – we cannot get in a time machine and choose a different neighbourhood into which to invest our hearts and finances! We need to step up our lobby about context and respect – that everyone counts, both current and future residents, and existing communities should not be thrown under the bus!

The referral motion from Council had a second clause that instructs revisions to “focus on planning for growth and change that integrates multi-modal mobility and improved citizen experience of land use development that enables walkability, community connections, and integrated commercial and residential uses for all ages and abilities”, and several speakers in October commented that the Mobility Study was not well incorporated into the LAP. However, the revised LAP does not appear to make significant changes to address this second clause. The only interesting change in our area is the promotion of “a direct and accessible pedestrian and cycling connection from the Riley Park Village to the SAIT LRT” and “a grade separated crossing north of 10 Ave NW across 14 Street NW”. These ideas more support the bigger built forms they hope to see on 14 Street, rather than supporting pedestrian flow from our community to downtown and from Hillhurst to North Hill Centre. We have suggested a crossing closer to 8 Ave to best facilitate pedestrian routes; to meet both goals, the crossing would need to be no further north than 10 Ave. Councillor Wong has also been lobbying to add better descriptions of the community context to the LAP, but Administration has not changed this aspect at all.

The revised LAP already passed through the Infrastructure and Planning Committee on January 8. It was another very disappointing day. Many residents of HH-BH, Hillhurst, and West Hillhurst spoke of not being heard, the lack of engagement, and not being aware of this new plan, specific concerns about inappropriate scales and policies in the new revision, issues with significant shadowing of parks, lack of consideration of contaminated sites, parking and traffic issues, mobility not being properly addressed, etc. But none of it was heeded, and the respectful compromise we’ve asked for is just not there. Yet, developer representatives and activists spoke and were happy with the new plan.

continued on next page

There will be a final public hearing before council shortly on the Riley Local Area Plan, tentatively scheduled for March 4. Please watch for communication of the public hearing, and consider expressing your view, by speaking, writing, or both. Community members can also express their opinions directly to council (themayor@calgary.ca, ward07@calgary.ca, our Councillor Terry Wong, and similarly for the rest of the 14 councillors – ward01@calgary.ca etc.). We can discuss and answer questions at land.use@hh-bh.ca.

Beth Atkinson

Director – Land Use, Hounsfield Heights – Briar Hill Community Association





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Community Point of View

I haven't submitted an article to be published for over a year now, mostly because of a lack of time. I also wanted to remain anonymous for fear of being labelled a conspiracy theorist. Well, I'm a couple of years older and a teeny bit wiser, I'm going to give it another try with a twist. Though I still like the anonymity, I also want to know how you feel. Was the article of interest, would you like to see more or see something else, or should I hang up my writing instruments?

To gain more time to write, I thought I would try out AI (Artificial Intelligence). I have been told that it can help with research and writing. What really interests me are things that I have been formally taught through school and life and now finding out that this may not be the case. I believe that 10% of people are angels and are always good, another 10% are evil and are always bad – the other 80% are in the swing group, we can go one way or the other. I believe when most untruths are communicated, we are repeating information that we think is true.

The AI platform that I'm going to have fun with is ChatGPT. I just wanted to run three questions to see the response.

Q1: Does ChatGPT have a built-in bias when answering questions?

Yes, like any AI system trained on large datasets, ChatGPT can reflect certain biases that are present in the data it was trained on. These biases can come from various sources, including the internet, books, and other text-based content, which may carry societal, cultural, or historical biases. These biases can manifest in different ways, such as:

1. Cultural Biases: AI models may reflect the dominant viewpoints of certain cultures, regions, or societies, often over-representing mainstream perspectives while under-representing marginalized or less common viewpoints.

2. Gender and Racial Biases: These can arise from patterns in the training data, leading to stereotypical representations or unequal treatment of different genders, races, or ethnic groups.

3. Ideological Biases: If the training data includes texts that lean in particular political or ideological directions, this can influence the AI's responses in ways that reflect those ideologies.

4. Bias Toward Certain Norms: Social, economic, and moral norms in the data may affect how the AI approaches topics like ethics, family structures, or societal roles, sometimes reinforcing conventional thinking.

It's important to note that while efforts have been made to minimize these biases through better training practices, safety protocols, and feedback loops, no model is completely free of them. OpenAI continues to refine the system, using both human feedback and advanced techniques to reduce harmful biases and improve the fairness of responses. However, users should always be aware that AI-generated responses may not always be perfectly neutral.

If you ever feel that a response is biased or unfair, it can be helpful to ask for clarification or to approach the topic from a different angle.

Q2: What evidence do you have to support the assertion that Elvis Presley is dead?

The assertion that Elvis Presley is dead is based on numerous well-documented events and official reports. Below are key pieces of evidence supporting this claim:

1. Official Cause of Death: Elvis Presley died on August 16, 1977, at the age of 42. His death was officially attributed to a heart attack, with contributing factors including his struggles with prescription drug abuse and other health issues. An autopsy conducted after his death confirmed this cause.

2. Hospital Records: Elvis was found unresponsive at his Graceland mansion in Memphis, Tennessee. He was taken to the Baptist Memorial Hospital, where he was pronounced dead. Medical records and reports from the hospital confirm his death.

3. Public Announcement: Elvis's death was announced by his physician, Dr. George Nichopoulos, and confirmed by officials. The news was widely covered by the media, with news reports, newspaper articles, and live broadcasts documenting the event.

4. Funeral and Burial: A public funeral was held at Graceland on August 18, 1977, attended by family, friends, and fans. Elvis was buried in the Meditation Garden at Graceland. The burial and funeral proceedings were thoroughly documented and witnessed by many.

5. Autopsy and Toxicology Reports: The autopsy conducted on Elvis Presley revealed signs of severe heart

continued on next page

disease, along with a range of prescription drugs in his system. Toxicology reports showed that these drugs contributed to his health issues and ultimately his death.

6. Statements from Family and Friends: Following his death, many of Elvis's close family members, friends, and colleagues have spoken publicly about his passing, providing consistent accounts of his final days and the circumstances surrounding his death.

While there are conspiracy theories that claim Elvis faked his death or is still alive, there is no credible evidence to support these theories. The overwhelming evidence from medical records, official announcements, and eyewitness accounts strongly supports the conclusion that Elvis Presley passed away on August 16, 1977.

Q3: What evidence do you have to support the assertion that Elvis Presley is alive?

The assertion that Elvis Presley is alive is largely based on conspiracy theories and claims, but there is no credible, verifiable evidence to support these ideas. Here are some of the key elements that conspiracy theorists point to, alongside explanations for why they do not provide convincing evidence:

1. Claims of Sightings: Some people have claimed to have seen Elvis alive after his reported death in 1977. These reports usually lack verifiable evidence and are often anecdotal or based on misidentifications. There are no photographs, videos, or official documents to confirm these sightings. Many of these claims have been explained as cases of mistaken identity or hoaxes.

2. Unusual Circumstances Surrounding His Death: Conspiracy theorists point to the fact that Elvis' death was somewhat sudden and that he was reportedly in declining health. They speculate that he may have faked his death to escape the pressures of fame. However, the official cause of death, confirmed by an autopsy and medical reports, was a heart attack, exacerbated by prescription drug abuse. There is no credible evidence to suggest he staged his death.

3. "Elvis" References in Popular Culture: Some conspiracy theorists argue that Elvis left behind hidden messages in his music, movies, or public statements suggesting that he was alive. For instance, the theory that the cover art of his album "The Sun Sessions" or certain lyrics of his songs imply that he was planning to fake his death. However, these interpretations are subjective and speculative, with no concrete proof to back them up.

4. The "Elvis is Alive" Hoaxes and Documentaries:

There have been numerous hoaxes, books, and documentaries that claim Elvis is alive, but none of these have produced substantial, reliable evidence. In many cases, these materials are based on hearsay, misinterpretations, or fabricated "proof" that can easily be debunked.

5. The Graceland "Sightings" and Elvis Impersonators:

Some claim that Elvis is living under a new identity and occasionally appears in public, particularly in Memphis, Tennessee, near his former home, Graceland. These reports often involve impersonators or people who look similar to Presley but are not him. The existence of Elvis impersonators has contributed to the idea that the real Elvis could be living quietly in obscurity, but this is a theory without factual support.

Refutations:

• **Autopsy and Official Records:** Elvis Presley's death was thoroughly documented, with an autopsy revealing heart disease and prescription drug use. There is no credible evidence suggesting that the autopsy was faked or altered.

• **No Concrete Evidence of Post-Death Appearances:** Despite numerous claims of Elvis being spotted after his death, there is no substantial or verifiable proof. Any "sightings" are generally unsubstantiated or can be explained by the presence of lookalikes or mistaken identity.

• **Medical and Legal Documentation:** Legal records, such as death certificates, and medical documentation from Graceland and the Baptist Memorial Hospital affirm the time, date, and cause of his death.

In conclusion, while various conspiracy theories and speculations exist about Elvis Presley being alive, none of these theories are supported by verifiable, credible evidence. The overwhelming official documentation, including medical and legal records, supports the conclusion that Elvis Presley passed away on August 16, 1977.

Well, that was interesting, good writing, good grammar and spelling. I am impressed but then I'm relatively easy to impress; after all English is only my second language. Someone had asked me many years ago, "so what is your first language?" I replied, "I haven't found one that I'm good at so I'm still looking."

So was this article of interest, would you like to see more or see something else, or should I hang up my

writing instruments? We would like to hear a response from our readers. Send a comment or email to this ghost writer at pov@hh-bh.com or let Val Noonan, our Executive Director know.

Thanks for reading and maybe we will see you in the future.



News from the Friends of Nose Hill

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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Family Name(s): _____

First Name - Adults:

1.

2.

First Name - Children: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____

Home Phone: _____

Email: _____

Would you like to receive the newsletter and other announcements by email?

yes no

I would be interested in volunteering for:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership Drive |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Green Space/Reforestation | <input type="checkbox"/> Children's Programs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising | <input type="checkbox"/> Seniors' Programs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Facilities/Ice Rink | <input type="checkbox"/> Sports Programs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications/Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Activities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other | |

Membership # _____

Valid through July 31 2025

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Paid by: cash cheque

Send cheques payable to **Hounsfield Heights-Briar Hill Community Association**
Box 65086 RPO North Hill, Calgary AB T2N 4T6

Privacy Consent: By providing the personal information on this form you are consenting to HH-BH Community Association's collection and use of that information for the purposes of providing you a membership in the community association. This information will be stored in a database of community members for the sole use of the Association. The Association will not sell, barter or lease membership lists or information. We may retain this information until nine months after expiry date of the membership.

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