

PARKDALES

THE OFFICIAL PARKDALE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER





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Puppet Master

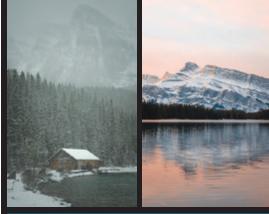


What do Yoda, Cookie Monster, and Miss Piggy have in common? They were all brought to life by the legendary puppeteer Frank Oz! From a wise Jedi Master to

a cookie-loving monster and a diva pig, Oz's incredible talent made these characters unforgettable.

Photo Gallery by Jirapan Nilmanee (Mik)











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.



Parkdale Real Estate Update

Last 12 Months Parkdale MLS Real Estate Sale Price Update

	Average Asking Price	Average Sold Price
November 2024	\$864,950	\$861,250
October 2024	\$879,900	\$860,000
September 2024	\$1,077,000	\$1,032,500
August 2024	\$499,450	\$478,500
July 2024	\$499,900	\$487,500
June 2024	\$899,900	\$955,000
May 2024	\$722,450	\$749,400
April 2024	\$1,079,450	\$1,053,750
March 2024	\$814,950	\$800,000
February 2024	\$834,900	\$824,900
January 2024	\$665,000	\$665,000
December 2023	\$1,493,500	\$1,474,000

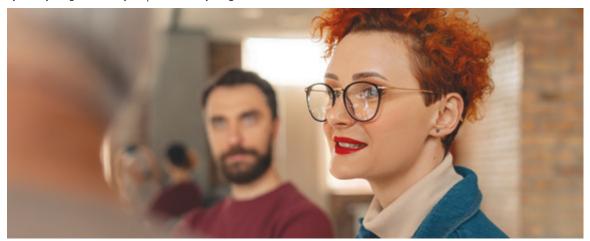
Last 12 Months Parkdale MLS Real Estate Number of Listings Update

	No. New Properties	No. Properties Sold
November 2024	8	4
October 2024	8	7
September 2024	9	6
August 2024	10	6
July 2024	9	7
June 2024	13	7
May 2024	14	12
April 2024	8	6
March 2024	11	12
February 2024	8	7
January 2024	9	5
December 2023	3	2

To view more detailed information that comprise the above MLS averages please visit **pdal.mycalgary.com**

How to Be a Great Communicator

by Nancy Bergeron, R. Psych. | info@nancybergeron.ca



Just because we speak and understand the same language doesn't necessarily mean we are good communicators. One of the most common reasons couples seek my services is to learn better ways to communicate. The list below is for anyone who would like to hone their own skills.

Let's Start with Some Bad Habits in Communication:

- **1. Interrupting** This can make it seem like you don't care what the other person is saying. Yes, sometimes I get excited and blurt things out but it's important to acknowledge the other and be respectful to allow them to continue. This can also be an issue if you are neurodivergent, and the speaker doesn't know this.
- **2. Story-Topping** This can shift the conversation from connection to competition.
- **3. Bright-Siding** Always encouraging others to be positive or look on the bright-side can be invalidating. Toxic positivity is a thing, allow others to feel what they are feeling.
- **4. Being Right** The conversation becomes a debate or about being right. Try to listen to understand the other's point of view... you might learn something new.
- **5. Being All-Knowing** Explaining information without being asked for your expertise. This can sometimes make you look like a know-it-all.

6. Advising – Sometimes people just want empathy or just to be heard. They didn't ask for your advice. Do not offer it unsolicited. This can also be seen a boundary violation.

Here Are Some Habits of Good Communicators:

- **1. They create conversational safety** free from judgement, fault finding, or rejection. Just be there to listen.
- **2.** They validate other people's feelings with statements like; that makes sense, of course, or I get that. It doesn't mean you have to feel the same way, but you are showing that how they feel is valid.
- **3. They follow their natural curiosity** by asking questions that show interest and seeking to know more. Nothing feels better than someone showing interest in what you have to say or wanting to get to know you better.
- **4. They listen with their whole body** by being fully present while listening; not looking around or looking at their phone and are giving non-verbal cues that they are fully engaged such as eye contact and facing the speaker.
- **5. They hear what's beneath the words** by reading the speaker's body language, tone of voice, and facial expressions. This is an art form of attuning to another.

Celebrating Calgary 150 - Calgary's Prehistory

by Anthony Imbrogno (The Calgary Heritage Initiative Society/Heritage Inspires YYC)

2025 is Calgary's 150th anniversary! We're writing 12 articles on the different eras of Calgary's history.

Let's start at the beginning, not quite the Big Bang but the Dinosaur Age, when Alberta lay underneath the Western Interior Seaway. Alongside the newly forming Rocky Mountains was a lush coastline of tropical forests and wetlands.

The land was inhabited by creatures like the duck-billed Edmontosaurus, which was hunted by Albertosaurus. The warm and shallow sea was full of marine life like plesiosaurs, sharks, and giant fish.

Today, Drumheller is one of the world's richest dinosaur study areas. You'll see many fossils at the Royal Tyrrell Museum, Canada's only museum dedicated to ancient life.

Besides their scientific value, fossils became the fuels that have driven our economy and technology. After millions of years, shells formed porous layers on the seafloor where organic sludge settled and became exposed to heat and pressure, forming oil and gas.

In Turner Valley in 1914, natural gas sprayed out of one wellbore. Then in 1947, the Leduc-Rimbey reef became famous for an oil strike that launched the province onto the world stage.

On the Kainai Reserve southwest of Lethbridge, some ancient life turned into large deposits of iridescent shells, called ammolite. It's also called iniskim ("buffalo stone"), since according to Indigenous legend the first stone saved people from starvation. Ammolite became Alberta's official gemstone in 2022.

Fast forward to the last Ice Age, when 3-kilometer-thick ice sheets covered 97% of Canada. Then the sheets melted, leaving markers all throughout Alberta. The Prince of Wales Hotel in Waterton sits atop a kame, an irregularly shaped hill formed from ice sheet movements.

Another sign of glaciation are erratics, massive rocks seemingly placed at random. The growing ice sheets carried rocks and then left them behind when the ice melted. The largest is Big Rock near Okotoks, meaning "rock" in the Blackfoot language.

Another Ice Age effect was exposing the Bering land bridge linking Eurasia and Alaska. About 14,000 years ago, several thousand hunter-gatherers crossed over, probably following woolly mammoth herds. They spread out across the Americas, which we'll explore next month.

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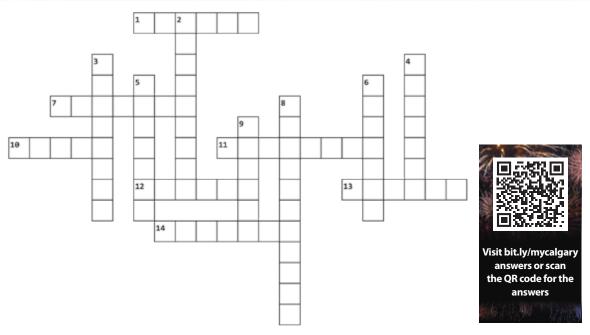
Crime Statistics



Real Estate Statistics



January Crossword



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, ______.





It's officially official.

Swish has arrived in the University District! Now accepting new patients.



At Swish, great care comes easy.

Swish is a locally owned dental clinic, and we opened this winter in the University District. Since opening our Bridgeland location in the summer of 2022, we've earned over 500 5-star reviews for our people-first, hospitality-inspired approach to dentistry. Our mission? To make every dental appointment feel less like a chore, and more like your favourite self-care routine.

Say goodbye to dental anxiety and switch to Swish. Join us at the brandnew University District location, now open!

Good Vibes + Shame-Free Treatment Fast and Convenient Direct Billing Experience the Extras at No Extra Cost

Swishers say...

- I love this dentist. I feel comfortable, the staff are amazing. It's clean and new. Couldn't have a better experience every time I go. Thanks Swish." PW
- 66 Amazing experience, 10 out of 10! The team is super friendly and very knowledgeable, you are in great hands here. Most importantly I felt comfortable the whole time and left the dentist office feeling good about my teeth and oral health." LC
- My partner made me switch to this dentist and I'm so glad I did. They make you feel so welcome. I have had more than one appointment and every time it's been such a great experience. I mean who likes going to the dentist?" – YT
- 16 The best dental office in the city. Dr. Shlah and his team always provide my family with the highest level of care. The office has a comfortable environment and any dental stress we had before the appointment is gone when we walk in the door. We always look forward to our next visit."

The wait is over. Welcome to the Swish Experience.

Swish University District is now open!

Located in the award-winning University District, Swish U/D brings our signature 'self-care + oral care' experience to Calgary's Northwest.

Enjoy a suite of amenities like warm blankets and aromatherapy, treat yourself to local goods from Village Ice Cream or Monogram, and relax in a space so stunning, you might just forget you're at the dentist. The best part? It's all delivered with judgement-free, patient-centred care.

Say goodbye to dental anxiety and say hello to Swish.

Visit swishoralcare.ca to reserve your spot.

We can't wait to see you in U/D.

Take care,

Team Swish

The 411 on Swish U/D

Where is Swish U/D?

We're located at 3928 University Ave NW on the main floor of the Argyle building.

What services do you offer at Swish U/D?

All the classics (The Essentials, Fresh 5), plus Cosmetic Dentistry, Dental Emergencies, Invisalign, Botox, and more. Head to our Services page for the full list.

Who will be my dentist at Swish U/D?

Dr. Zahi Shlah will be doing double duty at Swish Bridgeland and U/D. Expect to see a few more friendly, familiar faces from Bridgeland too.

Do you direct bill?

Absolutely. Make sure to add your insurance info to your New Patient Forms for a super smooth, seamless check-out.

Where can I park?

Complimentary 3-hour parking is available in the University District underground lot. Make sure to register your license plate at our admin desk when you check-in.

I have more questions. Who do I contact?

Give us a call at 825-540-7183 or email UD@swishoralcare.ca.

Say ahhh...

Swish specializes in all things dental for all ages, from essentials to emergencies.



The Essentials

A comprehensive dental exam, cleaning, 3D wellness scan, x-rays, complimentary oral cancer screening, and free whitening.



Fresh 5

Fresh 5 is a flat rate option with five must-have treatments.



Dental Work

Cavities, wisdom teeth. root canals, crowns. implants, and more. Thorough, yet gentle on tough stuff.



Cosmetic Dentistry

Form meets function. Botox, whitening, veneers, and more.



Invisalign

Complimentary scans and detailed consults from the leader in straighter smiles.



Emergencies

Broken or chipped tooth? Extreme toothaches? Sav no more - we're on it.

Brush up on all things



Now open and accepting new patients. Scan to book your Swish Experience.

Swish Oral Care 3928 University Ave NW Calgary, AB T3B 6N7 825-540-7183

Find us online:



swishoralcare.ca ud@swishoralcare.ca





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Polar Bears' Secret Colour

Here's a cool (and surprising) fact: polar bears actually have black skin! And get this - their fur isn't white, it's transparent! The black skin helps them soak up precious heat, while their transparent fur reflects light, making it look white and blending them perfectly into the snowy Arctic.



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Preventing Slips, Trips, and Falls During the Winter Months

by Alberta Health Services

The winter months can be a great time to get outdoors and be active. But the cold, snow, and ice can present challenging conditions that put individuals at higher risk of experiencing a fall.

Melting snow can freeze overnight, forming a thin layer of ice that is hard to see. The ground can then become very slippery in the morning when the ice starts to melt. In months where the ground is frozen, ground frost and ice can make it slippery for walking. No matter how well the snow is removed from parking lots or sidewalks, there will still be slippery places.

It's important to keep your safety in mind to avoid slips, trips, and falls.

Tips To Prevent Falls and Other Injuries

A fall can happen to anyone, anywhere – outdoors, in your home, in the community, or in a hospital. They can be serious and cause bruises, sprains, or more severe injuries like broken bones or concussions. About 180 children ages four and under and 11,000 adults ages 65 and older were hospitalized due to falls in Alberta in 2022.

To lower the risk of you, your child, or someone else getting hurt when you're outside this winter, remember the following:

For children:

- Use sturdy, wall-mounted gates at the top of all stairs and a wall-mounted or pressure-mounted gate at the bottom.
- Install safety devices on windows, such as window guards or child-proof locks higher than ground level.
 Safety devices should be installed so they may be opened by an adult or older child without the use of any tools or special knowledge.
- Move furniture away from windows and balcony rails to prevent children from climbing.
- Secure furniture, such as dressers and bookcases, to the wall.
- Use the playground checklist for children to reduce the risk of injury.

• Always have your child wear a certified helmet while skiing, snowboarding, sledding, tobogganing, or skating to lower the risk of head injuries.

For adults:

- Move your body. Regular physical activity builds balance, strength, and flexibility. Talk to your healthcare provider before beginning a new physical activity and discuss strategies for staying active if you have limited mobility.
- Choose footwear that has low heels, fits well, and has good grip. Join activities with friends or family to stay safe and connect with others. Take short, slow steps on slippery surfaces.
- Check your vision. Changes to your vision might increase your risk of falling. Alberta Health covers the cost of an annual eye exam for adults ages 65 and older.
- Regularly review your medications with your doctor or pharmacist, and ask questions about side effects, such as feeling dizzy or sleepy.
- Keep floors and pathways clutter-free and turn on lights on stairs.

Do the Penguin Walk!

- Bend slightly and walk flat footed.
- Point your feet out slightly like a penguin.
- Keep your centre of gravity over your feet as much as possible.
- Watch where you are stepping.
- Take shorter, shuffle-like steps.
- Keep your arms at your sides (not in your pockets!).
- Concentrate on keeping your balance.
- Go S-L-O-W-L-Y.

If you fall or are seriously injured, get the appropriate care promptly. People with life-threatening emergencies should visit their nearest emergency department or call 9-1-1. If your condition is not life-threatening, call Health Link 811 for health advice or information.



Managing and Preventing Kidney Stones

by Alberta Health Services

What Are Kidney Stones?

A kidney stone forms when salts and minerals that would normally pass out of the body in the urine build up in large amounts and separate from the urine to form crystals.

When the urine leaves the kidney, it may carry the crystal out, or the crystal may stay in the kidney, and over time several smaller crystals combine to form a kidney stone.

They can be as small as a grain of sand or grow to be as large as a golf ball.

Causes and Risk Factors

Several things can affect your risk for getting kidney stones. These include:

- How much fluid you drink. The most common cause of kidney stones is not drinking enough water. Kidney stones form when a change occurs in the normal balance of water, salts, minerals, and other things in urine. When you don't drink enough these substances can build up and stick together to form the crystals that eventually become kidney stones.
- Your diet. Diets high in protein and sodium increase your risk for kidney stones. So do oxalate-rich foods, such as dark green vegetables.
- **Being overweight.** This can cause both insulin resistance and increased calcium in the urine, which can increase your risk for kidney stones.

Your age, gender, and whether you have a family history of kidney stones can also affect your risk. But these things are out of your control.

Symptoms

- Sudden, severe pain that gets worse in waves. Stones may cause intense pain in the back, side, abdomen, groin, or genitals.
- Nausea and vomiting.
- · Blood in the urine.
- Frequent and painful urination.

Treatment

For most kidney stones, your doctor will recommend home care, such as pain medicine and drinking plenty of water. You may get a medicine to help the stone pass. If it is too large to pass, you may need other treatment, such as one that uses shock waves to break the stone into small pieces.

Prevention

The following tips may lower your chance of getting kidney stones or from getting them again:

- Drink plenty of water.
- Eat less salt and salty foods.
- Increase your fibre consumption.
- Avoid grapefruit juice.
- Drink lemonade made from real lemons (not lemon flavouring). It is high in citrate, which may help prevent kidney stones.

If you have had kidney stones, your doctor or dietitian may talk with you about an eating plan to help prevent new stones. Talk to your health care professional about:

- Oxalate. Limiting certain foods that have a lot of oxalate, such as dark green vegetables, nuts, and chocolate may help prevent kidney stones.
- Animal protein in your diet. This includes beef, chicken, pork, fish, and eggs. These foods contain a lot of protein, and too much protein may lead to kidney stones.
- Natural health products. Your doctor may want you to limit how much fish liver oil, calcium, and vitamin C and D supplements you take.





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✓ len.webber@parl.gc.ca

Remembering Zhou

Video games have become a popular pastime for many Canadians, offering entertainment and a sense of community. However, as with any activity, moderation is key.

A teenager in our community passed away in October in a suspected case of extreme exhaustion brought on by excessive and prolonged gaming. His name was Zhou, and he was a high-achieving student with a secret problem.

Video game fatigue occurs when individuals spend excessive amounts of time playing video games, leading to physical and mental exhaustion. This phenomenon is particularly concerning among our youth, who are more susceptible to its effects. The symptoms of video game fatigue can range from eye strain and headaches to more severe issues such as sleep disturbances and decreased academic performance.

Video game fatigue has a big impact on physical health. Prolonged gaming sessions often result in poor posture, leading to musculoskeletal problems. Additionally, the sedentary nature of gaming can contribute to obesity and related health issues. It is crucial for gamers to take regular breaks, engage in physical activities, and maintain a balanced lifestyle.

Mental health is another area of concern. Excessive gaming can lead to increased stress, anxiety, and even depression.

If you are having difficulty disconnecting, visit the www.gamequitters.com website for tips and help. Ignoring the problem won't make it go away.

Parents and guardians play a vital role in mitigating the risks by setting limits on screen time, encouraging outdoor activities, and fostering open communication about the potential dangers of excessive gaming. Schools and community organizations can also contribute by promoting awareness and providing resources to support healthy gaming habits.

Let's remember Zhou and help raise awareness about this growing health problem. Gaming can be a fun activity, but it is important that it is just part of a healthy life, not a way of life.

YOUR CITY OF CALGARY

Protect Your Household Water Lines and Meter from Freezing

by the City of Calgary

Every winter, some Calgarians will experience frozen water pipes, service lines, and water meters, resulting in a water outage. The City's Frozen Pipes Prevention Program works proactively with homes considered at higher risk due to factors such as location, depth, and configuration of water pipes and a history of freezing.

Recently we have noticed an increase in frozen pipes in homes that are typically at a lower risk, where taking some of the steps below could have prevented household pipes from freezing. Ways to avoid freezing include:

- Keep your thermostat at a minimum of 15°C, even if you're away from home.
- Eliminate any cold drafts in unheated areas where water supply lines are located. This can include basements, crawl spaces, attics, garages, and under bathroom and kitchen cabinets.
- Repair broken windows, check doors, and insulate areas that allow cold exterior air to enter.
- Insulate your hot and cold-water pipes located in cold areas.
- Open interior doors and cabinets in cold areas to allow heat from the house to warm unprotected pipes.
- Turn off, disconnect, and drain the water line to outside faucets, garden hoses, pools, or decorative water features.
- If your hot water tank is in a maintenance room outside of your home, make sure the area is adequately heated.
- Regularly run water in your pipes through everyday use.

Visit calgary.ca/frozenpipes to learn more, including actions you can take if you suspect you have frozen pipes.



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.



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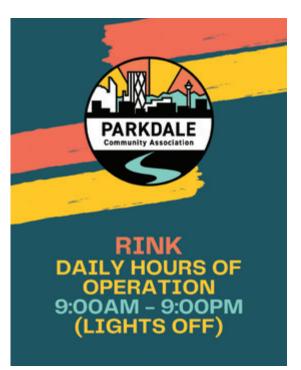
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NEIGHBOURHOOD CONFLICT? Community Mediation Calgary Society (CMCS) is a no-cost mediation and conflict coaching service that can help you resolve problems and restore peace! We help neighbours be neighbours again! www.communitymediation.ca, 403-269-2707.



















Parkdale Community Association

Bringing together Calgary's most vibrant community

SWAG PRICE LIST

Hoodie S	\$50
Hoodie M	\$50
Hoodie L	\$50
Hoodie XL	\$50
Hoodie 2XL	\$50
Water Bottle - 500mL	\$40
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