

ENVIRONNEWS



Posts for the New Year: Revolutionary Signs!

By Polly Lee Knowlton Cockett

One fine day early in this new year, the myriad unadorned wooden posts in Brentwood Heights will blossom with freshly made interpretive signs. This is the third monthly installment regarding the Whispering Signs created by the Friends of Dr. E.W. Coffin Society and the Environment Committee at Dr. Coffin School. Each of the 34 signs features art and text by someone living, working, or going to school nearby. This celebration of local talent will also celebrate our local environment.

Please refer to the table of GPS coordinates for some more of the posts; these nine are all located in the Centennial Natureground reclaimed prairie area at the southwest corner of the Dr. E.W. Coffin schoolground at 5615 Barrett Drive NW. Two of the posts are taller than the others, and will have large interpretive panels featuring artwork by Kaitlin and Emily Marasco, former Dr. Coffin students now in high school and university. The rest of the posts are shorter, and will have 6" x 8.5" oval signs featuring artwork by other Dr. Coffin students. Can you figure out which post has which coordinates in the Natureground? You don't need a fancy GPS unit to determine which posts are further south or east with respect to each other.



Here is the text for two of the oval panels listed:

Ee is for eccentric erratic

I'm from far away. Where did I come from, and how did I get here?

Mm is for misty midnight moon

Who moves beneath a cover of darkness, a twinkling starlight, or the moonlight's splendor?

Just what is an erratic, anyway? Why is this one particularly unusual for this part of Calgary? If the phase of the moon on the Mm sign was a waxing crescent instead of a full moon, what time of day or night would be suggested by this position in the sky? What time would it be if it was a waning gibbous? In which part of the sky do you see the moon in January, and where will it be in July? What letters and artwork do suppose might be on the other posts?

Stay posted for more news of signs on posts nearby.



Sign	Latitude (deg° min' sec")	Longitude (deg° min' sec")
Ee	51° 06' 13.36" N	114° 08' 09.25" W
	51° 06' 12.52" N	114° 08' 09.12" W
	51° 06' 12.36" N	114° 08' 09.24" W
	51° 06' 12.57" N	114° 08' 09.53" W
	51° 06' 13.09" N	114° 08' 10.39" W
	51° 06' 12.94" N	114° 08' 09.65" W
Mm	51° 06' 13.73" N	114° 08' 09.15" W
	51° 06' 12.39" N	114° 08' 10.35" W
	51° 06' 12.68" N	114° 08' 09.56" W

Sledding Safety

Calgary EMS

Sledding is a fun and exciting activity that thousands of Calgarians enjoy every winter. It is one of several great outdoor pastimes that make this snowy time of year more enjoyable. While sledding is a lot of fun, it is not without its risks. Injuries can occur from colliding with stationary objects, such as trees and rocks, or with other people on the hill. Unprotected falls can result in injury if you lose control at high speeds. Everyone is at risk – especially children. Educate your family how to stay safe and follow these simple safety tips for a fun day on the toboggan hill.

Equipment

- Make sure your sled is in good condition. Don't use sleds with broken parts, sharp edges, or splits in the material.
- If your sled won't stop, or if you are out of control, roll off your sled onto the snow. You can always retrieve your sled afterward.
- Currently, there are no helmets designed specifically for sledding, however children should wear a properly fitted helmet designed for high impact collisions, such as hockey, cycling, or climbing helmets.

Plan Ahead

- Dress warmly in layers and anticipate weather changes. Consider bringing extra sets of gloves and toques to exchange for damp ones.
- Be aware of clothing that contains drawstrings, or other loose clothing, including scarves, which may present a choking hazard if they become caught or snagged.

Hazards

- Don't use hills that are too steep or too icy – you may lose control of your sled very quickly.
- Don't use hills containing too many obstacles (trees, rocks, telephone poles, or fences).
- Don't use hills that end with a road, busy parking lot, or creek at the bottom.
- Never go down a hill head first or backward.
- Avoid sledding at night if the hill is not well lit.
- Consider using sleds that you can easily control. Inner tubes, crazy carpets, and flying saucers cannot be steered!

For more information check out www.calgary.ca/ems.