



# Varsity VOICE

NOVEMBER 2020

The Official Newsletter of the  
**VARSITY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**  
[www.vcacalgary.com](http://www.vcacalgary.com)

**Lest We Forget**

**Annual General Meeting**  
**Online Nov 19th at 6:00 p.m.**  
**[www.vcacalgary.com](http://www.vcacalgary.com)**

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# Varsity Community Association

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Crowchild Twin Arenas .....	Jim Courchesne, 403-288-3617
Membership .....	Vacant
Parks .....	Sue Davison, <a href="mailto:atbowmontpark@gmail.com">atbowmontpark@gmail.com</a>
Civic Affairs Transportation Subcommittee .....	Vacant

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Assistant Director .....	Sherry Smith

## Elected Officials

Councillor .....	Ward Sutherland, 403-268-2430
MLA .....	Jason Copping, 403-216-5436
School Board .....	Trina Hurdman, 403-817-4000
Catholic School Board .....	Myra D'Souza, 403-500-2000

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## In Our Community

### Community Association News

## FALL 2020 Building and Program Update



Varsity Community Association is committed to providing a safe and welcoming space for the community. 2020 has provided us with a significant number of challenges including a global pandemic and fire damage to the community association building. The team at VCA has been working through the logistics required for a phased approach to re-opening the building. As we have a significant number of user groups that access VCA, we need to take thoughtful steps in our re-opening to reduce risks to participants and staff and ensure the long term success of future programming. We appreciate that many users are anxious to get back to their old routines and access the facility. We too look forward to launching community initiatives. Most activities and services that VCA provides are not recommended until the province enters Stage 3 of relaunch. With this in mind, we will continue to work with the City of Calgary and Alberta Health Services resources to determine not only what programs and services can launch, but how we can safely facilitate these activities.

## Varsity Out of School Care



With the start of school, our Out of School Care program has now launched. This is a significant step in the relaunch process and we are following COVID-19 protocols as set out by Alberta Health Services and Children Services. The relaunch protocols have significant impacts on how we operate and restrict access to parts of our building which will impact other groups. We anticipate daily and weekly changes in the coming months as we and the government learn. Reviewing how COVID-19 numbers are impacted by the return to school, prior to adding additional people into the building, is critical to ensuring the safety of all participants.

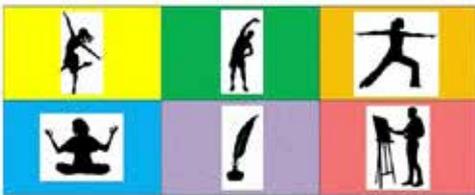
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## Building Operations and Repairs

The Varsity Community Association building remains closed to the general public at this time. We are currently under renovation to repair damage to the Vienna room because of the small fire that occurred in April and are completing some other upgrades in concert with these repairs. Additionally, as we work through the first few weeks of school and child care operations, reducing the number of people in the building is recommended and prudent.



## VCA Programs

The Covid-19 pandemic has had significant long term impacts on programming at VCA. Currently, most of our past programming is not recommended. New registered indoor group programs will be available, with safety protocols and restrictions, when AHS approves Stage 3 relaunch provided guidelines support indoor group programming for various age groups. Extensive consultation with AHS, the City of Calgary and other groups with regard to indoor group programming risks, especially for seniors, was done to reach this decision. At this point, we do not have firm dates for program launches and must use a wait and monitor approach.

Please check the website regularly for updates. We are working to provide new and innovative programming in different ways and look forward to having the community back in the building when we feel we can provide a safe environment.

We will contact past participants as we roll out new programming.

Thanks for your support and we look forward to seeing you again soon.

# Councillor Report

The City of Calgary reviewed residential speed limits for Calgary, and presented their report along with other cities' practices. Several studies have been completed and other city's practices have been reviewed. For example, Edmonton's Council just passed non-posted roadways speed limits at 40km/h, instead of 50km/h.

This does not mean every road is designated at 40km/h; it would only be applicable on unposted roadways. If there is a sign posted that displays 60km, 70km, 80km or 100km, that is what the speed limit is on that particular roadway.

What we do know from studies conducted is that slower speeds result in less accidents and less severe injuries. These are proven facts; however, the question becomes - "What is the right speed?"

Studies show, and the pilot project in Edmonton proved, that once there is an absence of enforcement, the vehicular speeds will go back up. The City of Calgary does not have the money nor resources to increase enforcement. To assume everyone is going to abide by the new speed limits at all times is simply not realistic.

People are very polarized about changing the speed limit; there is not a large majority on either side. If we are going to reduce speed limits, I would support the 40km and focus on specific troubled areas identified through traffic calming.

Thank you to everyone who has already sent me their thoughts and opinions on the upcoming speed limit vote. I will be combining the total of the incoming emails, phone calls, survey, and conversations with my constituents to base my decision on when this report comes to Council for vote in November.

*Ward Sutherland, Councillor, Ward 1*

## DID YOU KNOW??

Remembrance Day was first observed in 1919 throughout the British Commonwealth. It was originally called "Armistice Day" to commemorate armistice agreement that ended the First World War on Monday, November 11, 1918, at 11 a.m.



# Varsity Civic Affairs Committee October 2020 Report

### Co-Chairs

JoAnne Atkins has agreed to help out with the Civic Affairs Committee and will now be co-chairing with Darlene Feil. All inquiries should now be directed to JoAnne at [joanneatkins@shaw.ca](mailto:joanneatkins@shaw.ca).

### Traffic Calming Measures on Varsity Estates Drive

A group of residents are exploring traffic calming measures on Varsity Estates Drive due to speeding and unsafe driver behaviour. The Civic Affairs Committee will be assisting in this process. Council is currently reviewing speed limits on residential roads however, as Varsity Estates Drive is a collector road, it would not be impacted by any changes. Unsafe driver behaviour is a concern on every road in Varsity and we would urge residents to be aware of their speed, pedestrians, and cyclists at all times.

### Guidebook for Great Communities

The City is working on a planning policy document called the Guidebook for Great Communities. Administration will be reporting to the Standing Policy Committee on Planning and Urban Development on the Guidebook in January 2021. Once approved, this document will guide redevelopment in Calgary. There are some policy changes that may have a significant impact on communities. A group of community associations have submitted their concerns to City Council including (a) putting density where it belongs in activity nodes and main transportation routes instead of spreading density widely throughout all communities, (b) increasing community engagement, (c) addressing impacts to infrastructure to support more density, (d) protecting heritage properties, (e) maintaining existing statutory and non-statutory plans (eg. design briefs, area redevelopment plans, etc.), (f) removing minimum parking requirements for non-residential development, and (g) creating a new bylaw for low density residential that would blend several zonings and change the density and height restrictions (eg. small apartment buildings would be permitted beside single family homes). We will continue to follow the discussion on these issues. For more information, go to <https://engage.calgary.ca/guidebook>.

### Municipal Development Plan & Calgary Transportation Plan

The City is looking to update the Municipal Development

Plan (MDP) the Calgary Transportation Plan (CTP). Draft copies of the 2020 MDP and CTP have been posted on [Calgary.ca/Next20](http://Calgary.ca/Next20).

### Committee Members

The Civic Affairs Committee meets as required to review applications for development permits and land use redesignations as well as other planning issues, however, most business is conducted by email. If you would be interested in joining the Civic Affairs Committee, please call JoAnne Atkins at 403-247-5225 or email [joanneatkins@shaw.ca](mailto:joanneatkins@shaw.ca).

## Annual General Meeting of Varsity Community Association

(Will be held online to ensure everyone's safety)

When: Thursday Nov 19th at 6 pm  
Where: Online – Visit [www.vccalgary.com](http://www.vccalgary.com) to participate  
Voting – All active members over the age of 18

## FE Osborne Student Snow Angels

Attention Varsity residents around FE Osborne, The students of FE Osborne would like to help clean sidewalks for any seniors who may have a challenge getting out to shovel their sidewalks. We would be able to shovel on overnight snowfalls on weeknights (sorry no weekends or holidays). We would be able to support seniors who live on the following streets: Veronica Rd., Vallance Cres., Varsity Green, Varsity Drive between Veronica & Varsity Rd.

Please email the Assistant Principal of FE Osborne, Mr. Garner at [bjgarner@cbe.ab.ca](mailto:bjgarner@cbe.ab.ca) or call 403 777 7549 to see if your address qualifies.



# #17 Fire Station Redevelopment – 32nd Avenue NW

The City of Calgary is planning to redevelop the lands where the #17 fire hall sits on 32nd Avenue across from U of C. The proposal is to build a new larger fire hall with 5 bays exiting onto 37 Street instead of 32 Avenue. Affordable housing and some commercial space (a possible day care) are planned above the fire hall for a building height of 6 storeys. The old fire hall would be torn down and the lands to the south that border 32 Avenue sold to a private developer. The relocation of the fire hall will direct the noise and light from trucks and sirens towards the houses to the west and all emergency vehicle trips will leave and return on 37 Street. We believe this creates an unreasonable, negative impact on the homes on and near 37 Street. We think it is important to maintain emergency vehicle traffic on 32 Avenue which is a viable option. We are also concerned about the compatibility of a day care and residential housing above the fire hall as it's important to create a desirable atmosphere for those future residents.

As reported in the last issue, the application went before Calgary Planning Commission on September 3 and they referred the development permit back for exploration of access conditions and other issues. The bylaw for land use redesignation (rezoning) was forwarded to Council and a public hearing was held on October 5. Councillor Sutherland's motion to refer the bylaw back to address access concerns and land use issues including the arrangement of uses on the site was approved by a vote of 11 to 3.

We will continue to work with the City to resolve these concerns and work towards a desirable and appropriate redevelopment of the site.

If you would like more information or are interested in joining the Subcommittee, please call JoAnne Atkins at 403-247-5225.

## Show off your photography skills.

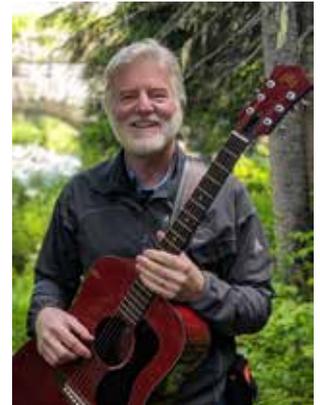
Have you got pictures of Varsity you're proud of? Submit your photo to [info@vcacalgary.com](mailto:info@vcacalgary.com) for a chance to have it featured on the cover of the Varsity Voice. Pictures must be 300 dpi at 8.625" x 11.125" (which includes .25" bleed). Keep in mind there is a header at the top 2.3125" and a banner at the bottom 3".



## Varsity Open Stage Night Mini Concert on Zoom

Keeping music alive in COVID times!  
Friday, Nov 20, 2020  
7:30 - 9:00 pm

We aren't able to host live concerts just yet, but want to keep bringing you great music from familiar Varsity performers.



This mini concert will feature three groups:

1. Dean Jarvey: Mature singer-songwriter who sings originals and songs from a wide range of styles.
2. Jansen Sisters : Young singer-songwriters made of four siblings with soulful harmonies.
3. Horizon Ridge : Well-known vocal quartet who sings soaring 4 part harmony accompanied by an assortment of instruments.

For the Zoom link, email Nobuo (403-288-4895) at [kawaguchi.nobuo@gmail.com](mailto:kawaguchi.nobuo@gmail.com)



# Yielding to Emergency Vehicles

Time is the enemy in an emergency. For everyone's safety, it is important for motorists to understand how to correctly yield right of way to emergency vehicles with lights and siren activated. You can help EMS, police, and fire get to the scene quickly and safely by following these rules of the road.

### When an emergency vehicle approaches with lights and siren activated:

- If you're in the middle of an intersection when an emergency vehicle approaches with lights and siren activated, safely clear the intersection;
- On a one or two lane road, motorists should move to the right side of the road, slow down, and then stop. Remember to signal;
- On a road with three or more lanes, motorists should move to the nearest side of the road and stop. If driving in the centre lane, move to the right side of the road and stop. Remember to signal;
- Come to a complete stop and wait for the emergency vehicle to pass. Shoulder check for more emergency vehicles (there is often more than one) before re-entering traffic flow. Remember to signal;
- Emergency vehicles might use any available road space to maneuver. This could include shoulders or turning lanes, etc., in order to pass other traffic.

### When operating a vehicle:

- It is Alberta law for motorists to slow down to at least 60 km/hour (unless a lower speed is posted) when driving in the lane next to a stopped emergency vehicle, including tow trucks, with their lights activated. If you're not in the lane next to the stopped vehicles, reduce speed and leave lots of space between yourself and emergency personnel.
- Do not break the rules of the road in order to give right of way to an emergency vehicle. This could include proceeding through a red light, or making an illegal turn. Actions such as these jeopardize all motorists in the area;
- Drivers must place their full attention on the roadway



and toward the safe operation of their vehicle at all times. The fine for distracted driving in Alberta is \$287.00;

- Always leave plenty of space between your vehicle and an emergency vehicle, should it be required to stop suddenly.

*Emergency Medical Services, Alberta Health Services*

## Varsity Child Care

### School Age Child Care at Varsity Out of School:

We offer child care for children Gr. 1 to Gr. 5 attending Varsity Acres. The program is operated at the Varsity Community Centre. Our program is full of fun, games, various child friendly clubs, sewing, hockey and much, much more. We are an accredited and licensed program with the Alberta government.

We offer full day care on professional days, teacher convention and Spring break for children enrolled in the Out of School programs. We offer child care for children attending the A.M. Kindergarten program at the Varsity Acres School. There is still space available for the Kindergarten Program

**Information and Registration:** [www.vcacalgary.com](http://www.vcacalgary.com)

**Contact:** [childinfo@vcaclagry.com](mailto:childinfo@vcaclagry.com) 403-247-1145 ext 2

### What We Are In Need of In Childcare...

- Bright Coloured Yarn
- Hot Wheels Cars
- Lego

# Remembrance Day

## Remembrance Day

### Facts

- Remembrance Day commemorates Canadians who died in service to Canada from the South African War to current missions. It is held every November 11.
- The first Remembrance Day was conducted in 1919 throughout the Commonwealth. Originally called Armistice Day, it commemorated the end of the First World War on Monday, November 11, 1918, at 11 a.m.: the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. From 1923 to 1931, Armistice Day was held on the Monday of the week in which November 11 fell. Thanksgiving was also celebrated on this day.
- In 1931, MP Allan Neill introduced a bill to hold Armistice Day on a fixed day—November 11. During the bill's introduction, it was decided the word "Remembrance" would be used instead of "Armistice." The bill passed and Remembrance Day was first conducted on November 11, 1931. Thanksgiving Day was moved to October 12 that year.
- The poppy is the symbol of Remembrance Day. Replica poppies are sold by the Royal Canadian Legion to raise money for Veterans.



[www.veterans.gc.ca](http://www.veterans.gc.ca)

*"Freedom consists not in doing what we like, but in having the right to do what we ought."*

*— Pope John Paul II*

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.*

*— John McCrae*

## How Should The Poppy Be Worn?

The Royal Canadian Legion suggests that the poppy be worn on the left lapel of a garment and / or as close to the heart as possible.

The official start of the Poppy Campaign and the distribution of poppies to the general public begin on the last Friday in October and run until November 11.

The lapel poppy may be worn throughout the whole of the remembrance period and is removed at the end of Remembrance Day. Many people place their poppy at the base of the cenotaph, as a sign of respect, at the end of the Remembrance Day ceremony.



[www.veterans.gc.ca](http://www.veterans.gc.ca)

# The Must-Do Things in Alberta This Winter

**W**inter in Alberta doesn't mean hibernating indoors until the snow melts. The bright and sunny bluebird days, ice-covered lakes and fluffy powder are beautiful in their own right, so bundle up, get outside and make the most of the season. Here are some suggestions to create your winter bucket list.

### **Hit the slopes**

Let's check the most obvious choice off first. An Alberta winter bucket list wouldn't be complete without skiing or snowboarding in the Canadian Rockies. Alberta is home to some of the best skiing in the world, whether you're a first-timer or ready to tackle black diamond runs.

The most well-known of Alberta's ski resorts are the Big 3 – Sunshine Village, Lake Louise Ski Resort and Marmot Basin – but others throughout the province are well worth exploring. In the south, you'll find Castle Mountain Resort, which is also where you can try cat skiing; venture into Kananaskis Country and ski Nakiska; or spend a day skiing and snow tubing at Mount Norquay near the Banff townsite.

### **Skate on Lake Louise**

Have you ever gone skating on a frozen lake in the Canadian Rockies? What about one that looks straight out of a postcard? Skating on Lake Louise is a winter right of passage in Alberta. You've got plenty of opportunities to enjoy it too, since skating is offered from mid-December to mid-April, depending on the weather. The lake is cleared daily, so you'll have ideal conditions to practice your footwork. It's also lit up in the evening for night skating. When you're ready to hang up your skates for the day, settle in for a cocktail and dinner at the Fairview Bar & Restaurant in the Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise.

### **Snowshoe in the Rockies**

A snowshoe-assisted trek through powdery snow on a crisp winter day is a longstanding Canadian pastime. It's also an easy way to get outside and enjoy some fresh air. Banff Adventures offers several different snowshoe tours, ranging from beginner excursions to more scenic

experiences. If you're feeling adventurous, give heli-snowshoeing a try for epic views and snowshoeing on a mountain top.

### **Snowshoeing is a fun – and easy – way to enjoy the outdoors.**

If you'd rather sit back and relax while you take in the mountain scenery, let a pack of friendly sled dogs lead the way. Snowy Owl Sled Dog Tours in Kananaskis Country – or K-Country, as the locals say – will take you on an unforgettable ride. And you may even meet some celebrity pups during your visit. The pack at Snowy Owl has been in several movies, including the 2019 Disney film, *Togo*.

### **Let a team of sled dogs be your guide in Kananaskis Country.**

There's a nostalgic quality to a horse-drawn sleigh ride. Dash through the snow on a cozy sleigh ride for two or book a larger group adventure. Even better? It's a winter activity that's not limited to one part of the province. In Banff National Park, visit Banff Trail Riders at Warner Stables or hitch a ride at Lake Louise with Brewster Adventures, to name a couple of options. Boundary Ranch in Kananaskis Country offers sleigh and wagon rides through picturesque scenic wooded trails. In Central Alberta, pay a visit to Heritage Ranch.

### **Get cozy under a blanket and take in the scenery.**

Maligne Canyon is an iconic landmark in Jasper National Park – not to mention, it's the deepest accessible canyon you'll find there. The canyon is a great photo op in the summer, but it's like another world when you experience it in winter. The Maligne Canyon ice walk tour will take you into the canyon to explore frozen waterfalls and ice caves.

### **See the Ice Bubbles at Abraham Lake**

You've likely seen the famous Abraham Lake ice bubbles on Instagram, but nothing beats experiencing them in real life. December to March is prime bubble-spotting time, and Pursuit Adventures can show you the best places to see this natural phenomena. Exploring with a guide will also mean you have access to ice cleats – safety first, after all – and delicious homemade hot chocolate, marshmallows and graham crackers.

*Reprinted with kind permission from Travel Alberta*



# Staying Safe at Home

Build a Great Neighbourhood

**P**reventing residential break-and-enters doesn't mean looking out for just your own home — it covers your whole neighbourhood. The first step you can take to prevent crime in your neighbourhood is to work together. The Calgary Police Service suggests these tips to help you get started:

**Get to know each other:** Become familiar with the routines in your neighbourhoods and get to know your neighbours. Help build community spirit by hosting community or street-wide block parties or yard sales. Be aware of strangers and call police at 266-1234 if something or someone looks suspicious.

**Talk to each other:** Good neighbours look out for each other and let others know when they will be away. Leave keys and emergency phone numbers with a trusted neighbour, friend or relative.

**Keep up appearances:** A well-kept community is less attractive to criminals and vandals. Appearance often reflects residents' concerns, pride and willingness to work together.

Be suspicious, and report the following to the Calgary Police Service:

- Unusual noises, such as someone yelling for help.
- Vehicles moving slowly and randomly through the neighbourhood.
- A stranger running or walking randomly through the neighbourhood.
- A stranger sitting in a car, stopping to talk to a child, or looking into homes or parked cars.
- Furniture being removed from homes when the owners are on vacation or at work.
- Abandoned vehicles.
- Unusual activities of pets, such as the repeated barking of a dog that is normally quiet.
- Someone going door-to-door soliciting, and who refuses to provide proper identification.
- If you see homes with open doors, front doors with keys left in the locks, or a neighbour's car with the trunk left open, give them a quick call to let them know.

Don't hesitate to call: Many people believe that the police don't want to be called if the caller is merely suspicious. This isn't true: when in doubt — call the police. Use the general police line at 266-1234 for suspicious activities; use 911 for crimes in progress.



If you have community concerns, you could also call your Community Liaison Officer — every district of the city has several of these officers who act as points of contact for community policing initiatives and problem solving. Check [www.calgarypolice.ca](http://www.calgarypolice.ca) for a district map and phone numbers or call the police general line at 403-266-1234 — they'll put you in contact with the CLO who looks after your community.

*City of Calgary*



**Varsity**  
community  
— calgary —

# YES!

I want to be a supporter of my community and all the good it does!  
**Please send me a Varsity Community Association membership!**

Names: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of membership:  Community (Household) - \$36.75  
 Senior (55+) - \$10.50/senior

Payment: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please issue a tax receipt for my donation

\* Memberships are valid from September to August of the following year. Please mail or drop off, along with your cheques made payable to:

**Varsity Community Association,**  
**4303 Varsity Drive NW, Calgary, Alberta, T3A 0Z7**