

FEBRUARY 2026

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Cupid and the Mighty Bow

by Garth Paul Ukrainetz

Cupid has a plan they say
To change the world on Valentine's Day
The opposite of nuclear war
Where love bombs fall forevermore

Projectiles full of love's sweet glow
These arrows need a Mighty Bow
Creating new reality
Great river flows thru Calgary

The arrows launch like missiles fly
Around the world they'll fill the sky
London, Moscow, Houston, Seoul
From Mighty Bow they'll reach their goal

On city streets we'll look above
The mountains shall bring peace and love
Descending to all jaded land
From Mighty Bow and angel's hand

Yes, all is fair in love and war
A cherub stands on rivershore
Lil' Cupid has a plan they say
To change the world on Valentine's Day



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Age-Friendly Calgary Essential Numbers for Seniors in Calgary

9-1-1 Emergency (24-Hour)

For EMERGENCY medical, fire, and police response. Call the non-emergency police line at **403-266-1234** to report an incident that is not an emergency.

8-1-1 Health Link (24-Hour)

Health advice (including dementia advice) from a registered nurse.

3-1-1 City of Calgary (24-Hour)

Information on all City of Calgary services. www.calgary.ca.

2-1-1 Community Resources (24-Hour)

Information and referrals for community and social services. www.ab.211.ca.

403-SENIORS (403-736-4677) The Way In

Information, advice, and help accessing programs and benefits for older adults.

403-266-HELP (403-266-4357) Distress Centre and SeniorConnect (24-Hour)

Crisis support and urgent social work response (including if you are concerned about a senior at risk in the community).

403-943-1500 Access Mental Health

Non-urgent advice on navigating the addiction and mental health system.

403-705-3250 Elder Abuse Resource Line (24-Hour)

Confidential information and support, or to report a suspected case of elder abuse.

Telephone language interpretation service available on all lines.

GRANDPARENT SCAM ALERT

WHAT IS THE SCAM?

Scammers are calling seniors claiming to be family members in need of immediate money for bail or hospital expenses.

The scammer will often send someone to the door to pick up payment.

BAIL FACTS:

- Police, lawyers, judges or jails do not call people to get money.
- Bail/ fines are typically paid at a courthouse, police station or jail.
- Bail in Alberta is typically \$10-\$500.
- Bail can't be paid using gift cards.



"Court appointed" couriers don't exist. If someone asks to come to your home to pick up payment, it's a scam.



If it has to be now, it has to be no. Using fear or high-pressure tactics are usually a red flag.



Always ask for proof of identification and call-back numbers. Talk to family, friends or other people you trust to help verify claims or requests.

CALGARY
POLICE
SERVICE

If you have lost money or the scam is in progress, contact the Calgary Police Service at **403-266-1234**

To report a scam in general, contact the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at **1-888-495-8501**

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

THORNCLIFFE



GREENVIEW



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Youth “Learn to Do by Doing” with 4-H Intro Clubs

The 4-H motto is “learn to do by doing.” That is the idea behind 4-H Intro Clubs for youth aged 9 to 15. These six-week clubs give young people a chance to try new activities, learn practical skills, and explore their interests in a hands-on, low-pressure way. Youth get a taste of what it would be like to be a member of a traditional 4-H Club in these short programs, but the impact can be significant.

Intro Club members also have access to bonus events. Past events like the University of Calgary Vet Science Day and SAIT workshops in cooking and welding have allowed participants to explore careers, skills, and hobbies in a real-world setting. These events give youth experiences they may not get at school or at home.

Many bonus events include exposure to agriculture. Farm tours and projects let youth see where food comes from, learn about animals, and understand the work involved in growing plants or raising livestock. For children in the city, this connection to the local food system and community is especially valuable.

New bonus events are planned, including a microgreens workshop, a farm tour, an equine therapy workshop, and family tours at 4-H on Parade. Once a youth registers in an Intro Club, they can sign up for any available bonus events, most of which are free. These opportunities help children stay curious and learning outside regular club meetings.

Through Intro Clubs and bonus events, youth practice skills, explore interests, and gain experiences that help them make informed choices about hobbies, school projects, and future goals. At the same time, they connect with their community and learn about the role of agriculture in everyday life.

Try This at Home: Track Your Food

Pick one food item in your home and trace how it gets from farm to table. Who grows it? How is it processed or packaged? Why is it important to your community? This simple activity helps youth understand where food comes from and connects them to the local food system.



Learn more about Intro Clubs and bonus events at 4hab.com/member-programs/ or email introclubs@4hab.com.

Winter Tips to Keep Our Rivers Healthy

by The City of Calgary

When snow melts, water runs off our streets, driveways, and yards, and ultimately ends up in our rivers, creeks, and wetlands. This runoff is called stormwater. Stormwater picks up garbage, chemicals, pet waste, salt, gravel, dirt, and other debris, washing it into our storm drains and our rivers.

The City of Calgary and Calgarians need to work together to manage our stormwater. In newer communities, The City uses storm ponds to help naturally treat stormwater by slowing the flow, allowing sediment and pollution to settle before entering our rivers. While these are found in newer communities, stormwater is not cleaned by a treatment plant, which is why keeping it pollution free is so important. Clean stormwater ensures our rivers, creeks, and wetlands, as well as local wildlife and fish, remain healthy for future generations.

Together we can keep our rivers and creeks healthy by:

- Shovelling shortly after it snows to prevent ice and reduce salt, sand, or gravel use.
- Following the manufacturer's instructions if using salt on your driveway or sidewalks, so you're not using more than needed.
- Sweeping up excess salt, sand, and gravel from your driveway and sidewalks.
- Continuing to pick up pet waste and litter off the ground and dispose of them in the right disposal bin.

What ends up on our streets, ends up in our rivers. For more tips and information, visit calgary.ca/stormwater.



News from the Friends of Nose Hill

by Anne Burke

The Calgary area has been the subject of many geological studies in scientific papers, field guides, and monographs, including glacial mapping of Nose Hill. The top of Nose Hill contains gravel deposited by the ancient Bow River, also carrying sand and mud, flowing east out of the mountains and reaching the level of the present hilltop. There may have been as many as 20 major glacial advances and retreats in what is now the Calgary area.

During the last one to two million years of earth history, ice sheets shaped the landscape. The continuous plain to the north, and on the east and west flanks of Nose Hill, were shaped by glacial meltwater from nearby ice. As the modern Bow River developed, it created a broad valley and the southern flanks of the Hill. A large lake was produced by an ice dam on the River. On its North and East, Nose Hill is bounded by Beddington and Nose Creeks. To the west, Big Hill Springs Coulee is what remains of the earlier glacial spillway system.

Nose Hill provides spectacular views from which to interpret the geological history of the Bow River Valley and its tributaries, as well as the uplands across the valley to the south. The boundary between eastern and western ice sheets is the result of a landslide from Mt. Edith Cavell. As the valley glacier advanced it was deflected southward by eastern ice and glacial erratics (large boulders) mark its former path.



Face Your Stress

by Recovery Alberta – Community Health Promotion Services

Stress is typically viewed as negative; not all stress is bad and in fact, avoiding it can be more harmful. Stress is the response to a stressor that one may be experiencing. Stressors are anything in your life that causes the release of stress hormones. Some stressors in our life are unavoidable. There are three different types of stress you can experience. Let's dive deeper into each:

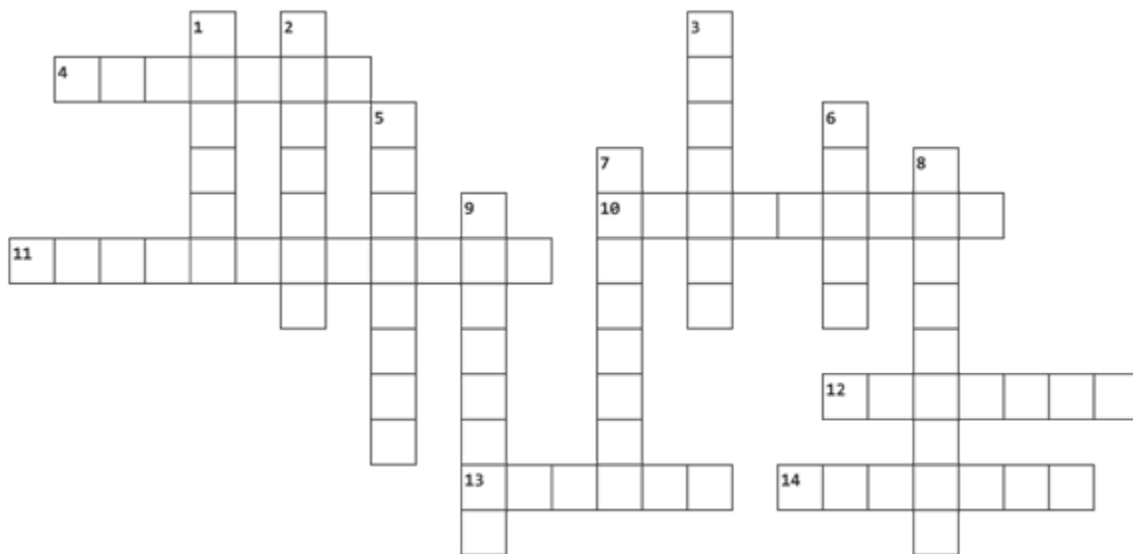
- 1. Positive:** Yes, stress can be positive. This is short-term but helps us to adapt and build resiliency. Situations to cause this stress can include work, writing an exam, or calling someone you don't know.
- 2. Tolerable:** Tolerable stress includes situations where the impact may be more serious, such as, loss of someone or divorce of parents, and can occur many times throughout your life, however, with supportive relationships, it is unlikely to have lasting negatives impacts.
- 3. Toxic:** When one thinks of stress, we tend to think of this for all situations. This stress is prolonged and extreme and can result in complex outcomes without any adequate support.

Stress can impact our physical, mental, emotional, and behavioral health and it is different for everyone. It can show up as headaches, feeling tired, having trouble focusing, feeling short-tempered or lonely, having sleep issues, unable to relax, and use of unhealthy coping techniques.

Signs of stress are different for everyone but there is a need for stress to keep us alert, healthier, and more understanding human beings! So, what can you do? Mental Health Literacy has developed a toolbox to help you manage your own stress. Here are a few things to consider:

- **Change:** You want to change the way you think of stress. As you can see, it can be essential to tackle life's situations.
- **Choose:** When faced with a stressor, have a toolkit of strategies that work best for you. This can include breathing strategies or talking to others.
- **Engage:** If there are stressors that heighten your body's response, try incorporating planning strategies beforehand. When we face the stressor and solve the problem, we have successfully adapted and are left with a new skill!

February Crossword



Across

4. Islam's holy month of fasting, prayer, and reflection, called _____ starts on February 17 this year.
10. On February 2, 1653, what is now called New York City officially became a city, but it was known as New _____ at the time.
11. Comedian Leslie Nielsen was born on February 11, 1926, in Regina, _____.
12. Canada's twelfth Prime Minister, Louis St. _____, was born on February 1, 1882, in Compton, Québec.
13. The first volume of this English Dictionary was published on February 1, 1884.
14. The first documented street celebration of Mardi Gras in New _____ took place on February 27, 1827.

Down

1. This North American country celebrates National Flag Day on February 15 annually.
2. During the 1988 Calgary Winter Olympics, the bobsleigh team from this Caribbean nation inspired the movie *Cool Runnings*.
3. At the 26th Grammy Awards on February 28, 1984, Michael _____ won an astonishing eight Grammys!
5. Pope _____ XVI announced his resignation from the papacy on February 11, 2013.
6. The 2026 Chinese Zodiac is this equine beauty.
7. Min Jin Lee's New York Times bestselling novel, _____, follows a Korean family who immigrate to Japan and was first published on February 7, 2017.
8. The XXI Winter Olympic Games were held in this Canadian city in 2010.
9. On February 4, 2004, this social media platform was launched from a Harvard dorm room.



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

Staying in Relationships Thinking the Other Person Will Change, Now What?

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



In romantic relationships, the hope that someone will change is incredibly common, and very human. Here's the why:

We fall in love with potential, not just reality. Early connection, chemistry, and shared dreams can make us focus on who someone could be rather than who they consistently are.

Love activates optimism and attachment. Attachment bonds naturally create hope. Our nervous system prefers security over loss, so we hold onto the idea that change will come rather than face the pain of disappointment or separation.

We confuse influence with control. Healthy relationships do involve growth and compromise, but that can slide

into the belief that love, patience, or suffering will eventually motivate change in areas that are actually character-based or deeply ingrained.

Familiar patterns feel safer than unfamiliar outcomes. Even dissatisfaction can feel safer than the uncertainty of leaving—especially if someone grew up adapting to others or earning love by tolerating discomfort.

Cultural narratives reinforce it. We're taught that love "fixes," that commitment means endurance, and that leaving equals failure rather than discernment.

Acceptance doesn't mean approval. It means clearly seeing who someone is right now, and asking: Can I live peacefully with this if it never changes? If the answer is no, the work isn't to force acceptance—it's to honor that

truth. Real intimacy grows when we choose people for who they are, not who we hope they'll become.

Here are practical ways to shift your inner narration and cultivate acceptance of your partner—without abandoning your own needs or values (unless the situation is unsafe or abusive):

1. Separate “preferences” from “deal-breakers”

Narration shift: “I don’t like this” to... “This is uncomfortable, but not unsafe or violating.”

2. Replace fantasy with reality statements

Narration shift: “They would be perfect if...” to... “This is who they are today, consistently.”

3. Translate irritation into meaning

Ask: What does this trigger in me; fear, unmet needs, old wounds?

Narration shift: “They’re the problem” to... “This brings up something important in me.”

4. Use compassion without justification

Narration shift: “They shouldn’t be this way” to... “I can understand why they’re this way, without agreeing or excusing.”

5. Practice present-tense acceptance language

Use phrases like: “This is what’s here right now.” or... “I don’t have to solve this today.”

6. Stop future-bargaining

Narration shift: “Once X happens, then I’ll be okay” to... “If nothing changes, how do I feel about this life?”

7. Name your choice clearly

Narration shift: “I’m stuck” to... “I am choosing to stay for now, with eyes open.”

Choice restores agency and reduces resentment.

8. Practice grief, not resistance

Acceptance often requires grieving the partner you hoped for.

Narration shift: “This shouldn’t hurt” to... “Of course this hurts.”

9. Anchor acceptance in boundaries

Narration shift: “I have to accept everything” to... “I accept who they are and I choose how close I stand.”

10. Use curiosity over judgment.

Narration shift: “They’re wrong” to... “This is different from me—what does that mean for us?”

Cats, Canines, & Critters of Calgary



Ash and Bella, Cranston



Flair and Little Lady, Strathcona Park



Meatball and Cleo, Renfrew



Talbot and Scout, Queensland

To have your pet featured, email news@mycalgary.com

Family Day

by Danielle Robbertze



From big to small, blood related or chosen, family forms an important aspect in all our lives.

That is why Family Day, celebrated on February 16 this year, is a delightful honour to those we hold so near and dear in our lives. Family Day in Alberta was first celebrated in 1990 and introduced by then Premier Don Getty. In fact, Alberta was the first province to declare Family Day as a statutory holiday. Over the years, other provinces followed Alberta's example. They include British Columbia, New Brunswick, Ontario, and Saskatchewan.

The aim of the day? To highlight the importance of family values. Moreover, Family Day gives us a much-needed break during one of the coldest months of the year. Before Family Day there was a large gap between statutory holidays (New Year's Day to Good Friday).

So, what exactly is family? Family can be defined in many different ways depending on the person you ask. From nuclear to single-parent families, adoptive to chosen families, blended to extended families, and even work families—we all find a way to be part of a familial bond. With such a diverse population in this province, a single Albertan's family could be separated by five kilometres to 15,000 kilometres.

And with Family Day falling so close to Valentine's Day each year, February truly is solidified as the month of love in Alberta. Remember this Family Day to call that long-distance relative, hug the ones close by, and celebrate all the family memories created over the years, and while you do all that you can create even more long-lasting memories.

February Is Heart Month

by Alberta Health Services



Do you know the signs and symptoms of a heart attack and what to do if someone experiences these? Knowing may make the difference between life and death. Recognizing and responding immediately to the warning signs of a potential heart attack may significantly improve survival and recovery. February is Heart Month: take the time to be heart safe and learn how you can reduce your risk.

Common Signs of a Heart Attack

(Any, or all, of these signs and symptoms may occur)

- Chest discomfort described as simply a mild pressure up to a 'crushing' pain; may also be 'squeezing' or a 'heavy' sensation.
- Discomfort may move to the shoulders, arm, neck, or jaw.
- May include shortness of breath, sweating, or nausea/vomiting.
- Signs may vary person to person and can differ between men, women, and the elderly.

Heart Attack Risk Factors

- Obesity*
- Sedentary lifestyle*
- Smoking*

- High cholesterol*
- Age/Gender
- Family history

Speak with your doctor about how to treat your modifiable (*) risk factors and learn to be heart safe.

What To Do When Seconds Count

- Call 9-1-1, immediately. Early treatment can greatly reduce heart damage and be the difference between life and death.
- Treatment starts the moment EMS arrives. Paramedics can provide oxygen, start an intravenous, and perform an electrocardiogram (ECG).
- Paramedics can also administer important medication(s) in the early minutes of a heart attack to lessen heart damage.
- During transport, EMS will share information with the hospital so that definitive treatment can begin immediately upon arrival.
- Take a CPR/AED course. Training is widely available from many reputable organizations. It's easy and could make a significant difference in the outcome of someone experiencing a heart attack.

Happy Valentine's Day





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Hello Calgary-Klein!

As we head into February, I hope you're all staying warm and taking in the winter happenings around the city and your community! With Valentine's Day on the horizon, I remember that it is also Heart and Stroke Month. This month is an opportunity to learn more about cardiovascular health, the risks of heart disease and stroke, and what steps we can take toward prevention.

I'm committed to advocating for more family doctors and wraparound health services so you can access the care you need, when you need it. Working closely with your family health team is an important part of that effort. It is also critical that on a provincial level we commit to strengthening public funding and delivery of healthcare to better meet the needs of Albertans.

Winter is also a great time to explore our beautiful neighbourhoods! Whether it's cross-country skiing in Confederation Park or snowshoeing near the creek at Queens Park Cemetery, there's so much to enjoy. A few weeks ago, I had the pleasure of touring the hidden creek behind the cemetery with the Friends of Confederation Creek—it was a real gem! What's your favourite hidden treasure or historical spot in the riding?

We head back to the Legislature at the end of this month, and as I prepare for session and budget deliberations – I'd like to have a conversation with you! Please join me for a town hall to talk about what your vision is for the province, and what your priorities are. We will be gathering on Thursday, February 19, 7:00 pm at Crossroads Community Association. For registration details, please email us at Calgary.klein@assembly.ab.ca or call 403-216-5430. Hope to see you there!

Lizette

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