

SCENIC *Review*



THE OFFICIAL VOICE OF THE SCENIC ACRES COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION | MAY 2025

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Summer Camps

*Scenic Acres Community Association's
Annual General Meeting
Thursday, May 8th, 2025, 7-9 PM*

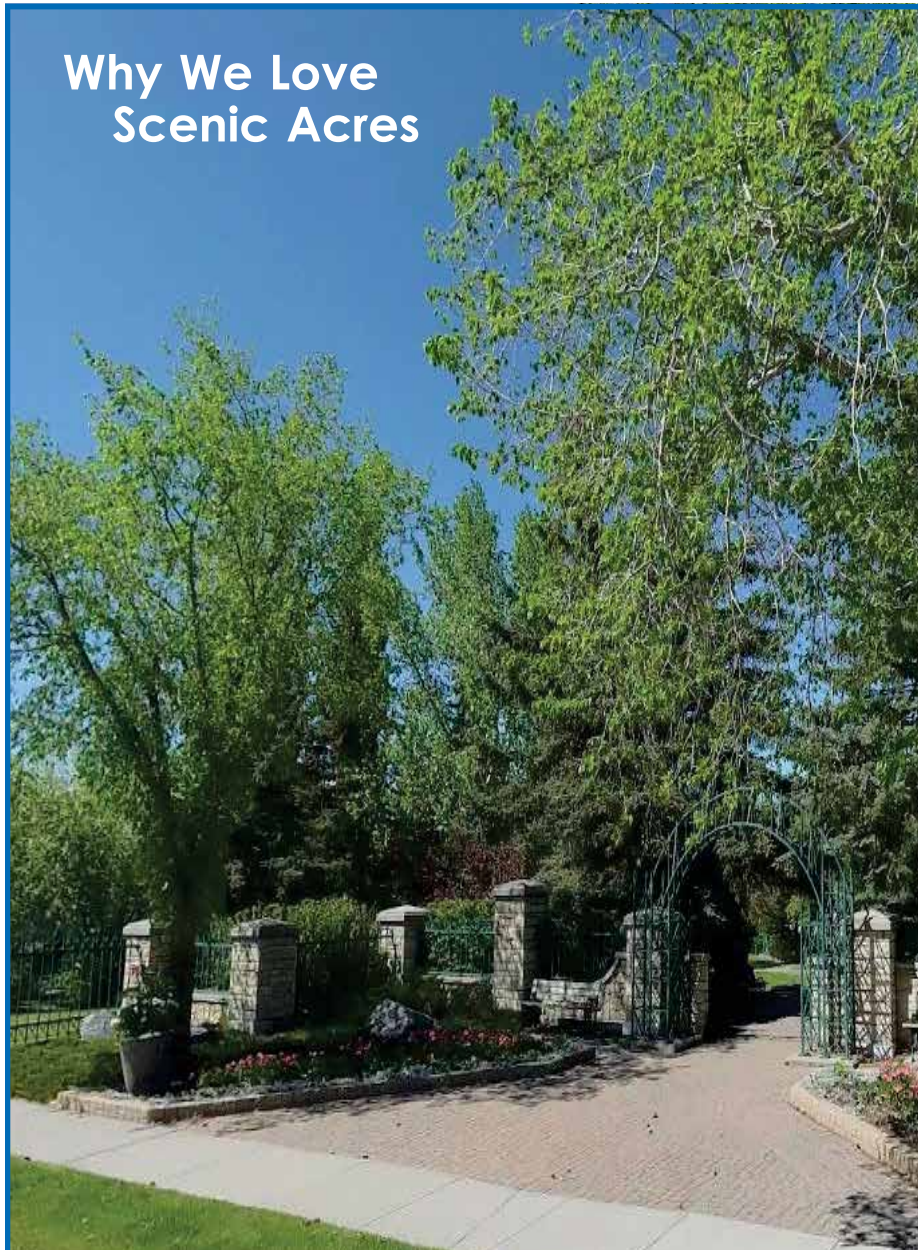


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SCENIC Review



THE OFFICIAL VOICE OF THE SCENIC ACRES COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

SCENIC ACRES COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (SACA)

Located at the Scenic Acres Community Center (SACC)
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Tuesdays/Thursdays: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.



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Parks & Environment	Lee Syhlonyk	parks@scenicacresca.ca
Leaf	Lee Syhlonyk	leaf@scenicacresca.ca

COMMUNITY LIASONS

Crowchild Twin Area Assoc	John Palazeti	403-239-5819
Community Resource Officer (Calgary Police Service)		403-567-6700
Scouts (159 SA & SS Group)		contact@159scouts.ca
Girl Guides		any-calgaryscenicbowvalley@girlguides.ca
Norwest Soccer		programs@silverspringscommunity.ca
Northwest Warriors Hockey	Brad Logel	403-286-9735
Crowchild Skating Club		403-239-7091
Neighbourhood Partnership Coordinator	Heather Gibbons	heather.gibbons@calgary.ca
Our Ward 1 Councillor	Sonya Sharp	403-268-2430
Our MLA (Calgary North-West)	Rajan Sawhney	403-297-7104
Our MP (Calgary Rocky Ridge)	Pat Kelly	403-282-7980

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IN OUR COMMUNITY

Repair Café Saturday, May 17th, 2025

Our next Repair Café is coming up! The Repair Café is our community's way of making sure we keep valuable (but not working) items out of the landfill to continue our sustainability initiatives.

What to Expect:

- Knife, Scissor and Garden Tool Sharpening
- Clothing and Sewing Repair
- Quilt Fabric exchange
- Buy Nothing
- Bike Repair
- Small Appliance Repair

We're looking for those of us in the community that are really handy at fixing stuff. Share your talent so we all get better at fixing broken items. If you enjoy tinkering and have repaired stuff yourself over time, we'd love to have you come out and share your talent. You're going to be helping neighbours try to figure out what's wrong and then, together, figure out how it could be fixed. The best outcome is if it can be fixed on the spot! We'll have some sewing machines, glue, and tools to try to get it fixed right away.

Start going through your extra but unused stuff to determine if you have any "this just needs a small fix" items and get them ready for the 17th! See you there!

Crafts /Social Club

Members share patterns, ideas, and give help where needed if we are able. Also, we share many laughs. Crafts include knitting, crocheting, cross stitch, embroidery, diamond dots, etc. We provide tips to beginners and are willing to teach a craft to those interested. New members always welcome. SACA membership required and there is an attendance fee of \$2.00. This spring we are meeting Fridays from 9:00am -12:00pm



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Proposed SACA Bylaw Revisions

Bylaws may not be the most exciting topic, but they are essential—they serve as the “rulebook” for how SACA operates as an organization. They outline critical details like who can be a member, how decisions are made, when and how meetings are held, and even how the Association can be dissolved. While bylaws are often seen as overly complex and tedious, they play a vital role in keeping our community association running smoothly.

Occasionally, bylaws need to be updated to reflect the changing needs of an organization and to improve efficiency. That time has come for SACA. In addition to minor edits for clarity, we’re proposing some significant changes to ensure our bylaws better serve our community today.

Key Proposed Changes

AGM Quorum Adjustment

Currently, our bylaws require at least 25 members attend the Annual General Meeting (AGM) to meet quorum. If quorum isn’t achieved, the meeting must be rescheduled within 30 days, and if quorum still isn’t met at the second meeting, we can proceed with whoever is present. This process is cumbersome and wastes valuable time. We’re proposing to reduce quorum for AGMs to just seven members, a number we feel is more realistic and attainable.

Board Meetings

Similarly, we’re proposing to reduce quorum for Board meetings from the current requirement of 50% of Directors to just three Directors, ensuring meetings can proceed more efficiently.

Streamlining Governance

Some sections of our current bylaws—such as definitions, member registers, contact lists, and prescriptive procedures— are not bylaw items but policy items and will be moved to our existing Policy and Procedure Manual managed by the Board of Directors. This change will allow the Board to update these policies more quickly without requiring formal bylaw amendments.

Bylaw Motion at Our AGM

The proposed revisions have been posted on the SACA website for your information. We encourage all members to review the new bylaws ahead of the AGM. A motion to approve these revised bylaws will be made at the AGM on May 8, 2025. The Board believes these revised bylaws meet the needs of our community association while supporting

effective governance. The revised SACA Bylaws will still be subject to approval by the Alberta Societies Act.

Colin Yeo

*Vice President – Scenic Acres Community Association
Director, Community Development*

Scenic Acres Community Association’s Annual General Meeting

**Scenic Acres Community Center
Thursday, May 8th, 2025, 7-9 PM**

Save the date! Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be on Thursday, May 8th. This is a great opportunity to hear from the Board about what we accomplished last year, meet with other members of the community, as well as elect Board members for 2025. We are looking for a few more Board members, and if you are interested, please contact our president at president@scenicacresca.ca

In order to vote, you will need to make sure you have a valid Scenic Acres Community Association membership (Regular- Scenic Acres resident, or Associate – for people who live outside of Scenic Acres). You can buy a membership at the AGM. If you are not sure if your membership is valid, please call the office at 403-547-9589 and we can look it up for you.

This year we are going to have wine and cheese as refreshments at this event, and we’re hoping to have artwork from our Art Class featured as well!

Run Bowness is Back!

Lace up your sneakers and mark your calendars for this year’s Sunday June 1 race! This community focused 5K, 10K and Kid’s Mile is a Calgary classic. Whether you’re a seasoned vet or a first time competitor, everyone is welcome to run or walk this accessible route along the river in beautiful Bowness and Baker Park.

Visit mybowness.com/run to register or volunteer. Early birds get the lowest price.

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



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!**

Parks & Environment

Community Garden - SACG

The 2025 gardening season is starting up and some garden plots are still available (as of April 1st).

It's easy to sign up. Just go to the SACA website <https://scenicacresca.ca>, login with your SACA membership and select Garden Plot Rental under "The Community Centre". Remember that you must be able to commit to a 2-hour service commitment per month.

The SACG will be having a kickoff event Saturday, May 3rd (weather permitting) from 10 am – noon at the garden. This event is to assist with signup of volunteer duties and provide training on tasks. It will also be an opportunity to meet other gardeners and the committee members. The SACG members will also be conducting an informal survey to see if there is any interest in having speaker events offering gardening tips, etc. Coffee and cookies will be on hand so please come join us!

LEAF

Spring cleanup for LEAF started at the end of March with Big Man Landscaping going through most of our parks before the typical April snowfall. Big Man will also be doing gravel cleanup from turf areas, medians & boulevards prior to the city road sweeping which is expected to start early June (weather dependant).

Pixie Gardens will have gone through the community in mid-April to remove our winter displays and complete spring cleanup of our containers and beds. The install of annuals is expected by the end of May/early June.

As a reminder to all residents, the LEAF committee does not condone abusive behavior towards any of our contractors. Respectful conduct is expected from our contactors and appreciated from our residents. Any complaints about LEAF contractors should be directed to the LEAF email (leaf@scenicacresca.ca) for any needed resolution.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Lee Syhlonyk, Director, Parks and Environment*

Book Club

Book Club meets on the second Wednesday of the month from 1:30pm-3:00pm. If you are interested in joining, please contact Christine Costello at ccostello53@icloud.com.

Scenic Acres Community Association Beach Volleyball Program 2025

Beach Volleyball Play-n-Train Program June 2025

SACA will be running our successful Play-n-Train Program starting June 2. The training will be every Tuesday and Thursday, from 5:30-6:30, and then time to practice Saturday mornings from 10-noon. The Beach Volleyball program will be led again by our great coach who will help you develop your skills and love for the game.

If you're never played the game, if you're a New-Comer to Canada or Calgary, you are welcome to come out. If we have lots of interest, we'll set up another Play-n-Train time. Registration opens April 7. Go to the website at www.scenicacresca.ca or call the office at 403-547-9589 to register.

SACA's Beach Volleyball Membership

Buying a SACA BV membership gets you not only membership to SACA's events and programs during the year but also allows you to book our courts on weekends and between 9AM and 6PM during the week. Once you have your membership, you can call the office at 403-547-9589 during the week to book up to 2 hours per court, two times a week, two weeks in advance, for free (as available). Awesome deal!

Stay tuned for our Beach Volleyball Tournament dates!!

Quilting Club

Quilting Club is the first Friday of the month from 9am-3pm. This group is open to all levels and the club is happy to teach beginners! They share patterns, help with colour combinations and layouts and enjoy conversation! Contact the office for more information.



YAHOO!!!! Scenic Acres Annual Stampede Breakfast is July 6th, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.!

Last year we broke records with over 2000 people coming through to enjoy the best Stampede Breakfast in the city!! We will be building on the heels of last years epic day, expanding our heritage craft demos to include multicultural crafts and arts. We will be raffling off a Champagne Balloon Ride courtesy of ReMax once again and will have the balloon back for rides. (Weather depending). There will be new sponsor booths as well as Chinook Country Line Dancers, PH Unbalanced and the Stampede Welcome Committee may have some special guests as well. Tuck'n'Tumble, Sprog and Sprocket, face painting, bouncy house and of course the best pancake breakfast in town! Come and celebrate the stampede and our amazing community.

As this event keeps growing, so does our need for community volunteers! It takes almost 100 people to run this event, so if you can help, please let us know! There's a job for every interest.

Thank you to our sponsors so far. Without them we would not be able to put on anything of this scale, so go and support their business like they are supporting us! We are still looking for sponsors for this event so please contact the office if you can. It is an amazing way to get your business out in the community and beyond!

Thanks to The City of Calgary, ReMax, Scenic Acres Dental, Spolumbos, Village Honda, T&G Industries and ATCO.



Thinking of Selling your Home?

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RF Rich Fraser
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GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY FOR 35+ YEARS!

IN OUR COMMUNITY

Scenic Acres Parade of Garage Sales: June 7, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Why Register

- Get your address advertised on the official map of addresses
- Get a quality garage sale sign on a stake with a registration validation notice showing that you paid and registered for the event.
- Bold signs advertised around the community and in surrounding areas
- Facebook and Instagram advertising
- Advertising in the Scenic Review
- Funds support your Scenic Acres Community Association events and programs

Registration Deadline: May 30, 2025

Registration Prices:

- Members: \$5
- Non-members \$10

- **Trunk Sale:** rent a parking spot at the community building (includes registration)

- ♦ Members: \$10
- ♦ Non-members \$15

- Rent one of our tables: \$20 each

Sponsored by Bill Hamilton and Richard Fraser of Re/Max

Casino Volunteers Needed!!

Come out and have Some Fun, meet your Neighbours and Count Some Money!

Volunteers needed for our next Community Casino Fundraiser - July 2nd Wed, July 3rd Thurs, at the "Ace Casino Airport" where we were last year. I know it may be tough to get volunteers during the summer but we don't get to choose our days.

This event is our largest fundraiser for our community. No experience needed.

**Please Contact: Bill Hamilton – Casino Chair
Cell: 403.862.7225 or billhamilton1@telus.net**

Save the Dates

May

- May 8th: AGM
- May 17th: Repair Café
- May 30th: Bingo

June

- June 3rd : Seniors Spring Luncheon
- June 3rd: Play and Train Beach Volleyball Starts
- June 7th: Parade of Garage Sales
- June 21st: Neighbour Day

Run Bowness is Back!

Lace up your sneakers and mark your calendars for this year's Sunday June 1 race! This community focused 5K, 10K and Kid's Mile is a Calgary classic. Whether you're a seasoned vet or a first time competitor, everyone is welcome to run or walk this accessible route along the river in beautiful Bowness and Baker Park. Visit mybowness.com/run to register or volunteer. Early birds get the lowest price.

Coffee, Tea & Connection – Because Life's Easier Together

Thursdays

Time: 10:15am – 11:15am

Where: SACA, 8825 Scurfield Dr NW

Cost: FREE

Looking to connect with neighbors and build meaningful relationships? Join us for Coffee, Tea & Connection—a welcoming space for conversation, friendship, and community support.

Take a moment to pause, reset, and enjoy uplifting interactions over a warm drink. Whether you're seeking encouragement, new friendships, or just a chat, you're invited.

RSVP or just drop in! All are welcome.



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IN OUR COMMUNITY

Babysitting & Dog Walking

REGISTRY

Calling all teen and adult Babysitters! Would you like to share information about your availability and training in babysitting for interested families in our community? Contact SACA at scenicacresca@shaw.ca or 403-547-9589.

SACA Provides registry service but all parties are responsible for negotiating scope of work and payment themselves.

BABYSITTERS LIST

Name	Age	Phone #
Joell		403-863-3429
• Experienced babysitter who will also pet sit, mow lawns and water plants		
Mariah	16	403-477-3669
• Babysitter course and experienced babysitter		
Carson C	16	403-618-3365
Naomi L		nomilern@gmail.com
• Experienced baby sitter, pet sitter		
Peyton H	14	thurley011@gmail.com
• She has her babysitting course, home alone course experience with animals		
Beth L	13	403-615-8053, lonihull@gmail.com
• References available		
Hadley H	15	403-827-0256
• home alone safety and babysitting course, interested in child care as well as pet sitting		
Laura	16	825-449-8040
• Babysitter & first aid courses. Experienced babysitter who is also good with pets.		
Max A	13	403-477-3669
• Interested in dog walking, pet sitting, water plants etc		
Michaela	11	403-618-4393
• Home alone and babysitter with fist aid courses completed. Willing to babysit, walk the dog, clean up/mow the yard or other duties. Looking for experience!		
Elizabeth A	12	403-542-5853
• She's completed the babysitting course		
Maelle C	13	403-999-7539
• Babysitter course with CPR and First Aid, and home alone course completed. Has babysitting experience.		
Alex	12	587-897-0007, tricham@telus.net
• home alone, and babysitting with first aid courses completed. She looks forward to playing, reading and crafting with your child(ren).		
Maeve D		403-870-7283
• Babysitter. For more information please call: 403-870-7283.		
Jio An	14	587-215-6317
• Certifications: CPR, Babysitting and First Aid courses completed. I have babysitting experience.		
Nicholas		825-735-6425
• Experienced babysitter who will also pet sit, mow lawns, and water plants. Has First Aid course.		
Emerson	11	403-217-4821
• Dog walking/ pet sitting		

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Spring Has Sprung at Monsignor Doyle School!

As the days grow longer and warmer, we at Monsignor Doyle School are making the most of every opportunity to learn, explore, and grow—both inside and outside the classroom! Our dedicated teachers have been incorporating the Walking Curriculum into their lessons, allowing students to engage with our beautiful community as a living classroom. If you've spotted our students working in our Jubilee Garden or celebrating Earth Month with a community clean-up, you've seen this hands-on learning in action!

Our students have also been expanding their horizons through enriching field trips. Grades 1 and 2 had a fantastic time at Heritage Park, where they learned about community and history in a fun, interactive setting. Grade 3 had a great time exploring Agriculture at Aggie Days, and Grade 4 learned about Ecology at the Inglewood Bird Sanctuary. Meanwhile, our Grades 5 and 6 students had the extraordinary opportunity to attend Stampede School for a week, immersing themselves in Calgary's rich heritage and discovering what makes our city such a wonderful place to live.

Even within our school walls, we strive to offer students a variety of engaging experiences that connect them to the world around them. This month, students explored rhythm and movement through DrumFit in Physical Education. They also participated in incredible theatrical experiences with Trickster Theatre and Quest Theatre, discovering new ways to express themselves through storytelling. We were especially fortunate to host a week-long Steel Drum residency, culminating in a special concert where students proudly showcased their new musical talents.

As Spring progresses, our school celebrates Lent, a season of reflection and growth in our Catholic faith. Our School Council brought us together with a delicious Shrove Tuesday pancake breakfast, followed by a meaningful Ash Wednesday liturgy. Throughout Lent, our students have been actively living their faith by collecting donations, visiting our local seniors' homes, and welcoming a guest speaker from The Mustard Seed to learn more about community service and compassion.

We are truly blessed to be part of such a vibrant, supportive school community, and we would love to welcome you to the Monsignor Doyle family! And did you know that Monsignor Doyle School is a one-to-one learning environment?

Every student has access to their own personal learning device, ensuring they develop strong digital literacy skills and become responsible global citizens! Registration for Fall 2025 is now open, and we accept students of all faith backgrounds. Call us at 403-500-2098 to book your personal tour—we can't wait to meet you!

Happy May from Scenic Acres School!

Here are some exciting events coming up in May 2025 at Scenic Acres School:

- **May 2nd:** Fun Snack. Sign up online to participate!
- **May 5th-9th:** Ms. Brado's class will be going on the Open Minds Field Trip for the week.
- **May 8th:** Kindergarten Orientation for new registered (2025-2026 school year) families from 4:00 to 5:00 PM.
- **May 20th:** School Council Events team is hosting a Bike/Scooter/Skate Rodeo!
- **May 21st:** Fun Lunch Day—don't forget to place your order!
- **May 26th-31st:** School Council-sponsored Netball sessions.

We are still accepting in boundary and out of boundary registrations (only with space availability) for kindergarten. Email Principal Bill Garner at bjgarner@cbe.ab.ca if you have kindergarten registration questions.

Stay tuned for more updates in June!

Bill Garner, Principal, Scenic Acres School



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gather serve nourish

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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SACA's Epic Summer Camps Are Back For Summer 2025! Register Now So You Don't Miss Out On These Amazing Camps

We are pleased to be running our EPIC Summer Camps this July and August at our Scenic Acres Community Centre for most of the summer, and for a couple of weeks at the Bowness Seniors Center. Last year we had bike camp, net games, SUMMER FUN, Art, Beach volleyball, Canoe, volleyball/basketball, Princess/Prince camp as well as others, and everyone who comes to camp has so much fun together.



The secret of our successful program is our awesome camp leaders, who are engaged with our camp participants (not just supervising!), provide diverse programming, and work with the energy of the participants throughout the day. Typically, we play in places around our beautiful community of Scenic Acres, but sometimes we go to Bowness Park or the Silver Springs Outdoor Pool. You don't want to miss out on these great camps – may sure you register your interest in your particular week(s).

The camp at our SACA Community Center will follow the SUMMER FUN theme – games, crafts, sports, fun lunch and swimming at Silver Springs Outdoor Pool (if weather and activities permit). Depending on the signups we may also offer some specialty days (like biking!).

The weeks we are at the Bowness Seniors' Centre we'll do cooking camp (youth/children will make food for mid-morning breakfast and for lunch) or art camp (in their fabulous craft room!) – and campers will also play indoor curling and/or outdoor bowling. At cooking camp, we prepare and serve a lunch for 50 seniors who love our menus!

If your family is interested in these amazing camps, please go to www.scenicacresca.ca where you can register your interest in your particular week. There is no payment required to register your interest, but it helps us plan camp dates that families are interested in. We'll reach out to families who have registered in May to confirm your interest, complete the registration and take payment at that time. If you go the website and it seems the spots are full, please put your name on the WAIT LIST and we'll reach out as we begin to organize camp dates. We have a bunch of costs that we need to confirm, but we expect camps will be about \$325-\$375 for a 5-day camp. That price includes camp fees, transportation to off-site events, swim/gym fees, and fun lunch – no additional

fees! When we confirm with parents, you'll get the details of the cost of your particular camp.

Are you interested in being a junior leader?

A junior leader is a non-paid position at SACA. Junior leaders get experience working with children and helping camp leaders provide the experience. Junior leaders can be part of any camp that we run during the summer! Junior leaders get a certificate at the end of the summer certifying their volunteer hours. If you're interested, go to www.scenicacresca.ca, to the camps and find the registration for camp leaders and give us your information. We'll get back to you in late May to discuss the camps you'll be involved in. There will be training in June that you'll need to attend. We'll let you know the date once we have it confirmed.

Are you interested in being a camp leader?

A camp leader is a paid position at SACA. Our camp leaders are enthusiastic about being with youth/children and have great dispositions and understand how to make camp fun. They are experienced coaches or have child care experience, are experienced in sports/arts/crafts, are first-aid trained, and have completed their vulnerable sector police check. They are available all July-August. Camp leaders need to be available for shifts when our center is open, which is 7AM to 6PM. If you are interested, please go to the website at www.scenicacresca.ca, go the information on the camp and find the registration for camp leaders. Please give us your information and we'll reach out when we begin our interviewing process at the end of April. Training will occur about mid-June and attendance is mandatory.

Congratulations!

The Calgary Tigers won gold at the Ringette Alberta Provincial Championships this year in the Open B division. Winning the provincial title at this tournament is a testament to months—and even years—of dedication, passion, and hard work. One of the team members is Jenelle, a Program Coordinator for the Scenic Acres Community Association, making the win a proud moment for both the team and the community.

Ringette is a sport that promotes perseverance, sportsmanship, and, most of all, teamwork, especially among young girls and women. Ringette plays an important role in building confidence in young women, both on and off the ice. For more information on this amazing winter sport, visit ringettecalgary.ca.

Congratulations to the Tigers on this incredible achievement from everyone in the community!



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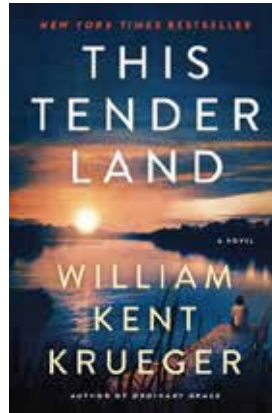
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This Tender Land by William Kent Kruger

Published: 2019
444 pages

Contributions by MK



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, 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

SCENIC ACRES

MLS Real Estate Stats

SALES	VARSITY		CALGARY	
	Homes	Condos	Homes	Condos
12/15/2024 - 4/15/2025				
Total Number of Sales	22	3	4041	3034
Average Sale Price	\$792,950	\$557,000	\$787,003	\$406,305
Highest Sale Price	\$1,210,000	\$590,000	\$7,525,000	\$3,025,000
Lowest Sale Price	\$649,500	\$526,000	\$230,000	\$99,950
Average Days on Market	29	31	31	38
Home Sq Ft Average	1,960	1,492	1683	1024
Sold Price per Sq Ft	\$410	\$378	\$482	\$384

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

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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

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