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ALBERTAW00D

Hollywood isn't the only location to shoot great films; Alberta has become a popular backdrop for many beloved films over the years. Most recently *Die My Love* was filmed here but other blockbusters include *Brokeback Mountain*, *Jumanji: The Next Level, Cool Runnings, Inception, Interstellar, Legends of the Fall, The Revenant, Ghostbusters: Afterlife*, and many, many more!



JOKE OF THE MONTH

Why did the football coach go to the bank?

To get his quarter back.



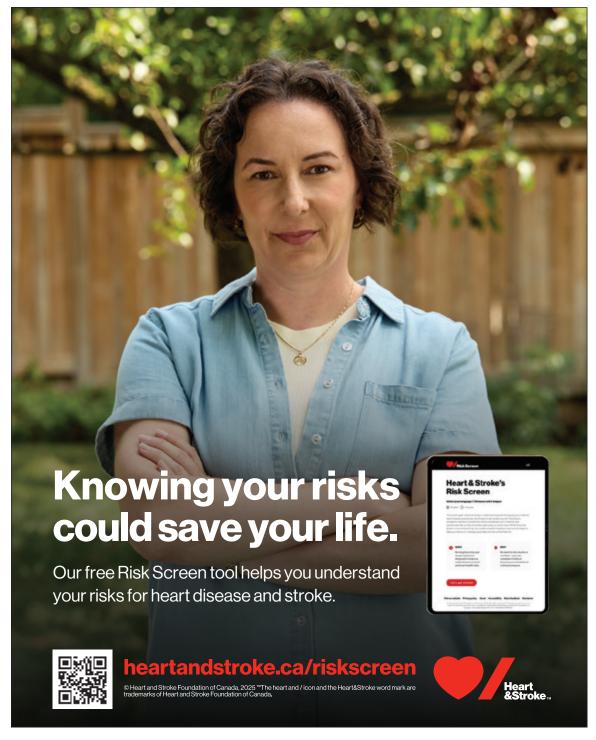
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It's Christmastime in Calgary

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



by Anne Burke

Sites of prehistoric interest relate to the precontact history of Native use and settlement. These valuable archaeological resources represent 10,000+ years of occupation by Native inhabitants of the Calgary region. In all, 45 archaeological sites on Nose Hill have been recorded. Stone feature sites include cairns (a human-made pile of stones as a landmark, marker, or memorial), alignments (arrangements in a straight line or correct relative positions), and stone circles. Archaeological studies of Nose Hill began in the early 1970s. Students from the University of Calgary carried out surveys of the entire Calgary region; five prehistoric sites were recorded in what is now the park. These include three tipi ring sites, a lithic (stone) scatter, and a prehistoric campsite.

When the City planned a municipal park for Nose Hill, a Historical Resources Inventory was required in 1978 within the proposed boundaries. The results were a cairn, ten campsites (two with tipi rings), a glacial erratic, four isolated finds, a kill site, 18 lithic scatters, a rock mound site of overgrown gravel, and six tipi ring sites. The Alberta Government in Edmonton held microfiche copies of permit and research reports, in which existing resources were described. In 1982 and 1983, a spring survey of stone circles along the southern margin of the uplands of Nose Hill recorded 60 new rings. This was followed by a series of field trips in the summer and fall of 1993. Conditions were poor, with high grass. The focus was on undisturbed sites but limited to revisiting all the original sites. Aerial photo mosaics of Nose Hill were prepared. Overlays combining trails and archaeological resources were used to relocate sites in the field. Best estimates of site locations were recorded using a GPS receiver.



Batters Up! Holiday Baking and Life Skills with 4-H



Baking isn't just about cookies or muffins — especially during the holiday season, it's a hands-on way for kids aged 9 to 15 to learn practical skills while creating festive treats. The Batters Up Baking Club, part of 4-H Alberta's Intro Clubs, gives young bakers a chance to explore new recipes, practice teamwork, and discover the science behind their favourite holiday goodies.

Each week, participants try a new baking activity, from holiday cookies to pies, brownies, and cupcakes. Along the way, they also practice planning, measuring, following instructions, and record-keeping, all skills that are part of 4-H's life-long learning approach.

Fun Baking Fact: Did you know that baking powder creates tiny bubbles of carbon dioxide that make dough rise? This is why muffins and cakes become light and fluffy! Learning the "why" behind baking steps helps young bakers become confident and creative.

Even at home, kids can explore similar skills from measuring ingredients to blending flavours in simple projects like a quick orange creamsicle smoothie, made with 1 cup of orange juice, 1½ cups of vanilla







Greek yogurt, 2 peeled oranges, 2 frozen bananas, and 4 teaspoons of vanilla extract. Try this at home for a refreshing twist on holiday flavours.

Through the 4-H Intro Club, kids not only create delicious treats but also gain confidence, learn teamwork, and explore new ideas all while having fun in a supportive environment. Baking becomes more than just mixing ingredients; it becomes a way to explore science, math, and life skills in a hands-on, memorable way. Whether it's measuring sugar, stirring batter, or decorating cupcakes, every step teaches something new and what better way to celebrate the season than with treats made by your own hands?

Find out more about 4-H Intro Clubs at 4hab.com/member or email introclubs@4hab.com.

SAFE AND SOUND

Cold Weather Safety

by Alberta Health Services



Emergency Health Services (EHS) - Alberta responds to cold weather emergencies each winter. You can reduce your risk of sustaining a cold weather emergency by taking a few precautions. Dress by wearing warm, insulating layers close to the body covered with wind and waterproof layers on the exterior – cover as much skin as possible. Carry an emergency roadside kit in your vehicle containing extra clothing, blankets, and emergency supplies and ensure your mobile phone is fully charged.

Frostnip

- Frost-nipped skin is extremely cold, but not yet frozen.
- 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.
- Seek further medical attention as required.

Hypothermia

- Hypothermia is abnormally low body temperature, less than about 35°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. 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.

TAKE ON WELLNESS

#HealthyTechnologyUse

by Recovery Alberta - Community Health Promotion Services



Technology is not going anywhere, in fact, it will continue to advance in the coming years. We use it everywhere, for school, work, and leisure. Strong connections and relationships are a protective factor for us that has been shown to help buffer risk and boost resilience. The availability of computers, smartphones, video consoles, and other electronic devices have given many the opportunity to always be connected. However, it is the time, the content, and reason of use that we want to focus on.

To ensure healthy technology use among the young people in your life, there are 4 Ms that you can refer to:

- Manage: The information online can be easily accessed but you can manage this by setting limits and clear expectations of use among the technology being used along with continually learning about different platforms especially those most popular in your life. For instance, using your phone during certain times of the day, what you can post, having limit checks, or learning about privacy settings on TikTok to ensure healthy use.
- Meaningful: To see the positive impacts of technology, you want to make sure that the use is

active, educational, and social. Is social media being used to post and connect with peers, or do they feel FOMO "fear of missing out" on an event that may be posted by their peers.

- Model: If you are setting rules and expectations, you want to also follow what you are asking the young people in your lives to do. Review your own use, are you on it during dinner or before bed? Ask them to show you platforms they are using and ask questions about the posts they see, for example, how this makes you feel, or do you know what filters are?
- Monitor: The monitoring of use will help you to see if there are signs that may lead to problematic use. When they are not using technology, are they bored or angry, have low self-esteem, worsening symptoms of mental health issues such as anxiety or does it interfere with school, social interactions, or sleep?

There are pros and cons when using technology. We encourage the use of the 4 Ms as a tool to see where/ if there needs to be of focus to ensure the positives of technology are outweighing the negatives.

Quick and Easy Bruschetta Appetizers

by Jennifer Puri



Affordable and versatile, bruschetta is a deliciously simple tomato and basil combo.

A classic Italian appetizer, bruschetta originated in 15th century Italy. Olive growers would grill bread over an open fire to taste their freshly pressed oil. The simple slice of toasted bread later evolved to include cheeses, meats, and olives.

Soft cheeses like goat cheese, ricotta, or brie can create a unique flavour. This recipe uses bleu cheese and slices of French bread, but you can also use ciabatta bread instead. Bruschetta can be served warm or cold as part of an appetizer platter.

Bruschetta pairs well with pastas and salads, grilled chicken, or fish. Leftovers can be refrigerated for two to three days in an airtight container.

Prep Time: 15 minutes

Cook Time: 10 minutes

Servings: 4 to 6

Ingredients:

- 4 cups of chopped tomatoes
- 2 tbsps. chopped basil
- ¼ cup chopped red onion
- 6 tbsps. extra virgin olive oil
- 1 loaf of French bread

- ½ cup mayonnaise
- ½ cup crumbled bleu cheese
- ¾ tsp. dry mustard
- ½ tsp. salt
- ½ tsp. coarsely ground black pepper
- 1 tbsp. white wine vinegar

Directions:

- 1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees Fahrenheit.
- 2. Slice French bread into ½-inch-thick slices and then cut into half. Lightly brush slices with olive oil on both sides, place on a baking sheet and bake in oven for 10 minutes or until lightly brown.
- Prepare tomato mixture by mixing together tomatoes, red onion, basil, salt, pepper, 2 tbsps. of olive oil, and the white wine vinegar.
- 4. In a separate bowl gently mix together mayonnaise, mustard, and crumbled bleu cheese.
- Spread the cheese mixture on the toasts then top with the tomato mixture. Garnish with fresh basil leaves and serve.

Bon Appétit!



Pedestrian Safety in the Winter

by Courtney Harron, Red Cross First Aid Instructor

Winter is an exciting season full of snow, sledding, and fun! But with snow and ice also comes slippery sidewalks, darker days, and reduced driver and pedestrian visibility. That means we all need to be extra careful when we're walking or crossing the street. A few smart choices can help you stay safe all winter long!

Take Your Time, Be Bright, and Be Seen!

Take Your Time. Everything moves a little slower in winter, walking, driving, even getting out the door! lce and snow make slipping easier, so move slowly and carefully. Give yourself extra time when walking to school or playing outside and never run across the street. Slow and steady keeps you safe!

Look, Listen, and Wait. Crossing the street in winter can be tricky. Snowbanks might block a driver's view, and cars can take longer to stop when the roads are slippery.

Here's what to remember every time you cross:

- Stop and stay at the edge of the sidewalk. Look left, right, and left again, checking the side where cars will be closest to you last (left).
- Wait until every car comes to a complete stop before stepping onto the road.
- Make eye contact with the driver. If you can see them, they can see you.
- Even if the light says "walk," look left, right, and left once more before crossing.

Be Bright and Be Seen. Winter days are short, and it gets dark early. Sometimes it's hard for drivers to see people. Make it easy for them to spot you, the brighter you are, the safer you are!

Wear reflective clothing or add reflective stickers or patches to your jackets or backpacks.

Wear fluorescent or bright colours like red, yellow, or orange.

If it's really dark, carry a flashlight or wear a headlamp.

Watch for Slippery Spots. When it's icy, it's not just cars that can slide; people can too! Watch for shiny or wetlooking patches on the sidewalk and walk carefully. Keep your hands out of your pockets to help you balance and break your fall in case you slip. Try the "Penguin Walk":



keep your feet slightly apart, toes pointing out, and take small, careful steps, just like a penguin waddling on ice.

Safe Drivers and Smart Walkers Work Together. Drivers try their best to go slowly in the winter, but they need your help too. When you follow safety rules, drivers can see you and stop in time. Working together keeps everyone safe!

Winter can be one of the best seasons of the year, so let's all stay safe. Take your time, be seen, and always wait for cars to stop before crossing. A few extra seconds can make a big difference. Bundle up, watch your step, and enjoy the snowy season safely!

How to Highlight the Quality of a Newer Home to Attract Serious Buyers

by Virginia Cooper



Selling a newer home should, in theory, be easier—after all, the paint is fresh, the systems are modern, and everything feels move-in ready. But in practice, newer homes compete on perception, not just price. Buyers want proof of quality, and the sellers who demonstrate that proof most convincingly are the ones who convert "curious browsers" into buyers.

TL;DR

- Buyers trust what they can see, verify, and document.
- Showcase builder upgrades (materials, finishes, warranties).
- Offer a pre-listing inspection to show transparency.
- Present an organized documentation packet that reinforces quality and condition.

These actions shift buyer perception from "Is this home worth it?" to "This home is a safe investment."

1. Start with the Builder's Story

Most buyers don't just want to know who built the house — they want to know why it's better than the average home next door. If your home includes premium materials, energy-efficient systems, or smart-home upgrades, make them visible:

- Feature builder highlights in your listing description.
- Include brand names (e.g., Andersen windows, Moen fixtures, Bosch appliances) for credibility.
- Showcase any transferable warranties or green certifications (like Energy Star or LEED ratings).

A clear, fact-based comparison to standard features can create trust quickly.

2. Create an Experience, Not Just a Showing

Newer homes can sometimes feel impersonal — so your job is to make quality tangible. During showings:

- Stage selectively. Highlight craftsmanship with minimalist décor that lets details shine.
- Use daylight to emphasize finishes like hardwood, tile, and cabinetry.
- Keep all mechanical and system panels (HVAC, electrical, etc.) spotless and clearly labeled.

Buyers notice cues of care. Even new homes lose appeal if they feel unmaintained.

3. Offer a Pre-Listing Inspection

Transparency is magnetic. A certified pre-listing inspection signals confidence in the home's condition — and that you're not hiding surprises.

An inspection can:

- Validate that systems are in peak shape.
- Identify minor fixes before they become buyer objections.
- Reduce negotiation friction and build immediate trust.

4. Organize Proof of Quality (The Confidence Packet)

Buyers love documentation — especially those purchasing newer homes. Creating a downloadable, well-organized packet builds buyer confidence faster than any marketing phrase can.

Include in your packet:

- Builder plans and upgrade lists.
- Inspection reports and receipts for recent services.
- Appliance manuals and warranties.
- Maintenance records and HOA documentation.

Store the file digitally, label everything clearly, and save it as a PDF so it's universally accessible. A clear, structured packet demonstrates professionalism and reliability — two powerful emotional triggers for serious buyers.

If you're not sure how to compile or convert files, you can use a free online tool to combine or convert different file types into one polished PDF. Buyers and agents appreciate having an organized, shareable summary at their fingertips.

5. Add a Human Touch: Testimonials and Builder Endorsements

Real people validate what glossy marketing can't. Include:

- A short testimonial from your builder or contractor about the materials and workmanship.
- Reviews from neighbours who bought similar models or upgrades.
- Quotes from local service pros who can vouch for system reliability.

These micro-endorsements transform a data-driven listing into a story that resonates emotionally. You can even use layout inspiration you find online.

6. Checklist: Quality-Confidence Readiness

Use this quick self-audit before going live:

 Builder name, upgrades, and warranties clearly stated in the listing.

- Pre-listing inspection completed and summarized for buvers.
- All receipts, records, and floor plans consolidated into one PDF packet.
- Home is spotless, staged, and systems labeled.
- Testimonials and neighbourhood context included.
- Agent presentation materials emphasize transparency, not salesmanship.

This checklist ensures your home isn't just seen — it's trusted.

7. Comparison Table: What Buyers Notice Most

Buyer Focus Area	Traditional Home	Newer Home Done Right
Maintenance Costs	Unpredictable	Documented, predictable
Efficiency	Varies by upgrade	Proven energy metrics
Transparency	Reactive inspection	Proactive pre- listing report
Documentation	Scattered or absent	Single organized packet
Emotional Pull	Nostalgia- driven	Confidence- driven

FAO

Should I still stage a newer home?

Absolutely. Even pristine homes need warmth. A few well-placed furnishings guide buyers' imagination without masking details.

Is a pre-listing inspection worth it for a new house?

Yes. It confirms what buyers hope is true — that the home is sound — and it prevents surprise renegotiations later.

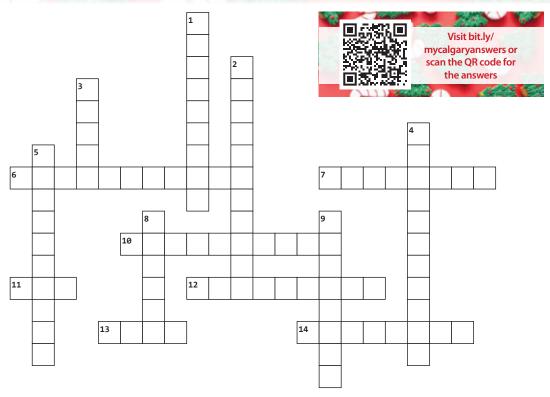
What if my builder is no longer in business?

Provide whatever documentation remains (permits, manuals, or product brand lists). The goal is to show the story of quality, not the brand name alone.

Conclusion

A newer home sells fastest when it tells a story of verified quality. Clear builder documentation, visible upkeep, and transparent proof transform your property from "another listing" into a verified investment. In today's data-driven market, credibility isn't just earned — it's engineered.

December Crossword



Across

- 6. The Statute of ______ passed on December 11, 1931, granting Canada full legislative independence from the British Empire.
- Known for his role in Stranger Things, Canadian actor Finn ______ celebrates his birthday on December 23.
- 10. The ______ is also known as the Christmas flower.
- 11. "Gangnam Style" by ______ became the first YouTube video to reach one billion views on December 21, 2012.
- 12. In December 1612, astronomer Simon Marius made the first known telescopic observation of this galaxy.
- 13. Star _____: The Motion Picture premiered on December 7, 1979.
- 14. December 14 marks the start of this Jewish holiday.

Down

- 1. The bust of this Egyptian queen was found on December 6, 1912.
- 2. Annually on December 12, _____ House Day is celebrated.
- 3. The first human-to-human ______ transplant was performed on December 3, 1967, by Dr. Christiaan Barnard in Cape Town, South Africa.
- 4. ______'s ballet, *The Nutcracker*, premiered in Saint Petersburg on December 18, 1892.
- 5. Jane Austen's last novel, _____, was published on December 20, 1817.
- 8. Two years after being stolen, the "Mona Lisa" was returned to this museum on December 12, 1913.
- Ferguson Jenkins born on December 13, 1942, in Chatham-Kent, was the first Canadian inducted into the Hall of Fame.



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Happy December, Calgary-Klein!

I'm so looking forward to catching up with you all in the community this holiday season. From festive markets to visits with Santa, there's sure to be holiday cheer everywhere.

December also marks the end of session. It has been a busy one! The first Bill debated was Bill 2, which legislated teachers back to work. My conversations with teachers, parents, and students have really illustrated the strain on our public schools and lack of supports. Classroom sizes, complexity, and the lowest per-student funding in the country are major pain points for everyone I've spoken with.

After months of stalled negotiations, the government imposed a settlement and invoked the notwithstanding clause—an unprecedented step.

I will continue to advocate for building more schools, hiring more teachers and EAs, and ensuring classrooms have the resources students need to succeed. Investing in public education is how we build a strong future for our province.

As we head into the holidays, let's continue to support one another and keep in mind the challenges many families are facing. With session wrapping up, I'll be hosting town halls in January and February to share updates and hear your priorities.

Please email us at Calgary.klein@assembly.ab.ca or call 403-216-5430. You can also follow me on social media @lizettendp for updates.

Wishing you and your loved ones a joyful holiday season and a happy New Year!

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