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Photo submitted by Radana Williams





HOUNSFIELD HEIGHTS/BRIAR HILL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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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: May 10, 2018.**

There is still an opportunity to help plan and create a space to meet the needs of our community. Facility expansion 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

Our Summer Solstice is just around the corner! Check out our ad in this issue and sign up to volunteer.

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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 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.

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9TH ANNUAL HH-BH SUMMER SOLSTICE BLOCK PARTY
June 16th from 5-10 pm
Between 12th and 14th Avenues by Green Park (1300 20A Street NW)
Potluck – bring an appetizer, salad or dessert to share.
Burgers and hot dogs for sale.
Dunk tank, bouncy castle, face painting, balloon artistry.
Rain or shine!
Volunteers are needed. This is one of HH-BH's most well-attended events so please round up some friends and neighbours and contact events@hh-bh.ca to help us ensure it continues!



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.

For the latest news, programs and events, please visit our Official HH-BH Community Association website at 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.



HH-BH Girls Can Really Play Soccer!

Congratulations to the U16 girls. They won silver in the Calgary Indoor season and won third in provincials in Okotoks.

The U18 girls had a great season winning gold in their division for the Calgary Indoor season which sent them to Edmonton for provincials on the March 17th weekend. They won their last game in a nail-biting shootout. They didn't come home with a medal but won the Fair Play award-most sportsmanlike team in our division. Great job, Briar Hill girls!

Fitness Class

Get into shape for your summer activities by joining our HIGH FITNESS classes!

Session: April 9 to May 14 - 6 weeks
Day: Mondays
Time: 9:45-10:45
Location: HHBH Gymnasium
Fees \$40 members, \$55 non-members
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Online Registration
Register by phone: 403-282-6634
Tuesday - Friday 9:30 - 4:30

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Cannabis Shop Prepares to Open in Hounsfield Heights-Briar Hill this Summer

By Barbara Green

It's not unusual to hear people say they like the maturity of our neighbourhood and its proximity to two major post-secondary campuses. What's unusual is Angus Taylor saying it's *here* he's considering potential markets for marijuana.

Taylor is Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) of New Leaf Cannabis, a company seeking licenses to open 10 legal cannabis distribution outlets in Calgary, and 22 province-wide.

You may have seen the New Leaf logo on the now-covered windows of the northerly retail space in the strip mall on 19th St. between 14th and 16th Ave. NW. Taylor is making an effort to demonstrate that by "new leaf," his company is not just referencing the plant that is expected to be fully legal for recreational use in Canada this summer, but also a new, less seedy (sorry) approach to its distribution.

In a recent telephone interview, he pointed out that while local community associations haven't been part of the debate over legalization, they do have an opportunity to give input on retail licensing when it's at the development permit stage. He also said that it's a good idea to pay attention to the kind of operators applying to move in and whether they share the community's values. His company, he says, is determined to be a good neighbour, not a head shop.

Growing acceptance of marijuana legalization was evident at the Board meeting where Taylor and two of his partners appeared in March: questions from board members focused more on implications for parking and security rather than worries about what local youngsters might get into.

"It's refreshing," Taylor said. "It's already becoming a different conversation than it was three or four months ago." He has been part of the legalization process for a number of years, initially doing consulting work for growers on late-stage applications to Health Canada.

He observes that while some studies indicate that cannabis may have a negative and more addictive impact on adolescent brains, there are others that indicate it may have a salutary effect on aging ones and pain relief, especially for inflammatory conditions such as arthritis.

"One of the biggest concerns we have is that very little true science has been done. The challenge with most cannabis studies is that they're associative, not causal. Some stud-

ies of effects seem inappropriately positive, some inappropriately negative," he said, adding that different cannabis strains can have vastly different effects, from soporific to stimulating.

The company plans to focus initially on cannabis for recreational use and develop partnerships with professionals who can provide medical referrals later.

Taylor, who has lived in Calgary for 25 years and has a background in renewable energy and sustainability, is fascinated by the emerging scientific research but also aware of the pragmatics for parents.

"Young people need to be educated ... both [alcohol and cannabis] are going to be on offer where they are at parties and at clubs," he observes, adding that the Briar Hill location is an anomaly due to its proximity to SAIT and the U of C, because in general, "we're not chasing the 18 – 24-year-old market." He refers to a Deloitte study of marijuana consumption by age groups that indicates there may be big emerging market opportunities among aging Boomers and senior citizens.

At the Board meeting, he said his company is paying attention to security both in terms of its liaison with local police and community groups, and in terms of the store design. Store windows may be covered, but staff will be able to monitor outside activity with exterior cameras. Taylor said the interior of his establishment will be "a lot like a Sage or Apple store," with an open central area and product displayed in locked cabinets around the perimeter walls.

Staff will be trained to provide information as well as to take orders, which will be entered on tablets and filled from the back of the store. The company's ten outlets in Calgary (assuming all are licensed provincially and municipally—Taylor says he probably won't know until just before the shops are able to open this summer) will be linked digitally so that they can keep track of anyone attempting to buy more than an individual daily quota of 30 grams with a view to re-selling.

"The idea is to take an \$8 billion industry out of nefarious hands," he points out. "Cannabis has been steady income for the black market for such a long time, and they're using that revenue to do much worse things."

Whiplash

By Barbara Green

I think I sprained something.

It was on a short walk home from North Hill Centre along 14th Avenue, but the problem wasn't the infernal melt-freeze-repeat syndrome that made sidewalks so treacherous this spring.

It was a casual bit of information dropped by a neighbour: a cannabis shop is planning to open in the little strip mall on 19th St. this summer.

"Here?" I asked, astonished. "How did that happen?" My thoughts raced to the two teenagers currently living under my roof. They're good kids, but ... that's CLOSE!

I was in equal parts alarmed and amused at myself. After all, I'm a life-long bleeding-heart liberal who, in theory, is in favour of legalizing marijuana. It can only make things safer, right? Inspection and regulation of the product and its distribution and taking a steady source of revenue away from the black market. All good. I might even try it myself again ... purely to treat migraines, you understand.

But, a shop HERE? A five-minute slouch from the couch in my basement? Yes, I've talked to my kids about alcohol and drugs, but I'm pretty sure I haven't prepared them for having a cannabis dispensary that handy.

After I stopped hyperventilating, my brain lurched back into operation. Why was I freaking out? We've been living the same walking distance from two liquor stores this whole time. Why was the prospect of a marijuana store so much more threatening to me as a mom?

Angus Taylor, CAO of the proposed cannabis shop, pointed out when he appeared at the HHHB CA board meeting in March that "there has not been a legalization of a substance like this since [Prohibition was repealed in] the 1930s."

And that's probably the point: I can't get over thinking of marijuana as illegal, and therefore illicit. And it's a drug—that seems inherently worse than alcohol which is also, hang on, yes, a drug—really, I checked Wiki. It's also a toxin, as my aging body now tiresomely points out whenever I indulge in more than one glass of wine. As Taylor points out, over-consumption of marijuana won't stop your heart. Over-consumption of alcohol will.

My reaction was just another version of NIMBYism—go ahead and legalize pot, just don't sell it in my back yard (or in this case, next to the local yoga studio). So, I've put some ice on my sprained theoretical liberalism, done an interview with the guy planning to open the cannabis shop to find out more about the operation (see story in this issue), and begun the conversation with my kids.

What do you think? Are you comfortable having a cannabis shop in the neighbourhood? How are you talking to your kids about legalization and use?

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Photo by: calgarylibrary.ca/engine-23/

Engine 23: A Siren Call to the Local Library

By Barbara Green

Neighbourhood kids who can't decide whether to be a firefighter or a famous author may get to explore the best of both worlds soon, very close to home.

In March, Calgary Public Library CEO Bill Ptacek opened discussions with the Hounsfield Heights-Briar Hill (HH-BH) Community Association Board about bringing Fire Engine 23 from its current berth in the lobby of the main downtown library to the Louise Riley. Ptacek was instrumental in bringing the decommissioned fire truck into the library in the first place, where it's been a great success with patrons of all ages.

"It's all about early literacy and creating an exciting thing for the kids," Ptacek said.

The new main library is slated to open in November and Engine 23 will be heading to Symons Valley in about three years, but in between, it needs a new home.

Ptacek's plan is to move the engine into a 40' x 60' tent-like sprung structure on the west side of the library. While the extension would be soft-sided, it would be weather-proofed for winter use, and patrons would be able to get to it from the main library building without going outside.

"The library annex isn't in great shape," Ptacek said at the March board meeting. "It had wasps last year, and we weren't able to do much programming for kids in there.

"[The fire engine] is a tremendous asset for the kids, and it would augment our ability to do children's programs and make the rest of the library quieter for the adults," he added.

Ptacek said the Library Foundation has agreed to fund the move, and the Fire Department is on board – having a demo engine so close to a fire hall (on the north side of the HHBH Community Hall) is ideal.

The community association board gave Ptacek a positive initial response to the proposal, and discussions will be ongoing with a view to preparing the site in early summer.

Ptacek has plans for the Louise Riley Library that extend beyond the short-term, too. "There will be a new library there eventually," he said. "We want a 20,000 square foot library—it would be the busiest, most used library in Calgary.

"We're into creating great spaces, places where people can do more than one thing."

Sears Plume Update

On April 5th, 2018, the Hounsfield Heights-Briar Hill (HH-BH) board of directors received a letter from Alberta Environmental Board (AEB) advising that **Sears is appealing the environmental protection order issued by the provincial government.** The order had been issued by the AEB on February 28th, 2018 requiring Sears continue taking responsibility for the hydro-carbon plume affecting our community despite the claim they are unable to continue due to bankruptcy.

Upon receipt of the letter, the HH-BH board posted the information on social media and our website and began investigating next steps.

The AEB letter and Sears' appeal are posted on www.hh-bh.ca in their entirety. We will continue to post updates on our website and via Facebook and Twitter as they become available.

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