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Friendship

by Cheryl Dunkley

Is there anything better than a buddy on whom
you can depend?

Always comes running when you call, "Help"

When she shows up, you know trouble is soon at
an end.

Confiding, sharing, laughing, crying too

Many things in our lives make us happy or blue.

We don't always agree, but that's okay...

Giving each other time to have our say.

Careful with advice... is that a request?

Knowing when to be silent,

A hug can sometimes be the best.

We have different lives, our choices miles apart

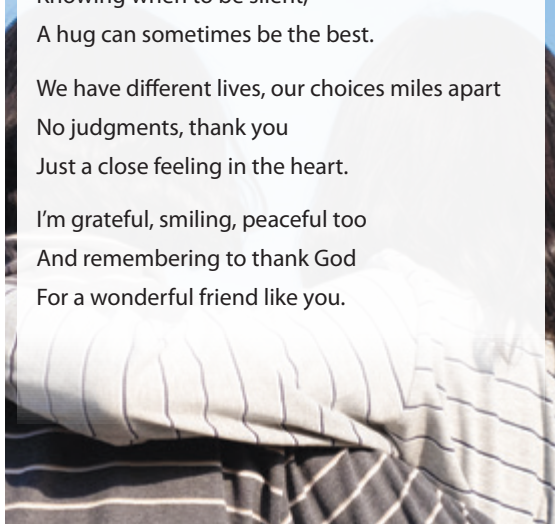
No judgments, thank you

Just a close feeling in the heart.

I'm grateful, smiling, peaceful too

And remembering to thank God

For a wonderful friend like you.



Soccer in the Community

Winter: Jan - Feb



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The Art of Finding Work - Jobseekers: Introduce Yourself with Style

by Nick Kossovan

Years ago, I attended a dinner party at which a relationship therapist was present. We were twelve, and some of us had never met. As you've probably experienced when attending a gathering, there's a tendency to split into pairs or trios, resulting in fragmented discussions. However, the relationship therapist took control by asking everyone at the table: "What's on your unofficial résumé? I'm a relationship therapist with a private practice. I enjoy hearing people's stories and how they got to where they are today."

Not

- "How you're doing?"
- "What do you do for a living?"
- "How do you know Jackie and Nunzio [our hosts]?"

Her question probed deep, and all eyes were on her. How she introduced herself was an education in making a memorable introduction by being interesting and interested.

More impressive, while fictional, is how James Bond introduces himself to a glamorous woman, Sylvia Trench, and subsequently to the movie viewer, who's going head-to-head with him while playing chemin de fer at one of London's finest clubs, Les Ambassadeurs.

Bond: I admire your courage, Miss...?

Sylvia: Trench... Sylvia Trench... and I admire your luck, Mr...?

Bond: Bond... James Bond.

Of course, there's much more to this scene, such as Bond's playful mirroring of "Trench... Silvia Trench." After Sylvia loses her next hand, a man taps Bond on the shoulder, and Bond politely excuses himself. While walking to the front door, he arranges dinner with Sylvia and casually tips the doorman as we see on Sylvia's face, "Who is this man?" At no time does Bond linger.

I bring up the opening scene of the first Bond film, Dr. No (1962), because in under two minutes, you know

everything you need to know about James Bond: smooth, debonair, supremely self-confident, and risk-taking.

It's an art to introduce yourself in such a way that the other person wants to learn more about you, an art well worth learning. Whenever you meet someone for the first time, at a dinner party, the person you're paired up to play golf with, a new neighbour and especially your interviewer, how you introduce yourself is everything!

Are you introducing yourself as effectively as Bond or as memorable as the relationship therapist, cutting to the essence of who you are?

Most people are bad at introducing themselves—fumbling, rambling, and underselling themselves—even more so, thanks to social media eroding social skills. This is a problem. Like it or not, the first impression we make makes or breaks opportunities.

Being aware of what you're projecting about yourself is the first step in formulating an introduction that makes you interesting and, therefore, memorable so the other person is compelled to learn more about you.

Don't Get "Lumped In"

When introducing themselves, people usually state their title and workplace. Wrong! When you say, "I'm an accountant for Wayne Enterprises," the other person immediately lumps you into their preconceived notion(s) of what you do and whom you work for. Engage their imagination instead.

Bad: "I'm a software engineer at Yoyodyne."

Good: "I build tools for venture capitalists at a quirky startup called Yoyodyne; it's been a great ride so far! Technically, I am an engineer; therefore, I find myself dealing with product and design work, which I've discovered I'm good at."

Tell A Micro-Story

If you want to make a memorable introduction, introduce yourself in the form of a story. Storytelling is how humans learn because stories are mentally sticky.

Bad: "I moved to Toronto for work. I'm a project manager at BXJ Technologies."

This introduction is boring because most (hand-raised) people in Toronto moved to Toronto for work.

Guess the Instrument!

1. Dating back at least 50,000 years, this is considered the oldest known musical instrument in the world.
2. This instrument's name comes from the Persian word meaning "three-stringed."
3. This instrument is made up of 88 keys that strike 230 strings.
4. Along with the shamrock, this instrument is the official State emblem of Ireland.
5. This instrument is played with a bow made up of at least 150 individual hairs.
6. The Fender Stratocaster is this kind of instrument.



SCAN THE QR CODE FOR THE ANSWERS!

BRAIN GAMES SUDOKU

8						6		
7	5						1	8
		3			4	5	9	
1				8				
9			4	6	5			
				3				9
4	2	9	7			3		
3	7			4			5	6
5		6						4

SCAN THE QR CODE FOR THE SOLUTION



Good: "I'm a bit of a third culture kid. I grew up in Singapore and London, which explains my accent. I moved to Toronto to experience new energy. Ultimately, I fell in love with project management, Cabano's Cheeseburgers and Toronto's bubbly art scene."

Consider "Hooks"

Ideally, your introduction should lead to a meaningful conversation; therefore, try to fill your introduction story with a hook, such as a unique experience, an interesting fact or a comparison—a great way to create a visual—to arouse interest and spark a conversation.

Bad: "I'm a financial lawyer."

Good: "Have you seen the movie Dark Waters about the guy who took Dupont to court for millions of dollars? Well, I'm like that guy, only less stressed and famous, and I work for a bank."

Highlight Your Unique Journey

Everyone has a story. Introducing what makes yours unique will make you interesting and memorable.

Most likely, like me, you've had an unconventional career path:

"Believe it or not, I began my career as a barista. Pouring coffee gave me considerable experience in customer service and time efficiency. With those skills, I now manage St. Eligius Hospital's administration staff, ensuring the inpatient experience is as stress-free as possible."

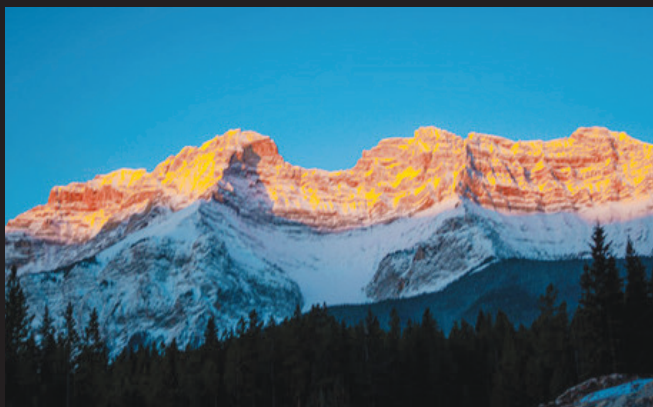
Consider weaving into your introduction:

- Countries or cities you've lived in: "I've called three continents home..."
- An unusual hobby: "When I'm not crunching numbers, I'm usually rock climbing..."
- Volunteer experience: "I spend my weekends..."
- An unexpected skill: "My theatre experience often proves useful in board meetings..."

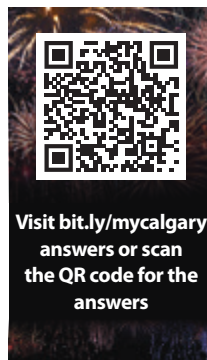
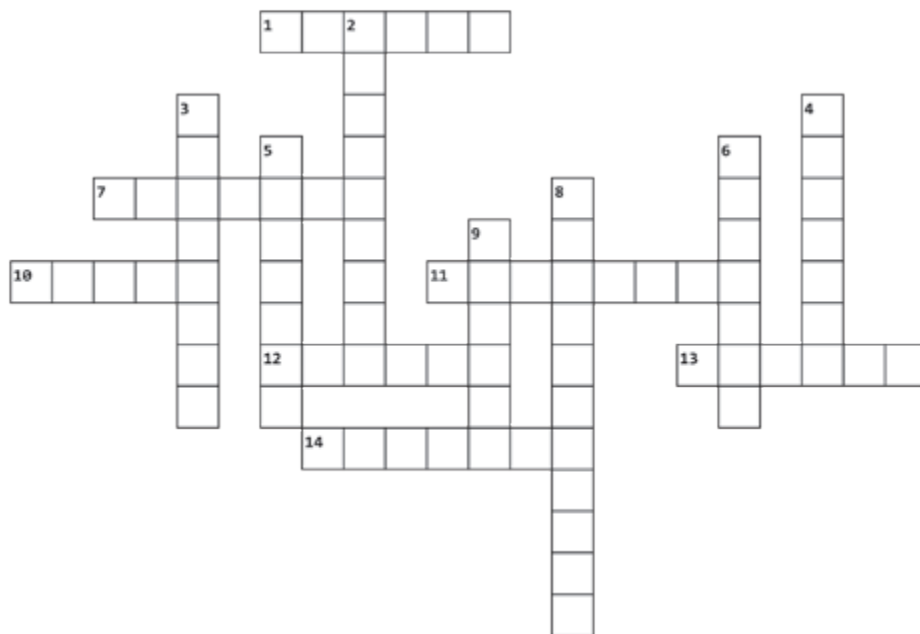


Photo Gallery

by Jirapan Nilmanee (Mik)



January Crossword



Visit bit.ly/mycalgary
answers or scan
the QR code for the
answers

Across

1. Ice-hockey player and co-founder of a popular restaurant franchise, Miles Gilbert "Tim" _____, was born on January 12, 1930, in Cochrane, Ontario.
7. World _____ Day on January 4 marks awareness of a form of communication for blind and visually impaired people.
10. On January 2, 2010, American singer-songwriter _____'s debut single, "TiK ToK," reached number one on the Billboard Hot 100.
11. This iconic Aretha became the first female artist to be inducted in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame on January 3, 1987.
12. This TV series first premiered on January 12, 1966, starring Adam West as the titular character and tells the story of a superhero who fights crime in Gotham City.
13. Legendary comedian, Jim _____, was born on January 17, 1962, in Newmarket, Ontario.
14. Disney's popular TV movie, *High School Musical*, premiered on January 20, 2006, starring Zac Efron, Ashley Tisdale, and Vanessa _____.

Down

2. Franklin D. _____ was sworn in for his fourth term as US President on January 20, 1945, becoming the only US President to do so.
3. Romance novel, *Call Me by Your Name*, by André Aciman, was published on January 23, 2007, and later became a film starring Timothée _____.
4. On January 7, 1610, Galileo Galilei discovered the first three moons of this planet – the largest in our solar system.
5. British actress and singer, Cynthia Erivo, who plays _____ in *Wicked*, was born on January 8, 1987.
6. Steve _____ and Steve Jobs officially incorporated Apple Computer, Inc. on January 3, 1977, in California.
8. "Wedding March", composed by Felix _____, was first played at the wedding of Princess Victoria and Prince Frederick William of Prussia on January 25, 1858.
9. The first Winter Olympic Games officially opened on January 25, 1924, in Chamonix, _____.



News from the Friends of Nose Hill

by Anne Burke

Alberta's Provincial Parks Act, introduced in 1930 and amended in 2000, provides for preservation of provincial parks, wildland parks, and provincial recreation areas to benefit current and future generations. There are rules and regulations about certain activities and restrictions. Important sites for conservation management are the Wilderness Areas, Ecological Reserves, Natural Areas, and Heritage Rangelands. More information at <https://albertaparks.ca/>.

The original Plan for Parks (2009-2019) is archived online. A new Plan for Parks: Engagement guide and fact sheet were posted. The first phase of engagement collected feedback from Albertans to inform a Plan. In the second phase, Albertans review the draft and provide input. The proposed vision statement has added cultural benefits and Indigenous reconciliation. There may be additional fees, some partner groups, increased tourism, recreation, and campgrounds.

An Online Survey asked how often you visit parks, what do you most value, what will Alberta Parks look like 100 years from now? If you agree that Albertans should be informed and engaged in park issues, what ways are important to you: a) increase opportunities to provide input into decision making for provincial parks; b) establish clear deliverables and milestones in the new ten-year Plan for Parks; c) consistently report on progress and achievement?

Since Parks conserve nature and connect people with nature, providing access to a variety of nature-based experiences will be important, so that building an appreciation for natural values is a key priority. Which of the following options would you support? a) create more parks to increase conservation and nature access; b) collaborate to improve how information about conservation activities in parks is shared; c) expand interpretive and educational programs to inform and inspire visitors; d) add volunteer opportunities to promote hands-on nature and conservation education.

Cats, Canines, & Critters of Calgary



Bear, *Palliser*



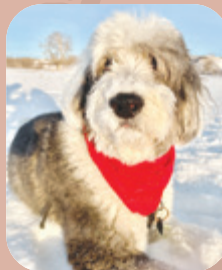
Buster, *Hamptons*



Lizzy, *Huntington Hills*



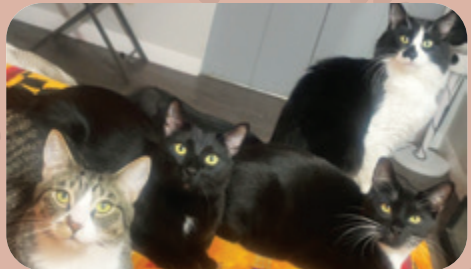
Mirabella,
Lower Mount Royal



Poupie, *Deer Run*



Toby, *Douglasdale*



Luka, Kiba, Shinji, and Von, *Shawnessy*

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Councillor, Ward 3
Jasmine Mian

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Happy New Year!

I hope your holidays were filled with rest and time with loved ones. Looking forward to 2025 and all that the year will bring.

Here are some updates related to new City initiatives and programs.

Transit Advocacy and Snow Detours

I have heard first-hand from many residents how important reliable transit is to them. As our city grows, I will continue to advocate for funding and improvements to transit.

This past fall, I was successful in making some efficient changes to several bus routes in Ward 3. These changes mostly affect the communities of Panorama Hills, Hidden Valley, Hanson Ranch, Livingston, and Carrington. You can read about the changes made and the current snow detours at jasminemian.com/news.

New Skating Rink in Ward 3!

We're fully in winter mode, and a new ice rink opened last month in Sandstone! My office worked with the Sandstone MacEwan Community Association to secure City funding for their new boarded rink. Their volunteers work incredibly hard to maintain two community rinks, so if you want to help out, visit sandstonemacewan.com.

You can view a map of all ice-skating rinks across the city at calgary.ca/parks/activities.

Protect Water Lines from Freezing

Every winter, some Calgarians will experience frozen pipes, resulting in a water outage.

Recently, there's been an increase in frozen pipes. These steps can prevent pipes from freezing:

- Keep your thermostat at a minimum of 15°C.
- Eliminate any cold drafts in unheated areas.
- Repair broken windows, check doors, and insulate areas.
- Insulate water pipes in cold areas.
- Open interior doors and cabinets in cold areas.
- Turn off, disconnect, and drain the water lines to outside features.
- Regularly run water in your pipes.

Visit calgary.ca/frozenpipes to learn more.

For questions and concerns, or to view my voting record, visit jasminemian.ca.



MLA Calgary-North
Hon. Muhammad Yaseen

104 – 200 Country Hills Landing NW T3K 5P3
 ✉ calgary.north@assembly.ab.ca
 📱 @muhammadyaseenyyc

Happy New Year!

May 2025 bring you joy, success, and a year filled with happiness, growth, and everything you wish for.

In May 2022, Alberta's government invested \$5 million over three years to enhance financial literacy for students. Enriched Academy, the Canadian Foundation for Economic Education, and Junior Achievement receive annual funding to provide financial literacy programs for grades K-12. These initiatives teach vital skills like saving, budgeting, and investing, aligned with the curriculum. By integrating financial literacy into education and funding dedicated resources, Alberta is equipping students with the knowledge and confidence needed to navigate the fundamental life skills they need to prosper in adulthood and secure their futures in today's fast-moving world.

Alberta's government is improving healthcare access by expanding the role of nurse practitioners (NPs) through the Nurse Practitioner Primary Care Program (NPPCP). Since its April launch, 33 NPs are now practising independently, with 56 applications approved. The program allows NPs to work autonomously or join existing practices, with a requirement to maintain a panel of at least 900 patients, providing after-hours care, and accepting walk-ins, enhancing flexibility for Albertans.

Albertans' feedback helps shape financial priorities and address the needs of our growing population. Budget 2025 will maintain a responsible approach to supporting Albertans while strengthening health care, education, and economic resilience. Your input is essential, share your ideas and priorities at alberta.ca/budget-2025-consultation. Businesses, municipalities, community groups, and other stakeholders can also provide feedback via the online portal. All input will be shared with Minister Horner to ensure diverse perspectives are considered. The survey and portal are open until Sunday, January 12. Let's work together to create a brighter future for Alberta!

Thank you to my constituents for their support, wishing you all a joyous and prosperous New Year.

Tortellini and Spinach Soup

by Jennifer Puri



Tortellini is an Italian bite-sized pasta which is stuffed with ricotta or parmesan cheese, pork, sausage, dried mushrooms, herbs, and vegetables.

This ring-shaped pasta is traditionally served in a broth, but tomato, mushroom, and meat sauces are also popular. Italy is recognized for its food culture and the work of rolling out the dough evenly and then cutting it into small squares, followed by the stuffing and shaping of the tiny tortellini which is an art in itself.

Tortellini and spinach soup is the perfect weeknight supper that can be enjoyed by every member of the family. It is delicious on its own or with a tossed salad and garlic or crusty bread.

Prep Time: 10 minutes

Cook Time: 15 minutes

Servings: 4 to 5

Ingredients:

- 1 package spinach or cheese stuffed tortellini (350 gm)
- 1 tbsp. olive oil
- 3 garlic cloves, finely chopped
- 1 small yellow onion, finely chopped
- 6 tbsp. tomato paste
- 3 cups fresh spinach leaves, stems removed
- 2 carrots, chopped
- 10 cups of low sodium chicken broth
- ½ tsp. ground black pepper
- Salt to taste
- 1 tsp. Italian seasoning
- 1 cup half and half cream

Garnish:

- Grated parmesan cheese
- Parsley leaves
- Red chili flakes (optional)

Directions:

- Place the olive oil, onion, garlic, and carrots in a medium size pot or Dutch oven. Sauté the vegetables until the onions are translucent, approximately 4 to 5 minutes.
- Add the tomato paste, Italian seasoning, salt, and pepper, stirring frequently. Next add the broth and bring to a boil. Add tortellini and cook until the tortellini is al dente, about 5 minutes.
- Reduce heat to low and gently add the half and half cream and the spinach leaves and continue to simmer for a couple of minutes or until spinach leaves are wilted and then remove from heat.
- Ladle the soup into bowls and garnish with grated parmesan cheese, parsley leaves, and chili flakes (optional).

Note:

- Leftover soup can be stored in an airtight container and refrigerated for up to three days.
- Vegetarians can substitute the chicken broth with vegetable broth.

Bon Appétit!

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Puppet Master



What do Yoda,
Cookie Monster,
and Miss Piggy
have in common?

They were all
brought to life
by the legendary
puppeteer Frank
Oz! From a wise
Jedi Master to
a cookie-loving monster and a diva
pig, Oz's incredible talent made these
characters unforgettable.

Word of
the Month



Cynosure: noun (SIGH-noh-syoor)

A center of attraction
or attention.

*The bride was the cynosure of
all eyes at the wedding.*

Sledding Safety

by Alberta Health Services

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) would like to remind parents and children about a few toboggan/sledding safety tips. Injuries may result from collisions with stationary objects on the hill, such as trees, poles, rocks, or even collisions with other people. Unprotected falls can also result in more serious injury if you lose control at high speeds. However, everyone can be safe and have fun on the toboggan hill by following these reminders.

Equipment

- Always ensure your toboggan, or sledding device, is in good repair. Inspect it for any damaged or missing parts before each use.
- Be certain the operator is fully capable of staying in control of the sled at all times.
- Wear a ski helmet, designed for use in cold weather and high speeds.

Hazards

- Avoid hills that are too steep or too icy.
- Choose hills free of all obstacles such as trees, rocks, utility poles, benches, or fences.
- Beware of loose scarves, or clothing containing drawstrings, which could present a strangulation hazard if they become caught or snagged.
- Look out for others. Move quickly to the side after finishing a run and stay to the side of the sliding path when walking up the hill.
- Children should be supervised by an adult; never toboggan alone.
- Sledding at night is not advised.

Plan Ahead

- Anticipate weather changes and plan accordingly.
- Wear warm, insulating layers closer to the body, and wind/waterproof layers on the outside.
- Consider bringing extra sets of gloves and toques to exchange wet garments for dry ones.
- Take breaks out of the cold to warm up.
- Even when properly protected from the elements, the fingertips, toes, ears, the tip of the nose, and other high points on the face such as the forehead and cheek bones can be affected by frostbite; therefore, attempt to cover up any exposed skin.
- If frostbite has occurred, treat it by first getting out of the cold environment, or at least sheltered from any wind chill.
- Gently warm the affected skin by placing a warm hand over it, or by placing the affected part in warm - not hot - water until re-warmed.





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