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### **De Winton Community Association**

(Founded 1918 - Alberta Association Member 1962) Box 111, DeWinton, AB, TOL 0X0

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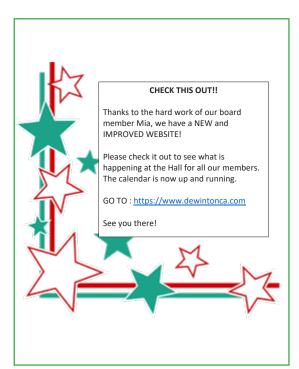
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#### **About the De Winton Community Association**

We were founded in 1918 and have been an Alberta Association Member since 1962.

Are you new to De Winton? On behalf of our amazing community, please allow us to welcome you and your family. We have a welcoming gift for you, along with some information about our local happenings, activities, and fabulous preschool. Please contact us directly at the Hall by phone or email. Also visit our website and sign up for our newsletter. Once again, welcome!



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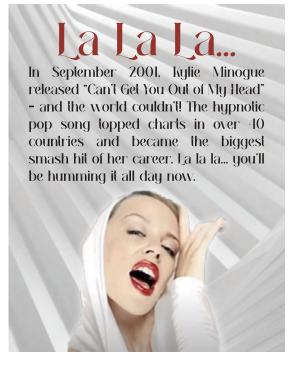












#### **SAFE AND SOUND**

### **Back to School Safety**

by Alberta Health Services

Alberta Health Services EMS would like to remind parents and students of some basic safety tips as the school year begins again this fall. Pedestrians and motorists both have an important role to play - road safety is a shared responsibility.

#### **Motorists**

- Distracted driving carries a \$300 fine and three demerit points in Alberta. Avoid the use of mobile devices or engaging in any other behavior that diverts your attention away from driving.
- Give right-of-way to pedestrians who have activated overhead crossing lights, or who are waiting to cross from a street corner.
- Other than parked cars, it is illegal to pass another vehicle in a school or playground zone during posted hours.

#### **Around School Buses**

- Flashing amber lights mean a bus is slowing down to stop - motorists should do likewise.
- No matter which direction you are coming from, stop when approaching a school bus with activated flashing red lights - unless the bus is on the opposite side of a divided highway from you.
- Driver courtesy goes a long way. By simply being alert and cautious when approaching a school bus, you are contributing to school bus safety.

#### **Pedestrians**

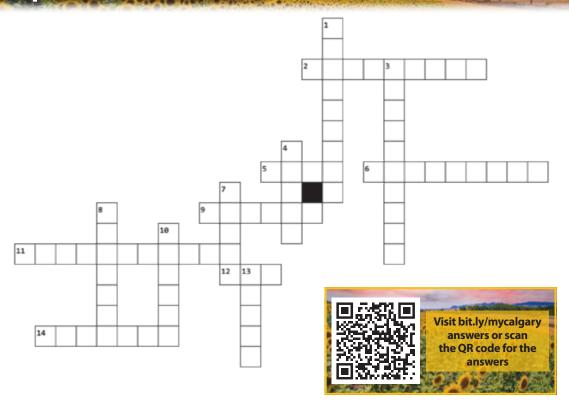
· Cross only at marked crosswalks, or street corners that have clear visibility from all directions.



- Make eye contact with all drivers before crossing the street and keep distractions to a minimum.
- When activating overhead crossing lights, pause before stepping off the curb to ensure motorists in both directions have come to a complete stop.
- · Stay within the crosswalk lines.
- Obey pedestrian lights at intersections. Cross the street only when you see the 'walk' sign and only when all cars have come to a complete stop.
- · If you are with young children or pets, hold your child's hand firmly and keep a solid grip on leashes when crossing.
- Remember: Children learn by observing. demonstrating safe crossing habits, you can reduce the chances of your child being involved in a preventable auto/pedestrian collision.



### **September Crossword**



Λ	-	-	_	-

- 2. Ernest \_\_\_\_\_\_\_'s *The Old Man and the Sea* was first published on September 1, 1952.
- 5. September's full moon is named after a plant also known as maize.
- 6. In September 1835, Charles Darwin, aboard the *HMS Beagle* arrived at the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Islands.
- 9. *The \_\_\_\_\_ Girls*, a sitcom about four older women living together in Miami, premiered on September 14, 1985.
- 11. Ice hockey forward, John Tavares, was born on September 20, 1990, in \_\_\_\_\_\_, Ontario.
- 12. This "Finger Lickin' Good" fast food restaurant opened its first franchise on September 24, 1952.
- 14. Starring Canadian actor, William \_\_\_\_\_\_, *Star Trek* premiered on September 8, 1966.

#### Down

- 1. The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame opened to the public on September 2, 1995, in \_\_\_\_\_\_, Ohio.
- 3. On September 19, 1893, this country became the first to grant all women the right to vote.
- 4. Canadian singer-songwriter Leonard \_\_\_\_\_ was born on September 21, 1934.
- On September 4, 1888, George Eastman patented a roll-film camera and introduced this now-iconic brand name.
- 8. Canada beat the USA by 23 runs on September 25, 1844, in the first international \_\_\_\_\_ match.
- 10. On the first Monday of September, \_\_\_\_\_ Day is observed in Alberta.
- 13. Stars of *Bridget Jones's Diary*, Colin\_\_\_\_\_ and Hugh Grant, were both born in September 1960, just one day apart.





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April	25	0	0	\$0	\$0	
March	25	0	0	\$0	\$0	
February	25	0	0	\$0	\$0	
January	25	0	1	\$2,200,000	\$2,050,000	
December	24	0	0	\$0	\$0	
November	24	1	1	\$1,000,000	\$1,225,000	
October	24	1	1	\$960,000	\$890,000	
September	24	0	1	\$1,280,000	\$1,190,000	
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To view more detailed information that comprise the above MLS averages please visit dewn.mycalgary.com

#### **MENTAL HEALTH MOMENT**

### Understanding Why Some Men Struggle with Emotional Avoidance in Relationships

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

As a relationship counsellor many women ask me: "Why is my partner so emotionally unavailable?" or "Why won't he open up to me?". If you're in a relationship with a man who seems emotionally distant, you're not alone. Emotional avoidance is incredibly common among men (and women too). While it can feel confusing or painful in a relationship, it's often rooted in early life experiences and cultural messages, not a lack of love or care.

#### 1. Cultural and Social Conditioning

From a young age, many boys are taught to suppress their feelings. Messages like:

"Don't cry." "Man up." "Be strong." are often used to discourage boys from expressing emotions like sadness, fear, or vulnerability.

Over time, this social conditioning can lead men to associate emotional expression with weakness or failure. Vulnerability feels unsafe. Many men grow up believing they must always appear "in control," which means avoiding emotions, both their own and others'.

#### 2. Early Childhood Attachment Patterns

Many emotionally avoidant men learned, early in life, that emotional needs wouldn't be met. Perhaps their caregivers were:

Emotionally distant. Critical or punishing when they expressed feelings. Overwhelmed and unavailable themselves

As a result, these men developed an avoidant attachment style. They learned to cope by shutting down emotional needs, relying only on themselves, and avoiding dependence on others. In adult relationships, this can look like:

Withdrawing during conflict. Struggling to express affection or emotional presence. Feeling overwhelmed when their partner expresses strong emotions.

#### 3. Fear of Shame and Vulnerability

Opening up emotionally requires risk. For many men,



emotional intimacy feels like stepping into unknown and possibly dangerous territory. They may fear:

Being judged. Saying the wrong thing. Being seen as "not enough".

To protect themselves from the possibility of shame or rejection, they pull back emotionally. This doesn't mean they don't care. It means their nervous system is trying to protect them.

#### 4. Lack of Emotional Awareness or Language

Many men simply haven't been taught how to identify, name, or communicate their feelings. Emotional intelligence is a skill set, one that needs modelling and practice. Without that early modelling, men may not even recognize what they're feeling, much less how to express it in a way that feels safe or clear.

This lack of emotional literacy can come across as:

"I don't know what I'm feeling." "I'm fine." (when they're clearly not). Defensiveness or silence during emotionally charged moments.

#### 5. Modelling and Role Expectations

Most men were raised in environments where male role models modelled emotional detachment or stoicism. If their fathers, uncles, or coaches didn't show emotional vulnerability—or worse, shamed it—they may not have any roadmap for what emotional availability looks like. In adulthood, many men feel emotionally "lost" and unsure how to engage on a deeper level.

#### 6. Protective Coping from Past Wounds

If a man has experienced trauma, betrayal, or loss in the past, emotional avoidance may be a protective strategy. Avoiding closeness can feel like a way to prevent being hurt again. Unfortunately, what once served as protection can eventually become a barrier to healthy connection.

**Book Suggestion:** The New Rules of Marriage: What You Need to Know to Make Love Work by Terrance Real.







## Promoting Mental Health in Children

by Alberta Health Services

Supporting your child's mental health is as important as good nutrition, sleep, and physical activity. Having good mental health allows your child to think clearly, develop socially, and learn new skills.

These tips can help your child develop confidence, self-esteem, and compassion for others.

#### **Apologize When You're Wrong**

When you make a mistake, apologize to your child. Saying you're sorry isn't enough. Sincere and simple apologies build trust and show respect for your child's feelings. Admit you were wrong, explain how it affected your child, and show that you're sorry. For example:

 "I shouldn't have said your idea was stupid. I know that hurt your feelings and embarrassed you. I'm ashamed I spoke to you that way. I'm sorry. I won't do it again."

Avoid explanations that sound like excuses or blame your child. For example:

 "I'm sorry I got mad, but you were really getting on my nerves."

#### **Give Your Child Choices and Respect Their Wishes**

When you can, give your child the chance to make their own choices that are meaningful to them and acceptable for you. If your child has a chance to make choices it helps them:

- Feel a Sense of Control
- Develop Self-Esteem
- Learn How to Solve Problems
- Take Responsibility for Their Choices

### Ask Questions That Help Your Child Solve Problems on Their Own

It's tempting to take over and give a solution when you hear that your child has a problem. But this doesn't help your child find solutions on their own. Try asking questions that will help them solve problems. For example:

- "What do you think you can do about this?"
- "If you choose to do this, what do you think might happen?"

Encourage sharing and helping by giving your child tasks that are appropriate for their age, such as feeding



the family pet, getting the mail, helping with making their lunch, or making their bed. Together, you and your child can volunteer or help a neighbour. This builds self-confidence and compassion. It also teaches your child that what they do can make a difference in the lives of others.

#### **Read Books and Stories Together**

Even if your child can already read, they'll still love reading with you. Take turns reading out loud with your child. Reading aloud is a way to share something enjoyable and learn about other people. For example, stories can show us how people deal with common issues like making or losing friends, handling conflicts, or dealing with difficult emotions. Talk to your child about what they like to read. Ask your child's teacher or a librarian to recommend stories on themes that interest you and your child.

#### Be a Role Model

Your child will learn by watching and doing what you do. They learn how to look after themselves, build relationships, solve problems, handle emotions (feelings), and care for others by seeing how you respond.

Your emotions affect what you do and say. They affect your child too. For example, anger is a common human emotion. You may feel angry sometimes when your child whines, talks rudely, or doesn't do what you ask. If you react to anger by yelling, using harsh words, or calling them names, it affects your child. They'll also learn to do the same when they're angry.

What you do and say when you're angry is important to your relationship and to how your child learns to express their anger. When you practice managing your feelings in healthy ways, your child learns these skills too.

## Nutrition to Help Manage Blood Pressure

by Alberta Health Services



Hypertension means there is too much pressure in your blood vessels. Over time, this can damage them and can increase your risk of heart attack and stroke.

Managing high blood pressure may include changing what you eat, managing your body weight, being physically active, limiting alcohol, engaging in relaxation practices, reducing or stopping tobacco use, and can include medication. Your healthcare provider can support you.

This article will focus on which food and nutrition choices may help manage your blood pressure. It includes what to eat more of and what to cut back on.

#### What To Consume More Of

**Vegetables and Fruits:** Vegetables and fruits are packed with fibre and nutrients that can help lower blood pressure. People who eat many vegetables and fruit are at lower risk for developing high blood pressure. Fresh, frozen, or canned varieties can all help lower your risk. At meals, try to fill half your plate with vegetables and fruits. Ideas to get more: have a piece of fruit at breakfast or add extra vegetables to wraps, sandwiches, and leftovers at lunch.

**Whole Grains:** Whole grain foods include all parts of the grain and have important nutrients like fibre, vitamins, and minerals. They include bulgar, buckwheat, oats, cornmeal, wild, or brown rice. If choosing a bread or a cereal, look for "whole" or "100% whole grain" on the package. For example, whole grain or whole rye.

**Beans, Peas, and Lentils:** Replace meat with beans, peas, or lentils at some meals. Add kidney beans, chickpeas, and lentils to soups, casseroles, salads, and pasta sauce. Try roasted chickpeas or lentils as a crunchy snack.

**Foods with Calcium:** Try to have at least two servings daily of calcium-rich foods like milk, yogurt, fortified

plant-based beverages such as soy, oat, or almond, and salmon or sardines canned with bones.

#### What To Eat or Drink Less Of

**Refined Grains:** Refined grains are different than whole grains. Refined grains have parts of the grain removed when they are being processed, so they have less fibre and sometimes fewer vitamins. Examples of refined grains include white bread, cakes, and other foods made with white flour.

**Added Sugar:** Added sugar means sugar, syrup, or honey added to food and drinks. It's recommended to limit sugary drinks.

Added Salt, Packaged or Processed Food: Salt contains a mineral called sodium. Your body needs small amounts of sodium to work properly. Most Canadians eat almost two times the sodium they need. The top sources of sodium in the Canadian diet include soup, cheese, breakfast cereals, salty snacks (like chips and pretzels), baked goods like bread and crackers, processed meals like deli meats and sausages, and condiments and dips such as ketchup, soy sauce, and BBQ sauce.

**Caffeine:** Caffeine is found in coffee and coffee-based drinks, tea, colas, and energy drinks. Limit caffeine to no more than 400 mg a day. This is equal to two to three cups (eight ounces each) or 500 to 750 ml of coffee.

There are many foods that can affect blood pressure. When you start with small changes, improving what you eat and drink seems more manageable—your heart will thank you for it.

You can find more tips on managing blood pressure by visiting ahs.ca/nutritionhandouts and searching "Nutrition and Lifestyle Choices to Manage Blood Pressure".



### GAMES & PUZZLES Guess the School Tool!

- 1. In the early 1960s, the first one of these was created to assist with number manipulation.
- Before rubber, tablets of wax and crustless bread were both used at one point to do the job of this school tool.
- 3. A semi-circular measurement tool that deals with angles.
- An organizer typically characterized by its circular or D-shaped retainers.
- 5. The first of these vibrant, attention-drawing school tools was invented by Dr. Frank Hon in 1963.
- 6. Alphabetical reference books that are always being updated, named after the Latin word for "the act of speaking".



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### Cartoon Month

Yabba Dabba Doo! September seems to have been a lucky month for the animation studio Hanna-Barbera. Many of their iconic cartoons premiered in September, including *The Flintstones* (1960), *The Jetsons* (1962), *Scooby-Doo, Where Are You!* (1969), and their production of *The Smurfs* (1981).







Orthodontic services provided by Dr. A. Sharma, BSc, DMD, FRCD (Ortho).