

SUMMER 2022

lotuslink



Connecting the Genesis Centre and Surrounding
NORTHEAST CALGARY COMMUNITIES

Genesis Centre Celebrates 10 Years as a Public Facility

Read the
Lotus Link
Online!
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Saddle Ridge

Gardening with Succulents

Academy of Learning

Accounting Careers

Antyx Community Arts

Inspiring Facilitators

Ward 5

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Green Calgary

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Connecting the Genesis Centre and surrounding Northeast Calgary Communities.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SADDLE RIDGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Exploring Neighbourhood Names and Themes in Calgary	6
Gardening with Hardy Succulents	8
Lotus Link Community Connection	10

ACADEMY OF LEARNING

Is a Career in Accounting and Payroll For You?	12
--	----

ANTYX COMMUNITY ARTS

Antyx's Top 5 Ways to Inspire Our Facilitators	16
--	----

GENESIS CENTRE

Genesis Centre Celebrates 10 Years as a Public Facility	20
---	----

THE CITY OF CALGARY - WARD 5

Happy Canada Day, Happy Stampede and Happy Summer!	24
--	----

GREEN CALGARY

4 Sustainable Gardening Tips	28
Energy Efficient Future Workshops	29
Green Calgary is Looking for Volunteers	29



Lotus Link is published four times per year by the Genesis Centre. To submit stories and photos contact your Community Association Board or email the Lotus Link editor at jardiel@genesis-centre.ca.

Interested in advertising in future issues of the Lotus Link? Contact the editor at jardiel@genesis-centre.ca.



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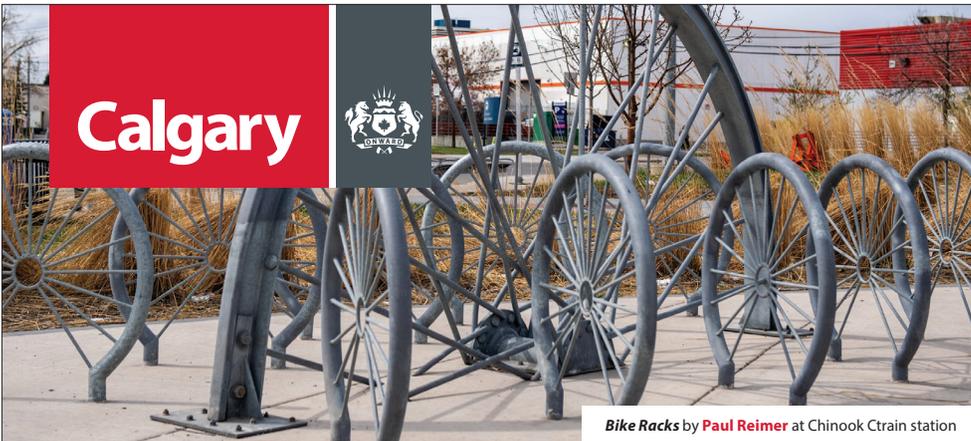
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Conversations by **Karen Ho Fatt Lee** at Rundle Ctrain station



Artists wanted

Create public art in northeast Calgary

Artists and artist teams interested in creating public art in the form of a **bike rack, bench or picnic table** are encouraged to apply. Open to artists who work, live, play or have strong ties to northeast Calgary.

Application deadline: December 24, 2021.

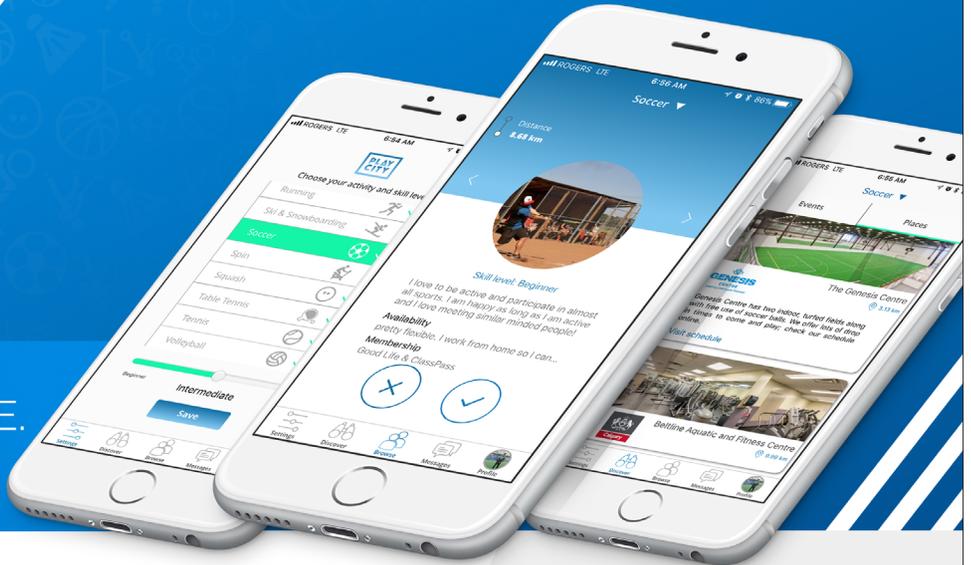
Get the details, sign up for a free artist information session and access translation and interpretation services at calgary.ca/artistopportunities

Functional art installations in northeast communities will support local artists and businesses, enhance our northeast neighbourhoods and reflect the people who live here.



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Community Wing Update



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Community Wing Program Guide



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SADDLE RIDGE

Exploring Neighbourhood Names and Themes in Calgary

Calgary boasts a wide variety of communities— have you ever wondered why certain neighbourhoods were named as they are? Or about the design of the houses within those neighbourhoods? Developers in Calgary create neighbourhoods to build and establish an aesthetic that differentiates between each neighbourhood around the city. Whether by neighbourhood names, road names, or house design, Calgary features various themes and designs each neighbourhood is inspired by. Many of the names of the communities we'll explore were taken from Area Structure Plans, community association biographies, and the book *What's in a Name-- Calgary?* by Donna Mae Humber.

Some communities are based on the names of historical figures. Dover was named after Mary Dover, a Calgarian woman who worked as a recruiting officer for the Canadian Women's Army Corps during the second world war. **Shawnessy** was named after the Shaw family that used to live in Calgary just west of MacLeod Trail. It also is in tandem with Baron Shaugnassy, the president of the Canadian Pacific Railway. Some Calgarian neighbourhoods are named after former mayors— **Haysboro** was named after Harry Hays, and **MacEwan** named after Grant MacEwan. **Walden** was named after the book *Walden* by Henry David Thoreau in which Thoreau reflects the simple living in nature.

Some neighbourhoods are themed by their street names. The street names in the neighbourhood of **Queensland** are all named after different queens: Queen Anne, Queen Elizabeth, and Queen Charlotte,

to name a few. The street names in **McKenzie Lake** are named after different mountains: Mount Apex, Mount Assiniboine, and Mount Kidd. The street names in **Lake Bonavista** are named after different lakes in North America such as Lake Erie, Lake Placid, Lake Sylvan, and Lake Ontario.

Some neighbourhood names are more geographically obvious. **Southview** and **Southwoods** are named as such simply because they are located in the south. **North Haven** is a “haven in the north”. **Sunnyside** is named because of its location on the ‘sunny side’ of the Bow River. **Riverbend** is also named similarly as it is located where the Bow River bends. **Panorama Hills** is named after the panoramic view facing Calgary from the northwest. **Evergreen** was named as there are many evergreen trees around the area. **Citadel** was named as the neighbourhood area overlooks the city. **Temple**, **Whitehorn**, **Rundle**, and **Pineridge** are all named after mountains and ridges in the Canadian Rockies.

There are many Calgary neighbourhoods named after places in England and Scotland. **Marlborough** and **Marlborough Park** were possibly named after the English market town of the same name. **Hawkwood** in the northwest was named after a dairy farming family who came from England and settled in Alberta in the early 1900s. **Dalhousie** was named after George Ramsay, the ninth Earl of Dalhousie during the British North America era. **McKenzie Town** was designed to be a neo-traditional community

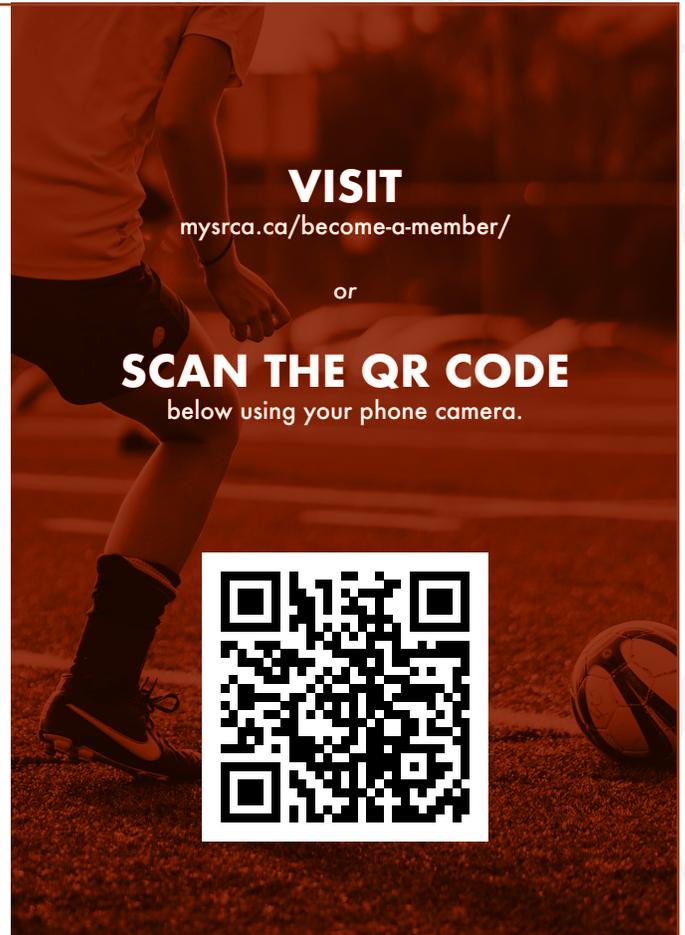


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based on the houses and architectural styles of the English, Scottish, American craftsman, and the Italian Renaissance, with a modern-twist. **Coventry Hills** is primarily based on English themes with Englishesque houses, road names (Coverdale and Covington), and bricked infrastructure.

Interestingly, many neighbourhoods in Calgary have themes and names tied to the American state of California. **Monterey Park** is named after the City of Monterey Park in Los Angeles county. The road names in Monterey Park are all named after locations in southern California like San Diego, San Fernando, Anaheim, California, Laguna, and Los Alamos.

Bel-Aire is named after the affluent-neighbourhood in the greater Los Angeles region, which explains

the large estate houses. **Huntington Hills** is named after the seaside city of Huntington Beach. The southern portion of **Signal Hill** has names connected to mountains in California, with names like Sierra Morena, Sierra Madre, and Sierra Nevada. **Edgemont** is also named after the small town in south California which reflects the elevation of the hills in both areas.

Other neighbourhoods inspired by locations outside of Canada include **Tuscany**, **The Hamptons**, and **Coral Springs**.

Many Calgary neighbourhoods, names, street names, and themes have greater significance than one might think, and play different roles in representing Calgarian, Albertan, and Canadian history. 🌸

Raphael Ramos
SRCA Resident



SADDLE RIDGE

Gardening with Hardy Succulents



LEFT: Hens and chicks (*Sempervivum*).

Succulents are a fascinating group of plants. The variety in colour, shape, texture, and size make these drought-loving plants interesting garden subjects. The majority hail from much warmer climates and so are relegated to houseplants or outdoor container plants. However, a smaller subgroup performs admirably in our chillier conditions.

Succulent plants have evolved to grow in a variety of inhospitable environments. Thick, fleshy leaves, stems, and roots have specialized water-storing tissues that enable them to quickly absorb water during times of plenty and survive on their reserves during drought. Their root systems tend to be shallow and spreading, enabling them to absorb moisture from a wider area. Planting in a gravelly mound will help ensure good drainage. Sitting in cold, wet soil during a winter thaw can kill these otherwise resilient plants. All but a very few require full sun.

Sempervivums (semps), also called “hen and chicks” or “houseleeks,” hail from Europe and the European mountains. They are tolerant of cold winters and more moisture than other succulents, and their plump rosettes of leaves come in shades and patterns of green, plum, red, brown, blue, and orange. A select group, the “arachnoids,” are covered with fine white hairs. Smaller rosettes branch off the mother, eventually forming large communities. They were once thought common and boring, but these succulents have experienced a resurgence in breeding that has created a plethora of cultivars and varieties with spectacular colours, and patterns. Some of my favourites include ‘Bernstein’ (gold with burnt orange tips), ‘Black’ (deep burgundy), ‘Cafe in July’ (green with deep mahogany tips) and ‘Damask’ (a beautiful dusky red). Colours intensify during very hot or cold weather. Semps are monocarpic, meaning that once a rosette flowers, it sets seed and dies.

Perfect companions to semps are the groundcover sedums. A number of species and cultivars are available to us. Their shallow, creeping root systems allow plants to spread into dense, weed-smothering mats. Leaves can be spatulate, small, large, needle-like, blue, red, green, gold, orange, and variegated. Clusters of small five-petalled flowers are held on short stalks. Swathes of mixed sedums are a sight to behold whether in or out of bloom. My favourite is *S. rupestre* ‘Angelina’, which is gold with thin, spiky leaves. An evergreen in our climate, it takes on burnt orange tinges in colder temperatures. Its cousin, ‘Chocolate Ball’, is smaller and more refined, with thin, delicate-looking dark burgundy leaves. *S. spurium* ‘Fuldaglut’, or ‘Dragon’s Blood’, is a tough workhorse with dark burgundy leaves

CALGARY
HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Hen and Chicks (Sempervivum); Hylotelephium Autumn Charm; Hylotelephium Matrona; Opuntia (Prickly pear cactus) bloom.

and dark pink flowers. Once it is established, the only thing to knock it back is overwatering. Creeping sedums are easily propagated by cuttings and division.

The larger sedums have been reclassified as Hylotelephium. These moderately sized, rounded succulents bloom in early fall. They create interesting shapes amongst lower-growing succulents. Flower buds, resembling small heads of broccoli, emerge in midsummer. The white, pink, or red flower clusters open in early fall and are a magnet for bees and butterflies. Hybridizing has given rise to cultivars with burgundy foliage ('Matrona', 'Purple Prince', and 'Chocolate Drop'), variegated foliage ('Autumn Charm', 'Elsie's Gold', and 'Frosty Morn') and brighter flowers ('Birthday Party', 'Brilliant', and 'Neon'). 'Herbstfreude', or 'Autumn Joy', is a popular old favourite. Left standing, large sedums provide winter interest and seeds for birds.

Along with the semps and sedums, for something different, include a few cacti. *Opuntia fragilis*, *O. polyacantha*, *O. humifusa*, and *Escobaria viviparia* are four small, hardy native cacti. Requiring excellent drainage, they love it hot and dry, thriving where others wither and die. Flowers occur for an all too short period in early summer in breathtaking shades of pink, yellow, orange, red, and white. To successfully overwinter, the pads lose much of their moisture and appear withered. If possible, keep them covered with snow to protect the pads from winter burn.

Over time, as my succulent garden grows, I'll add some less common succulents, as well as an army of drought-tolerant companions. Come summer, it will be a pleasure to just sit in the shade and enjoy. 🌿

Elaine Rude
Calgary Horticultural Society

SADDLE RIDGE

Lotus Link Community Connection



LEFT:
Greg Steiner,
former
President of
Saddle Ridge
Community
Association.

Congratulations go out to Jonah Ardiel and his continued work on the Lotus Link Magazine. Having a high-profile presentation of the community news, along with the helpful articles from City organizations, is a wonderful way of building interest in our local communities. For many years, I put out the Saddle Ridge Community Newsletter, and I can tell you that this is a great improvement.

My wife, Carol, and I have noticed unprecedented development over the last 45 years we have lived in Saddle Ridge. High on the list of great achievements for the northeast is the presence of the Genesis Centre with the well attended and popular library and YMCA. The amenities that Genesis offers is unequalled anywhere else in the City. I am proud to say that Saddle Ridge Community Association, as a founding member of the Genesis, has played a major role in the planning stages and successes that now form the huge complex we enjoy today.

Of particular note is the financial support SRCA has given over the 10 years the Genesis Centre has been in operation. Our community supports the drop in admissions, and special programs that make Genesis a popular spot for newcomers and us old timers, as well. For example, over 90% of our casino revenue goes into funding the type of sports and

educational programs that SRCA could not possibly offer to the community. Furthermore, the superior management over the years has allowed Genesis to function as a community sponsored complex, and not a society under the management and funding from the City of Calgary. As is the case with most non-profit organizations there will always be some up and down years and unforeseen challenges (i.e. covid) but our communities can be very proud of the many achievements to date.

Our Community Association has taken a new direction, and the potential to be more closely involved with the NE residents than ever before. Community membership inquiries can now be taken at the Community Wing desk (formally 1000 Voices), as well as reservations for the use of small rooms for community engagement activities. I refer you to info@genesis centre.ca and at **403-590-2833, ext. 0** for any questions. We are presently working out possible ways that community membership can allow the young and elderly more access to the amenities the Genesis Centre offers. If any residents have suggestions and/or concerns, leave them at the welcoming desk at the Community Wing. These communications will go back to the Community Association Board of directors and together we will continue to grow engagement and add value to the Community.

I encourage all residents in North East Calgary to take advantage of the new directions the Genesis Centre has taken on our behalf. It is important that Genesis fulfill its mandate as being a key service provider for all community members. Enjoy the summer months! Make sure you stop by the reception desk at the Community Wing and say hello. 🌸

Greg Steiner

Former President of Saddle Ridge Community Association, and present member of the Board at the Genesis Centre



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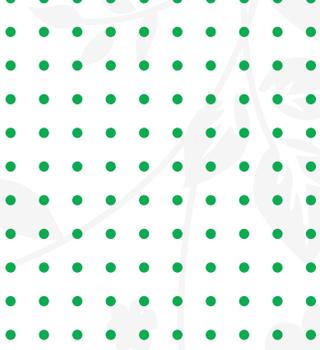
If you're looking to make a career switch, or just want to learn a little more about what a role in this industry entails, here's what you need to know.

1. What can I expect from a career in Accounting and Payroll?

Most of the time, you will be working in a traditional office setting. You're essentially expected to prepare and examine financial statements and ensure that everything is clean and there are no mistakes. You may also be directly responsible for the income that every employee takes home as you'll be in charge of processing payroll.

Apart from that, working in Accounting and Payroll also means that you may be in charge of managing company funds, such as payment and processing of client invoices, for both B2B (Business-to-Business) and B2C (Business-to-Consumer) transactions.

Your job scope might vary depending on the culture and size of your company, and the industry that you are currently in. Most accounting and payroll professionals work full time, and as their job is incredibly important for the success of the company, they might have to work extra hours, especially during tax seasons, big campaigns with numerous transactions, and end of the year budgeting for the company.



As it is hard work, you will be definitely rewarded as such. In fact, careers in Accounting and Payroll offer great entry-level income and long-term earning potential.

On average, a payroll accountant or administrator in Alberta will earn between \$40,000 and \$84,000 per year. (Salary information provided by PayScale Canada and the Government of Canada Job Bank)

As experience is critical in this field, the income would grow greatly alongside skills and expertise.

2. Exactly what kind of jobs can I get?

Accounting and Payroll is a large umbrella term that can include many different specializations and niches. After you've earned a certification of qualification, you will have many choices as to what you want to specialize in, and which industry to choose.

For example, you could be a supervisor. As there are many tasks at hand, supervisors will also have specializations, such as payroll supervisors, accounting supervisors and bookkeeping supervisors. Each with deep knowledge of the particular skill, and uses it to ensure that the company runs as smoothly as possible.

You could also be an officer of sorts, such as a benefits officer or a salary administration officer. In this role, instead of wearing a mentor's cap, you are someone who ensures that proceedings remain clean and legal in every way possible. As the namesake, you will be an officer who enforces the transparency and legality of the funds.

If you're looking for more of a generalist role, you could be a clerk. You won't be doing much of the heavy thinking, but you'll be doing the essential work that is required for a smooth operation. That means doing the payroll, making sure transactions and files are in order, and much more.

3. What kind of skills will I need to know in this career?

There are certain industry skills that are essential for anyone who has a career in Accounting and Payroll. For example, knowing how to optimally set up spreadsheets and software, basic bookkeeping, and the fundamental knowledge of how payrolls function in the backend. You will also be expected to know how to comply with the law, and understand the ins-and-outs of payroll compliance regulations.

4. Where can I start?

The best way to start is by learning the fundamentals in a trusted course. Getting a specific certification of qualification such as a diploma in Accounting and Payroll is also a great way to substantially boost your chances of success. One of the best places to start would be with Academy of Learning Career College. With over 30 diploma and certificate programs available, the Accounting and Payroll training courses offer the best in the business.

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You'll receive one-on-one personalized support from an on-campus learning coach and be taken under the wing of experts within the Accounting and Payroll field. Your mentors will also support you every step of your journey until you've achieved success.

The first step is always the hardest.

You might be very interested but also equally hesitant as you're unsure of what to do next. That is completely fine and normal. Take your time, and always remember that the first steps are always the hardest. Start by booking an appointment with one of our career advisors, from then on it'll get much easier to find success in a career in Accounting and Payroll! 🌸

STAMPEDE BREAKFAST

July 15th 9am - 11am
Large South Parking Lot

Free Pancake Breakfast * Western Marching Bands *
Interactive Games & Activities * Interactive Rodeo
Display * Pony Rides & Petting Zoo



Genesis Centre Stampede Breakfast | July 15 9am-11am
Genesis Centre South Parking Lot: 7555 Falconridge Blvd. NE

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ANTYX COMMUNITY ARTS

Antyx's Top 5 Ways to Inspire Our Facilitators

One of our goals at Antyx is to inspire youth to be creative, using the arts as an outlet. We have found that youth achieve immeasurable success when they have the freedom to choose what they put out into the world. While we brainstorm ways to keep youth engaged and passionate, we also have to keep our team inspired! Here are Antyx's top five ways we keep our facilitators inspired:



1. Offer Creative Freedom

For our team to create programs they can advocate for; we offer creative freedom of the program design to each designated facilitator. Creating a program centred around the artistic medium of their choice allows their personality to influence and direct the program's dynamic in a way that can't be replicated.

2. Encourage Bonding Opportunities with Youth

Rather than focusing solely on the art outcomes of our programs, we encourage facilitators to prioritize the emotional outcomes of youth. Our weekly programs provide the opportunity to build a foundation of trust through organic conversations and activities, but we also like to incorporate unique field trips where our program can bond further through shared experiences. This can also lead to new ideas being formed, where we can apply this inspiration into the desired art outcomes of the program.

3. Connecting in the Community

It's easy to feel siloed when completing the same routine weekly, which is why we as an agency try to get involved in the community as often as we can. It's exciting to engage new audiences and to use these opportunities to connect with and learn from other experts in the industry! We're introduced to emerging trends, upcoming events and connections, and often new collaborations to explore.



4. Supporting Personal Art Endeavours

Our facilitators are incredibly talented in their personal art forms! When they integrate their passions into programs, it creates a vibrant environment for the youth to explore their own ideas. At Antyx, we encourage our facilitators to continue investing in their personal art endeavours so that they can grow both in and out of the workplace.

5. Let Failure be a Result

Often times a program will be developed using past outlines and research containing best practices to provide a foundation for the facilitator to work with, but ultimately it comes down to the youth to decide if they are interested in that program or not. Additionally, when unexpected societal movements arise, they can change the trajectory of a program's direction; either cancelling the program altogether or switching focus on which outcomes need to be achieved. If you have to accept failure as a result, it's important to recognize that it can happen, and to support your team and offer resources to rebuild their vision from a different perspective.



After two years of isolation and virtual connection, we are excited to be back facilitating in-person programs again!

Check out what Antyx has lined up for summer programs at www.antlyx.org. 🌿



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Pre-Kindergarten Academy (Ages 3-5 years)

Pre-Kindergarten is an early literacy focused program combining ample play with learning. Our children play and explore our child-centered classroom, while gaining valuable social skills. Activity centers include math readiness, science, literacy, fine motor work (printing/cutting), arts/craft/painting, in addition to all of the typical preschool centers of sand/water, playdough, puzzles, blocks, story corner and toys. The children enjoy off-site trips and in-class visitors which are chosen to complement programming. Our program has a strict and thorough regimen of cleaning protocols which staff follow. Please feel free to ask questions.

PRE-K NEWS

We wish all of the families a very happy summer! We value the time that we had with your children and trust that they have made lasting memories with us. We have enjoyed many special activities, including a trip to the corn maze, visits by Mad Science, Santa, the Inglewood Bird Sanctuary, and the Alberta Institute for Wildlife, and had a blast at our Year End Picnic! The time has just flown by and we are now setting our sights on planning for the upcoming school year, 2022-2023. We have many fun things planned for our little ones next year. Some space is still available in our program, but as we operate with small class sizes which maximize teacher and child interactions, please register soon to secure your spot.

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200-8450 Blackfoot Trail SE

GENESIS CENTRE



Genesis Centre Celebrates 10 Years as a Public Facility

To mark this milestone achievement in Genesis Centre's history, a community-wide birthday party celebration took place on Saturday, June 18th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Formal programming elements included performances from the following cultural performing groups:

- Opening Land Acknowledgement and blessings from Elder Adrian Wolfleg
- Mo Fan Taichi and Wushu Academy
- Young Bhangra
- Antyx Community Arts
- Chinook Country Line Dancers
- Tryzub Ukrainian Dance Society
- Calgary Chinese Music Development Association
- FOCUS On Seniors

Families and community residents also enjoyed birthday cake, a range of kid-friendly games and activities, a community movie featuring Abominable in the Community Gymnasium, on top of free drop-in for users throughout the day. This event was hosted by the co-located partners within the Genesis Centre including Northeast Centre of Community Society (NECCS), Saddletowne YMCA, Saddle Ridge Library, as well as Trellis, comprising the collective North of McKnight Community Hub.

After close to two years of changing restrictions associated with COVID-19, it was a blessing to see the community come out in full swing to celebrate this milestone event with us. Seeing the smiling faces on kids playing in the facility and community members bonding together at the Genesis Centre is what makes this such a special place.

SHERRY KING, Executive Director, Genesis Centre

Across the full day of programming, approximately 4,000 community residents took part in the event, which consisted predominantly of families. Following the success of the 10th Anniversary event in mid-June, Genesis Centre will be offering another completely free event on Friday, July 15th for the Stampede Breakfast.

LEFT TO RIGHT: Members of Young Bhangra lead Bhangra dance in the Commons; The Calgary Chinese Music Development Association performing in the Commons; Aerial image of residents partaking in activities at the 10th Anniversary event.



BACKGROUND

Prior to opening, the Genesis Centre began as a dream amongst a small group of dedicated community members with a collective vision to bring recreation to northeast Calgary. Initial planning took place as far back as the mid-1990s before the city ultimately approved the plan to move forward in 2007. The facility itself is a 225,000 square foot \$125M complex, fundraised jointly from the City of Calgary, the Province of Alberta, and through grassroots community fundraising efforts.

TIMELINE

2012 – 2017

- January 3rd, 2012; the Genesis Centre officially opens to the public for the first time, celebrating its grand opening on January 14th.
- In its first year of operations, it receives around 800,000 visits.
- Celebrations for the first annual AB Culture Days at Genesis Centre take place. More than 20 community artists and 40 performance groups, along with 10,000 sq ft of kids' entertainment fun zone are featured at the event.
- Phase 2 construction of the Feature Gym and Event Centre are completed on September 25th, 2014.
- The Genesis Centre is given a grant from the Government of Canada's Department of Canadian Heritage to act as a signature site for Canada's 150th celebration.
- In tandem with the organization's 5th anniversary, the Genesis Centre caps its Canada 150 year by hosting Calgary's single largest Citizenship Ceremony on Sunday October 15th, 2017, with 150 permanent residents becoming official Canadian citizens.

2017 – 2022

- The Genesis Centre is designated as an official City of Calgary Community Hub. The Community Hubs network works with community, to build community, through creating inclusive space, engaging residents, providing access to services, and providing platforms to spark grassroots economic development.
- The Genesis Centre introduces the first Phase 1 skateboard park in Northeast Calgary.
- The Genesis Centre reimagines its strategic plan, developing a new mission, vision, and values. Its current mission is "a hub for the community – bridging people in shared celebration, learning, and play."
- Adapts to a new service model and program type during a global pandemic. During this time, strong partnerships are formed with essential community services bringing support for food security, back to school supplies, emergency hampers and hot meals for residents in need.
- The Genesis Centre is the recipient of the Calgary Chamber of Commerce TD Inclusion and Diversity Award.
- The Genesis Centre receives both the Alberta Chamber of Commerce Award for Diversity & Inclusion, as well as the Canadian Business Award in the same category.
- The Genesis Centre begins construction on two new outdoor fields directly adjacent to the facility, opening in September 2021. 🌸

BEAT THE HEAT

BEAT THE HEAT AND PLAY SPORTS INDOORS OR BOOK A FACILITY SPACE WITH YOUR FRIENDS.

TAKING RECURRING BOOKINGS APPLICATIONS FOR THE FALL WINTER SEASON

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A hub for the community – bridging people in shared celebration, learning, and play.



GENESIS
CENTRE
An Inspired Community

—
2022
RATES

NOTE: RATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE,
VISIT GENESIS-CENTRE.CA FOR UPDATES

RENTAL LOCATIONS		PRIME TIME 5PM - CLOSE WEEKDAYS & WEEKENDS	NON-PRIME TIME 9AM - 5PM WEEKDAYS
Feature Gym	Adult	\$245	\$109
	Youth	\$198	\$109
Multipurpose Room (Half)	0-50	\$46	\$46
	51+	\$69	\$69
Multipurpose Room (Full)	0-75	\$80	\$80
	76-150	\$120	\$120
	151+	\$160	\$160
	Adult	\$127	\$79
Community Gym	Youth	\$105	\$79
	Adult	\$199	\$79
Field Hose	Youth	\$162	\$79

PASSES AND ADMISSIONS	ANNUAL PASS	MONTHLY PASS CONTINUOUS	30-DAY PASS NON-CONTINUOUS	DAILY ADMISSION	LATE NIGHT
Family (2 adults, 4 children)	\$600	\$60	\$45	\$22	—
Adult (18+)	\$320	\$32	\$32	\$11	\$5.50
Seniors (55+)	\$220	\$22	\$32	\$5.50	\$5.50
Youth (14-17)	\$230	\$23	\$33	\$8	\$5.50
Child (8-13)	\$220	\$22	\$32	\$5.50	\$5.50
Preschool (0-7)	Free admission with paying adult.				



WARD 5



Happy Canada Day, Happy Stampede and Happy Summer!

It has been an incredible eight months as your city councillor in Ward 5. I have to say we've had no shortage of things to improve and issues to advocate for. We're making things happen because you have taken the time to reach out to me and my staff to let us know what you need and being a part of building better communities. I sincerely thank you for your engagement. Keep this up because this is how we move forward together!

As summer comes and all of the events and barbecues along with it, I look forward to meeting more of you in person and hearing what's on your mind. You can always send an email to ward5@calgary.ca or come up to chat if you see me at an event.

Adopt an Alley and Community Clean-Up

We heard very loudly that one of the big things to focus on in Ward 5 is keeping our neighbourhoods clean. The problem is particularly bad in our alleys, where residents regularly dump trash. In response, we worked with the City to create the Adopt An Alley project. Much like a community clean-up, a large garbage bin is brought to the alley for residents to conveniently take away larger pieces of garbage saving you time and money.

So far, this project has been an incredible success. In our first two events, volunteers filled the bins with 10 tonnes of garbage! We followed that up with another seven tonnes gathered and taken away during the annual Ward 5 clean-up on Neighbour Day, and another five tonnes on June 25. This is an amazing show of passion from our community and I'd like to say a sincere thank you to everyone who came out to chip in!

Taxi Fare Increase

In May, my council colleagues and I voted unanimously to raise Calgary's taxi rates. Cab drivers have been impacted heavily by rising costs of fuel and insurance. It was the first time in eight years that rates have increased and they are now some of the highest paid drivers in the city, allowing this service to compete with apps like Uber. Pickups now start at \$4.50 and cost 23 cents every 120 metres.

Community Safety Town Hall

On June 25, we hosted a town hall on community safety. It was an engaging and informative session featuring speakers from the Calgary Police Service, community organizations, and health care professionals. I think the key takeaway from this is if we all work together, we can create the conditions for safer neighbourhoods.

From the police perspective, they rely on us to be the eyes, ears and voice of the community. The officers said, "If we see something, say something." You can do that without having police show up at your home. You can call Crimestoppers. You can file a report online. You can send an email to the Ward 5 office. You can even provide video from your doorbell cameras that can help them solve a case!

At a personal level, we can maintain open dialogue with our children and keep them involved in the community. We heard about parent-child connectedness: parents are the most significant person influencing children's behaviour. Spend fun time together and meet their needs. The safest children are those who develop skills to communicate healthily

with adults. If you find that they're not comfortable talking to you, which can definitely happen with teenagers, let them know there are people at the Genesis Centre, Trellis, YMCA, Saddletowne Library, or their schools, who will listen and help.

Safety isn't just preventing crime. It's also emotional and mental safety. It's having the resources available to be resilient in the face of adversity. And I learned there are a lot of resources for youth and seniors, men and women, newcomers, families, students and so on. I've compiled a list on my website. Look them up at www.rajyyc.ca.

Calgary's Climate Strategy

By now, many of you will have heard that City Council debated a climate strategy at the July 5 meeting. I proudly championed the strategy because I believe Calgary should be a leader in the fight against climate change. We can't be sitting on the sidelines. We must be part of the game!

I recognize there was a lot of concern over a potential price tag that was talked about in the news. We heard from many Calgarians that it's too expensive, that it'll lead to increased taxes, that fighting climate change is not the city's responsibility, and it won't make a difference anyway. I understand those concerns. It could be a lot of money, but the cost of inaction will far exceed the costs of these investments.



The climate strategy is not meant to be a budget. It's the vision of where we want to go and how to build Calgary with climate change in mind. Investment will come from multiple sources, namely the federal and provincial governments, and private businesses. In fact, one of the main reasons behind declaring a climate emergency is to ensure Calgary is seen to be serious and deserving of investments. Having worked in the energy industry for a decade, I can tell you the transformation is already happening. The amount of research and development the oil producers are putting into new, clean-tech, green energy is tremendous. As a city where most of these companies are headquartered, we need to signal our support to them.

Finally, many of the strategy's suggestions are things Ward 5 residents, and all Calgarians, are already asking for and they contribute to that investment. When the city expands CTrain service, that counts. When ENMAX buys electric utility trucks. When we plant more trees and build more green spaces. When a developer builds net zero, energy efficient homes. When you switch to a hybrid or electric car or choose to bike or walk more after we've built the infrastructure for it. Those all count!

So now I am working with my fellow councillors and city administration to create a robust climate action plan that we can all be proud of. We will show the world Calgary is a leader in making the energy transition and building a cleaner, more sustainable city. Ward 5 has already seen the impacts of climate change with the devastating hailstorm of 2020. As the councillor, I hope you will join me on this journey. We owe it to future generations. 🌸

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Raj".

Raj Dhalliwal
Councillor Ward 5, City of Calgary



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Lotus Link Community Publication

For demographic info and rates, please review our media kit (scan the QR code below)



403-930-6180



Genesis-Centre.ca



jardiel@genesis-centre.ca

4 Sustainable Gardening Tips

Are you planning to beautify your garden this summer?

Have you already started? Here are some sustainable gardening tips you could try this year!



1. Practice Organic Gardening

Try to use fewer chemicals in your garden! Especially if you are raising food for your family and neighbours.



3. Mulch your Landscape

Add a 2 to 3-inch layer of the mulch of your choice (look for local sources like shredded bark or grass clippings). Mulch retains water and maintains temperatures.



2. Install a Rain Barrel

A single rain barrel can capture over 3,000 litres of rainwater every year! Your plants will love the chlorine-free water!



4. Start Composting Food & Yard Waste

It can turn into a nutrient-rich, sustainable fertilizer. Contact **Green Calgary** to learn how to start composting! 🌱



 @greencalgary

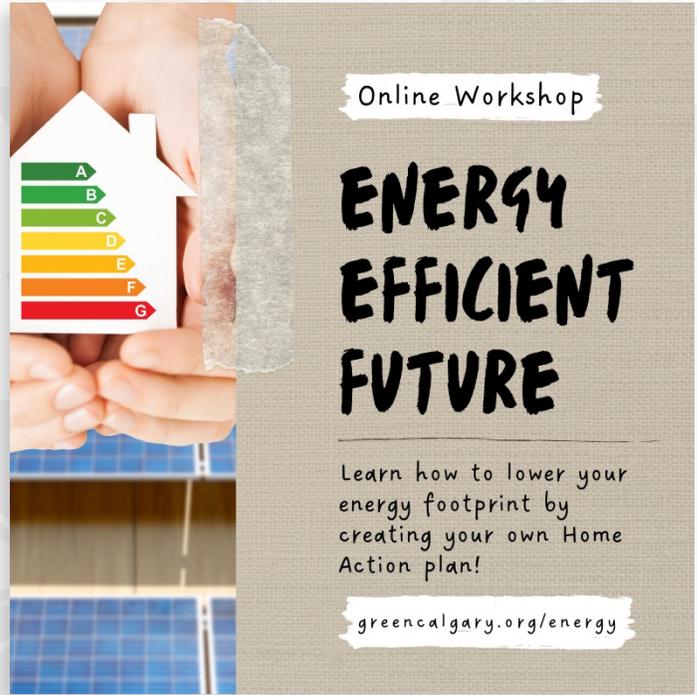
 @greencalgary

 /greencalgary.org

ENERGY EFFICIENT FUTURE Workshops

Green Calgary is having a free virtual 60-minute Energy Efficient Future Workshop on understanding your home energy use and its connection to climate action this summer! During this session, our educator will guide you through creating a home action plan that will help you understand how to create a more energy-efficient home, reduce your impact on climate change, and save you money on your monthly utilities.

If you want to learn about the impacts of your home energy use, how to understand your utility bill, and choosing energy-efficient actions for your home, this workshop is for you!



Register today at greencalgary.org/energy (multiple dates available throughout July-September) and contact us if you have any questions.

This program is funded by **ENMAX** and **Alberta Ecotrust** and offered for free! 🌱

Green Calgary is Looking for Volunteers!

Are you interested in making a difference in your community through fun volunteering experience? We've got some great opportunities for you!

Green Calgary is looking for volunteers who can help us promote environmental education and help Calgarians achieve their green goals!

Do you have any questions or want to receive updates on Green Calgary volunteer opportunities? Sign up at greencalgary.org/volunteer. 🌱



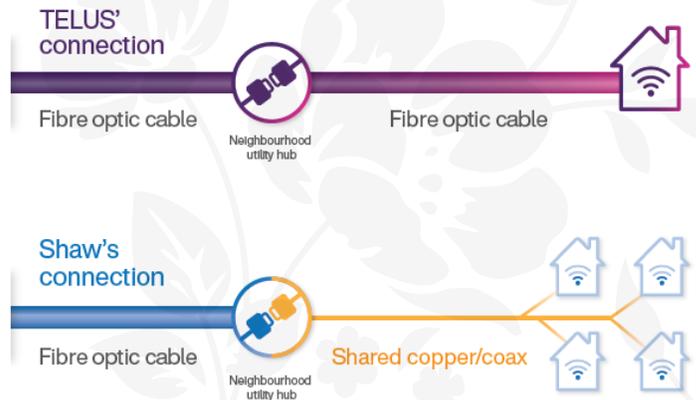
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As a proud community partner, **TELUS** has been involved in Alberta communities for over 115 years, and is investing \$2 billion in Calgary through to 2024. In an increasingly connected world, **TELUS PureFibre®** provides leading reliability and speed to keep you connected for work, school, gaming and more.

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** Traditional copper wire or copper wire hybrid networks are subject to capacity constraints and environmental stresses that do not affect TELUS fibre optic technology, which is based on light signals. Not available in all areas.*



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SPEAK**

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September 29, 2022 at Hudson Conference Centre

Cocktails, dinner, raffle, silent auction, and
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Global Women: Local Changemakers

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Mayor Jyoti Gondek, Mayor of Calgary
Dr. Verna Yiu, Former President and CEO, Alberta Health Services

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Linda Olsen, News Anchor, Global News Calgary

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