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September Smile by Ursula Kubok

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- Supply & install new toilet with soft close seat
- Supply & install new Delta pressure balance taps
- Supply & install new showerhead & diverter spout
- Supply & install new mold-resistant board
- Supply & install new tile to ceiling
- Supply & install one corner caddy & soap dish
- Supply & install new subfloor
- Installation of new tile flooring
- Supply & install new vanity
- Supply & install new granite or quartz countertops with undermount sink
- Supply & install new Delta vanity tops
- Supply & install new drain system & pop-up stopper

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- Supply & install new Delta pressure balance taps
- Supply & install new toilet with soft close seat
- Supply & install new corner caddy with soap dish
- Supply & install new subfloor
- Installation of new tile flooring
- Supply & install new vanity
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Becoming a member is easier than ever!

Visit sandstonemacewan.com/join or use your phone to scan the QR code below - all proceeds go back to supporting our community!

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SCAN HERE TO VIEW ADDITIONAL CONTENT: NEWS, EVENTS, CRIME STATS, REAL ESTATE STATS, & MORE

SANDSTONE VALLEY

MACEWAN GLEN

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RUNNER UP PHOTOS

Sweater Weather by Trevor Bacon

A Word with Two Worlds

The word amphibious comes from the Greek words amphi ("both") and bios ("life"). Together, they mean "double life"—a fitting name for animals like frogs and salamanders that spend part of their lives in the water and part on land.

The American Mink—*Neogale vison*

by Kristina Quapp

The American Mink is a small, amphibious weasel that inhabits wetlands throughout Canada. Weasel refers to slender, small, carnivorous mammals belonging to the family Mustelidae. While the American Mink is most abundant along the coastline of British Columbia, you may have spotted them around Calgary as well!

Minks appear in varying shades of brown and black, often with patches of white on their chest and abdomen. Like beavers, minks have two layers of fur; a dense, insulating underfur that keeps them warm, and an outer layer of fur covered in an oily sheen that prevents water from soaking through to their skin. Unlike other varieties of weasel, the American minks' coat does not turn white in the winter. While their coat grows thicker in the colder months, it remains a dark shade to help them blend into the vegetation along streams, ponds, and riverbanks. Given their habitat, the minks' paws are partially webbed, allowing them to remain dexterous on land and in the water. Minks' can range in size from 1 to 1.8 kg in weight, and roughly 60 cm in length.

During the summer months, the mink's diet shifts to take advantage of warm-weather prey. This often includes crayfish, frogs, fish, and ducks. As the weather cools down, the minks' diet relies heavily on small land mammals including voles, mice, muskrats, and rabbits. Since the mink often resides in the water, thick brush, or on rocky river edges, it has few natural enemies. On occasion, minks will be preyed upon by coyotes, bobcats, large snakes, and birds of prey.

While predators aren't considered major threats to the mink, human activity, habitat loss, and environmental contaminants can affect the population. The minks' unique and luxurious fur remains in high demand in the fur trade. 47 American states and all Canadian provinces currently conduct limited trapping seasons on the mink, with the length of the season varying from place to place. The minks' habitat also plays a crucial role in their conservation. They rely heavily on streams, wetlands, and shores with dense vegetation to provide safe burrows, and prey to feed upon. The expansion of infrastructure development and pesticide application can impact their reproductive success and long-term health.

Mindful Mink Spotting

To see an American mink for yourself, head to densely vegetated waterways and riverbanks, particularly along the Bow River, the Elbow River, and local wetland ponds. Prime spots include the McKenzie Meadows area, Fish Creek Provincial Park, Lafarge Meadows, Inglewood Bird Sanctuary, Carburn Park, Weaselhead Flats, and Lafarge Meadows. Keep an eye on the water's edge, rocky shores, and amongst the brush. Keep in mind these key points while looking for our furry amphibious friends:

- **Maintain distance:** Use binoculars or a phone lens instead of approaching.
- **Keep waterways clean:** Pack out all trash, including food scraps.
- **Stay on marked trails:** Avoid trampling riverbank vegetation. Walking off trail can degrade the shoreline and damage hidden dens.
- **Never feed wildlife:** Feeding minks can disrupt their natural diet and may teach them to associate humans with food.

Curbside Treasure Hunt: One Weekend, Countless Finds.

by The City of Calgary

On September 12 and 13, join the city-wide Curbside Treasure Hunt! Set out gently used items on your curb and label them with a sign saying "free" for neighbours to take and/or explore your neighbourhood for free finds as well. It's a fun and easy way to give your things a second life and keep usable items out of the landfill.

How It Works:

1. Clear the Clutter.
Look around your home for items you no longer need, but someone else might love.

2. Label It "FREE".
Clearly mark each item with a "FREE" sign so people know it's part of the Treasure Hunt. Download a template at calgary.ca/treasurehunt.

3. Set It Out.
Place your items neatly at the curb Saturday morning.

4. Remove items that are NOT part of the hunt.
Make sure anything on your lawn or on the curb that you plan to keep is removed, put away, or secured so it's clear what's free to take and what's not.

5. Treasure Hunt!
Explore your neighbourhood and discover free finds all weekend long (only take items clearly labelled as "free").

6. Wrap It Up.
By Sunday, September 13 at 5:00 pm, remove any untaken items from your curb and consider donating them to a local charity.

For safety reasons, **please don't put out** items that could be hazardous or not safe to reuse, such as:

- Mattresses
- Toilets
- Unsafe or recalled items
- Baby gear or safety equipment that may not meet current standards

Do you live in a condo or apartment? You can participate as well! Coordinate with your property manager to establish a shared drop-off location.

Let's keep good things out of the landfill. Happy treasure hunting!

BRAIN GAMES SUDOKU

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

SCAN THE QR CODE FOR THE SOLUTION

News from the Friends of Nose Hill

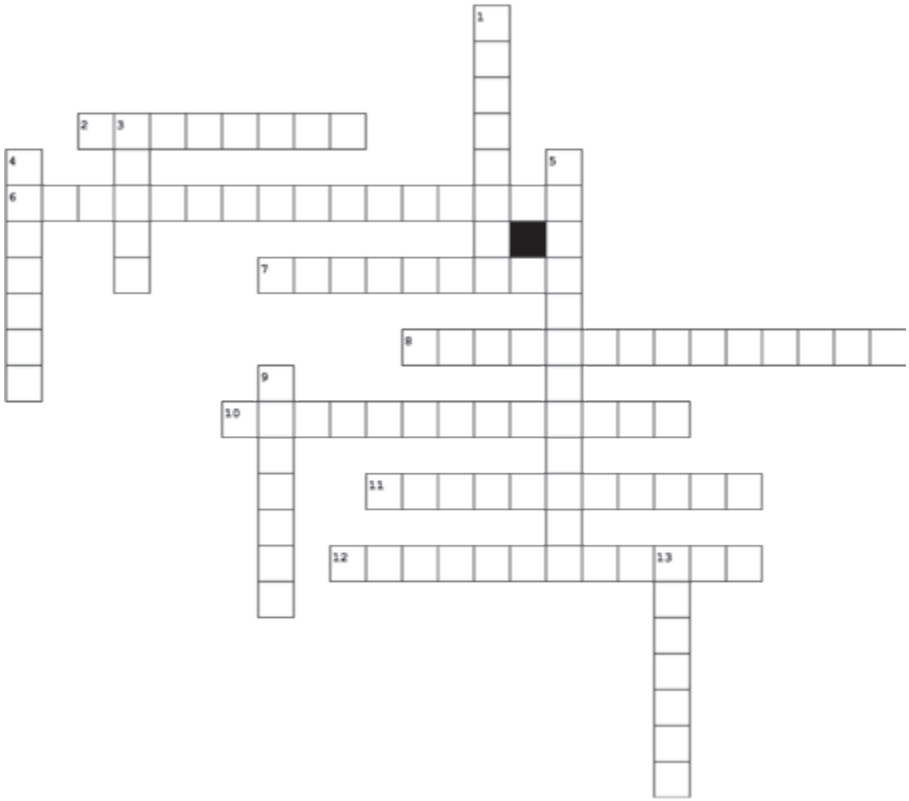
by Anne Burke

A Nose Hill supporter told me there used to be a plaque in memory of John Lee Laurie at the Brisebois parking lot entrance to Nose Hill Park (Many Owls parking area). It appears that the plaque has now gone missing. He said, "Do you happen to know what happened to it and whether there are any plans for it to be reinstalled in the future?" I responded that my city contact would ask our Infrastructure folks to see if they knew.

A colleague did walk over to read the plaque once, but that was many years ago. It spoke of the help Laurie gave to First Nations. The official name of Mount Yamnuska is Mount John Laurie, but he has no knowledge of the installation of the plaque. When I chaired the Nose Hill Park Management Advisory Committee, the John Laurie Rock Society obtained the City's permission to install the boulder that was moved during construction of the roadway.

John Lee Laurie (1899-1959) was a prominent educator and political activist in Calgary, best known for First Nations advocacy. From 1944 to 1956, he was the honourary secretary of the Indian Association of Alberta. When adopted by the Stoney Nakoda Nations, he was named "White Cloud" and recognized by having a major Calgary roadway and a Canadian Rockies peak named after him. Mount Yamnuska was officially renamed at the request of the Stoney Nakoda First Nation in 1961. Its original Stoney Nakoda name, Îyâmnathka, combines root words of "mountain" and "flat", so "flat-faced mountain". In 1979, concerned citizens collected over 5,000 signatures on a petition and on the Sunday before Monday's Council meeting, marched along John Laurie Blvd in defence of Nose Hill Park. City Council voted against any development rezoning of Nose Hill Park lands.

September Crossword



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

Across

2. Used for carrying textbooks and other school supplies, this item is a back-to-school essential.
6. This American band is known for their classic songs, "Let's Groove" and "September."
7. These bears are the smallest variety found in Canada.
8. First airing in 2013, this fun kid's cartoon follows a young boy with his gem companions across the galaxy.
10. Make a stop here in September and you will find a variety of apples, pears, and figs for sale.
11. *The Long Walk*, a film starring Copper Hoffman, is an adaptation of the novel by this famous author.
12. *The Rise and Fall of a Midwest Princess*. The album released September 22, 2023 was written by this up-and-coming pop singer.

Down

1. This vibrant blue stone representing loyalty and the divine is also the birthstone for September.
3. This bright purple flower is considered September's primary birth flower.
4. Born September 4, 1981, in Houston Texas; this famous singer got her start in the girl group Destiny's Child.
5. This English author wrote *Animal Farm* and *1984*. These novels are typically assigned reading in schools even 80 years after their release.
9. In the world of theatre, speaking the name of this Shakespearean play is considered bad luck. Instead, they refer to it as, "The Scottish Play."
13. This mythical beast is sometimes called, "Canadian Nessie."

Apple Crisp

by S. Law

If you have had the chance to stop by your local Farmers' Market, I'm sure you've seen an abundance of apples. What better way to deal with such an overhaul then by making something delicious. Personally, my favourite way of using fresh apples is making apple crisp. It's easy, requires almost no tools, and is always a hit. If you've got some apples to spare, why not give it a try!

Ingredients

Filling:
- 2 cups of apples, sliced or chopped
- ½ cup of white sugar
- 2 tablespoons of cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon of nutmeg

Base/Topping:
- 1½ cups of rolled oats
- 1 cup of flour
- 1/4 cup of brown sugar
- ½ cup of butter or margarine
- 1 teaspoon of salt

Directions

1. Preheat your oven to 425°F degrees and prepare a 9 x 9-inch baking pan.
2. Begin by washing and cutting your apples into thin slices or small chunks. There is no need to peel them unless desired. Place all the apples in a bowl with your white sugar, cinnamon, and nutmeg. Massage everything together until your apples are well coated. If the mixture seems too dry you can add a teaspoon of lemon juice to add a bit more liquid.
3. In another bowl, combine your oats, flour, and salt.
4. Take your butter or margarine and tear it into chunks overtop of the mixture. Begin crumbling the butter between your fingers, turning the dry ingredients into a slightly wet mixture.
5. Press around 1/3 of the oat mixture into the bottom of your pan. Press very firmly to create a solid base.
6. Pour the apples into the pan and spread evenly.
7. Taking the remainder or your oat mixture, add the brown sugar and mix gently, do not fully combine, the lines of brown sugar are what caramelize on top of your crisp.
8. Add the rest of the oat mixture to the top of your crisp, it doesn't need to be pressed, just evenly distributed across the top.
9. Bake in the oven for 30 to 45 minutes until golden and bubbling. Remove it from the oven and let it rest for at least 20 minutes. Serve with vanilla ice cream, whipped cream, or anything else of your choosing!

A Small Act of Kindness Can Change a Day

by Rebecca Pink, Registered Provisional Psychologist

Kindness may seem like a simple gesture, but I believe that it's one of the most powerful things we can offer another human being and ourselves.

We live in a world that moves quicky. We are often rushing from one responsibility to the next, reacting instead of pausing, making assumptions instead of asking questions. It's easy to forget that every person we encounter is carrying a story that we know nothing about.

The person that seems impatient may be overwhelmed. The friend who's been quiet may be grieving or dealing with things privately. The parent who appears distracted may be carrying worries they haven't shared with anyone. Even the people who seem to have it together may be quietly fighting battles no one else can see. The truth is that we are all living complex realities. That is why kindness matters so much.

Kindness isn't about having the perfect words or fixing someone else's problems. Sometimes it's a smile, a little extra patience, a warm greeting, a great big hug, or choosing compassion over criticism. Sometimes it's simply giving someone the benefit of the doubt and being open to their perspective and being aware of subjective realities. Perhaps the person who needs that kindness today is you.

We can be incredibly generous with others while being our harshest critic. What if we extended ourselves the same grace we so willingly offer those we love, respect, and care for? Imagine what could happen if each of us choose kindness first. Every person is carrying a story and lived experiences that we may never fully understand. We may not know what someone else is carrying, but we can always decide how we show up. Kindness, no matter how small, has a way of reaching further than we realize. Sometimes the smallest moments of compassion are the ones that stay with us the longest.

Take good care.

When Grief Becomes Complicated: Strategies for Dealing with Complex Grief

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

Grief is a natural response to loss, but it does not follow a fixed timeline. For many of us, the pain slowly softens and life begins to open up again. For others, grief stays intense, persistent, and disruptive long after the loss. This is often called complex grief.

Complex grief is more than missing someone. It can feel as if time has stopped. Months or even years after the loss, we may still feel as though the death happened yesterday. You may struggle with intense longing, difficulty accepting the loss, or trouble imagining a meaningful future without the person who died. Everyday reminders can bring overwhelming pain, making it hard to work, maintain relationships, or enjoy activities you once valued.

Complex grief can sometimes be mistaken for depression because both can involve sadness and withdrawal. The difference is that grief is centred on the loss of a specific person and the longing for that relationship. Depression usually involves a broader loss of pleasure, ongoing hopelessness, and negative beliefs about oneself. It is also possible to experience both at the same time.

Six Coping Strategies for Complex Grief:

While complex grief can feel overwhelming, there are approaches that can help. Evidence-based treatment often includes grief-focused therapy, which offers a safe space to process the loss, explore painful emotions, and gradually rebuild meaning and connection. Some people also benefit from cognitive behavioural strategies, which can help identify unhelpful thoughts such as guilt, self-blame, or the belief that life can never feel meaningful again.

Other helpful coping strategies include:

- **Maintaining routines:** Create a simple daily structure that adds predictability, even in small ways. For example, wake up at the same time each morning, eat breakfast before checking your phone, or take a short walk after lunch.
- **Allowing space for grief:** Set aside time to feel, remember, or express your grief instead of holding it in all day. You might journal before bed, light a candle on a certain day, or look through photos and write down a memory.
- **Staying connected to supportive people:** Reach out to people who can listen without trying to fix your feelings. You might text a trusted friend, attend a grief support group, or invite a family member for coffee.
- **Caring for your body:** Focus on one or two basic physical needs each day, since grief can make self-care harder. You might drink a glass of water when you wake up, eat something with protein at breakfast, stretch for five minutes, or go to bed at a consistent time.
- **Practicing self-compassion:** Notice harsh self-talk and replace it with a more understanding response. If you think, "I should be over this by now," try reminding yourself, "I am grieving something important, and healing takes time."

These strategies do not erase grief, but they can make it more manageable and support healing over time.

When to Seek Professional Help

It may be time to seek professional support if your grief feels stuck or overwhelming for a long period, especially if it is affecting work, relationships, sleep, or daily functioning. You may also benefit from help if you are avoiding reminders of the loss, struggling to imagine a future, or experiencing intense guilt, numbness, or hopelessness that does not ease with time.

Joke of the Month

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