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QUEENSLAND DIAMOND COVE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Season's Greetings all,

Recap from the Family Halloween Dance on October 25, it was a great success. We had 200 guests all dressed in their finest Halloween costumes, dance the night away. Our faithful Wicked Witch was also present giving the lucky children gifts and treats from her cauldron. Every half hour there were draws for prizes, our concession served pizza, chips, chocolate, juice, and water. This turned out to be our most successful membership drive yet, 14 memberships were sold on that night. Thanks to all who renewed their memberships to support our wonderful community centre.

Thank you to the following donors who provided the candy for the goody bags that were handed out this year: Brian Heritage, Jodi Pederson, Kathy McLean, and Karen Smith. Thank you to the following volunteers who helped decorate, work, and assemble the goody bags: Eva, Roy, Anita, Julie J., Nevelda, Judith, Sawyer, Maria, Linda, Jeff, and Martine.

Winter has now descended upon us, according to the Farmer's Almanac we should be having an easier winter, time will tell. Please make sure that you shovel your sidewalks, so that people can walk comfortably around the community. If you happen to live by a crosswalk or

bus stop, we thank you for taking a few extra minutes to shovel so that people with mobility issues and those pushing strollers have an easier walk. Also, if you are a snow angel and help others shovel, we thank you for the service you provide, it does not go unnoticed.

Come check out our wonderful rinks, by now they should be up and running, a big thank you to all the volunteers who take the time to flood, shovel, and keep the rinks in great shape. Please remember to stop by and skate, it is a great way to meet up with your friends in the community.

December is a slower month for activities at our centre as we have rented out most rooms thanks to our rentals. Did you know it is sometimes hard to get access to our rental spaces because they are requested year after year from our loyal renters.

Finally, a big thank you to all the community who put up lights this year, it makes these dark nights tolerable, take a drive around and admire them, it is a great way to get to know the neighbourhood.

Wishing everyone a wonderful holiday season.

Kind regards,

Martine



JOKE OF THE MONTH Why did the football coach go to the bank? To get his quarter back.



Hall Rental Rates (GST Included)		
	Rate	Period
Gym Use	\$65	Per hour
Gym Weddings Damage Deposit	\$550 \$250	Event
Daytime Function (maximum 5 hours prior to 5:00 pm)	\$190	Event
Boardroom, multi-purpose small meeting rooms	\$33	Per hour
Cleaning Fee for Functions (when required)	\$110	



The Food Box is a program where you can purchase fresh fruit and vegetables for a very low cost. This program is available to everyone to promote a healthy and nutritional living.

Apples | Bananas | Broccoli | Carrots Cauliflower | Celery | Cucumber | Lettuce Mushroom | Onions | Oranges | Potatoes Tomatoes | Green Pepper

*(selection will vary)

Large

35 to 40 pounds \$40

Medium

25 to 30 pounds \$35

Smal

15 to 20 pounds \$30

Order by	Delivery by	
December 2	December 11	
January 20	January 30	

For more information or to place an order, email ambervergo@gmail.com or call 403-278-3366.

Fingerprints

Though identical twins have the same DNA, they experience development differently. One interesting part of this, is that due to environmental factors in the womb they will not have the same fingerprints!



COOK'S CORNER

Baked Chicken and Asparagus



Ingredients

- 4 skinless, boneless chicken breasts about 1 1/2 lb
- 1 tsp Italian seasoning mix
- 1 tsp garlic powder
- 1 tsp smoked paprika
- Sea salt and pepper
- 12 asparagus stalks, ends trimmed
- 1 oz sun-dried tomatoes, chopped
- 4 slices mozzarella cheese
- 1 tbsp olive oil

Instructions

- 1. Preheat your oven to 400°F.
- 2. Place the chicken on a clean chopping board and sprinkle with Italian seasoning, garlic powder, paprika, salt, and pepper.
- 3. Start cutting each one lengthwise to create the pockets. Be careful not to cut all the way through.
- 4. Add three sprigs of asparagus and a couple of pieces of sun-dried tomatoes to a mozzarella slice, then roll it to hold them inside. Stuff the chicken breasts with it.
- 5. Close the pocket with a toothpick. Heat oil in a large cast-iron skillet over medium-high heat.
- 6. Add in the chicken and sear it until nicely golden brown, about 3 to 5 minutes per side.
- 7. Bake the chicken for 15 to 20 minutes, or until it is cooked through and no longer pink in the inside. Enjoy!

GAMES & PUZZLES

Guess the Christmas Song!

- 1. Brenda Lee was only 13 years old when she recorded this "new old-fashioned" Christmas favourite.
- 2. In December of 1965, this was the first song played in space. Hint: It is a classic written by James Lord Pierpont.
- 3. This song was originally called "Tinkle Bells".
- 4. Thurl Arthur Ravenscrof, the singer of this mean, green song, was also the voice of Tony the Tiger.
- 5. Sammy Cahn and Jule Styne ironically wrote this romantic winter song during a heat wave.
- 6. There are three official music videos for this modern Christmas song, as well as a celebrity lip-syncing montage video.



SCAN THE OR CODE FOR THE





DIAMOND COVE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Diamond Cove Residents,

As another year draws to a close, it's a wonderful time to pause, reflect, and celebrate everything that makes Diamond Cove such a special community. From our picturesque river pathways to our friendly greetings on frosty mornings, we are fortunate to call this beautiful corner of Calgary home.

A Year of Progress and Participation

This past year, your Board has been hard at work behind the scenes to strengthen the foundation of our Homeowners Association. We've been reviewing and updating our bylaws, a key step in ensuring they reflect today's needs while protecting the integrity of our community for years to come. A new draft will be shared in advance of our Annual and Special General Meetings in early 2026, where all members will have the opportunity to vote.

We've also taken feedback from residents to heart, particularly around landscaping and maintenance. While we did address concerns with our contractors during the year, we recognize that the planters did not meet expectations. We'll be reviewing options for 2026 to ensure that Diamond Cove's entrances and green spaces once again reflect the high standards our community is known for.

And of course, we continue to look at ways to use your annual levy responsibly, balancing costs with the quality of services that keep our neighbourhood safe, clean, and inviting.

Community Highlights

2025 was also a year of connection. Our playground celebration earlier this fall was a tremendous success, thank you to everyone who attended and helped make it such a memorable day! A big thank-you again to our sponsors, Horizon Compliance Group, and our anonymous donor, as well as the incredible crew from Fire Station #19 who delighted children with tours of the fire truck. These moments remind us how strong community partnerships can bring so much joy.

We've also continued to build communication and transparency through the *Queensland Diamond Cove Crier*, our Facebook page, and working toward direct

emails. Your participation, whether it's feedback, volunteering, or simply staying informed, keeps Diamond Cove vibrant and connected.

Holiday Cheer - Let's Light Up Diamond Cove!

Our annual Christmas Light Contest is here, and we can't wait to see Diamond Cove sparkle! Between December 11 and 24, our judges will be out admiring your creativity. Prizes will be awarded for first, second, and third place.

We are deeply grateful to residents who have contributed to our prize fund through e-transfer or donations and welcome additional contributions. Your generosity helps keep this cherished holiday tradition alive, one that brings smiles to children and adults alike as they stroll or drive through the neighbourhood on crisp December evenings.

Be a Great Neighbour This Winter

As the snow settles in, remember that community spirit shines brightly when we care for one another. A few small acts can make a big difference:

- Shovel a walkway or clear a storm drain.
- Help a neighbour with bins or errands.
- Drive slowly through our streets, especially with children and pets out playing.
- Check in with someone who may be alone during the holidays.

Last year, one neighbour's simple offer to help with snow shovelling turned into a lasting friendship. That's the kind of connection that makes Diamond Cove so special.

Winter Tips for Calgary Living

- Inspect your furnace and change filters, it keeps the air clean and heating bills lower.
- Test smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and replace batteries annually.
- Seal drafts around doors and windows to conserve heat.
- Clean eaves and gutters to prevent ice buildup and roof leaks.
- Dispose of hazardous waste properly, Cedarbrae Fire Station #24 and Seton Fire Station #41 accept household chemicals, paint, propane tanks, and batteries. You can always visit the City of Calgary's "What Goes Where" page or call 3-1-1 for details.

Gratitude and What's Ahead

To our dedicated volunteers and fellow Board members, thank you. Your commitment and countless hours make everything from community events to contract reviews possible. To our residents, thank you for your continued engagement, your feedback, and your care for this neighbourhood.

Looking ahead to 2026, our focus will be on finalizing the bylaw updates, reviewing service contracts to improve landscaping quality, and continuing to enhance communication and community engagement.

In Closing

As we gather with family, friends, and neighbours this holiday season, let's celebrate not only the beauty of the lights but the kindness that brightens our community all year long.

On behalf of the Diamond Cove Homeowners Association Board, I wish you a Merry Christmas, a joyful holiday season, and a happy, healthy start to 2026.

On behalf of the Diamond Cove Homeowners Association Board.

Sonia Dantu

President

dcovehoa@gmail.com







ALBERTAWOOD



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!



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Christmas Word Search



RESIDENT PERSPECTIVES

The Grip

Silent Contemplation by Rima Madi

I went outside to visit Mother Nature again, so I headed to the storm pond—a familiar place where I often exercise while doing laps around it. The storm pond greeted me today with a chill and a frozen layer that looked like a silver mirror, reflecting the beautiful seagulls that had inhabited it during the warmer months. I gave thanks, as usual, reflecting on the blessings and the hiccups that, without them, I might not have been outside in the first place.

In today's spiritual journey with Mother Nature, I looked up and saw a different dimension in the landscape—the sky in all her majesty, creating a shield above my head and protecting everything beneath it. Looking at the sky made me even more appreciative of the vastness of the infinite and the spiritual world that exists beyond our material life. The boundless and infinite dimension of the sky humbled me, reminding me how fragile and vulnerable we humans are compared to the immense field of energy that surrounds us.

This also reminded me of a quote from Michael Hart (2007):

"The goal of Indigenous knowledge is to understand and attempt to contain the energies that infuse everything in order to create a lifestyle that is harmonious with the local ecosystem" (p. 84).

While contemplating the sky, I also remembered Hart's discussion about the opening at the top of the tipi, which symbolizes the connection to the sky and our spiritual reach to the creator (Hart, 2007, p. 86).



The change in nature was very real. I felt it through the chill of the wind in our below-five-degree weather, heard it in the silence around the pond and the absence of people, and saw it in a seagull struggling to keep his grip on the thin frozen layer of ice that now covered the surface of the storm pond. The seagull was adapting to the change in his environment—what was once water just months ago had hardened into ice. Today, the seagull taught me to never lose my grip in times of change.

I felt the change with all my senses as I wrapped myself in layers of clothing to keep warm. Change is part of living, and to live is to change. To change, I must stay mindful of my long-term goals—whether they will help me transform my situation while staying true to my worldview, beliefs, and way of being.

I hope you, too, can embrace change in the beautiful way I embraced it today. I said goodbye to the beautiful spirit of the tiny white and silver seagull—grateful for his silent teaching and for showing me how to never lose my grip.

References

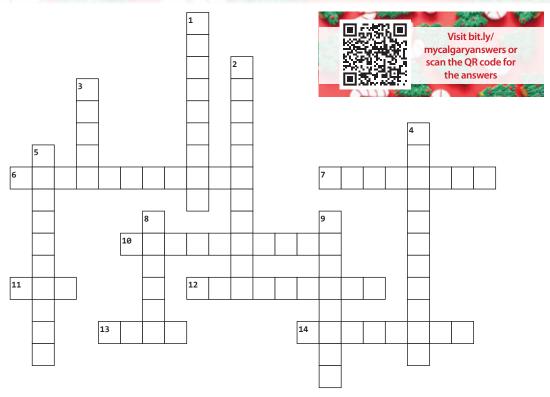
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ALLODOXAPHOBIA

Living in a society, we all feel a bit insecure or anxious about fitting in sometimes. But did you know there is actually a phobia called Allodoxaphobia that is the fear of other people's opinions? It is an anxiety disorder that can cause people to avoid engaging in discussions or debates for fear of being judged or criticized. Be kind out there! We're all just trying our best.

December Crossword



Across

- 6. The Statute of ______ passed on December 11, 1931, granting Canada full legislative independence from the British Empire.
- 7. 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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Merry Christmas!

As the holiday season approaches, I want to take a moment to extend my warmest wishes to you and your loved ones. This time of year is an opportunity to reflect on the past, celebrate our accomplishments, and look forward to the promise of a new year.

Whether you're gathering with family, connecting with friends, or simply enjoying the peace of the season, I hope your holidays are filled with joy, warmth, and gratitude.

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your MLA. I look forward to continuing our work together in the coming year to build a stronger, more vibrant Calgary-Fish Creek!

If you have questions, concerns, or ideas you'd like to share before spring session begins, please don't hesitate to reach out to my office at Calgary. FishCreek@assembly.ab.ca.

I always appreciate hearing from you.



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