



Chatter

- IN THE WOODS -

Read the online version of the CHATTER at

www.redwoodmeadows.ab.ca

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Hello Redwooders and Neighbours,

Welcome to 2021! Reflecting on the past year, the Chatter has seen many updates and changes, and I'm proud to say we are coming into the new year organized and strong. I would like to thank our amazing contributors, advertisers, and readers; without all of you there would be no Chatter. Thank you for your support!

In 2021, we hope to continue to evolve and improve. Here is what you can look forward to:

- We now accept e-transfer payments for advertisements and business listings...YAY!!!!
- Advertising fees will not increase in 2021, but there is now a cost of \$50/year to have your business included in the "Local Business Listings" section. This is a great way to support the RMCA while also taking advantage of economical advertising.
- We will create guidance documents for our contributors to ensure high quality articles that are directly pertinent to our community.
- We will continue to recruit new contributors for content including but not limited to articles, photography, artwork, content for kids and by kids, recipes, tips, etc.
- We will reach out to the community for input on what you would like included in the Chatter.
- We will continue to explore ways to increase our advertising base.
- We will rededicate ourselves to being a 100% volunteer-run newsletter with all advertising proceeds going to support the RMCA.

Whew, we have our work cut out for us here at the Chatter, but we are hitting the ground running and very excited for what is to come!

Please contact us at theredwoodchatter@gmail.com for all Chatter and volunteer related inquiries.

Warm regards,

Rebecca Parzen

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A MESSAGE FROM THE RMCA PRESIDENT



*H*appy New Year Redwood Meadows!

As you know, Redwood Meadows Community Association (RMCA) has recently elected a new board. I am excited to update you in the coming months with the progress that we make. We are going to take some time to strategize, to build an operational working system, to update our mission and vision, and brainstorm how we can best serve you, our community!

We will be starting with a membership drive. Having a robust membership is especially important right now because it allows our community to access grants and funding that would NOT be possible without membership. Bottom line, without membership RMCA cannot operate.

We know 2020 was a challenging year for many so we are offering an introductory rate of \$5.00 for the 2021 calendar year for households residing in Redwood Meadows. This special rate will only be offered through February 15, 2021. After February 15, a higher fee will apply, so purchase your membership right away! Membership forms will soon be available online and paper forms will also be distributed.

We are excited about the new year ahead of us and look forward to hearing how we can better serve you, the community!

Kind regards,

Jennifer Illescas
RMCA President



CHATTER IN THE WOODS

Chatter in the Woods is a volunteer-run newsletter with all advertising proceeds supporting the Redwood Meadows Community Association (RMCA). The Chatter is published the first day of every month except July and August. It is distributed electronically to more than 300 email addresses, posted online at www.redwoodmeadows.ab.ca, and a link is posted on several community Facebook pages. Print copies are available at the mailboxes in Redwood Meadows, at Redwood House, and at the Bragg Creek Community Centre.

Receive a link to the Chatter on the first day of each month by emailing us at: theredwoodchatter@gmail.com

ADVERTISING RATES

Business Card	\$30/month
Quarter Page	\$44/month
Half Page	\$63/month
Full Page	\$120/month
Business Listing	\$50/year (10 months)

ADVERTISEMENT SIZES

Business Card:	2 ½" h X 3 ¾" w
Quarter Page (vertical):	4 7/8" h X 3 ¾" w
Quarter Page (horizontal):	2 ½" h X 7 ½" w
Half Page (vertical):	9 ¾" h X 3 ¾" w
Half Page (horizontal):	4 7/8" h X 7 ½" w
Full Page (vertical):	9 ¾" h X 7 ½" w

PDF and JPG files reproduce best in print and online.

Discount rates are offered for five-month or ten-month commitments.

Send your advertisement to:
theredwoodchatter@gmail.com

Send your payment to:
payments@redwoodmeadows.ab.ca

The deadline for submission is the 20th of the month prior to publication. All articles and photograph submissions must be signed or credited.

Chatter in the Woods is not responsible for the content or accuracy of articles printed. The views reflected in this newsletter do not reflect the views of the editors.

RMCA EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

SKATE AND SKI LESSONS — STARTING JANUARY 4TH
All sessions are at the 'Beginner' level and run for four weeks. Cost \$75.

Contact rprograms@redwoodmeadows.ab.ca for more information.

Mondays:

Skating: 4pm—4:45pm (Ages 3-6)

Tuesdays:

Skiing: 4pm—4:45pm (Ages 8-17)

Wednesdays

Skating: 4pm-4:45pm (Ages 7-13)

Skiing: 4pm-4:45pm (Ages 9-12 years)

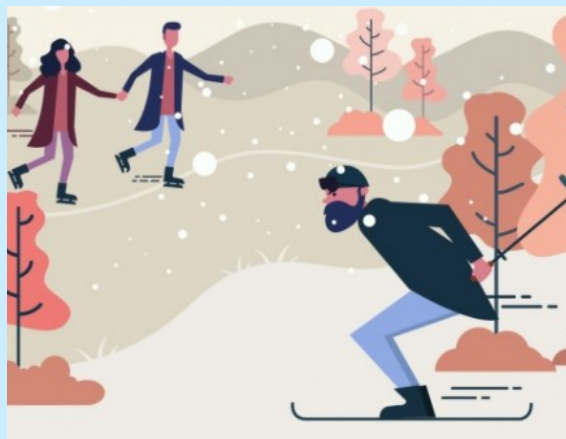
Thursdays:

Skiing: 4pm—4:45pm (Ages 16+)

Saturdays:

Skating: 9am—9:45am (Ages 3-6)

Skating: 10am—10:45am (Ages 7-13)



Join Us At Our Upcoming Community Events!



BRAGG CREEK
community church

All Welcome!

Sunday Service 10:00 - 11:30am

We are meeting again, with PHYSICAL DISTANCING, LIMITED ATTENDANCE as we observe Alberta protocols. For what to expect, visit our website and join the email list for up to date info.

You can also still join us on Facebook Live or YouTube, details on our Facebook page and website

A MESSAGE FROM REDWOOD MEADOWS MAYOR & COUNCIL

*W*ow – We did it! Reaching agreement on the lease and saying good-bye (and good riddance) to 2020. This certainly takes a little sting out of the mess that was 2020!

The future of Redwood Meadows is secured! Following lengthy negotiations and thousands of volunteer hours we are all thrilled the vote to extend the lease in Redwood Meadows has passed.

We have some work to do.

The first step is for Tsuut'ina to confirm the Head Lease extension is signed, after which the Society will work with Tsuut'ina to execute the Master Sublease, Tax Administration Agreement and Stewardship Agreement. The Federal Government (Indigenous Services Canada) will also need to execute a Ministerial Order. The targeted date to have these completed is January 1, 2021.

December was not all about the vote, however. Townsite is now making progress on the speed skating oval, which should be ready for use in January.

With the implementation of COVID protocols you will see some changes around town. At the time of printing, all indoor and outdoor gatherings have been prohibited. Skating is still allowed on the outdoor rink with strict limits on the number of skaters. Please ensure you are doing your part to adhere to these changed policies.

During shutdown, Townsite staff will be intermittently working from home. Visits to the office will be by appointment only with COVID protocols in place.

On behalf of Council and Townsite, I wish you the very best of the Holiday Season; a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. In the words of Dr. Bonnie Henry – Stay Safe and Be Kind!

Redwood Meadows Mayor and Council



REDWOOD MEADOWS TOWNSITE UPDATE

ICE RINK PROCEDURES DURING COVID

Under the current Government of Alberta mandated COVID outdoor recreation restrictions, a maximum of ten skaters/participants are allowed for any bookings. Please book 30-60mins time slots at the Townsite web page, which is also linked to the Townsite App. Please limit bookings to 60mins max / 24 hours to ensure all residents have a chance to skate. Please note: Until the Oval is built, Family Skate Time is on Sundays from 1000-1100hrs (no sticks or pucks). Let's make sure our small children and any new skaters have a chance to learn to skate safely during those 60mins. Thank you for your cooperation.

DISC GOLF

Townsite has introductory disc golf packages for rent (putter, midrange, and driver). Please contact admin@redwoodmeadows.ab.ca to rent (\$10.00/round). Please note: Contact the office before Friday 1200hrs for weekend rentals.

NEW BENCHES AT FIRE PIT

Thank you Red Mountain Rigging for the excellent craftsmanship!

RINK BOARD ADVERTISING

Have your business advertised on the ice rink boards for all spectators to see! Prices:\$500/year for prime spots between blue lines facing stands. \$400/year for all other spots. Email: admin@redwoodmeadows.ab.ca

BYLAW CONTACT INFORMATION

Please Note: Bylaw Officer Lynn Gallen can be reached at 403-813-3105 or email at lgallen@redwoodmeadows.ab.ca



COUNCIL MEETINGS

Meeting agendas are available to the community on the Redwood Meadows website prior to the Council meeting. If there is an agenda item you would like added, please inform Peg Rupert, our Council Executive Assistant, by the Friday before the scheduled Council meeting. Contact: admin@redwoodmeadows.ab.ca

Dr. Karen Massey, REGISTERED PSYCHOLOGIST



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A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

I'm writing to inform you how the latest provincial restrictions will impact Redwood Meadows and explain how that may affect you. Most importantly, these restrictions did not impact our lease vote. Now, after a successful vote and with the new provincial rules in effect, Redwood House will close to the public. Staff will be largely working from home so please be patient as they try their best to facilitate your requests. Any necessary in-person services will be by appointment if they cannot be resolved by phone and email. Many thanks to all Redwood staff for your commitment to our safety.

I am pleased to report the restrictions will continue to allow outdoor recreation. Our concession will remain open for you to warm up with chili, hotdogs, hot chocolate, and coffee. I ask that to facilitate keeping these amenities open, we remember the intent of the restrictions and our responses to these orders. The reason for our rink booking system, signage, and parking restrictions is due to a complaint about the number of people on the ice. Townsite and I have been working with an Environmental Public Health Officer from Indigenous Services Canada to prevent fines and prevent the rink from becoming a source of COVID infections. We are doing all we can to keep our rink safely open for residents to enjoy.

Now I must ask a favour. Please be kind to each other out there. Help educate and share messaging to those our communications may not have reached. Share the space where you can. When communicating a booking to others on the ice or asking if you may join them, please be kind. Townsite has posted the booking schedule to assist you. Remember in many cases, children are using the ice so let's help them adhere to the rules as we do the same. Wherever possible, share the ice when space permits. I am aware despite the signage some people from outside Redwood choose not to respect our rules. Signage will increase and at our entrances, signs will indicate "Residents Only". This will be in place to gain voluntary compliance but also aid in enforcement should the need arise. I have asked Townsite By-law to be available to aid where possible. I believe once the Skating Oval is complete, we will see a decrease in demand for the rink. Please respect where barricades have been placed. The intent is to reduce outside volume but also create space for crews to build the Oval. Moving barricades is not permitted, and makes more work for our Townsite staff.

If you have the opportunity, go see the new benches placed around our community fire pit. Beautiful work by all involved and a centerpiece for us to warm up around. Please refrain from creating a "public gathering"; rather wave and well wish your neighbours from spaced picnic tables and benches.

I know that 2020 has been a challenging year to say the very least. I had high hopes for a celebratory weekend after the lease vote. To the many volunteers who have poured thousands of hours of hard work into the lease over the years, I'm sorry this last weekend wasn't the party you all deserve. But we will celebrate when we can safely. We signed a new lease and science has prevailed with the creation of vaccines. More vaccines are being approved for us in Canada and vaccinations for our committed physicians, nurses, and long-term care residents and providers began this week. Things are now beginning to turn around. More normal times will return. 2021 is looking to be a much brighter year.

Many thanks to RMCA for your commitment to doing all you can this winter and responding to constantly evolving restrictions. We appreciate everything you do for our community. To all that are fortunate to call Redwood Meadows home, I wish you a Happy New Year. May this be the season of new beginnings and new traditions.

Stay safe and stay healthy.

Ed Perkins

Redwood Meadows Council Secretary and Director of Emergency Management

REDWOOD MEADOWS—LOCAL BUSINESS LISTINGS

Ann Sullivan, SafariWorks Fitness Classes	403-689-4835	anns@safari.ca
Bragg Creek Community Centre	403-949-4277	program@braggcreekca.com
Blinda Bilou - Interior Design & Renovation	403-461-9748	bdbilou@gmail.com / BlindaBilouInteriors.ca
Bragg Creek Community Church	403-949-2072	braggcreekcommunitychurch@gmail.com
Candace Perko, Countryside Financial	403-949-4129	cperko@countrysidefinancial.ca
Cochrane Public Library	403-709-0346	Andrea.Johnston@cochranepubliclibrary.ca
Deborah Clark, Century 21 Bamber Realty Ltd.	403-835-3385	dclark@realestaterestofcalgary.com / realestaterestofcalgary.com
Dieter Hendrickson, Re/Max Real Estate	403-612-7849	dieter@remaxbraggcreek.com / www.remaxbraggcreek.com
KarmiK Sport & Personal Development	403-408-6998	karmikathletics@outlook.com
Kamp Kiwanis	403-686-6325	general@kampkiwanis.ca / www.kampkiwanis.ca
Ken Barrie, Century 21 Bamber Realty Ltd.	403-974-0334	ken@newdirectionrealestate.ca / realestaterestofcalgary.com
Maverick Law	403-949-3339	admin@mavericklaw.ca / www.mavericklaw.ca
Mountain's Edge Renovations	403-949-7727	4wolves@persona.ca / www.mountainedgerenovations.com
Redwood Meadows Emergency Services	403-949-2012	www.rmesfire.org Call 911 in an Emergency
Redwood Meadows Tae Kwon Do School		redwoodtaekwondo@gmail.com / redwoodtaekwondo.com
Refining Fire Metalworks (comm & res welding)	403-589-6594	bdbilou@gmail.com
Resource & Support Services in Bragg Creek	403-851-2286	wendy.farnsworth@cochran.ca

*****List your business for only \$50/year. Contact theredwoodchatter@gmail.com *****



REDWOOD MEADOWS EMERGENCY SERVICES

Happy 2021!

A new year is finally here. Here's some things you can do to help prepare for a happy, healthy, and safe new year.

Service Your Fire Extinguishers: Your number one line of defense in the case of a fire is portable fire extinguishers. Be sure that you have extinguishers installed adequately throughout your property as required by fire code. Just as importantly, make sure your fire extinguishers are serviced, properly maintained and everyone in the house knows how to use them. Remember to PASS: Pull the pin, Aim at the base of the fire, Squeeze the trigger and Sweep slowly side to side.

Check Up on Smoke and CO Detectors: Make sure you have smoke and carbon monoxide detectors on every level of your home and outside sleeping areas. Test your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and change the batteries, as needed.

Practice an Escape Plan: Does your family have an escape plan? Have you practiced it recently? Make sure everyone knows the route out of the house in the event of an emergency (and an alternate route if that route is blocked), the meet-up place, and that they should never, ever go back in the house once they're out.

What happens when someone is hurt? It's a good time of year to have a family discussion about what you're going to do if someone in the house is hurt or not feeling well, just in case. If an adult isn't feeling well or acting "funny", kids need to know they can dial 9-1-1 and be a big help in getting first responders there quickly.

Until next month, stay safe. And, if you see the big red trucks coming with the lights flashing, pull over and stop, so we can get to someone in need as quickly, and safely, as possible!



Trivia—Geography

1. What mnemonic device helps one to remember the five Great Lakes of Canada and the U.S.?
2. Finland is also known by what name?
3. What is the Earth's largest island that is not also a continent?
4. What unusual land feature do Canada, Haiti, Portugal and South Korea have in common?
5. In which ocean would you find the island of Guam?
6. Carson City is the capital of which state known as the Silver State?
7. Goat Island and Horseshoe Falls are parts of what well-known smooching destination?
8. No longer found within its borders, what animal is on the state flag of California?
9. What is the name of the official state holiday celebrated in Hawaii on June 11th?
10. 'Old Blighty' is the nickname of which European country?
11. Who is in charge of maintaining the Mississippi River and preventing flooding?
12. 'The Old Dominion State' is the official nickname of which U.S. state?
13. Where is the Po river valley?
14. On my trip around the world, I visited the capital of the United States. What is the capital?
15. In which country, known for its sombreros and piñatas, will you find the Copper Canyon?

Questions provided by FunTrivia

Answers on page 23



Are Your Trees & Shrubs Looking Diseased & Unruly?

Healthy Trees:

- ✓ Protect the environment
- ✓ Attract birds and other wild life
- ✓ Aren't prone to insect/environmental damage
- ✓ Will live longer
- ✓ Convert carbon to oxygen

Trees With No Maintenance:

- ✓ Develop improper growth patterns that conflict with property structures, other trees, and itself
- ✓ Have significant sucker growth
- ✓ Attract harmful insects
- ✓ Are more easily damaged by adverse weather
- ✓ Die sooner causing homeowners significant amounts of unnecessary expenses in clean up costs

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Bragg Creek Centre

Happy 2021 Creekers!

As I write this, the latest round of restrictions under the Public Health Orders are currently in place and we hope that when you read this letter, we have been able to limit the spread of COVID. Our greatest wish for our community is that you were all able to find some Christmas Spirit, joy and gratitude over the holiday season and stay healthy and well during such a difficult time for all of us.

The BCCA's Rink Committee has been hard at work repairing our rink and getting it ready to flood so that we will have a community ice for the New Year. During this time, the Rink Committee is running two fundraisers to help with the costs of the rink: rink board advertising and a Wine Survivor raffle. If you are interested in either fundraiser, please contact braggcreekrink@gmail.com and the committee would be happy to sell you a raffle ticket (or three!) and advertising space in the rink.

While we are not currently able to offer our regular programs at the Centre we are looking forward to when we will be able to run programs and events again for our community. Our Internet Co-workspace is currently closed due to the latest restrictions however, we believe that we will be able to reopen to our community members. A reminder, rates are \$25/day, \$75/week and \$250/month for a desk and a reliable internet connection. Thanks to the Ladies Auxiliary we offer a subsidized rate of \$5/day for students. Call 403-949-4277 or email info@braggcreekca.com for more information.

The Community Centre is the hub of the community, and while we haven't been able to 'host' our community in some time now, we continue to operate and do our best to plan for when we can re-open and provide programming for you and your families. The Centre is still operating with minimal revenues and we encourage everyone to **renew or purchase a membership** if you haven't recently or consider a donation to the Centre. Every little bit helps us continue serving you.

Finally, we want to share what **WE** are grateful for. You, our community, and especially our awesome community volunteers who have given their time over the year. We honestly would not have been able to maintain and run any events or programs without our staff and the volunteers who help us.

Take good care Creekers!

Christine Pollard
Program and Event Manager

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- fire building
- wildcraft
- nature bonding
- creative play
- problem solving
- real tool use & practical skills
- perseverance & resilience
- knife safety: whittling, batoning
- building projects & loose parts play

REGISTER
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Details:
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BRAGG CREEK CENTRE

**NEW SESSIONS
BEGIN JANUARY**
Mondays & Wednesdays
Half Day | Full Day





The Thief - by Amber Zierath

Some places pose a greater risk to enter than others. Even now, as I skulk in the tree's shadows from a safe distance and case the joint, I'm full of fear. I've been watching this house for weeks, and I believe it's now time to take what I want.

With nightfall now upon us, I'll use its veil of darkness to make my move. This time of day makes it less likely I'll be spotted creeping through the yard, and the house will be quiet. I take another quick look around, making sure the route forward is clear, then walk toward the front door.

There's an intoxicating scent to the air the closer I get. This merely heightens my drive to proceed. I inch my way nearer to the house, admiring the lush grass beneath my feet. It may seem odd that I'd notice such a thing in this moment. But I regularly groom and fertilize this grass.

Each step feels increasingly hazardous. What if a dog barks at my presence or worse, what if it tries to chase me? But I'm only inches from my prize, and I can already taste the sweetness of victory. So, although fear weakens my stride and labors my breath, I proceed.

There's suddenly a sound, a bang, sending a jolt through every morsel of my being. Am I caught? Will I need to make a run for it? I freeze and search my surroundings with wide eyes like I've suddenly been caught in headlights. But after a few seconds, the threat passes, and I feel it's safe to resume my mission once again.

Until, at last, I've reached the loot I'm after. I draw in a deep breath, filling my senses with the fragrance of success, then bite. My teeth rip apart a robust cluster of pansies. I chew them and taste their delectable flavour. Looks like they planted an abundance of hostas this year; I'll devour those next. The browallia flowers offer contrasting flavours to the palate, which I personally don't love, but I'll eat them anyway.

Nothing beats a feast of plants and flowers, especially in the first weeks of growth. With such generous residents in Redwood Meadows, my fellow deer and I will dine well and thrive.

To learn more about the writer, please visit her website at: www.amberzierath.com

MORTGAGE MATTERS—MORTGAGES IN REDWOOD MEADOWS

Can I roll my upfront lease payment into my mortgage?

Yes, maybe, or no ... it will all depend on your home's equity (equity = the difference between the current market value of your home and the amount you owe the lender who holds the mortgage), plus your personal qualification criteria.

Yes

- * You qualify for a higher mortgage amount based on your verified income (via income tax returns, job letter/pay stubs),
- * You have excellent credit,
- * You are not carrying a large amount of debt,
- * Your property is in good/great condition,
- * Your current mortgage is for much less than 80% of your home's current value,

If you meet these criteria ... yes, you should qualify to include an upfront lease payment into your mortgage. This can be done by refinancing your existing mortgage or potentially looking at a 2nd mortgage.

Maybe

- * You are unsure if you qualify for a higher mortgage amount based on your verified income (via income tax returns, job letter/pay stubs),
- * You are not sure of your credit standing,
- * You are carrying some debt,
- * You are unsure of your home's current value,
- * You estimate your current mortgage is for less than 80% of your home's current value,

If you meet these criteria ... you may qualify to include an upfront lease payment into your mortgage but you should reach out to a mortgage professional to review your personal circumstances. If you do qualify, this can be done by refinancing your existing mortgage or potentially looking at a 2nd mortgage.

No

- * You do not qualify for a higher mortgage amount based on your verified income (via income tax returns, job letter/pay stubs) due to a reduction in income or recent job loss,
- * You do not have good credit,
- * You are carrying a large amount of debt,
- * Your property is in poor condition,
- * Your current mortgage is for greater than 80% of your home's current value,

If you meet any of these criteria ... no, I am sorry but it is doubtful you will qualify to refinance your mortgage. I would suggest you speak with your everyday bank and ask about personal or unsecured borrowing options.

Refinancing is the process that repays your existing mortgage and starts a brand-new mortgage, usually for a higher loan amount and/or for a better interest rate. Whether or not you should refinance your existing mortgage depends on several factors:

- What is your prepayment penalty on your existing mortgage?
- Is today's super-low interest rates lower than what you have on your existing mortgage?
- Do you have a mortgage renewal coming up anyway?
- Are you planning a major home renovation? It may make sense to take the equity out of your home to pay the renovation expenses.
- Are your monthly bills higher than what you're comfortable with? You may be able to consolidate all your debt into your mortgage. This often better your monthly cash-flow.
- Are you planning to buy RRSPs? With RRSP season just around the corner, you can put your home's equity to work for you and finance the purchase of RRSP and/or investments.

If a refinance is not an option (too high of a prepayment penalty from your existing mortgage for example) then you may consider a 2nd mortgage for the extra funds you need.

Candace Perko

Area Mortgage Broker

NEW SKATING OVAL

The Townsite of Redwood Meadows is continuing its mandate of providing unique experiences for our residents. Winter activities in the community include cross country ski trails that are track set, and a fantastic skating rink maintained and operated by volunteers and Townsite Operations staff. A new addition that residents will notice this winter is the construction of a skating oval. The 400m skating oval will provide an alternate area for skaters to enjoy away from the skating rink.

The project was presented to Council by Townsite Staff. In cooperation with ice makers, engineers, and the Calgary Olympic Oval staff, the project design was a collaborative effort. The oval construction and placement plans were approved by Townsite Council in October 2020. The ice surface will be developed and constructed by Townsite Operational Services with guidance from the Olympic Oval Staff. The oval will be used by athletes training, when not being utilized by our community.

The public is encouraged to park in designated areas and watch for all heavy machinery in the area. NO public vehicles are allowed in the direct area of the skating oval. Townsite thanks all users of its outdoor recreational facilities for enjoying the spaces with respect and keeping them in good condition for all to enjoy.

Bring your skates, bring your family, and enjoy the amazing oval!

- The skating oval is FREE
- Oval is unsupervised; use at your own risk
- NO sticks or pucks allowed
- NO pets allowed
- PROTECT YOURSELF! CSA-approved helmets strongly recommended



Mike Decore

Redwood Meadows Councilor

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A Nightmare results in a Vision.

Not in his wildest dreams could Dick Koetsier have imagined the scenario that was about to unfold. It was early afternoon on June 20, 2013, and upon landing in Toronto during a trip to attend his son's graduation, his phone started buzzing and lighting up with video of his Bragg Creek home floating down the violent Elbow River and crashing into the Balsam Avenue bridge. "At first I didn't want to believe it was my house", Dick explained. "But there was no doubt it was".

"June 20, 2013 traumatically changed my life." Dick's 12-acre property was ravaged by the flood, his life possessions were gone, and the ground where his riverfront house once stood was carved out like a crater. What made matters worse is that less than 24 hours before this devastating event, Dick had just become the proud owner of the Hamlet's world-famous BBQ Steak Pit Restaurant. The Steak Pit was a local treasure and tourist attraction, and Dick would soon learn that it too had sustained irreparable damage from the disastrous flood.

As the months passed and the community slowly recovered, drew together and began rebuilding, an idea started to take shape in Dick's mind.

"I already loved Bragg Creek but the spirit and resilience that I witnessed in the aftermath of the flood and the trying years that followed, made me realize what a unique and special place this really is," Dick said. "I wanted to not only live here but also contribute something significant that would bring new life, vitality and investment into the Hamlet, and I became committed to spearheading an effort that would celebrate and honour the history of this place and the spirit of the people who call it home."

Dick's ideas evolved into a visionary proposal he named Gateway Village, his master-planned and designed urban experience in the heart of Bragg Creek. With long-awaited flood protection and local sewer and water treatment in place, Bragg Creek is now ready to begin its revitalization. A boutique hotel, conference centre, health, wellness and spa facilities, a new collection of boutique shops, with well-landscaped public space, Dick states he wants to give Bragg Creek

the many amenities it has been waiting for. A large part of the plan is to fulfill the long overdue need for housing and will include multi-family residential units and townhomes, with a mixture of rental and ownership options. Dick is most proud that included in his plan, as a principal pillar of his vision, is the re-creation of the much-loved BBQ Steak Pit that will overlook the Elbow River.

Architecturally designed and planned to complement and promote enjoyment of the beautiful natural surroundings, the publicly accessible 12-acre site will also include artistically landscaped open spaces, pathways as well as a reflecting pond suitable for ice skating. Along the banks of the Elbow, between the Steak Pit and hotel, will be an Amphitheatre, perfect for outdoor concerts and festivals that will provide artists a venue to showcase their talents and celebrate Bragg Creek's artistic heritage.

"We have designed an exciting resort-style development that will revitalize Bragg Creek and help it to meet its potential and reinforce the Hamlet as truly being "The Gateway to Kananaskis," Dick explains. "With all the services and amenities planned for our Gateway Village, Bragg Creek will evolve into a highly accessible and exciting destination with daytime, overnight and extended visitations, shopping and accommodations."

Dick and his development company, Gateway Developments Ltd., are very proud to share their proposal with the community and welcome neighbours, residents, businesses and other interested parties to share their thoughts and comments on the Gateway proposal prior to the application for approval to the Rocky View County Council in the Spring of 2021.

The Master Site Development Plan and an online survey are now available to view at gateway.ca. The survey will remain open until January 29, 2021. If permissible, given the Alberta Health Services COVID-19 regulations, there will be an opportunity to view the plans in-person and ask questions of the development team. Please visit gateway.ca for all the details.

(website live on Jan 4th)



Making Elbow room for growth in Bragg Creek

Gateway Village is a visionary development in the heart of Bragg Creek. This resort-style destination will enhance the community with a range of services and amenities, and will bring with it much needed jobs, investment and increased tourism.

Gateway Village is being developed by Dick Koetsier and his company Gateway Developments.

A Master Site Development Plan (MSDP) has been completed for the Village, which includes commercial and retail space; a hotel, conference centre and spa; low-density multi-family housing; amenities such as an amphitheatre; generous pathways and landscaped open spaces.

Residents and local businesses are invited to provide their feedback on the plan from January 4 - January 29, 2021.

The feedback will be presented to Rocky View County Council when the Master Site Development Plan is presented for approval in Spring 2021.

Please visit gateway.ca to view the detailed plans and share your thoughts.

We are closely monitoring the Alberta Health Services guidelines for COVID-19. If permitted, we will hold two in-person events in January where you can view the plans and ask questions of the project team. Reservations for time slots will be required so that we can manage the number of people in the space and maintain all the necessary precautions to keep the community and project team members safe.

Please watch the website for details and confirmation of in-person events.



TAE KWON-DO WISDOM FOR 2020

As it was for everyone, 2020 was different than expected for our community martial arts program. Instead of teaching in-person classes as they had for the past 25 years, Redwood Meadows Tae Kwon-Do School moved online. They opened again to in-person, but socially distanced classes in September; however, were back online at the end of November.

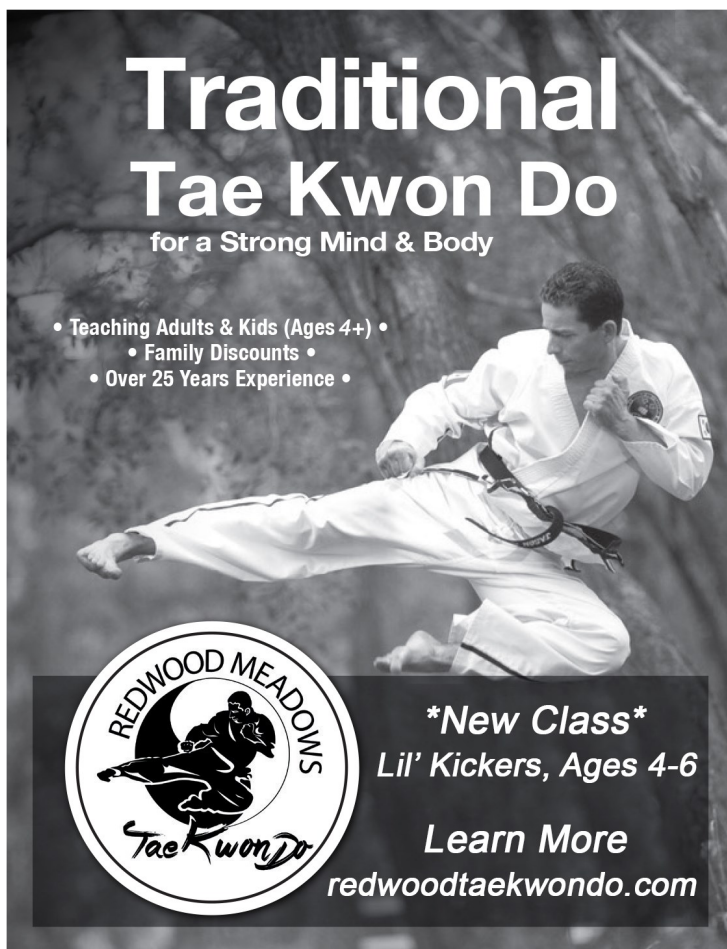
Despite the disruptions to regular training, their students persevered and continued showing up to classes regardless of how they were training. A shining example of this perseverance is a family of students, the Gillcrists. Nine years ago, Matthew and Hannah joined as young kids and their dad, Ralph, soon joined afterwards with encouragement from his wife Maria.

According to Ralph, "There was the incentive of learning a martial art together with my children and in the process, improve my fitness and flexibility at a critical age when the body starts to experience physical decline," that encouraged him to join.

Skip forward through years of commitment and hard work, the three Gillcrists moved up the ranks until they approached their final belt level before black belt. Here 2020 served up another disappointment as their black belt tests were postponed due to COVID-19. Overcoming disappointment has been a recurring theme for 2020, but here Tae Kwon-Do offers some wisdom.

As Ralph says in the written portion of his black belt test, "of all the Tae Kwon-Do tenets, perseverance, the overcoming of difficulties and obstacles or delay to achieve ultimate success and indomitable spirit, the act of never relenting or giving up, ring particularly true throughout the course of my journey."

Whether students join Tae Kwon-Do for a session or for years, the ability to overcome adversity is one of the traits that it aims to instill, and this year needed it more than ever. The Gillcrists hope to test in early 2021.




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Stacie and Jason Smith

Redwood Meadows Tae Kwon-Do School celebrated its 25th year teaching martial arts in the community. New this year is the Lil' Kickers class for 4-6 year olds. Learn more at redwoodtaekwondo.com

Photo: Hannah, Ralph, and Matthew Gillcrist



INTERVIEW WITH REDWOOD'S CROSS-COUNTRY TRACK SETTER

This month I was lucky enough to interview Rebecca Laroque, Redwood resident and our cross-country track setter.

My first question to Rebecca was to find out how she got into this job.

R: I previously worked as a ski patrol in Marmot in Jasper for four years and also did a couple of years at Sunshine in Banff. As a ski patrol, I was able to get my Level 1 Avalanche Control, which includes the study of snow, individual snowflakes and how the snow molecules bond together. This knowledge is very handy for track setting.

M: How did Redwood come to get its own cross-country ski track?

R: When I first moved to Redwood, about fifteen years ago, I tried to get a track started but I didn't really have the resources. Luckily, Flora Giesbrecht, who lived here at the time, was a world class cross-country skier and had lots of connections. She was able to get the track going here in Redwood. We got permission from Redwood Council, Tsuut'ina Nation and Redwood golf course. We worked closely with staff from the golf course to see where a track would fit, this was important, as there are areas on the golf course where you don't want people going. The track initially went to Bragg Creek, until the 2013 flood, when unfortunately it became impassable.

M: Why do you cross country ski?

R: It's a great way to stay fit and healthy in the winter season. It's great exercise and lots of fun. It's also nice that we have the track just outside the door. You can do it whenever you want.

M: Can you tell me a little bit about the track?

R: The total length is about ten kilometers. After a good snowfall, it takes about four hours to lay the track, but I have to go around and pack it first, to make sure all the air is squished out of the snow. Then I can go around with the track setter, and depending on what the snowflakes are like, I may have to change the angle of the track setter. Wet snow is better to lay the track, but it needs to be cold afterwards; if it is too wet then it kind of squishes and if it is too dry then it falls in on itself. I have to check the weather forecast before I head out, because the colder the better. I lay the track with a Yamaha snowmobile that the RMCA purchased through a sports grant.

M: Does it bother you when people stand on the tracks?

R: The berm is a multi-use track so I try to spread the track out as wide as possible so everyone can use it: walkers, fat bikers and of course, skiers. So no, I would say that it doesn't really annoy me too much; after all we do get plenty of snow, so I can redo it.

On behalf of Redwood and all our local and visiting cross-country skiers, thanks for your hard work and for keeping the track in such great shape!

Matthew Cowen

Local youth writer and sports contributor

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HEALTH AND WELLNESS—REDWOOD'S MANY OUTDOOR AMENITIES

As I write this, I can't help but think about how much the world has changed in the year 2020. Wow, has it been a ride, or shall I say, a roller coaster with many loops, twists, turns, ups and downs. Yes, that is right, the COVID-19 pandemic seems to have a stranglehold on everybody's minds these days. Lots of uncertainty has been dished out to us. What a great time to dive into the main topic of this column: health and wellness. How does Redwood Meadows directly relate to our health and wellness?

Well, if you ask anyone who is from the city, or any of the thousands of people who are lined up on our overcrowded roads on the weekend to get into Bragg Creek, they would tell you that "just being out here" is great for our health and wellness.

Now, if we dive a little deeper, what exactly is it that Redwood Meadows has to offer that makes it a great place for health and wellness? Sometimes as residents, we can take for granted what we experience every day. Let me remind you.

Could it be that Redwood is away from the congestions of the city? Or maybe the air seems to be fresher out here? Maybe it is the beautiful river that runs directly through our community. The great people and hometown hospitality might play a part in our health and wellness. The abundance of trees out here that are very tall and wise. Could it be the championship golf course that graces our lands? Maybe it is the excellently constructed berm that we can walk/run on in the summer and ski on in the winter. How about the second-to-none outdoor hockey rink that our volunteers and staff have put endless hours into to ensure that we have a world-class outdoor recreational facility? Could it be the skate park where our youth get to showcase their talents? (And sometimes come home with the odd bruised knee.)

The tennis courts, the frisbee park, the baseball diamond, the soccer field, the football field, the rugby field, the Olympic size skating oval, the outdoor fires, the many animals that we share the area with, the fishing, the biking, the hiking, the safety of having our own emergency services on site, the friendliness of our townsite staff and council members.

Yes, all of these things together make Redwood Meadows the epitome of health and wellness. Health and wellness are written all over this community so let's get out there and enjoy it with our families, and hopefully soon, with each other.

Mike and Karlene Moore

Redwood residents and owners of KarmiK Sport & Personal Development



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“WHAT DOES ‘COMMUNITY’ MEAN TO ME?” – THOUGHTS FROM YOUR FRIENDLY RMCA BOARD



The community spirit of Redwood Meadows is truly unique. I have lived in many places across Canada, from the east to central to the west. Nowhere has community felt as close knit and connected as here. My family has called Redwood Meadows home since 2017. I love the freedom my girls have compared to the city. My children are free to roam and explore. We are able to enjoy swimming in the river, biking the trails, and going for walks in nature. All right at our doorstep. We have started many new traditions, like attending Canada Day celebrations and getting to know our neighbors while watching a movie in the park. Through RMCA events and community volunteering, I have made great friends that feel like extended family. As a new director for the RMCA, I hope to contribute to furthering our amazing community spirit. - *Sonja Allen*



Community is a safe place to learn trust, vulnerability, respect, and love. Since moving to Redwood four years ago, our family has been welcomed by thoughtful neighbors, many who have become close family friends. Our children freely play with a sense of security that is unique to the families living here. Despite this difficult season of uncertainty, Redwood Meadows continues to set a precedent where community matters. Instead of turning inward during times of trouble, we reach out with compassion and gestures of friendship. Living here continues to bless my family every single day. Our hope is that we would be a blessing to those around us. No matter what life may bring, we are so grateful to be a part of the community of Redwood Meadows. - *Andrea Hanson*



CONNECTION
OPENNESS
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UNITED
NEIGHBOURS
INCLUSIVITY
TOGETHER
YOU

- *Aspen Gowers*



A community is a group of people we lean on when times are tough: our friends, family, and neighbours who are there for us when we need love, support and encouragement. Community is reaching out and connecting when you don't feel like it. Community is creating memories together. Community is coming together for a greater cause than one's self. Community means giving back, stretching your hand out to help. To me, community is an action word. It is something we BUILD with others! Community IS NOT something you can lean over and grab if you haven't built it!

- *Jennifer Illescas*



Community is knowing you aren't alone. Whether you need eggs, a meal, someone to shovel your driveway, a shoulder to cry on, or people to help you pick up the pieces of your life, when you are part of a strong community all of that generosity and love is right at your fingertips. - *Rebecca Parzen*



Community above all means safety. A place for friends to gather and to play, like-minded people who smile and wave when they pass by, an environment and place we all care about. My community is accepting and supportive of our neighbours even if we don't 'know each other'. The strongest communities are diverse and there is a feeling of fellowship with others. This fellowship provides us all with the one thing we all need, belonging. Real communities give us this sense of home, this sense of family, this sense of "these are my peers". This is my tribe, this is where I belong. In this group, I am being accepted for who I really am, and this makes me feel safe.

- *Dean Svoboda*

Community Word Search

Created by Sonja Allen

R P R T E
L O V E U W P
K S O C C E R
V A A A C M R
T T I G O E I
W M E S M
Y T I N U M M O C
Z G S H C Y T A S R C
T R O P P U S X K J O O Q
Z O E R U T L U C W S U H
Z T O G E T H E R H S N O
K V E C T V T G V B C C M
V V P O O G A K G A O I E
Q F M B F N F O V U L
O M S I I L L L N
P R Y U R R T L F P T I S
Z A O T N E E U A I X R M K Q
G R B I I E W U H N B Y N A R
G D K H V T T O S N G A S I T E R
L E F G I Y N R T W M S K T I S G
Y V A I T S U K H O S E I K N P R
J E M E C P L S B T F B I I G E S
P N I N A I O J X P O A N S N C N
P T L Y A R V P Y E O L G T D T H
M Y L I I E M V N D L K G F Z
V R K T S E M R A A V V D

WORD LIST:

ACTIVITY
BASEBALL
COMMUNITY
COMMUNITY SPIRIT
COUNCIL
CROSS COUNTRY
SKIING
CULTURE
EVENT
FAMILY
FIREWORKS
FOOD
GOLFING
LOVE
NEIGHBOR
PARK
RESPECT
RMCA
RMES
SKATING
SOCCER
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PICAPIX PUZZLE

A picture will evolve as you complete the puzzle. Start with the largest numbers or combination of, colour in squares and proceed to work back and forth between columns and rows.

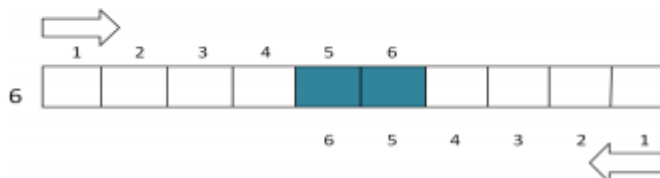
The three basic rules are:

1. Numbers represent how many squares you colour in to form a group or block.
2. Leave at least one square between these blocks.
3. The sequential order of the numbers is the order of the blocks, i.e., top number for a column is the top, block, and left-most number for a row is the left-most block.

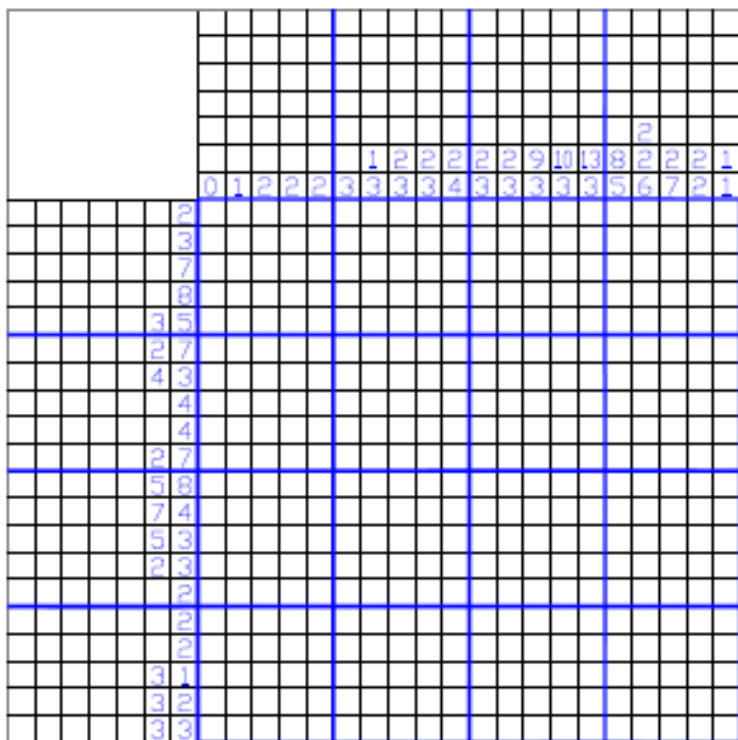
The “logic count method” shown below is very useful: The clue at the left of the row is 6, so count 6 squares from the left to right and then count 6 squares from right to left. Confidently shade in the overlapping squares.

This same method can be applied even when there is more than one number, remembering to allow one empty square between groups or blocks. Use a second colour for elimination of background squares.

Created by Diane Baher of Okotoks

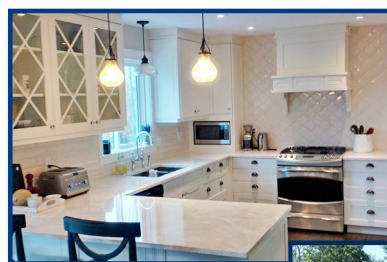


FIFA



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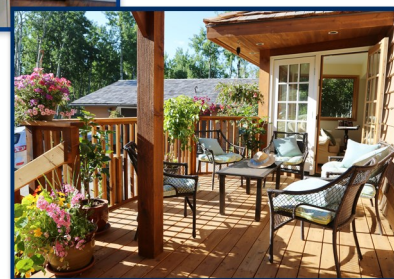
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NATURE CORNER—GEMINID METEOR SHOWER

December 13th and 14th were the peak of the annual Geminid meteor shower. The Geminids are one of the few major meteor showers that originate from an asteroid instead of a comet, and the event is one of the best shooting star bets of the year. It is thought that the shower is intensifying every year, with 120-160 meteors/hour at the peak. On the night of the 14th, the moon was practically new so viewing conditions were perfect. I kept my 7-year-old up past his bedtime and together we walked out to the berm to look up. He made it for about fifteen minutes and then he was too cold so we returned home with nothing to show for it. I was going to go back out anyway, so he made me promise that I would make a wish for him with my first shooting star (in case I didn't see another).

As I walked back out through the woods, I started thinking about similar meteor shower adventures with my dad. I grew up in a big city in California so for our outdoor fix we would travel to the Sierra's for backpacking and meteor showers. Trips to the mountains were a big deal with lots of planning and driving, so there was certainly no going home after fifteen minutes (and there were usually tears involved at some point). As a result, there was always pressure on taking in the outdoors as efficiently as possible because we didn't know when we were going to get back out there. Now, if I plan a hike, ski, bike, or anything else, if today doesn't work out I know I'm going to wake up tomorrow looking at the same trees. That mental shift has allowed me to enjoy the present moment, whatever that is.

I'm glad I had all this to think about as I looked up, because I almost got completely skunked this year for stars. But I got the star that counted, and the wish for my son was made. It didn't matter I didn't get mine because I'll be out there again next year.

Jim McKinley

Redwood Meadows resident



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KIDS CRAFT—CRAFTING A SNOWFLAKE

Materials needed:

- Paper (or thin card stock) – any wintery color; 7 strips approx. 1" x 5.5"
- Scissors
- Tape or glue
- Single Hole Puncher
- 3 pipe cleaners approx. 6" long (or strings longer than that to allow for knotting the ends!)
- 7 beads of your choice in wintery colors



1. Tape or glue each of the seven strips of paper into a circle ○
2. Punch a hole in the circle of paper. Punch a second hole opposite the first hole. Repeat for all circles.
3. Take one of your circles and punch four more holes in it. There will be a total of six holes evenly spaced in the circle.
4. Thread a pipe cleaner through one circle with two holes, then through the circle with 6 holes, then through another circle with two holes.
5. Repeat step 4 for the remaining circles, while using the one circle with six holes as the centre piece.
6. Place one bead at the end of each pipe cleaner. Loop the end of the pipe cleaner to prevent everything from slipping. (If using a string, knot it as closely as possible.)
7. Fasten the rings together with tape or glue.
8. Suspend your snowflake creation.

Have fun making this project!



Provided by Sonja Allen



Trivia Answers

1. Homes. "HOMES" of course is made up of the first letters of the five lakes: Huron, Ontario, Michigan, Erie, and Superior.
2. The Land of a Thousand Lakes. The capital of Finland is Helsinki. There are actually a staggering 187,888 lakes in Finland! The largest lake is Lake Saimaa and the deepest is Lake Paijanne.
3. Greenland. Greenland, Borneo, Madagascar, New Guinea represent the four largest islands on the earth. However, Greenland is more than twice the size of the second largest island which is New Guinea. Australia and Antarctica, which are both "islands", are continents.
4. They all only border one country.
5. Pacific Ocean. Guam can be found in the western part of the Pacific Ocean. The island's capital is Hagatna.
6. Nevada. Nevada, the Silver State, became a state on October 31, 1864. Despite its nickname, Nevada ranks as the biggest gold producing state in the country. Carson City has been the only Nevada state capital the state has had.
7. Niagara Falls. The two primary sections of Niagara Falls are Horseshoe Falls on the Canadian side and American Falls on the U.S. side. These two sections are separated from each other by Goat Island.
8. Grizzly Bear. Even though it is on the state flag and is the state animal, the grizzly bear has long since left the state. The last confirmed grizzly bear in California was in 1922 when one was shot and killed by a rancher in Fresno County.
9. Kamehameha Day. This holiday has been celebrated since 1871, when King Kamehameha V created it in honor of his great-grandfather, Kamehameha the Great, who made a point of preserving ancient Hawaiian traditions. The wrong choices are all other Hawaiian holidays.
10. United Kingdom. 'Dear Old Blighty' was a nostalgic phrase used by homesick British soldiers in the trenches of World War I.
11. The word 'blighty' originates from the word vilayati, a Hindustani word, which is commonly pronounced bilati in India. The word means "kingdom".
12. US Army Corps of Engineers. The US Army Corps of Engineers were given the task of maintaining the Mississippi in order to allow American industry to prosper. They straightened the river to save journey time and also deepened the river and introduced levees to protect from flooding.
13. Virginia. "Mother of Presidents" is another nickname for Virginia, being the birthplace of at least eight U.S. Presidents. Richmond is the capital, but Virginia Beach is the largest city. Virginia was admitted into the union on June 25, 1788.
14. Italy. During World War Two armies from over 20 countries fought here.
15. Washington D.C.. The capital of the United States is Washington D.C. There, the Congress meets and the President lives. The President lives in the White House.
16. Mexico. Copper canyon is actually a group of six canyons located in the Sierra Madre range of northwestern Mexico. Although not as famous, it is larger and deeper than the Grand Canyon. You can visit the canyon by taking a train tour which runs from the Gulf of California to Chihuahua.

REDWOOD RECIPE BOX



ingredients

- 1 cup corn syrup
- 2 cups chocolate chips
- 1/2 cup chunky peanut butter
- 1 cup rolled oats
- 2 cups crushed peanuts

directions

- Melt together in a double boiler - corn syrup and chocolate chips.
- Stir in peanut butter, rolled oats and crushed peanuts.
- Pat onto a greased cookie sheet and cool.
- Cut into bars and enjoy!

WHO REMEMBERS EAT-MORE BARS? I USED TO SEE THESE ALL THE TIME AT THE GROCERY STORE CHECKOUT, BUT NOW THEY SEEM MORE AND MORE OF A NOVELTY. THE GOOD NEWS IS THEY ARE VERY EASY TO MAKE AT HOME USING ONLY 5 INGREDIENTS

Fun fact: The Eat-More bar was named by fellow Canadian, Angus B. MacDonald (1930s)

DEEP FREEZING IN JANUARY AND OTHER WAYS TO CUT FOOD WASTE

The holiday season is winding down, but is your pantry still in full-on party mode? Ours is. Living outside the city – and in the midst of a pandemic – I like to have well-stocked shelves for last-minute cooking and baking. But who bought all those bags of chocolate chips? And the three cans of condensed milk (plus one of dulce de leche)? I'm not worried. Those foods will all get used eventually (or maybe, like the lone can of whole baby clams that expired in April 2010, will languish in the pantry untouched).

Non-perishables, just as the name suggests, have a long shelf life. Produce and other perishables, however, need quicker attention. If you don't want to waste them but can't think of an immediate use, the freezer can be your best friend. Well-wrapped and well-labelled, leftovers, produce and other bits and pieces will happily linger in the deep freeze until you're ready for them. Chances are you'll be looking for breadcrumbs, lemon zest, cooked grains or small servings of stock at some point. Having them ready in the freezer will save you time and make you feel like a kitchen genius.

Here are a few other tips to help cut down on food waste:

- Shop your pantry. You might be surprised at what you find. If there's something you'll never eat – and it hasn't expired – consider donating it to the food bank or giving it to a friend who can find a use for it.
- Store whole ginger root in your freezer (instead of watching it wither on your counter), and grate what you need with a zester or microplane.
- Only used part of a can of tomato paste? Store the rest flat in a small bag in the freezer and break off pieces as you need them. You can do the same with leftover coconut milk.
- Freeze parmesan rinds to use in soups and stews.
- Collect wilting vegetables in a container in the freezer for soup stock.
- Cook beans from scratch, freeze them on cookie sheets, then put them in plastic bags so you can use any amount you need. To thaw beans quickly, put them in a bowl and pour boiling water overtop.
- Slice bread and bagels before freezing.
- Wash and spin fresh herbs and greens and wrap them in a clean tea towel in the fridge so they're ready to use.
- Roll citrus fruits on the counter or quickly zap them in the microwave to get more juice out of them. And remember to zest fruit before you squeeze it. You can freeze the zest!
- Last of all, think about your schedule and/or buy produce with a recipe in mind. Will you find time to use that bok choy before it dies a slow death in the crisper?

So many tips, so little space. If you have other great food-saving hacks, send me a note at anns@safari.ca.

Ann Sullivan

Redwood Resident and Baking Enthusiast



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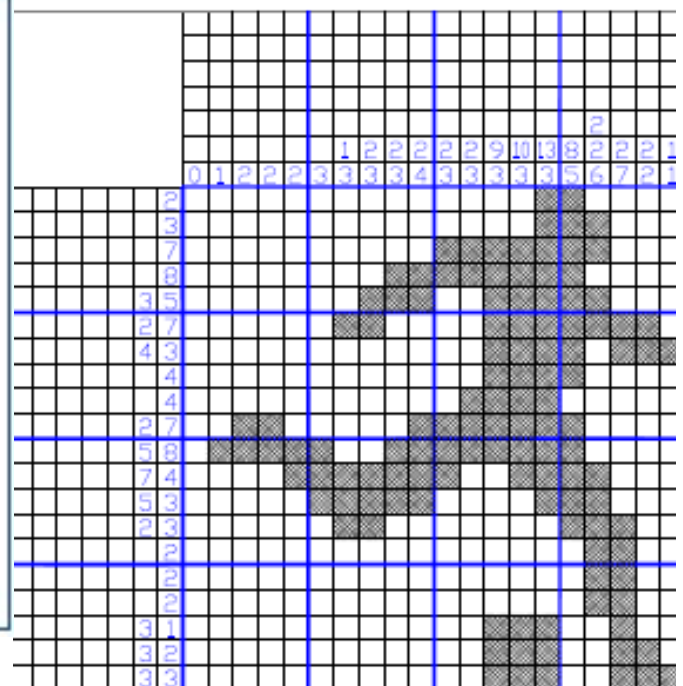
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REDWOOD MEADOWS—BABYSITTERS LIST


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Griffin	14	Babysitter Course	403-408-6998
Hunter	13	Red Cross Home Alone, Babysitter Course	403-949-8888
Kinley	13	Babysitter Course	403-899-4914 kinleyroberts13@gmail.com
Kyle	14	Babysitter Course	403-470-6411
Lila	14		403-860-9525
Mackaela	14	Babysitters License, Standard First Aid, CPR-B	403-969-6732 macarchambault@gmail.com
Sawyer	15	Red Cross Home Alone, Babysitter Course	403-949-8888
Zara	16	Babysitting Certificate	403-949-4474

LOCAL SHOVELLERS FOR HIRE

NAME	CONTACT INFORMATION
Adam Frasca	403-473-3822 a.a.branch11@gmail.com
Eddie Flores	780-350-8461 edyflores1978@gmail.com
Logan Williams	587-852-5323 motheredmutts@yahoo.com


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Santa in the Woods & Food Drive



Photographer: Britta Kokemor, Kokemor Studio

A huge THANK YOU to
Con-Steel, Moose Mountain,
and all of our friends and
neighbors for making this
event such a success!

*If you are in need of support please contact the Bragg Creek Community Church at
braggcreekcommunitychurch@gmail.com*