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MORE RINK HEROES:  
LUCAS RAMAGE, JOE SCHEBEL,  
ROD MILLER, LILY OSTER,  
MIKE AND SHAYLA BRISTOW  
MISSING HELPERS:  
BRAD BENEDICT, SCOTT FISHER,  
JONATHAN MCWANN,  
TREVOR BOUDREAU,  
GORD RICHARDSON AND  
THE MANY OTHERS WHO HELP  
CLEAR SNOW.  
COVER PHOTO AND TABLE OF  
CONTENTS PHOTO  
TAKEN BY RADANA WILLIAMS





## HOUNSFIELD HEIGHTS/BRIAR HILL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Box 65086, RPO North Hill Calgary, AB T2N 4T6  
Phone: 282-6634 (voice mail) (checked 1 - 2 times per week)  
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beacon@hh-bh.ca

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Community board meetings are held every second Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the HH-BH Community Centre boardroom. All community residents are invited! To be on the agenda, please contact admin at hh-bh.ca at least 2 weeks in advance. **Next Meeting: March 8th, 2018.**

The results of the survey tell us you have some great ideas for enhancing our facility. Here's a chance to provide your input in person. There is still an opportunity to help plan and create a space to meet the needs of our community. Meetings are held the third Wednesday of every month at the community boardroom, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. For more information, contact Carol Sandahl: vp@hh-bh.ca

Briar Hill School Used Book Sale is the school's biggest fundraiser of the year, and they need the community's continued support. The Used Book Sale will take place from March 19th - 21st. Please start saving those books - we will begin accepting donations of books March 1st.

Outdoor soccer referees are needed. A training session is mandatory (unless you've already taken one) and provided by the community association. Please see our ad in this issue of The Beacon for more information.

Spots are still available for playschool! Register for the Hounsfield Heights-Briar Hill 2018/19 Playschool year starting on February 21. Please visit hhhbcaplayschool.com for more information and to register online.



**Register for the 2018/19**  
Playschool year,  
starting on February 21  
Please visit [hhbcaplayschool.com](http://hhbcaplayschool.com)  
for more information and to register online!

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's March, and optimistically, Spring is in the air with the promise of longer, warmer days and, of course, the inevitable snowfall in April. Hopefully you've had time to look over the initial community survey results that were published in February and those included in this issue. The survey helps us capture our community members' priorities and sets the board's direction. We, as a board, continue to analyze the results and, based on the information we have identified to date, are focusing on four key items:

1. The Sears Plume - Please read the article on the Sears plume in this issue of The Beacon.
2. Banff Trail Motel Village Development - We are supporting directly impacted community members and funding an independent review of the development permit process.
3. Community Centre Expansion - We are collecting bids from prospective architects to establish plans to then engage with the community for feedback.
4. City of Calgary Secondary Suite Regulatory Changes - Please read the article in this issue of The Beacon.

We are also keeping a close eye on the possibility of any Sears land development to ensure our community is involved early so we can establish a positive relationship with any potential developers. Our involvement from the onset will allow us to potentially have more influence over the development and its impact to ensure it improves the community as a whole.

As with all things, many hands make light work but, while there is no shortage of concern for the aforementioned items, we always seem to be short on hands. Please take the time to step up, get informed, and get involved in your community to support these efforts. While you may not be directly impacted by some of these issues, paying it forward by supporting those who are ensures we have a strong community that supports all when their time of need presents.

Please remember, you are always welcome to attend our HH-BH Board meetings, which are held at 7:00 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month from September through June at the HH-BH Community Hall at 1922 - 14 Avenue NW. Attending these meetings is a great way to stay up to date on what is happening and to ensure your ideas and concerns are heard and incorporated into the management of the community association. To include an item on the agenda, please contact admin@hh-bh.ca at least 2 weeks prior to the meeting. If you are unable to attend in person, please write me at president@hh-bh.ca.

## COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

### HHBH Gym Drop-In Programs

Badminton: Tues-Fri: 9:00 am – 12:00 PM  
Pickleball: Tues, Wed, and Thurs from 1:00 pm – 3:30 pm  
Rates: \$4 per person, \$3 for seniors (55+)

### Family Open Gym Night

Free open gym for the community provided Friday nights when available. Please visit our website at [www.hh-bh.ca/community-open-gym-free](http://www.hh-bh.ca/community-open-gym-free) to confirm availability.

### Hounsfield Heights-Briar Hill Drop-in Fee Increase

After a review of our operating budget and a comparative review of other Calgary community associations confirmed that our drop-in rates have fallen behind. To manage and maintain our facility and related services, and to continue ensuring safety and compliance with all bylaws, we are required to modestly increase our rates.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our clients and members for their continued support.



### Outdoor Soccer Referees Needed

This is a job that pays! A training session is mandatory and provided by the community association. This is a great way for you to be involved in our community. If you have already taken the training, you are not required to attend again. You may retake the training if you would like to refresh your skills.

If you are 12 years of age or older and interested in becoming a referee for the 2018 outdoor soccer season with HHBH, please contact Melissa Hagg at [melissa-hagg@gmail.com](mailto:melissa-hagg@gmail.com) or 403-284-2410.



# Hounsfield Heights – Briar Hill Community Association BOARD OF DIRECTORS

COMMITTEE POSITION	NAME	EMAIL	PHONE
President	Allan, Jeff	president@hh-bh.ca	
Past President	Hunt, Laura	past.president@hh-bh.ca	
1st Vice President & Programs	Sandahl, Carol	vp@hh-bh.ca	
2nd Vice President & Facilities Director	Sammet, Gunter	2nd.vp@hh-bh.ca	
Treasurer	Winkler, Kathryn	treasurer@hh-bh.ca	
Secretary	Greco, Joanna	secretary@hh-bh.ca	
Land Use Director	Woods, Terry	land.use@hh-bh.ca	
Education Director	VACANT	education@hh-bh.ca	
Sears Plume Director	Almeida, Diana	sears.plume@hh-bh.ca	
Communications Director	Falconi, Sandra	communications@hh-bh.ca	
Events Planning Director	Malchow, Margaret	events@hh-bh.ca	
T & Strategic Planning Director	Marsh, Jeff	it@hh-bh.ca	
Director-at-Large	Staniland, Kathleen	director.at.large@hh-bh.ca	

## PROGRAM COORDINATORS

Indoor Soccer	Eve Miller	indoor.soccer@hh-bh.ca	
Outdoor Soccer	VACANT	outdoor.soccer@hh-bh.ca	
Youth Badminton	Theresa Cowan	badminton@hh-bh.ca	

## COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Louise Riley Library	Allison Thomson	allison.thomson@calgarypubliclibrary.com	403-221-2047
Community Police Liaison	Cst. James Dore #3680	JDore@calgarypolice.ca	403-428-6344

## CONTACT

**Mailing Address:** Box 65086, RPO North Hill Calgary, AB T2N 4T6

Board Room / Gym - 1922 – 14 Avenue N.W.

**Parking:** west of the Louise Riley Library, accessed via the library drive-way. Hall/Gym is located NE of our parking lot, just across the soccer field.

**Phone:** 403-282-6634

**Email:** admin@hh-bh.ca

**Beacon Submissions:** beacon@hh-bh.ca

**Boardroom/Gym Bookings:** bookings@hh-bh.ca

The HH-BH Gym and Boardroom schedule can be viewed at [www.hh-bh.ca](http://www.hh-bh.ca).

For the latest news, programs and events, please visit our Official HH-BH Community Association website at [www.hh-bh.ca](http://www.hh-bh.ca).



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Have an idea for a great community program or event? Send your ideas to [vp@hh-bh.ca](mailto:vp@hh-bh.ca).

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## Briar Hill School

### 23rd Annual "Recycle a Friend"

#### Community Book Sale

Donations of books accepted at the school  
March 5 - March 16, 2018  
(No Encyclopedias or Textbooks)

1233 21 St NW  
Questions or info email  
[colleen@greenC.ca](mailto:colleen@greenC.ca)

Tuesday March 20, 2018  
9:00 am to 6:00 pm

Wednesday March 21, 2018  
9:00 am to 8:00 pm

6:00pm □ 8:00 pm  
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# Sears Plume Update

## Background

In the 1990s, Sears shut down a gas station at its North Hill Mall location upon discovery of a gasoline leak. It is believed that gasoline had been seeping into the ground for at least 20 years prior to its detection, spilling large quantities under surrounding neighbourhoods. The gasoline seepage is referred to as a plume, hence the term Sears plume.

As a result of the discovered leak, the province was advised, and Sears was found accountable. Sears hired Clifton Associates to undertake initial cleanup and monitor.

Since that time, Clifton has continued to monitor and report on the site using more than 100 wells that have been set up throughout the community. Reports are available on the HH-BH website ([www.hh-bh.ca](http://www.hh-bh.ca)) under Committees and Projects → Sears Plume.

The HH-BH has also continued to support, track and monitor the issue by: creating a Sears Plume board position; keeping the issue a standing item on the monthly meeting agenda; ongoing communication with Sears and Clifton; a dedicated section on the HH-BH website that is regularly updated; and repeated attempts to highlight issues with government and the opposition.

## Current Status

In December 2017, Hounsfield Heights residents received a letter from Sears (also posted on our website under Sears Plume) stating that due to their current creditor protection status, they are no longer able to continue funding the monitoring and remediation of the plume. Sears also advised in the letter that homeowners may be entitled to make a claim if they can prove monetary damages. Additional information regarding the claims procedure is available at <http://cfcanda.fticonsulting.com/searscanada/default.htm>

Going forward, the HH-BH Community Association Board of Directors has agreed to help fund the cost of an independent environmental firm to review the situation and advise. Jeff Allan, board president of the HH-BH community association, is working with residents, the government, and other interested parties to determine next steps.

Alberta Environment and Parks implemented a Soil Vapour Monitoring Program to assess risk to human health within the HH-BH community. The summer and winter 2017 samples collected continue to indicate there is no risk to human health from the soil vapours.

In a letter from Shannon Phillips, Alberta Minister of Environment and Parks, she states that data to date indicates there is negligible risk to human health; a new pilot remediation study was initiated by the Alberta government in 2017; and discussions are currently underway with her government's environmental law group to determine potential direction in light of Sears' current circumstances.

We will continue to post updates on the HH-BH website and in upcoming issues of The Beacon as information becomes available. Residents are invited to forward any questions to the HH-BH Sears plume director at [sears.plume@hh-bh.ca](mailto:sears.plume@hh-bh.ca) or attend an upcoming community association board meeting. Meetings are held every second Thursday of the month from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. at the HH-BH Community Centre located at 1922 14 Ave NW.

## COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS



On a scale from 1 to 10 (with 1 = 'not at all satisfied' and 10 = 'very satisfied'), how satisfied are you with the following in your community?

Number of Playgrounds	Total
Not satisfied (1-4)	8%
Neutral (5-6)	31%
Satisfied (7-10)	62%
<b>Total</b>	<b>Mean</b>
	<b>Base</b>
	<b>7.1</b>
	<b>221</b>

Quality of Playgrounds	Total
Not satisfied (1-4)	9%
Neutral (5-6)	35%
Satisfied (7-10)	56%
<b>Total</b>	<b>Mean</b>
	<b>Base</b>
	<b>6.7</b>
	<b>221</b>

Size of Community Facility	Total
Not satisfied (1-4)	17%
Neutral (5-6)	46%
Satisfied (7-10)	37%
<b>Total</b>	<b>Mean</b>
	<b>Base</b>
	<b>5.9</b>
	<b>221</b>

Activities Available at Community Facility	Total
Not satisfied (1-4)	15%
Neutral (5-6)	47%
Satisfied (7-10)	38%
<b>Total</b>	<b>Mean</b>
	<b>Base</b>
	<b>6.0</b>
	<b>221</b>

Community Facility Overall	Total
Not satisfied (1-4)	13%
Neutral (5-6)	48%
Satisfied (7-10)	39%
<b>Total</b>	<b>Mean</b>
	<b>Base</b>
	<b>6.1</b>
	<b>221</b>

On a scale from 1 to 10 (with 1 = 'not at all important' and 10 = 'very important'), how important are the following initiatives in your community?

Playschool	Total
Not important (1-4)	12%
Neutral (5-6)	20%
Important (7-10)	68%
<b>Total</b>	<b>Mean</b>
	<b>Base</b>
	<b>7.4</b>
	<b>220</b>

Outdoor Soccer	Total
Not important (1-4)	6%
Neutral (5-6)	17%
Important (7-10)	77%
<b>Total</b>	<b>Mean</b>
	<b>Base</b>
	<b>7.8</b>
	<b>220</b>

Indoor Soccer	Total
Not important (1-4)	13%
Neutral (5-6)	23%
Important (7-10)	64%
<b>Total</b>	<b>Mean</b>
	<b>Base</b>
	<b>6.9</b>
	<b>220</b>

Badminton	Total
Not important (1-4)	15%
Neutral (5-6)	31%
Important (7-10)	54%
<b>Total</b>	<b>Mean</b>
	<b>Base</b>
	<b>6.5</b>
	<b>220</b>

Outdoor Skating	Total
Not important (1-4)	5%
Neutral (5-6)	12%
Important (7-10)	84%
<b>Total</b>	<b>Mean</b>
	<b>Base</b>
	<b>8.1</b>
	<b>220</b>

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On a scale from 1 to 10 with 1 = 'not at all important' and 10 = 'very important', how important are the following initiatives in your community?

<b>Community Clean-Up</b>	<b>Total</b>	
Not important (1-4)	4%	
Neutral (5-6)	7%	
Important (7-10)	89%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>8.5</b>
	<b>Base</b>	<b>220</b>

<b>Summer Solstice</b>	<b>Total</b>	
Not important (1-4)	7%	
Neutral (5-6)	30%	
Important (7-10)	63%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>7.2</b>
	<b>Base</b>	<b>220</b>

<b>Stampede Pancake Breakfast</b>	<b>Total</b>	
Not important (1-4)	10%	
Neutral (5-6)	25%	
Important (7-10)	65%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>7.1</b>
	<b>Base</b>	<b>220</b>

<b>Social Events to Bring Residents Together</b>	<b>Total</b>	
Not important (1-4)	5%	
Neutral (5-6)	18%	
Important (7-10)	77%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>7.6</b>
	<b>Base</b>	<b>220</b>

Are there any other sports, recreation or leisure activities that you would like to have available in your community that are not currently available?

No	60%
Yes	40%
<b>Total</b>	<b>Base</b>
	<b>220</b>

We currently have funds available to add up to 4000 square feet to the Community Facility. This will allow for programming many potential uses. Do you agree or disagree with this expansion?

Agree	72%
Disagree	22%
Not sure	6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>Base</b>
	<b>218</b>

In your opinion, what is the single most important issue facing the Hounsfield Heights – Briar Hill community?

Crime	22%
Not sure	13%
Increasing density, secondary suites	12%
Vagrancy	8%
Too many 'monster', big homes	8%
Speeding, Shortcutting, Cut Through Traffic	8%
Adjacent High Rises	8%
Other	6%
Community engagement	4%
On street parking	4%
Too little density, need more suites, duplexes, condos etc.	2%
Crowchild Trail expansion	2%
Too much construction	2%
Not enough new construction, Not re-developing fast enough	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>Base</b>
	<b>218</b>

On a scale from 1 to 10 (with 1 = 'not at all important' and 10 = 'very important'), how important are the following aspects of community living?

Maintain the Low Density Single Family Nature of the Community

Not important (1-4)	13%
Neutral (5-6)	13%
Important (7-10)	74%
<b>Total</b>	<b>Mean</b>
	<b>7.9</b>
	<b>Base</b>
	<b>218</b>

Maintain Existing Lot Sizes

Not important (1-4)	10%
Neutral (5-6)	9%
Important (7-10)	81%
<b>Total</b>	<b>Mean</b>
	<b>8.4</b>
	<b>Base</b>
	<b>218</b>

Encourage Higher Density Residential Developments at the North Hill Mall Site

Not important (1-4)	34%
Neutral (5-6)	24%
Important (7-10)	42%
<b>Total</b>	<b>Mean</b>
	<b>5.4</b>
	<b>Base</b>
	<b>218</b>

Continue to Monitor the Sears Plume

Not important (1-4)	16%
Neutral (5-6)	25%
Important (7-10)	59%
<b>Total</b>	<b>Mean</b>
	<b>7.0</b>
	<b>Base</b>
	<b>218</b>

Continue Remediation of the Sears Plume

Not important (1-4)	14%
Neutral (5-6)	24%
Important (7-10)	62%
<b>Total</b>	<b>Mean</b>
	<b>7.0</b>
	<b>Base</b>
	<b>218</b>

On a scale from 1 to 10 (with 1 = 'not at all important' and 10 = 'very important'), how important are the following aspects of community living?

Maintain A Quiet Peaceful Environment

Not important (1-4)	1%
Neutral (5-6)	5%
Important (7-10)	94%
<b>Total</b>	<b>Mean</b>
	<b>9.1</b>
	<b>Base</b>
	<b>218</b>

Close to Public Transit

Not important (1-4)	5%
Neutral (5-6)	10%
Important (7-10)	86%
<b>Total</b>	<b>Mean</b>
	<b>8.5</b>
	<b>Base</b>
	<b>218</b>

Close to Retail Shopping

Not important (1-4)	6%
Neutral (5-6)	19%
Important (7-10)	75%
<b>Total</b>	<b>Mean</b>
	<b>7.7</b>
	<b>Base</b>
	<b>218</b>

<b>Total</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>7.7</b>
	<b>Base</b>	<b>218</b>

Close to Services such as Medical, Dental, and Legal

Not important (1-4)	7%
Neutral (5-6)	17%
Important (7-10)	75%
<b>Total</b>	<b>Mean</b>
	<b>7.9</b>
	<b>Base</b>
	<b>218</b>

On a scale from 1 to 10 with 1 = 'not at all important' and 10 = 'very important', how important are the following aspects of community living?

Close to Public Services Like the Library, Hospitals, and Schools

Not important (1-4)	2%
Neutral (5-6)	5%
Important (7-10)	94%
<b>Total</b>	<b>Mean</b>
	<b>8.9</b>
	<b>Base</b>
	<b>218</b>

Close to Work

Not important (1-4)	8%
Neutral (5-6)	18%
Important (7-10)	73%
<b>Total</b>	<b>Mean</b>
	<b>7.8</b>
	<b>Base</b>
	<b>218</b>

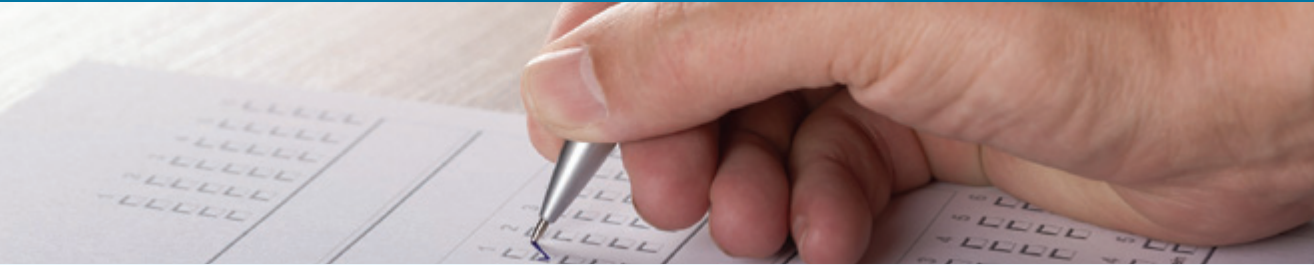
Close to Downtown

Not important (1-4)	6%
Neutral (5-6)	8%
Important (7-10)	86%
<b>Total</b>	<b>Mean</b>
	<b>8.4</b>
	<b>Base</b>
	<b>218</b>

Are there any initiatives you would like to see started in the Hounsfield Heights Briar Hill Community?

No	61%
Yes	39%
<b>Total</b>	<b>Base</b>
	<b>218</b>

~continued next page~



**Under which of the following circumstances do you support SECONDARY SUITES within our community?**

Suites for extended families only	58%
Suites for domestic employees, caregivers in home only	54%
Along the periphery of the community	52%
Suite or primary residence occupied by property owner	51%
Overlooking Lion's Park to enhance safety in park	50%
Everywhere in community under current regulation	40%
Don't support under any circumstances	23%
<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>684</b>
<b>Base</b>	<b>208</b>

**Base:** Households with some or none of the energy saving lightbulbs still installed.

**NOTE:** Percentages may exceed 100% because multiple responses given.

**AND JUST A FEW MORE QUESTIONS ABOUT YOU!**

**How long have you lived in the community?**

Less than 1 year	6%
1 to 5 years	19%
5-10 years	17%
More than 10 years	58%
<b>Total Base</b>	<b>216</b>

**How long do you plan to live in the community?**

Less than 1 year	2%
1 to 5 years	12%
5 to 10 years	15%
More than 10 years	61%
Not sure	11%
<b>Total Base</b>	<b>216</b>

**Do you own or rent your home?**

Own	88%
Rent	9%
Refused	3%
<b>Total Base</b>	<b>215</b>

**Including yourself, how many people live in your household?**

1	7%
2	37%
3	16%
4	26%
5	8%
6+	3%
Refused	4%
<b>Total Base</b>	<b>213</b>

**Which age group do you fall into?**

Less than 18	0%
18-30	3%
31-50	38%
51 or older	50%
Refused	8%
<b>Total Base</b>	<b>213</b>

**We would like to invite you to sign up for a free membership to be part of your community association. Could I get your email address?**

No thanks	17%
I'm already a member	36%
Yes:	48%
<b>Total Base</b>	<b>212</b>

**There is also a Resident full membership which costs \$20 family, \$10 seniors Can the community association get in touch with you later to upgrade your household to a full membership?**

Yes	43%
I'm already a member	32%
No	25%
<b>Total Base</b>	<b>176</b>

**If you do not want to become a member, we can still add you to our community contact list if you would like to be kept informed with a monthly email from the Community Association.**

No	94%
Email provided	6%
<b>Total Base</b>	<b>35</b>

**Important information regarding changes to current R-C1 zoning**

**Do you own an R-C1 property (single detached home) in Hounsfield Heights-Briar Hill? If so, then your property will be affected by proposed land use changes set to come before City Council at a public hearing on March 12, 2018.** The City of Calgary will send a letter to every home in Calgary that is affected by the changes, **but you will have little time to respond.** There will be no public information sessions or engagements: the only way for you to provide your input is through a letter.

Currently, secondary suites are not a permitted use in R-C1 homes. Homeowners wishing to build a secondary suite must apply for a Change of Land Use (rezoning) from R-C1 to R-C1s. **If the proposed Motion passes on March 12th, secondary suites would no longer require a rezoning application; they would only require a Discretionary Development Permit (DP).**

**What is a Discretionary Development Permit (DP)?**

All DPs are either Permitted or Discretionary. A Discretionary DP:

- Is processed through the City of Calgary Planning Department rather than requiring a Council hearing,
- requires that a notice is posted for two weeks on the property with information about what is planned, who to contact for more details and deadlines for Community Association and neighbours' comments
- may be appealed (i.e. at the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board)

**What is the Motion being voted on March 12th?**

The Motion has three key components:

1. Secondary suites would move to a discretionary use in R-1, R-C1 and R-1L districts;
2. A mandatory Secondary Suite Registry;
3. Reinstatement of fees for secondary suite applications.

It is important to note that while this is being presented as a complete package, Council will vote on each piece separately: they can choose to adopt all or parts or none of the pieces.

**What does the current Motion mean?**

If passed, all R-C1 properties will allow for suites with only a discretionary Development Permit.

**What do you think could help to mitigate some of the commonly-expressed concerns around secondary suites?** The following items are **not** part of the Motion but may be worth considering. If you think any of these are important or have other suggestions, you need to let your Councillor and Community Association know.

- Garage and laneway houses will be allowed as part of this Motion under the current proposal. Should this change be limited to basement suites which are fully contained within a house? A garage or laneway house could be much more intrusive for close neighbors.
- Is a mandatory registration crucial (i.e. All suites must be registered, otherwise they are considered illegal)?
- What about renewable licensing (similar to a home-based business since a suite is generally income generating): should a license be required when the property is sold or redeveloped? Should a suite inspection occur at that time to ensure suite safety so that no tenant resides in a suite that does not meet building codes?
- Should there be penalties for non-registered or non-licensed suites?
- Should fees for secondary suite applications and development permits be reinstated? (Since August 2015, fees have been waived.)
- Is it important that all suites have adequate parking?
- Should there be a provision so that suites cannot be used as short-term rentals (i.e. Airbnb)?
- Should there be increased city bylaw enforcement resources to ensure all suites meet property standards for maintenance and upkeep? Should there be penalties for not meeting bylaws in regard to aspects such as maintenance and upkeep standards?

**What can you do?**

- Submit feedback or concerns to your Councillor, your Community Association and to all Councillors (since all will be voting on this Motion). Unless they hear from you, they will not know what you think about this proposed Secondary Suite change.
- You can call 403-268-5311 or visit [www.calgary.ca/suitereform](http://www.calgary.ca/suitereform) for more information.
- Letters concerning these bylaw amendments must be received by the City Clerk **no later than 12:00 p.m. (noon), March 5, 2018**, in order to be included in the Agenda of Council.
- Any person who wishes to address Council in person

~continued on page 15~

# Greg Robb

The community of Hounsfield Heights-Briar Hill has its very own Dr. Frankenstein. But instead of creating a human monster, Greg Robb created a rubber one.

Standing over 10 feet tall, and weighing between 500 and 600 pounds, this monster made of rubber tires has a very lofty purpose—to educate North Americans about the effects of rubber on the destruction of wildlife habitat and human rights abuses in other parts of the world. With a billion and a half tires disposed of annually, the incentive to eradicate homes and forests in these areas is great, and the issue of what to do with all the discarded tires across the globe continues to grow.

Greg earned his Master's degree in Science in 1984 and began his career as a geologist, which he still consults in today. Interested in drawing and sculpture, Greg also dabbled in art, taking courses at the Alberta College of Art and Design. Several years ago, when the oil patch took a skid and Greg found himself with more time on his hands, he returned to the University of Calgary and completed a Bachelor's degree and then a Masters in Fine Arts (MFA) after successfully defending his thesis on urban scrap sculpture last fall. Part of his MFA graduation show was a 10'x30' mural, which was later dismantled, and the material used for the permanent piece installed in a home near Priddis.

The initial inspiration for Greg's tire art came while driving down the highway with his wife, Lynn, when he spotted

truck tire debris on the side of the road. Stopping and collecting the tire skin, he began researching rubber and creating tire murals.

Greg's tire murals were discovered on the internet by the Washington, DC-based organization Mighty Earth, founded by former US congressman Henry Waxman. Mighty Earth is a global organization that works to protect the environment. Impressed with Greg's work, Mighty Earth contracted him to build a tire monster to act as a mascot touring North America to call attention to environmental and human rights issues related to the rubber industry.

Accepting the challenge, Greg got to work. It took approximately six weeks to build the tire monster, in part because of the material. "I could only work for 5-6 hours at a time due to my hands getting sore. Rubber is a difficult material to work with—it is estimated to take 2000 years for rubber to degrade naturally."

Greg grew up in the community of Capital Hill, and is married to Lynn, who was raised in Briar Hill across from Green Park and attended the local elementary school. In 1989, Greg and Lynn moved into her parents' home, eventually building their new one just blocks away in 2002. Their two daughters also attended Briar Hill Elementary, and now attend the University of Calgary.

"Hounsfield Heights-Briar Hill is one of the best places in the city to live—we have it all," says Greg. "Transportation,



shopping, a library, green space, and proximity to the core. And of course, the added bonus of being close to great schools, from elementary to post-secondary."

In addition to all the amenities, Greg appreciates the sense of community. "My girls learned to skate on the rink in Green Park built by local volunteers, and we unfailingly attend the annual Summer Solstice event where our community comes together to celebrate. Being a small, friendly, tight-knit community has many advantages. I know hundreds of people and when I go to the train station or walk to the mall, I inevitably see someone I know. We look out for each other."

Greg describes the disadvantages as being relatively minor, such as not having some of the facilities larger communities have, like a big recreation centres. He also believes more can be done to mitigate some of the issues that arise from living so close to the core.

As for the tire monster, he is now travelling to Portland, Oregon, to begin a multi-city campaign against deforestation and its effects, thanks in large part to a man who followed his passion for turning urban scrap into art.

### Photo Captions

**Tire Mural 1:** This piece is titled 'Black Hole' and was designed as a metaphor for our practice of throwing our garbage into the proverbial black hole thinking that it is gone forever, when in reality it is simply removed from sight. The tires are all recycled ATV and motorcycle tires from a Calgary distributor.

**Tire Mural 2:** Titled 'Patch', this piece is 36" by 36" and is basically a pun on Lynn Robb's quilting practice and on the flat tires from the shoulder of Highway 2 that Greg collected. (this is the caption for Tire Mural 2)

**Greg and Tire Monster Photo:** Greg Robb and his Tire Monster

## SECONDARY SUITES CONT'D

on this matter on March 12, 2018 may do so for a maximum of five minutes. On the Hearing date, anyone present can speak: you do not have to apply ahead of time.

- If you have any feedback on this or any issue affecting the HH-BH community, or would like to become more actively involved in planning and development issues related to HH-BH, please send an email with your contact information to Jeff Marsh, our director of strategic planning, at [strategic.planning@hh-bh.ca](mailto:strategic.planning@hh-bh.ca).

### Addresses:

Hounsfield Heights-Briar Hill Community Association: [admin@hh-bh.ca](mailto:admin@hh-bh.ca)

Councillor Druh Farrell: [calgary.ca/citycouncil/ward-7/Pages/WardDefault.aspx](http://calgary.ca/citycouncil/ward-7/Pages/WardDefault.aspx)

All Councillors: if you send out a mail to [councillorweb@calgary.ca](mailto:councillorweb@calgary.ca), it will be forwarded to all Councillors

Mayor Nenshi: [themayor@calgary.ca](mailto:themayor@calgary.ca)

Public Submissions for the Council Hearing: [PublicSubmissions@calgary.ca](mailto:PublicSubmissions@calgary.ca)

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Greetings and best wishes for 2018!

Change is the constant in our lives and so with my constituency office.

Janice and Joshua are ably managing my office now and happy to answer any questions and provide resources to: advocates, petition guidelines, AISH, AB Works, MEP, WCB and Appeals Advisor, seniors, health, mental health and addiction supports, and more.

I continue to meet with constituents on important challenges for political leaders. Unemployment remains a serious concern in Calgary. We are in the midst of a huge transition toward renewables during a period of lower oil prices—a double ‘whammy’ for the oil industry. Yet there are new signs of hope. My office is able to direct constituents to various support services and retraining opportunities.

I was pleased with Bills passed in the Legislature’s Fall Session including reduced school fees, reducing barriers for women escaping violence and legal support for Gay-Straight Alliances in all schools.

I was not supportive of the cap on electricity rates which will inevitably rise (with new infrastructure and fossil fuel costs) adding to the ballooning deficit and debt. It was also disappointing that Bill 17 (Fair and Family-friendly Workplaces Act) excluded paid farmworkers from rest breaks and overtime pay.

Healthcare continues to be a mixed experience with excellent services for hospital care and yet Emergency Medical Services is plagued with concerns. There are longer response times, excessive delays in Emergency Rooms and a growing toll on the health of frontline staff. I’ve been privileged to participate in the Ministerial Panel on Child Intervention which wrapped up end of January with 24 key recommendations to improve services to vulnerable families, especially indigenous children, who make up 2/3’s of the 10,000 children in care.

I am always available through appointment to learn about and address concerns you may have regarding any provincial responsibilities, or notary public requests.

May those celebrating have a Blessed Easter and Passover!



Calgary Confederation  
**Len Webber, MP**  
 2020 10 St NW, T2M3M2  
 ☎ 403-220-0888  
 ✉ len.webber@parl.gc.ca

**Would you like fries with that?**

The federal government has a number of roles when it comes to food safety and nutrition in Canada.

The most well-known is their publication of the Canada Food Guide which undergoes updating, every decade or so, to include the latest advice based on emerging health and scientific research.

Recently, I have been involved in the updating of this set of guidelines through my membership on the House of Commons Standing Committee on Health. The new Food Guide will be released in stages over this year and next.

In the meantime, there is lots of useful nutrition information available at [www.canada.ca/en/services/health/food-nutrition.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/services/health/food-nutrition.html). This website has information about choosing healthy foods, proper preparation of foods, food allergies, labelling and advertising information and even a special section focusing on the diet of indigenous people. You can also order or download a copy of the current Food Guide. (Those without internet access can call 1-866-225-0709)

Also available on this website is special information for food nutrition during pregnancy. In addition to providing advice on eating during pregnancy, there is a handy Pregnancy Weight Gain Calculator.

While Canada has one of the safest food supplies in the world, there are occasional food recalls or alerts issued to ensure public safety. A list of these recalls is available and is updated continually based on ongoing surveillance of our national food supply.

Adhering to food recalls is critical in preventing adverse health reactions, especially for those with compromised immune systems. You can sign up for email alerts so that you are immediately notified when a recall is issued. This is also highly recommended for those with ongoing health issues or severe allergies.

Across Canada many events and activities are planned in March to promote Nutrition Month and this year’s theme is *Unlock the Potential of Food*. More information and recipes can be found at [www.dietitians.ca](http://www.dietitians.ca) on this campaign.

**SCHOOL SHOUT-OUTS**

**Briar Hill School**

Briar Hill School said goodbye to their Principal, Mrs. Pat Loewen on Dec 22nd, 2017. Mrs. Loewen retired after 5 great years at our school and 22 years working for the Calgary Board of Education (CBE). She will be missed by all—our students loved her. Mrs. Loewen accomplished many things for our school during her tenure—from new windows being installed, to a great increase in enrolment numbers, transitioning to a CBE Kindergarten, a mural legacy on our school, and providing invaluable support to her staff and active school council.

With the new year starting, Briar Hill School will be meeting their new Principal, Mr. Stephen Hart. Mr. Hart will be supported in his new role by our Assistant Principal, Ms. Robin Halbert, and our Office Administrator, Ms. Katie Roche.

Mark your calendars for our biggest fundraiser of the year, the Used Book Sale, which will run from March 19th - 21st. Please start saving your books as we will begin accepting donations on March 1st.

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**Never Hear the Words, “I’m Bored” with Calgary AfterSchool**

This year the fun starts after the bell. After school programs are offered by The City of Calgary for FREE or low cost. Youth are provided positive, fun and supervised after school programs in schools, recreation buildings and community facilities across Calgary. Children and youth grades 1-12 can drop into a weekday program in their community and take part in a variety of activities from 3-6 p.m. Activities may include basketball, swimming, arts, leadership, skating, sports and much more. At Calgary AfterSchool, it’s more than just getting children and youth active. These programs are designed to stay productive, increase self-esteem and teach them skills that will follow them throughout their life. Learn more at [calgary.ca/afterschool](http://calgary.ca/afterschool).



Councillor, Ward 7  
**Druh Farrell**  
 ✉ ward07@calgary.ca  
 📧 druhfarrell.ca  
 @DruhFarrell Druh Farrell

Timely snow clearing from sidewalks is essential for safety and accessibility. Winter maintenance often leaves Calgarians out in the cold, or, worse still, forces many people indoors. Inconsistent clearing means that many seniors, parents pushing strollers, and those who rely on mobility devices cannot navigate our city, leading to increased inactivity and isolation.

The failure of our snow clearing procedures is borne out through statistics: Alberta has the highest slip and fall injury rate in Canada, second only to Saskatchewan. Albertans are three times as likely as Ontarians to be injured from slips and falls. Winter maintenance plays a major role in these statistics. Ontario cities devote a much higher percentage of their winter maintenance budgets to walking—they clear more sidewalks faster.

Calgary’s strategy on clearing sidewalks in winter is inconsistent at best, and, at times, non-existent. Some residents do not do their part to shovel sidewalks in front of their properties within the required 24 hours. At the same time, the City’s clearing can take even longer and often misses key connections.

In late January, I brought forward a motion to Council to improve the accessibility, safety, and equity of walking in Calgary. Council strongly supported this motion. My motion asked City staff to consider the following, and report back with options for improvement:

1. Fines for failure to clear your sidewalk with the existing 24-hour requirement.
2. Updating clearing policies to be consistent with the recently approved Pedestrian Strategy.
3. Identification of a high-priority network for clearing so that Calgarians can reach transit, shops, schools, offices, and other major destinations.
4. Increased coordination between City departments.
5. Improved timelines for City responsibility clearing that would bring them more in line with expectations on private property owners.
6. Options to provide winter maintenance for Calgary’s 78 kilometres of engineered walkways.
7. Guidelines for clearing wheelchair ramps, curb cuts, and sidewalk crossings of laneways.
8. Improved 311 phone, website, and mobile app reporting options.
9. Identification of winter maintenance funding for City departments whenever new infrastructure is built.
10. An updated strategy to assist Calgarians who are unable to clear abutting walking infrastructure themselves.

To sign up for updates on key community and Ward 7 issues, please visit [www.DruhFarrell.ca](http://www.DruhFarrell.ca).

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## News from the Friends of Nose Hill

by Anne Burke

One of our new projects is to revisit the Wikipedia entry for Nose Hill Park, at the volunteer editor's request. The online article has a Talk Page, where anyone can add suggestions. Content must be free and shareable. The template requires more exact and accurate references, with links to online sources.

Grasslands are endangered in N. A. because more than 95% were lost to cultivation, trees, pollution, and development. The grassland is 1 of 7 major native habitat types on the hill which are habitat for a variety of animals. Over 198 wildlife species have been identified on the hill.

By 1879, the bison herds had vanished from Nose Hill. Cattle grazing continued on the hill until 1969. Vehicles were tolerated on parts of the hill until 1971. Long-abandoned hulks of cars were removed from the coulees in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

The Nose Hill Park Trail and Pathway Plan was developed, in 2004, for the 2500 acres, with implementation in 2006. The promise was to protect the flora and fauna, with public education and park management. The park has many informal trails or desire lines. The City proposed 60km of maintained trails and pathways, of which 52km are dirt and gravel, and 8km are asphalt.

Of the total \$6.6 M in ENMAX Parks Program funds, \$4.5 M (from 2007 to 2012) was used for this Plan, as well as for ongoing trail repairs and rehabilitation, interpretive/direction signs, and additional trail restoration.

The capital program budgets are #499 Legacy Parks and #500 Parks and Natural Areas. The funding source, until 2012, was excess ENMAX dividends over \$35 M; later, in excess of \$43 M. By 2017, the share was in excess of \$47 M, although 50% of that (up to \$20 M) was set aside in a reserve for any shortfall in the ENMAX dividends.

One of the priority areas in Council's Fiscal Plan 2012-2014 was to protect natural/environmentally sensitive areas and maintain or increase green space, with an emphasis on areas of the City that lack parks.

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CALGARY WINTER CLUB

## CALGARY WINTER CLUB

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Spend time together as a family this summer at the Calgary Winter Club. We are offering a three month trial so you can try the private club experience before you invest. There is no entrance fee required unless you decide to join.

### THE CALGARY WINTER CLUB FEATURES:

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**COST:** \$600 Primary member, \$300 Spouse and \$200 for each child. This fee includes all of your drop in use of the club from June 1 – August 31st, 2018. There are additional fees for summer programs, camps, classes.

*\*Limited number of trial memberships available. Each family may only participate once in the CWC Summer Trial.*

For more information or to book a summer trial membership, contact **Rebecca Draper at 403.338.2404 or rebeccad@calgarywinterclub.com**

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