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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I want to take the opportunity to thank each and every one of the amazing people who have volunteered with the RCA, both recently and in the past.

Currently, the RCA only utilizes one paid employee, which means a massive amount of our actions, events, and more are all handled by volunteers. From our board of directors to our casino volunteers, to day-of event helpers, these people have all offered their time and energy to help the RCA, and by extension the community, thrive.

At the beginning of September, we held a casino fundraiser, which I'm happy to say was a massive success. Even though it's our single biggest source of income, it is only held approximately every two years. This event would absolutely not have been possible without the amazing individuals who volunteered their time to work a shift (or two!) for this event, so again, I want to thank all of these fantastic people.

Unfortunately, we won't be holding a Halloween event at the hall this month; however, we still have a little October activity planned. Keep reading this edition of the roundup for details on that!

Next month we will be holding our Annual General Meeting. This event is critical to our continued operations and success, as well as a great chance to find out what the RCA has accomplished over the past year and what we have planned for the upcoming year.

The AGM is also when we hold our Board Election to elect the new Board of Directors for the RCA. Our board this year only had five seats of the seven filled, which means our board members all had to take on a heavier workload to accomplish everything. As the saying goes, "Many hands make light work", so if you are interested in running for election to the board, please reach out to the hall. If you have any questions about the roles, you can reach out to me directly or watch our social media as we will hosting a "Board Info Coffee and Chat" event (date TBD).

We require a minimum of twenty voting members to attend the AGM, so this year, thanks to some incredibly generous donations, we have a few surprises in store! You will find more details further in this edition of the Ranchlands Roundup.

The AGM is taking place Sunday, November 19 at 4:00 pm and I really hope to see you there!

Anita Raffaele

President

## Join Our AGM Dream Team!

Be a part of our most important evening of the year! We're seeking enthusiastic individuals for a few hours of volunteer work for our Annual General Meeting (AGM) in November. No experience required.

### What You'll Do:

- Set up and tear down tables, chairs, and voting cards
- Assist with the gift table and silent auction setup
- Welcome and check in members at the door
- Help with membership sales

### Important Dates:

- November 12: 3:00 to 4:00 pm - Volunteer orientation and training
- November 19: 2:30 to 7:00 pm - AGM set up, meeting attendance, and tear down

Questions or ready to join? Email us at [ranchlandscommunity@outlook.com](mailto:ranchlandscommunity@outlook.com) by October 15.



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## St. Rita School Update

St. Rita School has had a wonderful start to our new school year. Our school community is continuing to grow as we welcome new students! We are excited to offer before and after school care at school this year through Summit Kids. St. Rita will continue our nature-based education focus in our classrooms this year. Our staff will once again work closely with consultants of the Calgary Catholic School District to learn ways to incorporate outdoor learning into academic programming and how to link curriculum outcomes to nature. We are fortunate to have a small forest behind our school which acts as our outdoor learning environment.

September was busy with students returning to school along with some special days. Students at St. Rita had the opportunity to participate in our annual Terry Fox Run and the last week of September was dedicated to Orange Shirt Day and some learning around the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. We were so fortunate to have our district’s Indigenous teachers visit our school and lead sessions related to Indigenous culture with each class.

October will bring fall and colder weather. We remind our neighbors to look out for the students as the days get shorter.



**HALLOWEEN IN TRANSYLVANIA**

Sighişoara, a medieval Transylvanian town, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the birthplace of Vlad Dracul (Vlad the Impaler). Dracul served as inspiration for Bram Stoker’s blood-thirsty protagonist in *Dracula*. For historic and literary reasons, this town is a popular Halloween destination, hosting parties and tours of Dracula’s castle!

### Guiding

Happy October!

We have kicked off the 2023-2024 guiding year with a bang - Girl Guide Cookies are here! It is a season of choices. To deciduous plants, it is whether to drop the leaves now or later. To girl guide cookie lovers, it is mint chocolate, chocolate vanilla, or both! Yes, we have both flavours for you to enjoy and share. It will be \$6 per box and 12 boxes in a case. If you are interested in getting some girl guide cookies from your local units, please email us at [60thcalgary@guides.girlguides.ca](mailto:60thcalgary@guides.girlguides.ca).

There are still spots for your girls aged 5 to 17 to join us. Here is the link: <https://register.girlguides.ca/web/en/unit-search>.



# RANCHLANDS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

🏠 RCA OFFICE: 7713 Ranchview Drive NW Calgary AB T3G 2B3 • 📞 403-241-0335  
✉ ranchlandscommunity@outlook.com • 🌐 www.ranchlandscommunity.com

## FIND US ON FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM!

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### BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2022-2023

President Anita Raffaele  
president@ranchlandscommunity.com

Vice-President Vacant  
vice-president@ranchlandscommunity.com

Secretary Sharon Blackwell

Director at Large Laurie Lin, Jessica Brander  
Contact RCA Office

### PROGRAM CONTACTS

Ranchlands Food Pantry Contact RCA Office

Skating Rink Coordinator Darren Angell Contact RCA Office

Living Springs Christian Church Glen Switzer 403-701-7668

186th Ranchlands Scouts 186thRanchlandsScouts@gmail.com

Girl Guides of Canada: Wichewakw District <https://register.girlguides.ca/web/en/unit>

### COMMUNITY CONTACTS

Ranchlands Elementary School

St. Rita's Catholic Elementary School

Rise Calgary

MLA Julia Hayter 403-288-4453  
Calgary.Edgemont@assembly.ab.ca

MP Pat Kelly 403-282-7980

Ward 2 City Councillor Jennifer Wyness 403-650-6936  
[www.calgary.ca/ward2](http://www.calgary.ca/ward2)

CBE School Trustee Dana Downey dacdowney@cbe.ab.ca  
403-817-7929

CSSD School Trustee Myra D'Souza 403-500-2761

### RCA OFFICE AND HALL RENTALS

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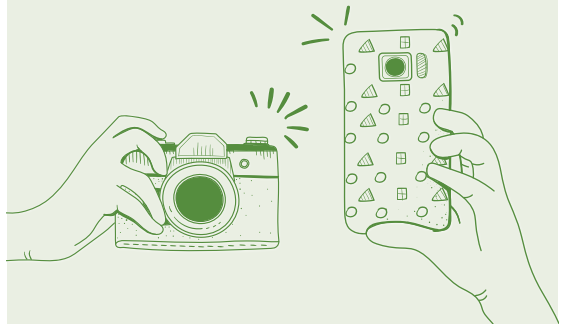
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## Help Us Find a Cover Photo!

Are you a budding photographer? Do you curate an exciting Instagram feed? Do you have some beautiful shots in your archives? We'd love to see them!

The Ranchlands Community Association is looking for monthly contributions to grace the cover of the Roundup. **These images need to be 1MB and 300 DPI.** Photos can be taken in or of the community, be based on the seasons or holidays, or just a genuinely great photo!

For more information, or to submit your photographs, please contact the Community Association at ranchlandscommunity@outlook.com. **Entries must be submitted by the fifth of the previous month to be featured in the newsletter.** E.g.: March 5 to be featured in the April newsletter.



# Join the Ranchlands Board of Directors: Shape Your Community's Future!

Be a driving force behind the growth and vibrancy of our neighbourhood. Consider running for a position on the Ranchlands Board of Directors this November! The Ranchlands Board of Directors is composed of seven dedicated volunteers, filling the roles of four executive officers and three directors at large. Each of these roles comes with unique responsibilities, offering you the chance to contribute in a way that aligns with your skills, interests, and availability.

## **Community Association President: Leading the Way**

As the President, you will be at the forefront of community development. You'll oversee all board activities, guide decision-making processes, and represent Ranchlands in liaising with government representatives and city departments. This role requires excellent leadership and communication skills. It's a time-intensive position, but the satisfaction of delivering positive change is immeasurable. You can expect a monthly time commitment of approximately ten to 15 hours.

## **Community Association Vice President: Supporting the President**

The Vice President's role is to back up the President in their responsibilities and preside over meetings in their absence. This position requires a keen understanding of the community's needs and the ability to collaborate effectively with the entire board. You'll be an essential pillar of support and leadership. You can expect a monthly time commitment of approximately eight to 12 hours.

## **Secretary: Keeping Things Organized**

As the Secretary, you'll be responsible for managing communications, taking meeting minutes, and ensuring smooth information flow within the board and the community. This position demands excellent organizational skills and attention to detail. You'll play a vital role in keeping everyone informed and connected. You can expect a monthly time commitment of approximately six to ten hours.

## **Treasurer: Balancing the Books**

The Treasurer takes charge of the budget, financial records, and reporting. If you have a knack for numbers and financial management, this role allows you to make crucial financial decisions and maintain the financial health of our community projects. You will work closely with our bookkeeper. You can expect a monthly time commitment of approximately eight to 12 hours.

## **Directors at Large: Your Creative Input Counts**

Directors at large have the opportunity to bring their unique perspectives and expertise to the board. These roles involve planning events, assisting with event coordination, and spearheading grant applications. If you're looking to be directly involved in community engagement and project execution, this is the role for you. You can expect a monthly time commitment of approximately five to ten hours.

## **Commitment and Expectations**

For directors and executive officers alike, the time commitment involves attending one board meeting per month (approximately two hours) and taking the lead in planning one event, assisting in planning another event, and being the lead on one grant application. On average, you can expect to dedicate around five to 15 hours per month, depending on your role.

## **Get Involved!**

If you're eager to shape the future of Ranchlands, we encourage you to consider running for a position on the Ranchlands Board of Directors. The term is fixed at one year. You must be at least 18 years old, reside in the community, and hold a valid RCA membership. RCA memberships can be conveniently purchased online at [ranchlandscommunity.com](http://ranchlandscommunity.com) for just \$20. To learn more about the positions and the election process, or to express your interest in running for any of the positions, please reach out to the RCA office at [ranchlandscommunity@outlook.com](mailto:ranchlandscommunity@outlook.com).

Remember, elections take place at the Annual General Assembly on November 19 from 4:00 to 6:00 pm at the RCA. Join us in making Ranchlands an even better place to live, connect, and thrive. Your dedication and passion can lead the way to a stronger community for all of us.

## Join Us as a Food Pantry Outreach Coordinator

Are you a social connector with a passion for meaningful relationships? Introducing the Ranchlands Food Pantry's Outreach Coordinator role. We need an outgoing self-starter to join us from November to March. You'll approach local businesses on behalf of our pantry, helping to secure donations to support neighbours in need while helping businesses reduce their food waste. Just a few hours a month can make a big impact!

### Your Role:

- **Connect and Build:** Set your own schedule, approach businesses, highlight partnership benefits.
- **Logistics Pro:** Coordinate donations, secure items for the RCA food pantry.
- **Monthly Meetups:** Attend RCA meetings (first Wednesday every month, 7:00 to 9:00 pm) to update the board on your progress.
- **Tools Provided:** Templates, recognition materials, and support for success.

### Ideal Candidate:

- Brings passion and enthusiasm – no experience needed.
- Natural go-getter who sets their own schedule, loves connecting.
- Values reducing food waste and community support.

Monthly commitment from November to March: Approach two businesses, attend Community Association meetings.

Ready to make a difference? Email [ranchlandscommunity@outlook.com](mailto:ranchlandscommunity@outlook.com) by October 15. Let's strengthen our community together! Join the Ranchlands Food Network team today!

**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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## News from the Friends of Nose Hill

by Anne Burke

*Exploring Nose Hill: A Hands-On Field Guide* by Jill Kirker and Diana Kary was published by Grassroots NW: Environmental Awareness Society; it offers an introduction explaining why people should study Nose Hill Park and "how to" use this guide. There are maps of tours such as the NW Interpretive one and those of Meadowlark Prairie, Many Owls Valley, Wintering Hill, (Buffalo) Rubbing Stone Hill, and Porcupine Valley. After Nose Hill geology and an erratic boulder as part of a glacial lake, there is more about Nose Hill human history.

Check out tepee rings, native stories, the Blackfoot Nation, and exploration and settlement. The six habitats are fescue grasslands, previously cultivated land, shrubs, aspen groves, gravel, and wetlands. Suggested activities are for biodiversity, prairie field study, a mural of the prairie community, a grasslands species and food web, or hands-on weed control. With so many animal types there are also activities related to grouse, raptors, bird migration, ants, grasshoppers, gophers, ground squirrels, and mule deer on the Island Game. Learn more about the food chain, ecosystem, and sampling life in the pond-area wetlands. Studies can lead to other native grass areas of Calgary and designing wildlife corridors. Another important topic that is touched on is the world-wide issue of endangered species and grasslands.

Phase 2 engagement begins in October focusing on Calgary's 20-year plan for how we develop, redevelop, and manage parks. Fall 2023 feedback will be on public park policies. Input is also needed from businesses, agencies, and organizations. A 'What We Heard' report from Phase 2 will be published in winter 2023. Phase 3 engagement will inform a draft plan. By spring 2024, the 'Connect: Calgary's Parks Plan' will be final and then presented to City Council in summer 2024. Have your say at <https://engagement.calgary.ca/parks-plan>.



# 186

# RANGLANDS

# SCOUT GROUP

Hello Ranchlanders!

As the fall Scouting season began, we welcomed back our Beaver Colony and Cub Pack. The youth spent September planning their upcoming adventures, and they have some pretty fantastic things planned so far.

Already in September both the Beavers and the Cubs will have gone paddling, the Cubs have gone on a camp, and the Beavers will have gone on a fall cycling evening and hiked to Ranchlands own Buffalo Rubbing Stone.

Getting the kids active is one of our prime directives, and we can't do it without your support.

Our first bottle drive of the year is scheduled for Saturday, October 14, from 9:30 am to noon. (You may or may not have received this edition of the Roundup by then.)

If you've already donated your bottles - thank you! If 'now' is before September 14 - please leave your bottles at your front door or bring them down to the Ranchlands Community Centre before noon and we will happily accept them.

We are also looking for some good people to help fill a few positions for our upcoming Casino on November 1 and 2. The Casino provides a decent portion of our adventure funding and goes a long way to making our group successful. We are looking for four people to work

shifts, and four alternates. We're asking for your help, Ranchlands - don't let us down!

I want to give a shout out to our 186th Ranchlands Scouting volunteers - thank you! We can't operate our program without your dedication and hard work! We are always welcoming new volunteers - it's only an hour a week (depending on how you measure time), and even attending one meeting a month really helps us out. Get in touch today for more information!

If you're a local craft person, or someone who has a unique set of skills they'd like to share, please let us know. We're always looking for new and interesting things to learn.

Get in touch with us at [186thRanchlandsScouts@gmail.com](mailto:186thRanchlandsScouts@gmail.com).

Yours in Scouting,

*Christopher Tindall*

Group Commissioner

186th Ranchlands Scouting

Knot of the Month: Reef knot, a simple binding knot used to secure a rope or line around an object. 'Right over left, left over right, makes a knot both tidy and tight.'

## Unofficial National Food

Some claim that donuts are Canada's 'unofficial national food.' This is probably because we have the highest concentration of donut shops per capita. If that isn't enough, we also consume the most donuts per capita compared to any other country in the world!





# Get Ready to Capture the Magic of Winter: RCA Photo Contest!

As the chill in the air begins to remind us that winter is just around the corner, the Ranchlands Community Association (RCA) is excited to announce our special seasonally themed photo contest! This is your chance to showcase your creativity and capture the essence of this enchanting season through your lens.

## Contest Details

Theme: Winter (Open to your interpretation).

Submission Deadline: November 30, 2023.

Image Specifications: 1MB, 300DPI, Landscape orientation.

Location: While extra points will be awarded for photos taken in the Ranchlands community, it is not a requirement.

Categories: 14 years old and under, 15 to 18 years old, 18+ years of age.

Prizes: The overall winning photo will grace the cover of our January Roundup, and the winning photographers from each category will be entered into the running for the grand prize of Photo of the Year in 2024.

## How to Enter:

Capture your winter-themed image, keeping in mind that the theme is intentionally vague, allowing for your unique interpretation of the season.

Ensure your photo meets the technical specifications: 1MB in size, 300DPI, and in landscape orientation.

Clearly indicate your age category when submitting your entry by emailing it to ranchlandscommunity@outlook.com with the subject line "RCA Winter Photo Contest Entry".

## Tips for Success:

- Look for inspiration in the small details or grand vistas that makes winter special to you.
- Experiment with lighting, composition, and angles to create a captivating image.
- Explore the Ranchlands community for unique local scenes, but don't hesitate to venture further for your perfect shot.

Start snapping your vision of winter moments! We can't wait to see your entries! For any questions or more information, please contact ranchlandscommunity@outlook.com.

*Ranchlands Community Association*

# The Great Pumpkin Quest

As autumn painted our community with shades of gold and orange, we had been eagerly anticipating the debut of a new tradition – the Night Carnival. However, we must regretfully announce the cancellation of the inaugural Night Carnival due to a shortage of volunteers.

But fret not, for in place of our original plans, we have a great pumpkin quest for you!

The story goes that the RCA was hosting the PumpKing and his entourage of nine mischievous mini pumpkins when they were unexpectedly tricked away by Grumbletoes. Grumbletoes has scattered our pumpkin friends to the far reaches of our community, and it's now up to all of us to come together and bring them back to the RCA.

In a surprising twist, Grumbletoes has agreed to leave us clues that will help us find our friends. Beginning on October 9, the first clue will be revealed on Ranchlands's social media channels. Be sure to follow us on Facebook and Instagram to stay updated and gather the clues needed to locate the pumpkins. Each RCA mini pumpkin you discover and return to the RCA will earn you a gift card as a token of our appreciation. Please note that only pumpkins featured in the photos on our social media channels are part of the quest, and they will be marked with a distinctive "Return to RCA" tag. Please do not mistakenly take pumpkins sitting on porches or other personal property.

We eagerly look forward to the heartwarming reunion with our mini-pumpkin friends!

*The Ranchlands Community Association*

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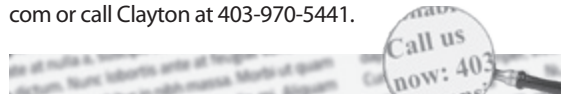
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