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The Simpsons made their grand debut on Fox with the holiday episode "Simpsons Roasting on an Open Fire" on December 17, 1989. That means Homer, Marge, Bart, Lisa, and Maggie have been making us laugh for 35 years – and counting!

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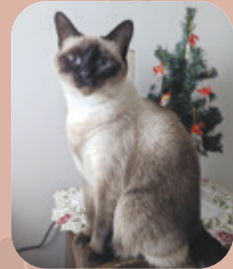
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RANGLANDS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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President	Kathy Ervin president@ranchlandscommunity.com
Vice-President	Sharon Blackwell vice-president@ranchlandscommunity.com
Secretary	Miranda Christin
Treasurer	Bukola Abdul
Director at Large	Laurie Lin, Christy Edwards, Nadine Bird Contact RCA Office

PROGRAM CONTACTS

Ranchlands Food Pantry	Contact RCA Office www.ranchlandscommunity.com/RFP
Skating Rink Coordinator	Darren Angell Contact RCA Office
186th Ranchlands Scouts	186thRanchlandsScouts@gmail.com
Girl Guides of Canada: Wichewakn District	register.girlguides.ca/web/en/unit

COMMUNITY CONTACTS

Ranchlands Elementary School	403-777-6350 ranchlands@cbe.ab.ca
St. Rita's Catholic Elementary School	Cindy De Paoli 403-500-2083 stritas@cssd.ab.ca
Rise Calgary	403-204-8280 info@risecalgary.ca
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
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News, Events, & More



Crime Statistics



Real Estate Statistics





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we move into colder weather and the holiday season, we look forward to continuing to serve the community with events and programs. I am pleased that I will be able to serve for another year as your president.

Our AGM on November 3 was attended by over 30 Ranchlands community members along with representation from our MLA (Julia Hayter), from the City, from our Alderman (Jennifer Wyness), and our MP Pat Kelly's office. The discussion was lively, and we worked through some suggested bylaw changes. All but one of the suggestions were referred to our Governance Committee. We will work to ensure that the rest of the suggested changes are such that they enhance our organization.

We welcome two new board members. Nadine Bird is a returning board Director at Large, and Miranda Christin will assume the role of Secretary. Jessica Brander will continue to support our activities as a volunteer.

We are hosting a Holiday Light Contest! There will be events and prizes – the details are in the *Roundup* and will be shared on our website. Please support your neighbours by encouraging them, or by decorating your own home according to one of the category themes.

Our mural was officially unveiled on October 27, and you will have seen it on the cover of our November *Roundup*. It is a beautiful depiction of the evolution of our neighbourhood. Please stop by and have a first-hand look.

Sadly, we have experienced some recent vandalism. There was some significant damage done to the benches and planters at our edible forest. We also know of the 'theft' of Pac Man from our neighbourhood welcome sign (that was subsequently fixed). We will await our police report for this month to brainstorm with our Calgary Police Neighbourhood resource to look for ways to prevent this and do restoration. Please report any vandalism you see to the non-emergency police line so we can help catch the vandals and put a stop to it.

Finally, we have our casino dates – we have the weekend of June 6 to 7 – we look forward to having a great group of volunteers and are still looking for a Casino Chairperson to run a successful event.

Kathy Ervin

President, Ranchlands Community Association



IN THE COMMUNITY

Rise Calgary (formerly Bowwest Community Services): 14 – 1840 Ranchlands Way NW

Westview Baptist Church: 1313 Ranchlands Way NW

St. James Anglican Church: 6351 Ranchview Drive NW

Islamic Association of NW Calgary: 7750 Ranchview Drive NW

Al-Salam Centre: 6415 Ranchview Drive NW

Good Food Box: Ranchlands' Depot is St. James Anglican Church

It's Christmastime in Calgary

by Garth Paul Ukrainetz

It's Christmastime in Calgary

In foothills west a silent night

The constellations fill the sky

Forever sharing starry light

The whitetail deer in Nose Hill Park

Prancing over city's glow

Sweet homes of dancing candlelight

Gentle as the falling snow

And high on top of every tree

The stars and angels overlook

For bleak and icy winter hearts

The melting grace of warm chinook

It's Christmastime in Calgary

Though heights of mountains cold in snow

Our gifts stay warm beneath the trees

Wrapped with love by River Bow



Come Join the Ranchlands Outdoor Rink Volunteer Team

As the days are getting chillier, we are fast approaching that time of year when the Ranchlands Community Association gets the outdoor rink ready to roll. Our community organized outdoor rink is one of just a few in the city and is such an important part of our community. Whether you are out walking or playing, it is so nice to hear the swoosh of skates, crack of slapshots, and sounds of laughter and fun, as people of all ages from our community enjoy the ice in our community rink.

Each year we have a team of rink volunteers who come together to make sure that the ice is good for hockey games and family skates on Wednesday and Sunday. And while the rink and ice may feel magical, it would not happen without our Rink Coordinator and three teams giving a couple of hours of their time three times a week on Monday evening, Thursday evening, and Saturday morning. Each team of four adult volunteers snow blow, power sweep, hand shovel the edges and players boxes, and then the big moment - flood the ice all in two hours or less, depending on the weather.

We are still short some volunteers. No previous experience is required but if you have ever shovelled a sidewalk or driveway, you can pretty well do the job! Please consider joining our group. You can call the office or email the office to sign up or get more information at 403-241-0335 or ranchlandscommunity@outlook.com.

This amazing group of Ranchlanders work throughout the winter to make sure our rink is open for kids and families, and we are grateful for each one of them.



Become a Volunteer Tax Preparer!

Ranchlands Community Association (RCA) is in the process of planning to host tax preparation sessions for Ranchlanders in 2025. Through the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program, RCA will be able to host free tax clinics where volunteers can complete tax returns for people with a modest income and a simple tax situation. We plan to host these sessions in the spring and will have more details to share in the coming months.

To make this idea a reality we will need volunteers. Community Volunteer Income Tax Program volunteers can take on many different roles. Whether you prepare tax returns or provide support, you will be helping people who are unable to do their taxes on their own. Although it's helpful, you don't need experience doing tax returns to volunteer. All volunteers are offered web-based training on how to do taxes, using tax software, and determining their responsibilities. Online training can be supplemented with in-person training or virtual training sessions. We will need volunteers to host and review documents as well as prepare. And it is also possible to do the tax preparation online.

RCA will be coordinating the access to training. If you are interested in being part of this program, please call the office at 403-241-0335 or send an email to ranchlandscommunity@outlook.com.

More information about the Community Volunteer Income Tax program itself can be found online at www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/tax/individuals/community-volunteer-income-tax-program/lend-a-hand-individuals/roles-responsibilities.html.



Cold Weather Safety

by Alberta Health Services



Emergency Medical Services (EMS) paramedics respond to a number of cold weather-related emergencies every winter. However, by taking appropriate measures to dress properly, anticipate sudden weather changes and preparing to be out in the cold, may reduce your risk of sustaining a cold weather illness/injury. It's also advised you store an emergency kit in your vehicle at all times containing extra clothing, blankets and other road-side supplies.

Frostnip

- Frost-nipped skin is extremely cold, but not yet frozen skin;
- It commonly affects the ears, nose, cheeks, fingers and toes;
- The skin may look red and possibly feel numb to the touch;

- When treated promptly, frostnip usually heals without complication;
- Move to a warm environment and immediately, but gently, re-warm the affected area through skin to skin contact (i.e. hand covering tips of ears).

Frostbite

- Frostbite occurs when skin becomes so cold, the skin and underlying tissues freeze;
- Affected skin may look white and waxy and will feel hard to the touch;
- Move to a warm environment immediately and place the affected area in warm, *not hot*, water until fully re-warmed;
- Call 9-1-1 or seek further medical attention as required.

Hypothermia

- Hypothermia is abnormally low body temperature, less than 34°C (as compared to normal body temperature of about 37°C);
- Early hypothermia may manifest as profound shivering; moderate hypothermic patients may act inappropriately: stumbling, mumbling, and fumbling, as their body temperature continues to drop resulting in severe hypothermia (<30°C);
- Left untreated, severe hypothermia may progress to unconsciousness or death;
- Early recognition and prompt medical attention is key. Call 9-1-1. Don't forget to protect yourself from the factors that originally lead to the patient's situation;
- Initiate gentle re-warming as quickly as possible. Remove any wet or constrictive clothing; cover with blankets or sleeping bags. Protect from further heat loss: eliminate contact with cold surfaces, and shield from wind and moisture.



ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS YOU

On December 21, 2019, Mariah Carey officially 'defrosted' when her song "All I Want for Christmas Is You" finally topped the Billboard Hot 100 chart for the first time since its release in 1994. Talk about a Christmas miracle - 25 years in the making!



News from the Friends of Nose Hill

by Anne Burke

Phase 3 of the Connect: Calgary's Parks Plan is underway, and the draft plan was shared with the public and partners before Council's expected approval in early 2025. You can send questions or comments directly to the project team by emailing parksplan@calgary.ca. Please note that these will not be included in the final Phase 3 What We Heard Report. A Park is a space set aside for enjoyment, recreation, education, cultural or aesthetic use, or for the protection of wildlife or natural habitats. An urban forest includes trees and shrubs intentionally planted, naturally occurring, or accidentally seeded within city limits. This means all trees in parks, river valleys, streets, roadways, natural areas, and commercial and private lands.

A Natural Area is a City-owned park or open space where the primary role is protection of a (relatively) undisturbed parcel or with a natural/native plant community. Natural areas are categorized to provide guidance for management and permitted uses according to habitat sensitivity and conservation needs. Habitat is the environment where the life cycle of a species is found and characteristics of the place (climate or suitable food and shelter). A Habitat Management Plan means a ten-year operational plan on how we manage natural areas that help maintain or improve the health and function of a park. Calgary's natural ecosystems are categorized by their habitat type (e.g., grassland, forest, wetland). There are also categories for classifying parks with natural environments: Special Protection or Major; Supporting (may be buffers), and other naturalized parks. Naturalization means improving management or repairing some function. For Environmentally Significant Areas, some key natural components recognized by the City of Calgary are Water Quality and Quantity; Rare, Intact, or Biologically Diverse content; and Habitat for Native Species of Interest. Read more at engage.calgary.ca/parksplan.

RANCHLANDS HIDDEN GEM



A Refugia Garden is Coming to Our Community!

Have you heard of refugia gardening? Refugia are small, protected areas where plants, animals, and other organisms can survive and adapt to changes caused by climate change and other environmental disruptions.

Refugia gardening helps protect local biodiversity by creating spaces where native plants and animals can thrive, even in human-dominated landscapes. It also inspires a sense of care and hope, as people connect with and support nature right in their community.

St. James Anglican Church is excited to announce a new project to transform its traditional British-style gardens with lawns and trees into a Refugia Garden. This redesigned garden will be a beautiful, ecologically healthy space, providing refuge for local wildlife and promoting resilience in the face of environmental challenges.

Over the coming years, St. James will be adding:

- Moisture-absorbent and moisture-retaining soils
- Nitrogen-generating, resilient plants
- Drought-resistant species
- Soil and plants that can withstand heavy rain
- Reduced lawn care inputs



The goal is to create a peaceful community space that serves as a sanctuary for both wildlife and people. In the long term, the Refugia Garden will offer a natural setting where community members can sit, walk, and relax—a space for reflection, conversation, and connection.

Work will begin in earnest next year, with regular updates to follow. Stay tuned for more news on this exciting transformation!

Ranchlands Lights Up for the Inaugural Holiday Light Contest!



Get ready, Ranchlands! The festive season is upon us, and the Ranchlands Community Association is thrilled to announce our very first Holiday Light Contest. With winter's dark days closing in, what better way to brighten our streets than with a celebration of dazzling lights and holiday magic?

Calling All Ranchlands Residents!

This is your chance to shine—literally! Whether you're a fan of classic twinkling lights, eco-friendly designs, or playful, colourful displays, we want to see your holiday spirit in full glow. Invite your friends, families, and neighbours to join in, and let's transform Ranchlands into a winter wonderland.

Contest Categories to Spark Your Creativity

We'll be judging displays in seven exciting categories:

1. Classic Holiday and Around the World – Traditional charm or global holiday flair.
2. Outdoor Adventure – Capture the spirit of the great outdoors.
3. Light up the Night – Bold, bright, and full of impact.
4. Whimsical and Fun – Think quirky scenes, cartoons, and playful colours.
5. Eco-Friendly Lights – Sustainability in action, using solar power or natural materials.
6. Selfies with the Displays – Share your joy with a festive selfie!
7. Best Overall – For the display that steals the show!

Vote for Your Favourites

All residents can participate by voting online from December 19 to December 23. Winners for each category will be revealed on December 24, bringing some extra holiday cheer to our community.

Save the Dates!

To kick off this month-long event, join us on Sunday, December 8, for a holiday-themed Trivia Night, complete with treats and festive hospitality. Then, mark your calendar for January 3, when we'll wrap up the season with a celebration event for all to enjoy.

Stay tuned for more details on the Ranchlands Community Association website. Let's come together, spread some cheer, and make this a holiday season to remember!

Royal Flush

Alfred Hitchcock's movie *Psycho* is thought to be the first Hollywood movie to show (and really focus on) a toilet flushing on-screen. You can hear it as well! This was very unusual in 1960 when this movie was released. I guess you could say the movie was a Royal Flush!

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Easy Turkey Chili

by Jennifer Puri

Turkey is a large bird which is rich in protein and other nutrients such as iron, zinc, and selenium. It provides many of the same calories as chicken and most people are easily able to digest it.

Ground turkey is an inexpensive way to consume turkey and over the years has grown in popularity as a substitute for ground chicken. Rich in vitamins and minerals it can contribute to a healthy diet as it is low in fat. Dark meat is more flavourful but has more calories than white meat without the skin.

Turkey can be added to soups, salads, sandwiches, burgers, or Chili as shown in this Easy Turkey Chili recipe below.

Prep Time: 15 minutes

Cook Time: 1 hour

Servings: 6

Ingredients:

- 1 lb lean ground turkey
- 2 tbsps. olive or vegetable oil
- 3 garlic cloves finely chopped
- 1 medium yellow onion chopped
- 1 red bell pepper finely chopped
- 1 900 ml carton (low sodium) chicken broth
- 1 28 oz can diced tomatoes
- 1 small can corn niblets drained and rinsed
- 1 540 ml can black beans drained and rinsed
- 1 540 ml can red kidney beans drained and rinsed
- ½ tsp Chili powder
- 2 tsps. ground cumin
- 1 tsp dried oregano
- 1 tsp salt
- ½ tsp ground black pepper



- Add the Chili powder, ground cumin, oregano, salt and black pepper and continue to cook for a couple of minutes.
- Add the black beans, kidney beans, corn, and diced tomatoes and blend in with the turkey.
- Add the chicken stock and bring to a boil and then reduce heat and allow the Chili to simmer for approximately 45 minutes, stirring occasionally.
- Garnish the Turkey Chili with sour cream, shredded cheddar cheese and chopped coriander leaves or taco chips and sliced avocado if preferred.

Bon Appétit!



Directions:

- In a large pot add olive or vegetable oil, chopped onion, garlic, and red pepper. Sauté the vegetables for 3 to 4 minutes until onions are softened and then add the ground turkey. Sauté the turkey for 4 to 5 minutes until cooked through.



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City Kids: Exploring 4-H Beyond the Farm

by Lori Nielsen, Senior Program Coordinator for 4-H Intro Clubs

The Intro Clubs in our city have been buzzing with excitement! We're wrapping up another round of daytime and evening programs, filled with hands-on workshops that let kids try new things and make connections with friends over six weeks.

Kids have enjoyed a wide range of activities, from pottery and beekeeping to crafting their own Grinch trees. Each workshop sparked creativity and teamwork, and the feedback from families has been fantastic. Along the way, the kids picked up core 4-H skills like leadership, communication, record-keeping, and community service.



One highlight was our Sourdough Workshop, where participants got a taste of bread dough-making, complete with a wheat grinding demonstration! They also learned about the science behind sourdough and had fun making pizzas with sourdough crust. The aroma of fresh pizza filled the air, and the favourite part was tasting their creations.

We're excited to announce that the Sourdough Workshop will be back in January as part of our next round of clubs, so those who missed it will get another chance!

The Intro Clubs are a great place for kids to grow, make friends, and have fun. We can't wait for the new workshops and activities coming up! For more information on upcoming clubs, please email introclubs@4hab.com. Thank you to all the families who've joined us on this journey—stay tuned for updates, and we hope to see you at our next workshop!



Ranchlands Real Estate Update

Last 12 Months Ranchlands
MLS Real Estate Sale Price Update

	Average Asking Price	Average Sold Price
October 2024	\$475,000	\$480,000
September 2024	\$504,950	\$501,000
August 2024	\$575,000	\$594,000
July 2024	\$562,000	\$580,000
June 2024	\$472,400	\$525,000
May 2024	\$440,000	\$455,750
April 2024	\$425,000	\$496,000
March 2024	\$500,000	\$537,500
February 2024	\$445,000	\$465,000
January 2024	\$594,950	\$608,000
December 2023	\$395,000	\$421,000
November 2023	\$359,950	\$361,550

Last 12 Months Ranchlands
MLS Real Estate Number of Listings Update

	No. New Properties	No. Properties Sold
October 2024	16	15
September 2024	13	10
August 2024	11	9
July 2024	19	14
June 2024	18	20
May 2024	13	14
April 2024	19	17
March 2024	16	13
February 2024	8	7
January 2024	8	8
December 2023	3	5
November 2023	8	8

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

Ranchlands Food Pantry: A Year in Review

As we wrap up another year at the Ranchlands Food Pantry, we are filled with immense gratitude for the incredible support from our community. Your generosity has made a significant impact, and we want to take a moment to thank each and every one of you.

Our heartfelt thanks go out to the community members who have contributed so generously, both through items donated and money raised at our AGM silent auction and other fundraisers put on by the community association throughout the year at various events. Those funds help us stock the pantry throughout the year with staples when donations run low. We also extend our gratitude to our amazing partners: YYC Leftovers, Cobs Bread, Community Natural Foods (Crowfoot), and Paris Baguette (Beacon Hill). Your contributions of fresh food and baked goods have been invaluable in rounding out our hampers and go to supporting some of our other community programs like Free Bread Fridays, Perishable Giveaway Day, and other weekly gatherings at the hall that are open to everyone in the community. Additionally, we thank the families, staff, and School Council at Ranchlands School for their routine food collections at school events (such as the Halloween Dance) that help keep our pantry stocked, with a special shoutout to Principal Mr. Wigglesworth, who has always been such a champion for our program.

We also want to thank the local businesses who have generously donated supplies, like toothbrushes and toothpaste from Ranchlands Dental Clinic, plus Stavros Pizza & Sports Bar and CerTech Automotive Repair who have set up donation boxes in their lobbies to facilitate ongoing collection of non-perishable items for us.

A special thank you goes out to our MLA Julia Hayter and her team for their generous contribution of menstrual products following their Period Products drive. We are incredibly grateful to everyone who donated to that drive.

Three years ago, our program was run by a single volunteer with a lot of support from the Ranchlands Community Association then president, Anita. Today,

we are proud to have grown into a robust support service with 17 volunteers in ten different roles with support from two staff members. The amazing people who give their time to running this program include Sheila and Reg, Lynn, Jo Anne, Caroline, Judy, Zen, Crystal, Sue, Sharon, Paul, Arthur, Kim, Teena and Kody, Merle, Koen, Anita, and Jen. This growth has enabled us to offer more comprehensive assistance to our neighbours in need.

In 2024 alone, we have filled 120 hampers for roughly 55 different households in Ranchlands, with 60% of these households having children under the age of 12. Our food pantry serves neighbours from all walks of life, from seniors to students. If any Ranchlanders need food assistance, hampers can be requested through our website under the programs section. Hampers are filled and ready for distribution on Monday evenings between 4:30 and 5:30 pm, unless it's a statutory holiday, in which case distribution is moved to Tuesdays.

In addition to food, we have expanded our offerings to include small gift items for those celebrating special occasions like birthdays and anniversaries. These items are all donated, and we welcome contributions of new toys as well as items suitable for adults.

We are always in need of donations like cereal, rice, canned soups, and vegetables. Unused and unopened toiletries such as deodorant, toothbrushes, and toothpaste are also greatly appreciated.

Thank you once again for your unwavering support. Together, we create a wonderful community to be a part of.



Leftovers Foundation Liz (center) with RCA Staff (Anita and Jen)

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Winter: Jan - Feb



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Word of the Month



Absquatulate: Verb (ab-skwoch-uh-leyt)

To run away or leave abruptly.

The sneaky cat managed to absquatulate any time the door was open.



MLA Calgary-Edgemont

Julia Hayter

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Councillor, Ward 2

Jennifer Wyness

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Tis' the Season to Spread Joy!

The holidays are coming fast, and I extend my best wishes to everyone this December.

I appreciate everyone who has taken the time to come over to say hi while I've been at your community events. It is exciting to be out in the community to deliver some holiday cheer to different organizations and attend some holiday celebrations and markets.

This month is a reminder to be grateful for our loved ones and for the blessings that we have in our lives. We sometimes take things for granted that others do not have, like a roof over our heads, food on the table, and healthy family members. It's important to take a breath sometimes and appreciate all that we have.

There are many people in Calgary-Edgemont that do not have these luxuries. During this affordability crisis, I'm hearing more and more that families may not be able to afford gifts for their children, big family dinners, or are maybe missing a family member all together. It's important to spread kindness and love this holiday season. My office is currently collecting period products, diapers, and baby formula that will be donated to families living in Calgary-Edgemont.

As promised, I continue to be out in the community speaking with you and your neighbours. You can follow me on social media at @NDPjulia to hear about all my adventures. Please do not hesitate to contact my office if you have questions or need assistance related to provincial matters: calgary.edgemont@assembly.ab.ca or 403-288-4453.

Enjoy the memory making with your friends and family.

Happy Holidays.



As we enter the final month of the year, the spirit of the holidays is in full swing. Whether you're busy with festive preparations, winter activities, or simply enjoying the cozy indoors, we're looking ahead to the new year while focusing on ways we can give back and support each other. As we welcome the holiday season, it's the perfect time to reflect on what truly makes our community special. Family traditions, time with loved ones, and faith are all part of why we celebrate.

I'd like to give a heartfelt thank-you to our amazing community association volunteers, who have worked tirelessly throughout the year to make Ward 2 a welcoming place for everyone. From hosting events to creating spaces where neighbours can connect, your dedication is part of what makes our community great.

From the Ward 2 Office, we wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays! May this season be filled with warmth, joy, and time spent with those who matter most.

Drive Safe and Prepare for Winter

With winter on its way, the season brings new challenges. Here are some winter driving tips to help you stay safe:

- Find a safe place or empty parking lot to learn how your vehicle responds to snowy, icy conditions.
- Test your brakes gently to get a feel for slippery surfaces and keep your distance from the car in front of you.
- Equip your car with essentials like tire chains and an ice scraper. A bag of sand or a floor mat can help add traction if you're stuck on ice.
- Clear any snow from your exhaust pipe to avoid carbon monoxide issues.
- Keep a tow truck contact on hand.
- Download a rideshare or taxi app in case you need alternative transportation in an emergency or after holiday parties.



Magic Carpet Ride

Family Literacy Program

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The Magic Carpet Ride program is for 3-5 year olds and their parents or caregivers. We help families learn to use everyday activities to build a love of literacy and learning. Held at convenient locations across Calgary.



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