



MAY DAY FOR BIODIVERSITY

by Polly Lee Knowlton Cockett

Yes, it's June. But with May starting out a little snowy, it's never too late to acknowledge May's International Day for Biological Diversity www.cbd.int/idb/. This year's theme has been: Biodiversity, Development and Poverty Alleviation – Recognizing the Role of Biodiversity for Human Well-Being. In fact, the United Nations has declared 2010 the International Year for Biodiversity www.cbd.int/2010/welcome/.

The City of Calgary has started a Community Stewardship for Biodiversity Program. Be on the lookout for special talks in special parks and opportunities to pull invasive weeds which threaten our local native species. Parents, teachers and students from local schools, experts, neighbours, and friends will all be joining in together, and you are invited!

Did you note the article in the Calgary Herald on May 5th alerting the public to the natural protective behaviours of hare and deer regarding their young, and how we should regard them in turn? In 2007, Dr. E.W. Coffin students discovered a litter of leverets in the Centennial Natureground reclaimed prairie park in Brentwood Heights which they had helped to create in 2004, and which continues to attract local wildlife. Although the children were looking only, a yet-to-be-educated parent picked up the wee bunnies in an attempted rescue.

Fortunately, Debbie Hall of the school's Environment Committee was on hand and swiftly relocated the tiny treasures to the stress-free safety of the nearby long grasses in Whispering Woods, where the dotting mother would likely find them. This incident directly inspired one of the thirty-four colorful interpretive panels for Whispering Signs, a collaborative outdoor environmen-

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Brentwood

Community Association Membership Application

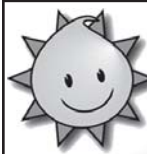
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Family \$35 55 Plus (Couple) \$25

Individual \$12.50

Please return membership application with your cheque made payable to the Brentwood Community Association.

**Mail or Drop Off to
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community **LIAISON OFFICER**



A Message from your Community Liaison Officer with the Calgary Police Service, Constable John Kastamonitis

In this edition of the newsletter, I would like to write about the importance of getting involved in your community and working together with the Calgary Police Service.

Involvement in your community can be as easy as getting to know your neighbors and the vehicles they drive. If you do notice an individual or vehicle that just doesn't seem to belong, or an activity that seems suspicious, you should report it to the police. This is especially important if you live near a shopping mall, commercial complex, LRT Station or a public park, where the activity may be overlooked.

So often, I have heard from residents that, "I didn't want to bother the police." I would like to clarify this myth; calling

police about a concern or issue is not a nuisance. In fact, the opposite is true. By reporting these incidents, you are assisting police in identifying individuals that may be responsible for emerging crime trends in your community.

The Calgary Police Service asks you to report any suspicious individuals or activities through the non-emergency line at 403-266-1234. Always call 9-1-1 to report a crime in progress. If possible, obtain a physical description, including clothing, along with a direction of travel of any suspicious individuals, as this information is crucial to responding police officers.

I'd also like to remind you that certain non-emergencies, such as lost property, graffiti and certain thefts with a value under \$5,000 can be reported online, through our website at calgarypolice.ca. There is also a crime-mapping application on our website, which enables Calgarians to learn about what types of crimes have occurred within the last six months in their communities and surrounding areas.

If you have any questions or concerns, I can be reached at the District 3 office at 403-567-6300.



MAY DAY FOR BIODIVERSITY CONT'D

tal education project which has recently been nominated for an Alberta Emerald Award in the Community Group category.

Sara Hall, inspired by these events, became the Grade 3 artist for the alphabet panel, "Jj is for jittery jumping jackrabbits," which delightfully informs us through seasonal cycles and changing coats: "Doe hares leave their camouflaged leverets in the grass while they forage." You can find this sign on the ground at 51° 06' 16.47" N, 114° 08' 08.39" W, 1145.7 m, or virtually at www.natureground.org.

How many hares are depicted in some way through art or text within the entire set of signs? What else might you learn about our local native biodiversity in the process? Enjoy your exploring!



Neighbours as Stewards - Whispering Diversity

Once again, you can join right in on Gardening Bees in Whispering Woods and the Centennial Natureground in Brentwood Heights. We'll be having Weeding Wednesdays throughout July and August at 6:30 pm, as well as our weekend bees followed by potlucks. Watch the summer Bugle and www.natureground.org for details. Immerse yourself with neighbours and friends in our precious natural spaces right here in our community.

Happy World Environment Day on June 5th!

Environmentally yours,

Polly Lee Knowlton Cockett, environews@shaw.ca

JUNE 2010

YOUR OFFICIAL COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

the BRENTWOOD bugle

BRINGING BRENTWOOD RESIDENTS TOGETHER



2nd Annual
Jane's Walk

Brentwood Hosts 2ND ANNUAL JANE'S WALK Under Sunny Skies

by Filomena Gomes

It's always nerve-racking to plan for and organize an event that runs "rain or shine". Gratefully, on May 1 the sun came out (after a few snowy days) as I welcomed walkers from Brentwood and other city communities to join me in a mid-century modern architectural tour of Brentwood. Highlights included St. Luke's Catholic Church, the Nose Hill Library, the new murals on Captain John Palliser School's brick exterior, a number of homes in Brentwood and Brentwood Heights and Simon Fraser School. Our walk was one of 414 walking tours that weekend in North America and in places like Uruguay, India, Ireland and Spain. The walks started in 2006 in honour of Jane Jacobs, a renowned urbanist, activist and author who was a firm believer in the importance of local residents having input on how their neighbourhoods develop. She advocated increasing the density of cities over endless outward sprawl and she championed local residents and pedestrians over a car-centred approach to planning. She encouraged people to get to know the places where they live, work and play by walking, observing and connecting.

My research led me to discover that the architectural firm of Cohos, Delasalle and Evamy left quite a stamp on our little community as the designers of St. Luke's Church, Nose Hill Library and of Simon Fraser School. The 1960s designs of St. Luke's and of Simon Fraser in particular were bold departures from the norm of the time using exposed textured concrete and we are lucky to have them in our community. I am especially fond of St. Luke's stained-glass panels that represent the creation of the universe and are found on the south and north sides of the church. And while the Nose Hill Library was not built in the 60s but rather in 1988, its design consisting of nesting tables or boxes with large expanses of windows and skylights is a real gem. For me, it represents the cultural heart of our community and is so much more than a place that houses books, DVDs and CDs.

With respect to the homes found in Brentwood, we visually benefit from the variety of bungalows, split-level, bi-level and 2 storey homes. While the majority of homes are by and large one-storey properties, many newer home-owners have updated and changed the look of their homes since the 60s. Interestingly, the average home in Brentwood built in 1962 (the median year of construction), had a living area of 1158 square feet. And that same home cost approximately \$15,000 to purchase in 1962. What a difference fifty years can make!

After walking for an hour and a half, observing the architecture and updating the attendees on our newest community garden projects (at CJP and our own BCA garden), our Jane's Walk ended in the programme room of the Nose Hill Library. There, Ann Lindgren, the customer services manager, welcomed us all to sit a spell, have a coffee and connect. Our BCA provided the baked treats from Prairie Mill. This time to connect with my neighbours and the newcomers to Brentwood was by far my favourite part of the walk. The following day, I attended another walk in Connaught and was pleased to be an active listener and learn more about another community in Calgary. I would highly recommend that you take in a Jane's walk next year. Or even host one. Who knows what you may discover about your own community or who you might meet in the process?

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