

ROCKY RIDGE ROYAL OAK *View*



THE OFFICIAL VOICE OF THE ROCKY RIDGE ROYAL OAK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION | MAY 2025

Your Community Newsletter Since 2005

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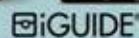
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ROCKY RIDGE ROYAL OAK View

THE OFFICIAL VOICE OF THE ROCKY RIDGE ROYAL OAK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Community and Residents Associations

Rocky Ridge Royal Oak Community Association

403-879-2820 • communications@rrroca.org • www.rrroca.org

Rocky Ridge Ranch Homeowners Association

10709 Rocky Ridge Blvd NW
Calgary, AB T3G 4G1
403-547-6633 • info@rrrha.ca • www.rrrha.ca

Royal Oak Estates Homeowners Association

info@roeha.ca • www.roeha.ca

The Cascades in Royal Oak Residents Association

Email: contact@cascadesroyaloak.com
Website: cascadesroyaloak.com

Elected Officials

Ward 1 Councillor: Sonya Sharp
403-268-2430
ward1@calgary.ca

MLA: Rajan Sawhney
403-297-7104
calgary.northwest@assembly.ab.ca

MP: Pat Kelly, Calgary Rocky Ridge
403-282-7980
pat.kelly@parl.gc.ca

Editor & Article Submissions editor@suburbanjournals.ca
Submission deadlines for this monthly publication are the 10th of the month, prior to the distribution month.

Advertising Sales: sales@suburbanjournals.ca
The ad booking deadline is the 14th of the month prior to the distribution month.

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Save the Date

RRROCA's next casino fundraiser is September 18 and 19, 2025 at Elbow River Casino. Look for details in May's Newsletter or contact Casino@RRROCA.org for more information.

Councillor Report

Hello, Ward 1! As spring settles in, I want to take a moment to update you on communications from the Ward 1 Office. Starting June 1, there will be restrictions on what we can share, including City-funded newsletters, open houses, and mass emails, which will only be permitted in emergency situations. With that in mind, this will be the last community newsletter from our office until the election in October.

As we move into the summer months, I hope you have the chance to enjoy all that this season has to offer, whether it's spending time outdoors, supporting local businesses, or simply enjoying the company of family and friends. Wishing you all a wonderful and relaxing summer!

Waste and Recycling Collection

As the weather warms up, it's a great time to check your waste and recycling collection schedule. From April 1 to May 29, Calgary residents can drop off their yard waste for free at City landfills. The yard waste will be composted instead of thrown away, making it easier to keep your garden tidy and reduce landfill waste. Composting food scraps and yard trimmings is a simple way to help the environment and enrich your garden. For guidance on what can go in the Green Cart, visit the Green Cart Food and Yard Waste program. For more information, visit: Garbage, recycling and composting pickup schedule.

Parks and Pathways Maintenance

The City's Parks Department is busy with regular maintenance of our beautiful parks, pathways, and green spaces. If you see any areas that require attention, such as damaged benches or littering, don't hesitate to report it through the 311 service. Ensuring these areas remain safe and clean is a community effort. For more information on park and pathway management, visit or Parks maintenance and operations or Pathway maintenance and management. Best regards,

Sonya Sharp, Councillor, Ward 1

Hon. Rajan Sawhney

MLA, Calgary-North West
Minister of
Advanced Education

Constituency Office:
#7223, 8650 112 Ave NW
Calgary, AB T3R 0R5

Ph: 403 297.7104

Email: Calgary.Northwest
@assembly.ab.ca



BUDGET 2025: Supporting Alberta and Albertans

Alberta's Budget 2025 was tabled at the end of February. It contains several measures to help individuals, families and our provincial prosperity.

Benefitting everyone is an income tax cut. Effective retroactively to January 1, 2025 (you'll see it by your July 1, 2025 paycheque), income below the \$60,000 threshold is taxed at 8%, down from 10%. Other tax brackets remain the same. For people earning less than \$60,000, the savings will be about 20% in provincial taxes. Those earning above \$60,000 will see a reduction of up to \$750/year. This is intended to help Albertans in the face of US tariff policies and the continual rise in the cost of living.

The budget also allocates \$10 million over two years to increase hospital capacity by identifying under-used or vacant space and preparing it for redevelopment. In Calgary, targeted facilities include the *Peter Lougheed* and the *Tom Baker*. There is also \$265 million to increase operating room capacity. These investments build on the recently completed \$84-million expansion of the intensive care, coronary care and endoscopy units at the *Rockyview*, which increased staffed bed capacity by almost 50%; plus the opening of the world-class *Arthur J.E. Child Cancer Centre*.

The budget includes \$1.1 billion over three years for **4,000 more teachers and support staff**. There is also \$55 million to address special learning needs.

Budget 2025 will invest more than \$8.5 billion in the transportation **three-year capital plan**, an increase of \$333.7-million over 2024. This includes \$2.1 billion over three years for projects in the Calgary region such as **improvements to Deerfoot Trail**, \$1.7 billion for existing infrastructure maintenance, \$3.9 billion for municipal infrastructure including Calgary's **Green Line**, and planning funds for a future **link to the airport** from the LRT network.



Alberta.ca/budget

Volunteer Corner

Volunteer from Home

Volunteers are always important to RRROCA as we work to make Royal Oak & Rocky Ridge an even better community. Thankfully, most of the work required can be done from your home. So if you are interested in living in a great community, and can spare a few hours in a month, please consider volunteering for RRROCA!



In addition to making an impact, you will certainly learn new skills, gain valuable volunteer experience and meet more neighbours. Please email volunteer@rrroca.org if you are interested in the following positions or have any questions about volunteering with RRROCA. Please check out our website at www.rrroca.org for all volunteer opportunities.

Programs Chair(s), and Lead(s) [CRITICAL]

The Programs team provides opportunities for the communities' diverse residents to participate in various programming and activities. The team will develop, implement and evaluate programs and activities in the community, coordinate and oversee the annual spring youth sports program (i.e. soccer, tball), and look for opportunities to expand programming (learn to skate, basketball, field hockey, etc). Planning for 2022 spring sports needs to begin immediately, if you believe you can assist, please reach out ASAP.

Time Commitment: Minimum 10 hours/month, will vary based on scheduled programming

Membership Chair

The Membership Chair promotes, encourages and sees to administration tasks associated with managing the members of the Community Association. The Chair also explores and works with other committees to implement opportunities of benefits for membership.

Time commitment: Approx 10 hours a month

Events Lead

With direction from the Events Chair, an Event Lead helps to execute specific events, from the planning stage to the wrap up.

Time commitment: Approximately 2-5 hours/month (not including event attendance)

Did You Know?

Volunteering for RRROCA as a Board or a Committee member will:

1. gain valuable volunteering experience and essential work skills;
2. know the first-hand community news;
3. get the RRROCA membership (\$30) or one sport registration for free (~\$50 or \$65) annually;
4. the most important: help us to build a thriving community



ROCKY RIDGE RANCH
HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION
Rocky Ridge Ranch Homeowners Association
10709 Rocky Ridge Blvd NW
Calgary, AB T3G 4G1
Phone: 403-547-6633 Fax: 403-547-6634
www.rrrha.ca info@rrrha.ca
Office Hours
Updates to office hours are available online.

ROCKY RIDGE RANCH
HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

Dear Rocky Ridge Ranch/Royal Oak Homeowners,

A big thank-you to everyone who has already paid their 2025 HOA fees—we truly appreciate it. If you haven't submitted your payment yet, please remember that penalties will apply for late payments after **March 31, 2025**.

We have a limited number of Special Memberships available for Royal Oak homeowners. For more details please call our office 403-547-6633 or visit our website www.rrrha.ca.

Exciting news—this year, we have two fantastic **summer camps** coming up, along with a **Babysitting Course** and a **Stay Home Safe program** this spring.

Kathy Elick, Operations Manager, RRRHA

Rocky Ridge Royal Oak Community Association Casino 2025 Fundraiser

What:

Volunteers needed to fill roles including General Manager, Banker, Cashier, Chip Runners and Count Room Staff – all roles are easy and highly supported

When:

Thursday, September 18 and Friday, September 19, 2025

Where:

Elbow River Casino (218 18 Avenue SE)

Why:

Previous Casino funds have been used for the Royal Oak Way rink & community cost of the William D Pratt Sport Co playground, and much more

Join our team for a few hours of fun, giving back to our community - ScaCasino@RRROCA.org for more information!



Royal Oak School Council and Fundraising Society News

March was Literacy Month at Royal Oak School!

Thanks to all the families who donated pre-loved books & puzzles toward our Book Drive. Unfortunately we had to postpone the book sale initially planned during parent-teacher conferences. Stay tuned for updated sale dates!

Thanks to Crowfoot Library for hosting our families; activities included story time, crafts & games. We had over 100 people in attendance!

Congratulations to all our students who participated in the annual Read-a-Thon! Over 300 amazing students took part and over 80% of students met their reading goals! All money raised from the Read-a-Thon will help fund materials and activities for our school not covered by the school budget.

A HUGE thank you to all our donors who generously provided prizes for our students!

Calaway Park	London Drugs
Cenozon Inc.	Maverick Donuts
Cloud Land	Milestones
Cobs Bread	Red Swan Pizza
Five Guys	Rocky Ridge Royal Oak Community Assoc
Flying Squirrel	Royal Oak School Council
Indigo	Royal Oak School Fundraising Society
Landmark Cinemas	Steamoji
Laser City	Subway
Little Red Reading House	Tim Hortons

ROS Volunteer Appreciation

A big thank you to all our volunteers who have helped make our events a tremendous success, including Movie Night, Alien Inline skating, Healthy Hunger, Hug & Go, as well as ongoing at our school. We are always looking for new volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering, please email ROSVolunteers@gmail.com.

Healthy Hunger snacks and lunches are scheduled for the remainder of the school year. Log into www.healthyhunger.ca to order!

Want to get involved?

Royal Oak School Council and Fundraising Society do so much to create a welcoming community atmosphere at our school – but we need your help! Do you have time to volunteer? Do you have fun ideas that will help bring our school community together? Do you want to give back to the school in a meaningful way? Be part of building the ROS Community!

Join us at an upcoming Royal Oak School Council and Fundraising Society meeting or email roschoolcouncil@gmail.com

Upcoming dates are:

May 12, 2025 – 6:30 to 8:30pm
June 9, 2025 – 6:30 to 8:30pm

Do You Have Your RRROCA Membership?

In addition to the benefits listed below, 100% of membership fees go directly into program and resources funding, and future facilities development. The greater our membership base, the more funds we will have for projects, programs, and initiatives! We need your help with funds to continue dealing with municipal and provincial issues that affect your daily life.



Please visit our membership page at rrroca.org to sign up for a membership, or email membership@rrroca.org if you have any questions.

Benefits of RRROCA Membership

- Here are some of the current benefits of RRROCA membership, please visit our website regularly for updates.
- Access to RRROCA's Babysitter Registry
 - Register for community events and programs such as spring sports programs for children, parade of garage sales, etc. winning one of ten \$100 to hold block parties on Neighbour Day, etc.
 - Borrow materials for hosting your own block party
 - Purchase discounted tickets or enter draws as available annually
 - Receive free pancake breakfast at annual Stampede Breakfast event
 - Provide recreational insurance at Sports Program offered by RRROCA
 - Accepted by Calgary West Soccer for their program registration
 - Receive product and services discounts at participating local businesses (Membership Perks). Visit our website at www.rrroca.org to review the active offerings. **

We are continuously working to expand our Membership Perks Program. If you are a business owner who would like to provide product and/or services discounts to RRROCA members, please contact our membership team at membership@rrroca.org.

RRROCA Membership Registration

One Membership per household; valid January 1 to December 31 annually.

\$30 New membership Membership Renewal

Your personal information will be used for Association purposes only and will never be given to third parties.

Last Name: _____

First Name: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____ Phone #: _____

Email*: _____

* Please note e-mail is used to communicate your membership number. If you choose "No" for updates below, the e-mail will be on file but won't be included in our news mailing list.

Would you like RRROCA news and updates by email? Yes No

Send form and cheque to: **RRROCA Membership**
P.O. Box 91009, RPO Royal Oak
Calgary, AB T3G 5W6

Important Phone Numbers

If you require emergency supports to meet basic needs, income support is available 24-7.

- Income Support Contact Centre: 1-866-644-5135

For anyone facing family violence, bullying or abuse, the following resources are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, in more than 170 languages:

- Family Violence Info Line: 310-1818
- Child Abuse Hotline: 1-800-387-KIDS (5437)
- Bullying Helpline: 1-888-456-2323

Help is also available 24-7 for anyone dealing with mental health challenges.

- Mental Health Helpline: 1-877-303-2642

You can also contact the Alberta Supports Contact Centre at 1-877-644-9992 (toll free) for information regarding AISH, Child Care Subsidy, Disability Supports, Financial Supports, Health Benefits, Career Information, Seniors Benefits, Public Guardian/Trustee.



IN OUR COMMUNITY

Rocky Ridge & Royal Oak 2025 Spring Soccer

- Skills & ball techniques
- Teamwork exercises
- Fun games

TUESDAYS, APRIL 29 - JUNE 17

5:15 – 5:55 p.m.

U3 2022's Parent & Tot \$99
U4 -U5 2021-2020 \$99

6:00 – 6:55 p.m.

U6-U7 2019-2018 \$129

7:00 – 7:55 p.m.

U8-U9 2017-2016 \$159
Optional Game Day Thurs \$50

*plus an active RRROCA membership

Registration

www.soccertech.ca

More Information

403-863-3001
info@soccertech.ca



Royal Oak Community Gardens
Royal Oak Drive @ Royal Crest Way



Downsizing Seminar

🏠 Downsizing with a Smile 🏠

Date: Thursday, May 22nd at 2:00 PM

Location: Rocky Ridge Retirement Community,
10715 Rocky Ridge Blvd NW

Thinking of the next step in your retirement?
Let's make downsizing easy! Come enjoy a lively presentation packed with helpful downsizing tips followed by drinks, snacks, and the chance to chat with current residents who've been there, done that!

For more info or to RSVP, give us a call at 403-930-4848. We can't wait to see you there!

www.RockyRidgeRetirement.com
Make sure to Follow us on Facebook!



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- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Calaway Park | London Drugs |
| Cenozon Inc. | Maverick Donuts |
| Cloud Land | Milestones |
| Cobs Bread | Red Swan Pizza |
| Five Guys | Rocky Ridge Royal Oak Community Assoc |
| Flying Squirrel | Royal Oak School Council |
| Indigo | Royal Oak School Fundraising Society |
| Landmark Cinemas | Steamoji |
| Laser City | Subway |
| Little Red Reading House | Tim Hortons |

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Healthy Hunger snacks and lunches are scheduled for the remainder of the school year. Log into www.healthyhunger.ca to order!

Want to get involved?

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Upcoming dates are:

- May 12, 2025 – 6:30 to 8:30pm
- June 9, 2025 - 6:30 to 8:30pm

Children's Book Recommendation:

REVIEW: Easy, sing-songy read-aloud; richly coloured illustrations; fun for 2–4-year-olds.

BASICS: Published in 1999, 32 pages, author and illustrator have worked together on over 25 books spanning 30 years.

5-STAR QUALITIES: Clever main character, fun mid-story twist, engaging from start to finish.





École Tuscany School Council News

We are in the home stretch before summer! Let's get outside and enjoy the beautiful sunshine and Tuscany's remarkable green spaces!

Families who have registered their child for our Kindergarten program for the 2025-26 school year will have already received an email inviting them into the school for our Welcome to Kindergarten event on May 29th. We are excited to be able to show them what a kindergarten classroom looks like and some of the activities that they can look forward to when they join us for Kindergarten on the first day of school, September 2nd, 2025.

The next Fun Lunch (Papa John's) - (Grades 1-5) and Kinder Snack Day is on Thursday, May 22nd. The upcoming FUNdraiser Treat day is Friday, May 30th (DQ). Please log into www.healthyhunger.ca (Grade 1-5 students) and submit your orders the Friday before to ensure your child can participate. Don't forget to wear your Spirit Wear! We are always looking for more volunteers to make these Fun Lunch and FUNdraiser Treat days possible for our kids.

Other Important Dates for May:

- Elder Shirley visits École Tuscany School May 5th – 9th.
- Final Book Fair (English) May 20th - 26th
- Kindergarten and Grade 1-2 Swimming lessons May 1st- May 15th
- No School Non-instructional Day Friday May 16th
- Monday May 19th, Victoria Day - No School
- May 29th Welcome to Kindergarten Event 6:00-7:45
- Alien Inline May 23rd – June 12th

We are currently on the lookout for some new, enthusiastic members to fill a few vacant parent council positions. Volunteers at Tuscany School play a very special part in our educational programs. Your help enables us to enrich learning and teaching in a number of ways. Volunteering is a great way to be involved in the school and many of our activities would not be possible without volunteers. The following positions will be vacated by current members of our Tuscany School Enhancement Society (TSES) and Tuscany School Council (TSC) this June:

- Chair & President (Interest shown)
- Vice Chair & Vice-President
- Treasurer
- Spirit Wear
- Kinder Snack Coordinator
- Fun Lunch Coordinator (Interest shown)
- Teacher Appreciation

- CBE Liaison (Interest shown)
- Grade 5 Farewell

For a full description of the above roles, responsibilities and time commitments for each, please visit our website at <https://tuscanycouncil.wordpress.com/about/> - or reach out to Mariana, our current President/Council Chair at tuscanycouncilchair@gmail.com for more information, or to ask about job shadowing opportunities for these positions.

Our Event committee is busy planning our annual year end BBQ, which will be held on Thursday June 19th. We are looking for volunteers to assist in some of the planning, organizing, and various tasks before and during the BBQ. If you are interested in helping our amazing Events team, please reach out to them at tuscanyeventsteam@gmail.com.

Check out our website on the About page to find out more www.tuscanycouncil.ca

Our next council meeting of the 2024-25 school year will be held on Wednesday, May 21st, at 6:30 p.m. in person at the school and via TEAMS. Please check out our website at www.tuscanycouncil.ca for up-to-date info, and follow us on social media Facebook www.facebook.com/tuscanycouncil; Instagram [@tuscanycouncil](https://www.instagram.com/tuscanycouncil) and X [@TuscanyCouncil](https://twitter.com/TuscanyCouncil) for reminders and photos of our adventures together. If you have any questions about becoming involved with the School Council or volunteering for a committee, please email tuscanycouncilchair@gmail.com.

You can also follow Tuscany school on Twitter [@Tuscany_cbe](https://twitter.com/Tuscany_cbe).



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This Tender Land by William Kent Kruger

Published: 2019
444 pages

William Kent Krueger's *This Tender Land* is a beautiful, heartfelt tale of survival, friendship, and the search for home. Set against the backdrop of the Great Depression, it follows four orphaned children—brothers Odie and Albert, their mute Sioux friend Mose, and Emmy, a young girl with a mysterious gift—as they flee the harsh and oppressive Lincoln Indian Training School. Forced to escape after a tragic turn of events, the group embarks on a daring journey down the Mississippi River in a stolen canoe, hoping to one day reach an estranged family member in St. Louis and find a place where they can truly call home.

Krueger masterfully weaves together literary fiction, adventure, mystery, and even a touch of romance, creating a novel that is both a thrilling page-turner and a deeply introspective exploration of morality and forgiveness. As the four self-proclaimed 'vagabonds' make their way down the Mississippi River, they encounter a diverse cast of characters—struggling farmers, traveling faith healers, displaced families, and lost souls, each of whom leaves a mark on their journey. Yet, danger looms behind them and keeps them on the move as the ruthless Brinkmans, who run the school, are determined to retrieve Emmy at all costs.

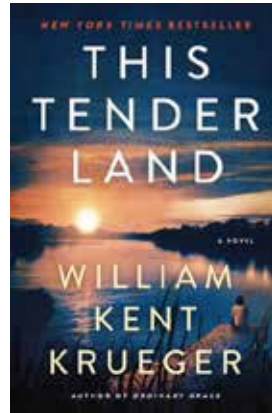
The novel vividly captures the historical struggles of the 1930s,

Contributions by MK

as many characters in the book struggle through bankruptcies, homelessness, and forced migration in hopes of a better future. The book also showcases the cultural beliefs of the time, such as the allure of traveling revival shows promising healing and prosperity, and the presence of Native American boarding schools. However, the crux of the book is about self discovery and the inherent human desire for belonging. Each of the children carries unique strengths and inherent personal burdens; through this voyage, they discover what it is they are truly running from, as well as what they are ultimately searching for.

With themes of hope, survival, loyalty, and forgiveness, the novel had me reflecting on profound questions such as where do I feel I most belong and how to navigate and persevere in spite of past trials. Most profound of all, I am left pondering where I am harboring unforgiveness in my life, and how overcoming this can lead to personal freedom. As Odie reflects, *"Of all that we're asked to give others in this life, the most difficult to offer may be forgiveness."*

Upcoming Read: The Housemaid by Freida McFadden



Emergency Preparedness Week is May 4 - 10, 2025

Emergencies can happen anytime and anywhere. Knowing what to do before a disaster strikes can go a long way in assisting you, your family, and your community during an emergency.

Emergency Preparedness Week is May 4 - 10, 2025. This annual event takes place across Canada every May to highlight the importance of getting prepared for emergencies before they happen.


During Emergency Preparedness Week and throughout the year, Calgarians are encouraged to take steps to get prepared for emergencies to help minimize the impacts.





- Know the risks - learn about the types of hazards that can occur in Calgary and how you can better prepare for them.
- Stay informed – stay tuned to local and regional emergency alerts and other trusted sources of information.
- Get prepared - every emergency is different, but having a plan will help you and your family know what to do and who to contact in different situations. Get started by downloading our emergency action plan, available in different languages at calgary.ca/getready.



In addition to preparing yourself and your household for emergencies, building connections within your community can also help. Neighbours, co-workers and friends often provide crucial support during times of crisis. Creating a network you can rely on during an emergency can help you and others you care about stay safe. Visit calgary.ca/getready to learn more about how to prepare for emergencies, and the events taking place in the community during Emergency Preparedness Week.

City of Calgary



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ROCKY RIDGE & ROYAL OAK

MLS Real Estate Stats

SALES	VARSITY		CALGARY	
	Homes	Condos	Homes	Condos
12/15/2024 - 4/15/2025				
Total Number of Sales	33	45	4041	3034
Average Sale Price	\$878,203	\$404,778	\$787,003	\$406,305
Highest Sale Price	\$1,600,000	\$950,000	\$7,525,000	\$3,025,000
Lowest Sale Price	\$610,000	\$248,000	\$230,000	\$99,950
Average Days on Market	24	32	31	38
Home Sq Ft Average	2,040	1,059	1683	1024
Sold Price per Sq Ft	\$436	\$390	\$482	\$384

Source: CREB December 15, 2024 - April 15, 2025 (last 4 months)

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Lawns & Construction

Create a Beautiful and Resilient YardSmart Yard This Spring!

A YardSmart yard stays beautiful longer during hot and dry weather compared to yards completely planted with grass. The City's YardSmart program provides helpful resources that show you how to plan, build, and maintain your yard, including:

- Layouts & plant lists for all over your yard – wet, full sun, partial sun, and shade areas.
- Easy to follow information on planting, watering and maintenance.
- How-to videos including how to garden on a budget and creating a pollinator friendly yard.

Remember, new plants need lots of water to get established, especially during the heat of summer. You can do your part to reduce your water consumption and help your yard and garden retain moisture by:

- Installing a rain barrel to use in your yard and garden. It is a

simple, yet effective way to reduce your water use by acting as a backup source of water.

- Only giving plants the water they need.
- Mowing less often to keep your grass 5 to 7 cm (2 to 3 inches) high to shade the soil.
- Replacing portions of your lawn with garden features that use less water and help absorb rainwater such as low water-use perennials and shrubs, lawn alternatives or groundcovers.
- Adding good quality soil to help retain moisture and mulch on top to reduce evaporation.

To learn more about how to create a beautiful, resilient yard and garden that uses less water, visit calgary.ca/YardSmart.

City of Calgary



Calgary Magpies

As spring blooms in Calgary, so does the flurry of activity among one of our most intelligent and misunderstood backyard neighbours: the magpie. *Pica hudsonia*, or the black-billed magpie, are members of the clever corvid family—the group of birds that includes ravens, crows, and jays—and are not only known for their striking black-and-white plumage and unmistakable chatter, but also for their remarkable nest-building skills.

Both the male and female magpies take part in nest-building, a process that can stretch from several weeks to nearly two months. It begins in early spring with the selection of a well-sheltered tree or shrub, typically at a height that offers protection for their future chicks. Interestingly, magpies often construct multiple nests but settle in just one—possibly using the others as decoys to confuse predators.

Unlike many songbirds that opt for a simple cup-shaped nest, magpies are known for constructing elaborate, dome-shaped structures designed for both durability and defense. These architectural marvels are up to three feet tall and just as wide, with thick outer walls woven from thorny branches, sticks, and twigs. Inside, a mud-lined 'cup' is carefully padded with grass and, at times, fur from shedding mammals. With a sturdy roof overhead and strategically placed side entrances, these nests offer protection from predators and the elements, while also ensuring a swift exit when needed.

By late May, fledglings begin to take their first steps—and flights—out of the nest. Like toddlers learning to walk, they



spend a few days on the ground practicing short flights under the watchful eyes of their parents. This stage is natural—but also dangerous.

Each year, wildlife rehabilitators like Calgary Wildlife see an increase in injured magpies during this fledgling window. Common causes? Cat and dog attacks, collisions with windows or vehicles, and well-meaning humans mistaking grounded fledglings for orphans.

The best way to help is simple: keep pets indoors or leashed during late spring. If you come across a young magpie on the ground, observe it from a distance. Are adult magpies nearby? Is the chick feathered, active, and alert? If so, it's best to leave it be. But if the bird is injured or in distress, or has been handled by pets, it may need the help of a rehabilitation centre like Calgary Wildlife.

Give them a little space this spring, and you just might witness a quiet masterpiece unfolding, one twig at a time.

Found injured or orphaned wildlife? Unsure if wildlife needs help? Please call Calgary Wildlife at 403-214-1312.



Calgary Wildlife

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FRENCH SILK PIE

By: Family recipe
Servings: 8
Prep time: 25 minutes
Total time: 4.5 hours

INGREDIENTS

- ¾ cup butter, softened
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 Tablespoon vanilla extract
- 3 ounces unsweetened chocolate, chopped and melted
- 3 eggs
- 9" pie crust of your choosing (pastry is traditional, graham is my favourite, chocolate graham or wafer is next level decadence)
- 1 cup whipping cream
- 3 Tablespoons powdered sugar
- Milk chocolate bar for curling or grating (a vegetable peeler works well for curling but grating is quick and easy)

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Cream room temperature butter and sugar. Add vanilla and melted chocolate. When fully incorporated, add eggs one at a time mixing for 5 minutes after each egg.
2. Pour into the pie crust of your choice and let set in the refrigerator for at least 4 hours.
3. Whip the cream with the powdered sugar on high for about 2 minutes or until soft peaks form. Spoon on top of the chilled pie and garnish with the chocolate curls/shavings.



A Curated Kitchen is a new monthly feature from our chief editor. She looks forward to sharing her favourite recipes, hosting ideas, and a sundry of kitchen tips and tricks to enrich your times of gathering.

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Celebrating Calgary 150 - Sandstone City

Why is today's downtown core located west of Fort Calgary? In the 1880s, Inglewood was growing in anticipation of the railway, but then Canadian Pacific Railway built its station where the Calgary Tower stands today. Much of the fledgling town picked up and moved.

Civic leaders then built bridges and ran the Stampede's forerunner, the 1886 International Seed Grain and Hay Exposition. The first General Hospital opened in a house, performing surgeries on the kitchen table.

Calgary's first buildings were constructed with wood, but 18 were destroyed in the Great Fire of 1886. Afterwards, town council mandated building with sandstone from the surrounding foothills.

Hence the nickname Sandstone City. See for yourself along Stephen Avenue National Historic Site. Imperial Bank helped make it Calgary's commercial core. The Alberta Hotel followed and HBC built a department store in 1891.

Smallpox killed several people in 1892, sparking a riot when fearful residents attacked Chinese laundries, the purported source of the outbreak. Many thousands of Chinese had worked on the CPR and settled in Calgary.

An influx of Russian-Germans fleeing persecution arrived in 1892 in Bridgeland-Riverside. Ukrainians and Italians followed. Nuns like Mary Greene established Sacred Heart Convent in 1885. Édouard Rouleau became head physician of Holy Cross Hospital.

The CPR took advantage of the Rocky Mountains' picturesque landscapes. Near Siding 29, Banff townsite emerged in 1883. The presence of hot springs led the government to create a national park in 1887. Opened one year later, Banff Springs Hotel is a modern-day castle, with another one built on Horunnumnay ("little fishes' lake", aka Lake Louise).

The park's founding saw the exclusion of Indigenous people.

Glenbow Archives NA-1406-163



Calgary, Alberta, 1884 (Glenbow Library and Archives Collection)

They also faced Residential Schools that isolated students from their culture and families under sometimes terrible conditions.

At today's Fish Creek Provincial Park, William Roper Hull built a two-storey Tudor Revival-style ranchhouse. Also there was Shaw's family homestead and woollen mill. A store on Stephen Ave sold their goods to many customers headed for the Yukon's Klondike Gold Rush.

Sandstone City was a beacon on the prairies, connected to the world via railway and offering opportunities to many.

*Anthony Imbrogno is a volunteer with
 The Calgary Heritage Initiative Society/Heritage Inspires YYC
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Bridgeland area, Calgary, Alberta, ca. 1912-1915 (Glenbow Library and Archives Collection)



First General Hospital in Calgary, Alberta, 1920 (Glenbow Library and Archives Collection)



View of Alberta Hotel, Calgary, Alberta, 1893 (Glenbow Library and Archives Collection)



St. Dunstan's Calgary Indian Industrial School, Calgary, Alberta, 1905 (Glenbow Library and Archives Collection)



The first Lake Louise Chalet, Lake Louise, Alberta, ca. 1890-1893 (Glenbow Library and Archives Collection)

Reflections: A Journey of Trust

Spread across my desk are years of memories- a collection of real estate advertisements that tell a story far beyond mere property listings. Each page represents a moment, a family, a home, and the incredible journey we've shared with our communities.

Recently, a long-time resident handed me this stack of ads, spanning back to 2009. As we sat together, discussing the sale of his family home, I was deeply moved. He'd been following our team's journey all these years, watching us grow, celebrating our successes, and ultimately choosing us to help transition this important chapter of his life.

It's humbling to realize how many stories we've been privileged to be part of. The neighborhoods we serve aren't just locations on a map for me- they're communities of relationships, of trust built one conversation, one home, one family at a time. These pages aren't just advertisements; they're a testament to the connections we've nurtured and the faith residents have placed in us.

When someone chooses you after years of quiet observation, it's more than a business transaction. It's a profound vote of confidence - a recognition that goes beyond marketing and speaks to something deeper: genuine commitment to understanding and serving these remarkable communities.

If your own home story is beginning to take shape, or if you're curious about the value of your property, I'm always happy to listen and offer insights- no obligation, just conversation.

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