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17 Avenue: Our Neighbour for More Than a Century

November begins a new governance year for the Mount Royal Community Association following our Annual General Meeting and Board elections. We welcome new directors, welcome back those continuing for another term, and thank those who have completed their service to the community.

The Board now turns from elections to the practical work of the year ahead: maintaining Mount Royal Station, overseeing finances and facilities, responding to planning and development matters, supporting community programs and preparing for winter. Watch for information about the outdoor rink and seasonal activities, including Skate with Santa. As always, these programs depend heavily on volunteers and community participation.

November is also a good time to look beyond our residential streets at something that has shaped life in Mount Royal for generations: 17 Avenue.

It is difficult today to imagine 17 Avenue without shops, restaurants and traffic. But its transformation into a commercial street can be traced surprisingly precisely to one piece of technology: the streetcar.

Calgary inaugurated its municipal street railway in 1909. Within months, tracks had been extended west along 17 Avenue SW as far as 14 Street. In 1912, the line pushed farther west to 24 Street, where streetcars turned at the Killarney Loop and travelled back east along 17 Avenue. City planning documents note that a 17 Avenue business district developed rapidly as a result.

For residents of the developing Mount Royal neighbourhood, the implications were significant. The streetcar put homes on the hill within convenient reach of downtown while simultaneously bringing customers past the neighbourhood's northern edge. Instead of 17 Avenue being simply another east-west road, it became a transportation corridor, and commerce followed the tracks.

The streetcars eventually disappeared, but the commercial pattern they helped establish did not.

Some of the businesses that followed have themselves become part of Calgary history. Mona Lisa Artists' Materials began in 1959 when John and Hannah Beeger sold art supplies from the back of the Buy Rite grocery store at 17 Avenue and 7 Street. By 1968, they had opened Mona Lisa Artist Salon at the location where the family business continues today.

Rubaiyat has another remarkable connection to the avenue. David and Pam Haight established the business in 1973 and moved to 17 Avenue in 1978, taking over a building that had previously housed the National Bakery. Evidence of that earlier life survived inside: old bakery freezers became storage rooms and a conveyor belt remained running up the wooden stairwell.

Other familiar names accumulated around them. Kalamata Grocery Store dates to 1978. Reid's Stationers was founded on the avenue by John and Moira Reid in 1984. Caffe Beano arrived in 1990. The framing business at 1232 17 Avenue traces its origins to U Frame It, which opened there in 1974. Several of these businesses have now served multiple generations of Calgarians.

Even the organization of the street's businesses has history. In 1984, what was then called Uptown 17 became Calgary's first business improvement area, alongside Marda Loop, and only the second such organization established in Alberta. Its original territory stretched from Macleod Trail to 15 Street before the boundaries were reorganized in the early 1990s.

So, the relationship between Mount Royal and 17 Avenue is not simply that we happen to live beside a convenient shopping street.

For more than a century, the two have developed together. The same streetcar that helped make Mount Royal practical as an early residential suburb helped turn the road at the bottom of the hill into a commercial district. The streetcars gave way to automobiles, grocery stores became restaurants and boutiques, buildings changed occupants and 17 Avenue eventually acquired a city-wide identity.

But the basic relationship established more than a century ago remains remarkably familiar.

We live on the hill.

And Calgary still comes to 17 Avenue.

Rob Smith

After Divorce: Who Pays for University

by Christopher Bungay, Divorce Lawyer



In Alberta, someone who is 18 years old is normally considered to be an adult. An 18-year-old can vote, buy real estate in their own personal name, and make their own personal medical choices. However, if an 18-year-old is pursuing post high-school education, he or she may also qualify as an "adult dependent child." What does this mean?

An "adult dependent child" is an adult who, based on their personal life circumstances, must continue to rely upon their parents for financial support. This does not include a child who can function well and just chooses to stay home and do nothing. However, it does include the following:

- A young adult who attends post-secondary education immediately after high school, and
- Who cannot pay for their own education without the financial support of their parents.

Many parents believe (mistakenly) that if they are separated or divorced before a child is 18, they are no longer required to pay for the child's future education. This belief is often incorrect. Even after a divorce, many parents will have ongoing obligation to support adult dependent children who attend university (or some other post-high school training program). Whether a parent must pay, and how much, often depends upon a) how much a parent earns, and b) how much the adult child can reasonably be expected to fund on their own.

For example, if one of the parents earns a substantial income, it is very likely this high-earning parent will be required to assist their child financially with post-secondary education. While there are kids who can go to university on a full scholarship, most adult children cannot attend university or college without some help from their parents. In cases where an adult child/student clearly needs financial help, parents will often have a legal obligation to assist with paying for education. In many cases, this will apply even if the parents were divorced or separated prior to the time the adult child started university/college.

This does not mean that adult children have no responsibility to pay their own way. The law recognizes that adult children must make some effort to fund their own education and training. For example, if an adult child has a summer job during university break, they would be expected to try and use their earnings to help cover some of their tuition costs. Further, if Mom and Dad have very low earnings, it would be reasonable to expect their child to apply for student loans to help fund post-secondary costs.

In some cases, a parent will be required to help fund education even if their child did not live with them prior to university. Let's say a couple separated in July 2025, shortly before their child entered grade 12 in September 2025. For the grade 12 year, the child decided to live with Mom, while Dad lived in his own residence alone. In this case, Dad earned a high-income and Mom's earnings were very low. If this adult child went to university in September 2026 (after high school graduation) it is very likely Dad would still be required to help pay university costs, even though the child did not live with Dad in the prior year.

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November Crossword



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

Across

6. Directed by Guillermo del Toro, this retelling of a famous novel was released November 7, 2025.

7. This warm yellow gemstone is said to prevent injury and bring strength. It is also November's birthstone.

8. Born November 10, 1989, this actor is most recently known for his role as Dr. Frank Langdon on *The Pitt*.

10. As a treat during the fall, this fruit is typically dipped in melted chocolate or caramel and then covered with various toppings.

11. In Greek mythology this man is cursed to push a boulder up a mountain for all eternity.

12. Born November 7, 1913, Albert _____ was the French philosopher who wrote *The Stranger* in1942.

Down

1. Good for tea and relaxation, these spidery flowers are the birth flower of November.

2. Remembrance Day is celebrated in Canada on what day of November?

3. Watch your French fries! Despite their oceanic nickname, these white and gray birds are found inmany parts of Alberta, including Calgary parking lots.

4. This Indian celebration known as the "Festival of Lights" happens between mid to late-October and mid-November.

5. Toni _____, born November 1, 1972, is an Australian actress who has been in an impressive collection of movies including, *"The Sixth Sense, Little Miss Sunshine, and Knives Out"*.

9. These small brown nuts come from oak trees and have a distinct cup shape.

Remembering and Reconnecting

by Rebecca Pink



November gives us a moment to pause and honour, with deep gratitude, those who served and sacrificed for others, and those who continue to serve today. It is also a reminder that remembering is something we all carry in different ways. Remembrance is not limited to one day or one kind of loss, it can take many shapes, often quietly woven into our everyday lives. Sometimes remembering brings comfort; other times, it brings sadness, longing, or emotions we weren't expecting. There is no right way to remember or feel. We can continue to try to make room for whatever comes, with a little gentleness and self-compassion,

Grief is something that many people carry quietly. I know this from my own experience as well. It can be complicated, heavy, and unpredictable, bringing waves of emotions that can shift from one day to the next. We don't always talk about it, and sometimes we may feel as though we are expected to "move on" or "be fine". However, grief doesn't follow a timeline and is never linear. We can make room for both the sadness of what is no longer here and the gratitude for once was.

November can be a challenging month for many of us. The days grow shorter, the temperatures drop, and for many of us, our energy shifts with the season. Rather than seeing this as something we need to push through, maybe it can be an invitation to slow down and check in with ourselves. What might you need a little more of right now? Rest? Connection? Time for yourself and your loved ones?

November gives us an opportunity to pause, remember, and reconnect. We might reach out to someone we haven't spoken to in a while, revisit a memory, or make a little more room for the people and experiences that matter to us. For those carrying grief, these moments of connection can be especially meaningful. Sometimes remembering together is a way of reminding ourselves that we don't have to carry it alone.

As we move through November, I also want to take a moment to remember and honour those who have served and continue to serve, and the families who stand alongside them.

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Protect Your Household Water Line and Meter from Freezing



Every winter, some Calgarians will experience frozen water pipes, service lines, and water meters, resulting in a water outage. The City's Frozen Pipes Prevention Program works proactively with homes considered at higher risk due to factors such as location, depth, configuration of water pipes, and history of freezing. Recently we have noticed an increase in frozen pipes in homes that are typically at a lower risk, taking some of the steps below could have prevented household pipes from freezing.

Ways to Avoid Freezing Include:

- Keeping your thermostat at a minimum of 15°C, even if you're away from home.
- Eliminate any cold drafts in unheated areas where water supply lines are located. This can include basements, crawl spaces, attics, garages, and under bathroom and kitchen cabinets.
- Repair broken windows, check doors and insulate areas that allow cold exterior air to enter.
- Insulate your hot and cold-water pipes located in cold areas.
- Open interior doors and cabinets in cold areas to allow heat from the house to warm unprotected pipes.
- Turn off, disconnect, and drain the water line to outside faucets, garden hoses, pools, or decorative water features.
- If your hot water tank is in a maintenance room outside of your home, make sure the area is adequately heated.
- Regularly run water in your pipes through everyday use.

Visit calgary.ca/frozenpipes to learn more, including actions you can take if you suspect you have frozen pipes.

Create More Memories and Less Waste this Holiday Season



The best holiday memories aren't found under the tree. They're made with the people we spend time with.

During the holidays, Calgarians generate about 25% more waste from wrapping paper, packaging, and leftover food. As you get ready for the season, here are a few simple ways to create more memories and less waste:

- Gift experiences instead of things, like tickets, memberships or a day out together.
- Make a gift with a personal touch, such as homemade cookies, a photo book or a handmade gift.
- Shop locally to reduce shipping materials and packaging waste.
- Borrow, swap or share decorations with neighbours, friends or family.
- Reuse gift bags and bows or wrap gifts with fabric.
- Stick to a grocery list, use leftovers or send extras home with guests.

For more holiday waste reduction tips, visit calgary.ca/our-city/articles/calgary-conversations-podcast-015-howland-wark.html.

Winter Parking Choices Matter Around Schools



As days get shorter and winter conditions arrive, visibility around schools becomes even more important. Snowbanks, early darkness, and icy roads can make it harder to see children crossing streets. Parking rules help reduce these risks by keeping corners, crosswalks, and sidewalks clear. Parking too close to intersections or in prohibited areas can further limit sightlines when visibility is already reduced. Choosing safe, legal parking options and allowing extra time during winter conditions helps protect students and families during the busiest parts of the school day. Learn more: calgaryparking.com/safeschools.

Can You See? Winter Conditions can Make School Areas Harder to Navigate

When visibility is reduced, small parking choices can make a big difference near schools. Shorter days, snow, ice, and changing weather can make it harder for children and drivers to see each other. School areas remain busy during drop-off and pick-up times, with children and families walking, wheeling, cycling, taking the bus, and driving. When vehicles stop or park in the wrong place, they can block sightlines at crosswalks, corners, sidewalks, driveways, bus zones, and school entrances. Even a quick stop can make it harder for children, families and drivers to see one another clearly.

The Calgary Parking School Patrol Program helps support safer school journeys throughout the school year. Parking Safety and Compliance Officers visit school areas where there are recurring parking or stopping concerns. They focus on education, reminders, and visibility. Enforcement may be used when unsafe parking continues or creates a safety or access issue.

Drivers can help by slowing down, leaving extra travel time, and choosing a safe, legal place to stop or park. Sometimes the safest choice is parking a little farther away and walking the remaining distance. Keeping crossings, corners, and travel lanes clear helps everyone move more safely. Before stopping near a school, ask yourself a simple question: Can children and drivers see each other clearly?

Students can help make school journeys safer by entering the Travel Safe Student Video Contest Parking category. Students are encouraged to submit creative video ideas that show how safe parking choices help everyone travel to and from school. Learn more about school-area safety and the Travel Safe Student Video Contest at CalgaryParking.com/SafeSchools.



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