# WALDEN LIFE

THE OFFICIAL WALDEN COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



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# **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

If you would like to volunteer on committees or other community related activities, please contact us at info@waldenyyc.ca, we would love to have you!

# Join Us:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/waldenyyc

# Walden Block Watch Page:

www.facebook.com/groups/waldenblockwatch
\*\* Proof of residency required to join the block watch page \*\*

New members asking to join must either live in or run a local business in the Calgary community of Walden. Along with your request to join, please PM proof of residency to Julia Wiencki. Proof of residency will be permanently deleted upon verification. Please allow up to a week for processing.

Acceptable forms of proof of residency:

- low-res photograph of a utility bill confirming address
- photograph of valid Walden Community Association membership
- low-res photograph of photo ID (please black out any identification numbers)



**Disclaimer:** The opinions expressed within any published article, report, or submission reflect those of the author and should not be considered to reflect those of Great News Media or the Community and/or Residents' Association. The information contained in this newsletter is believed to be accurate but is not warranted to be so.

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**Content Deadline:** Content for the newsletter is due by the first of the month, this includes pictures and content. See guidelines below.

Email: newsletter@waldenyyc.ca

**Articles:** you try to keep the word count to 300 words maximum. (The longer the article the less chance it will be picked up and published).

Pictures: Cover photos need to be 1MB and 300 dpi.

# WALDEN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

# **Board Listing**

President	Vacant
Secretary	Bim Adeniji
Treasurer	Chris Wiencki
Director at Large	Julia Wiencki
Director at Large	Nonye Opara
Director at Large	Ashis Ghosh

To contact the board, please email board@waldenca.ca.

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# SCAN HERE TO VIEW ADDITIONAL WALDEN CONTENT

News, Events, & More Crime Statistics O (A) (A) Real Estate Statistics

# **WALDEN REWARDS**

Walden has established its very first partnership!

Present your Walden Community membership card at Green Chili\* and receive 10% off your order!

\*Walden location only. Dine in or take out. Food items only.



# 

# **Tortellini and Spinach Soup**

by Jennifer Puri



Tortellini is an Italian bite-sized pasta which is stuffed with ricotta or parmesan cheese, pork, sausage, dried mushrooms, herbs, and vegetables.

This ring-shaped pasta is traditionally served in a broth, but tomato, mushroom, and meat sauces are also popular. Italy is recognized for its food culture and the work of rolling out the dough evenly and then cutting it into small squares, followed by the stuffing and shaping of the tiny tortellini which is an art in itself.

Tortellini and spinach soup is the perfect weeknight supper that can be enjoyed by every member of the family. It is delicious on its own or with a tossed salad and garlic or crusty bread.

Prep Time: 10 minutes

Cook Time: 15 minutes

Servings: 4 to 5

# **Ingredients:**

- 1 package spinach or cheese stuffed tortellini (350 gm)
- 1 tbsp. olive oil
- 3 garlic cloves, finely chopped
- 1 small yellow onion, finely chopped
- 6 tbsp. tomato paste
- 3 cups fresh spinach leaves, stems removed
- 2 carrots, chopped
- 10 cups of low sodium chicken broth
- 1/2 tsp. ground black pepper
- · Salt to taste
- 1 tsp. Italian seasoning
- 1 cup half and half cream

# **Garnish:**

- Grated parmesan cheese
- Parsley leaves
- Red chili flakes (optional)

### **Directions:**

- Place the olive oil, onion, garlic, and carrots in a medium size pot or Dutch oven. Sauté the vegetables until the onions are translucent, approximately 4 to 5 minutes.
- Add the tomato paste, Italian seasoning, salt, and pepper, stirring frequently. Next add the broth and bring to a boil. Add tortellini and cook until the tortellini is all dente, about 5 minutes.
- Reduce heat to low and gently add the half and half cream and the spinach leaves and continue to simmer for a couple of minutes or until spinach leaves are wilted and then remove from heat.
- Ladle the soup into bowls and garnish with grated parmesan cheese, parsley leaves, and chili flakes (optional).

### Note:

- Leftover soup can be stored in an airtight container and refrigerated for up to three days.
- Vegetarians can substitute the chicken broth with vegetable broth.

Bon Appétit!

# YOUR CITY OF CALGARY

# City of Calgary Home and Small Business Webinars

by the City of Calgary



Start your 2025 home renovation projects or new business idea off on the right foot by watching a City of Calgary Home and Small Business webinar. Our catalog of recorded webinars covers everything you need to know about indoor and outdoor home renovations, how to start a small business, building a secondary or backyard suite, and more.

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Access recorded webinars and stay up to date about upcoming live webinars and Q&As coming soon at calgary.ca/webinars.



# The Art of Finding Work - Jobseekers: Introduce Yourself with Style

by Nick Kossovan

Years ago, I attended a dinner party at which a relationship therapist was present. We were twelve, and some of us had never met. As you've probably experienced when attending a gathering, there's a tendency to split into pairs or trios, resulting in fragmented discussions. However, the relationship therapist took control by asking everyone at the table: "What's on your unofficial résumé? I'm a relationship therapist with a private practice. I enjoy hearing people's stories and how they got to where they are today."

### Not

- "How you're doing?"
- "What do you do for a living?"
- "How do you know Jackie and Nunzio [our hosts]?"

Her question probed deep, and all eyes were on her. How she introduced herself was an education in making a memorable introduction by being interesting and interested.

More impressive, while fictional, is how James Bond introduces himself to a glamourous woman, Sylvia Trench, and subsequently to the movie viewer, who's going head-to-head with him while playing chemin de fer at one of London's finest clubs, Les Ambassadeurs.

Bond: I admire your courage, Miss...?

Sylvia: Trench... Sylvia Trench... and I admire your luck, Mr...?

Bond: Bond... James Bond.

Of course, there's much more to this scene, such as Bond's playful mirroring of "Trench... Silvia Trench." After Sylvia loses her next hand, a man taps Bond on the shoulder, and Bond politely excuses himself. While walking to the front door, he arranges dinner with Sylvia and casually tips the doorman as we see on Sylvia's face, "Who is this man?" At no time does Bond linger.

I bring up the opening scene of the first Bond film, Dr. No (1962), because in under two minutes, you know

everything you need to know about James Bond: smooth, debonair, supremely self-confident, and risk-taking.

It's an art to introduce yourself in such a way that the other person wants to learn more about you, an art well worth learning. Whenever you meet someone for the first time, at a dinner party, the person you're paired up to play golf with, a new neighbour and especially your interviewer, how you introduce yourself is everything!

Are you introducing yourself as effectively as Bond or as memorable as the relationship therapist, cutting to the essence of who you are?

Most people are bad at introducing themselves—fumbling, rambling, and underselling themselves—even more so, thanks to social media eroding social skills. This is a problem. Like it or not, the first impression we make makes or break opportunities.

Being aware of what you're projecting about yourself is the first step in formulating an introduction that makes you interesting and, therefore, memorable so the other person is compelled to learn more about you.

# Don't Get "Lumped In"

When introducing themselves, people usually state their title and workplace. Wrong! When you say, "I'm an accountant for Wayne Enterprises," the other person immediately lumps you into their preconceived notion(s) of what you do and whom you work for. Engage their imagination instead.

Bad: "I'm a software engineer at Yoyodyne."

**Good:** "I build tools for venture capitalists at a quirky startup called Yoyodyne; it's been a great ride so far! Technically, I am an engineer; therefore, I find myself dealing with product and design work, which I've discovered I'm good at."

# **Tell A Micro-Story**

If you want to make a memorable introduction, introduce yourself in the form of a story. Storytelling is how humans learn because stories are mentally sticky.

**Bad:** "I moved to Toronto for work. I'm a project manager at BXJ Technologies."

This introduction is boring because most (hand-raised) people in Toronto moved to Toronto for work.

**Good:** "I'm a bit of a third culture kid. I grew up in Singapore and London, which explains my accent. I moved to Toronto to experience new energy. Ultimately, I fell in love with project management, Cabano's Cheeseburgers and Toronto's bubbly art scene."

### Consider "Hooks"

Ideally, your introduction should lead to a meaningful conversation; therefore, try to fill your introduction story with a hook, such as a unique experience, an interesting fact or a comparison—a great way to create a visual—to arouse interest and spark a conversation.

Bad: "I'm a financial lawyer."

**Good:** "Have you seen the movie Dark Waters about the guy who took Dupont to court for millions of dollars? Well, I'm like that guy, only less stressed and famous, and I work for a bank."

# **Highlight Your Unique Journey**

Everyone has a story. Introducing what makes yours unique will make you interesting and memorable.

Most likely, like me, you've had an unconventional career path:

"Believe it or not, I began my career as a barista. Pouring coffee gave me considerable experience in customer service and time efficiency. With those skills, I now manage St. Eligius Hospital's administration staff, ensuring the inpatient experience is as stress-free as possible."

Consider weaving into your introduction:

- Countries or cities you've lived in: "I've called three continents home..."
- An unusual hobby: "When I'm not crunching numbers, I'm usually rock climbing..."
- Volunteer experience: "I spend my weekends..."
- An unexpected skill: "My theatre experience often proves useful in board meetings..."



# **GAMES & PUZZLES**

# **Guess the Instrument!**

- 1. Dating back at least 50,000 years, this is considered the oldest known musical instrument in the world.
- 2. This instrument's name comes from the Persian word meaning "three-stringed."
- 3. This instrument is made up of 88 keys that strike 230 strings.
- 4. Along with the shamrock, this instrument is the official State emblem of Ireland.
- 5. This instrument is played with a bow made up of at least 150 individual hairs.
- 6. The Fender Stratocaster is this kind of instrument.



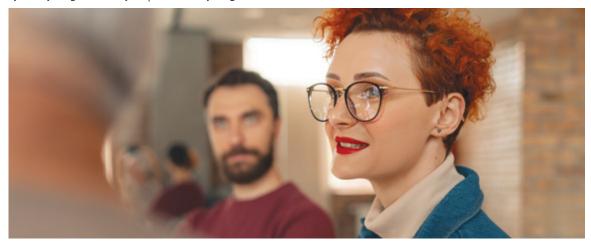


SCAN THE QR CODE FOR THE



# **How to Be a Great Communicator**

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



Just because we speak and understand the same language doesn't necessarily mean we are good communicators. One of the most common reasons couples seek my services is to learn better ways to communicate. The list below is for anyone who would like to hone their own skills.

### Let's Start with Some Bad Habits in Communication:

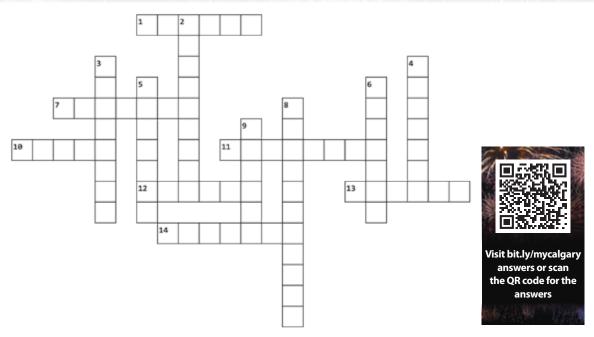
- **1. Interrupting** This can make it seem like you don't care what the other person is saying. Yes, sometimes I get excited and blurt things out but it's important to acknowledge the other and be respectful to allow them to continue. This can also be an issue if you are neurodivergent, and the speaker doesn't know this.
- **2. Story-Topping** This can shift the conversation from connection to competition.
- **3. Bright-Siding** Always encouraging others to be positive or look on the bright-side can be invalidating. Toxic positivity is a thing, allow others to feel what they are feeling.
- **4. Being Right** The conversation becomes a debate or about being right. Try to listen to understand the other's point of view... you might learn something new.
- **5. Being All-Knowing** Explaining information without being asked for your expertise. This can sometimes make you look like a know-it-all.

**6. Advising** – Sometimes people just want empathy or just to be heard. They didn't ask for your advice. Do not offer it unsolicited. This can also be seen a boundary violation.

# **Here Are Some Habits of Good Communicators:**

- **1. They create conversational safety** free from judgement, fault finding, or rejection. Just be there to listen.
- **2.** They validate other people's feelings with statements like; that makes sense, of course, or I get that. It doesn't mean you have to feel the same way, but you are showing that how they feel is valid.
- **3. They follow their natural curiosity** by asking questions that show interest and seeking to know more. Nothing feels better than someone showing interest in what you have to say or wanting to get to know you better.
- **4.** They listen with their whole body by being fully present while listening; not looking around or looking at their phone and are giving non-verbal cues that they are fully engaged such as eye contact and facing the speaker.
- **5. They hear what's beneath the words** by reading the speaker's body language, tone of voice, and facial expressions. This is an art form of attuning to another.

# January Crossword



# Across

- 1. Ice-hockey player and co-founder of a popular restaurant franchise, Miles Gilbert "Tim" \_\_\_\_\_, was born on January 12, 1930, in Cochrane, Ontario.
- 7. World \_\_\_\_\_ Day on January 4 marks awareness of a form of communication for blind and visually impaired people.
- 10. On January 2, 2010, American singer-songwriter \_\_\_\_\_\_'s debut single, "TiK ToK," reached number one on the Billboard Hot 100.
- 11. This iconic Aretha became the first female artist to be inducted in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame on January 3, 1987.
- 12. This TV series first premiered on January 12, 1966, starring Adam West as the titular character and tells the story of a superhero who fights crime in Gotham City.
- 13. Legendary comedian, Jim \_\_\_\_\_\_, was born on January 17, 1962, in Newmarket, Ontario.
- 14. Disney's popular TV movie, *High School Musical*, premiered on January 20, 2006, starring Zac Efron, Ashley Tisdale, and Vanessa \_\_\_\_\_\_.

### Down

- 2. Franklin D. \_\_\_\_\_ was sworn in for his fourth term as US President on January 20, 1945, becoming the only US President to do so.
- 3. Romance novel, *Call Me by Your Name*, by André Aciman, was published on January 23, 2007, and later became a film starring Timothée ...
- 4. On January 7, 1610, Galileo Galilei discovered the first three moons of this planet the largest in our solar system.
- 5. British actress and singer, Cynthia Erivo, who plays \_\_\_\_\_ in *Wicked*, was born on January 8, 1987.
- 6. Steve \_\_\_\_\_ and Steve Jobs officially incorporated Apple Computer, Inc. on January 3, 1977, in California.
- 8. "Wedding March", composed by Felix \_\_\_\_\_, was first played at the wedding of Princess Victoria and Prince Frederick William of Prussia on January 25, 1858.
- 9. The first Winter Olympic Games officially opened on January 25, 1924, in Chamonix, \_\_\_\_\_\_.



MP Calgary Midnapore Stephanie Kusie 204 – 279 Midpark Way SE Calgary, AB T2X 1M2

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≤ stephanie.kusie.c1@parl.gc.ca stephaniekusiemp.ca

Happy New Year, Calgary Midnapore!

It's hard to believe that 2025 is already here! I hope you had a relaxing holiday season with your loved ones and welcomed in the New Year with those closest to you!

As we enter 2025, I want to remind constituents of the federal services my office can help you with. Whether it be Service Canada supports (EI, CPP, OAS, CRA), Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), or Passport Canada, we are here to help! For more information, please visit my website at www.StephanieKusieMP.ca and navigate to the correct service tab to ensure my office can assist you in a timely manner.

During the holiday season, I partnered with the Calgary Food Bank and Project Warmth Society of Alberta to donate much needed food and winter clothing for those in need in our city. Thank you to all constituents who were able to stop by my office and donate – it is always wonderful to see our community come together and support those who need it most.

My Conservative colleagues and I are heading into the new Parliamentary Session ready to fight for Canadians and lower the cost of living. We will continue to hold the government to account and ensure the voices of everyday workers and seniors are heard in the House of Commons.

I encourage you to follow me on social media to stay up to date on my work in Ottawa on your behalf - @StephanieKusie on X and Instagram, @StephanieKusiePolitician Facebook, @StephanieKusieMP on YouTube.

May 2025 be a year of good health and prosperity for you and your family.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Kusie

MP Calgary Midnapore



Councillor, Ward 14 **Peter Demong** 

403-268-1653

≥ eaward14@calgary.ca

www.calgary.ca/ward14

Happy New Year!

The holiday season is such a great time of year. With friends and family, Christmas time brings such great feelings. It is a warm refuge when it is dark and cold outside, but I must admit that knowing the days are getting longer makes me happy. It is time to say goodbye to 2024 and welcome what 2025 has in store.

I will start the year off with a reminder about your annual property tax assessment and how to set yourself up for monthly payments. I will also talk about protecting your water pipes, the Calgary Awards, and some winter opportunities in Calgary's downtown and parks.

Feel free to contact me any time, and don't forget to visit calgary.ca/ward14 for the full version of this column. The best way to contact me is by visiting calgary.ca/contactward14 or calling 403-268-1653.

Sincerely,

Councillor Peter Demong





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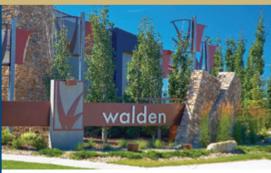
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# Puppet Master

What do Yoda, Cookie Monster, and Miss Piggy have in common? They were all brought to life by the legendary puppeteer Frank Oz! From a wise Jedi Master to a cookie-loving monster and a diva pig, Oz's incredible talent made these characters unforgettable.





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		Properties		Median Price	
		Listed	Sold	Listed	Sold
November	24	17	20	\$509,900	\$502,500
October	24	24	17	\$614,900	\$607,000
September	24	25	15	\$619,000	\$615,000
August	24	24	22	\$556,950	\$552,500
July	24	24	18	\$454,450	\$458,750
June	24	23	19	\$495,000	\$495,000
May	24	32	31	\$529,999	\$530,000
April	24	23	30	\$517,400	\$523,000
March	24	33	24	\$462,500	\$492,500
February	24	22	13	\$419,900	\$460,000
January	24	19	25	\$514,888	\$514,888
December	23	11	8	\$507,400	\$493,500

To view more detailed information that comprise the above MLS averages please visit wald.mycalgary.com

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