

The Wildwood Warbler

*The Official Newsletter of the
Wildwood Community
Association*

www.mywildwood.ca

*Read the Warbler online for full
colour photos!*

facebook.com/WildwoodCommunity

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PRINT

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Working Dogs in Our Community

By Cynthia H. and Heather T.

So many of us enjoy walking through our neighbourhood, breathing the fresh air, taking in the changing seasons, and greeting familiar faces along the way. But for individuals who are blind or visually impaired, that simple walk takes non-stop focus, careful planning, training, and trust, especially when they are guided by a working dog from "The Seeing Eye Trained Dog" with leather harness or a "BC & AB Guide Dog" in Training in vest.

As your neighbours, we both wanted to take a moment to raise awareness about the important role guide dogs play and how our community can help make sidewalks and streets safer for everyone, including these incredible dogs and their owners.

A Working Dog is Not a Pet on a Walk

When you see a dog in a leather harness or vest, that's a signal: the dog is working. It's not just going for a stroll but rather focusing, navigating, and making real-time decisions to keep its owner safe. As tempting as it may be to say hello or give a pat, please don't distract a working dog. Distractions also include calling out the dog's name, petting, whistling or trying to offer treats. None of these behaviours are acceptable when dealing with working dogs/dogs in training and can cause major harm. Talking to your children and grandchildren about this would be helpful in our neighbourhood.

You can always offer a friendly greeting from a respectful distance. Even a brief distraction can put both the dog and handler at risk.

On occasion, a trainer working with a puppy in training might ask people walking by to distract their dog to work on getting the dog to ignore the distractions. A trainer might also ask children to pet their dog so that we can be confident in how the dog reacts should this occur without warning. However, these are specific training opportunities so you must wait to be asked to assist in training for distractions.

Continued on Page 3

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Hosted by Gareth Hughes and Stacey Zurburg

gareth@albertare.com • staceyz@albertare.com



Wildwood Community Association News

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What Does a Guide Dog Learn?

Guide dogs begin training as puppies. From an early age, they're introduced to busy sidewalks, stores, buses, crosswalks, and a wide range of environments. They must learn to stay calm in noisy places, resist distractions from other animals and people (especially children) and stop at curbs and steps. Most importantly, they must develop a deep bond of trust and communication with their future handler. Sometimes the owner and the dog-in-training will attend a three week course together, living at the Seeing Eye facility where they can train on walks daily with a Seeing Eye dog trainer and trainer apprentices.

Every successful guide dog represents years of socialization, training, and care—by volunteers, professionals, and the people who will rely on them every day.

Keep Sidewalks Clear and Safe

Guide dogs are trained to navigate around obstacles, but things like low-hanging branches, garbage bins, icy patches, or sidewalk clutter can be dangerous for someone who can't see them. These things also make it harder for the dog to do its job.

Please help by keeping sidewalks and vertical space (like tree limbs or hedges) clear of debris, branches, ice, and other hazards all year round. We think that this accessibility would be appreciated by both seeing and visually impaired citizens alike.

One of the biggest risks to guide dog teams is off-leash dogs in areas where leashes are required. Even a friendly off-leash dog can disrupt a guide dog's work. This can startle or confuse the working dog, lead to training setbacks, or even cause physical harm if there's a scuffle.

Please, even if your dog is well-behaved, always keep them on a leash unless you're in a designated off-leash area. We think that this mutual respect for city bylaws would help keep everyone safe, dogs and people alike.

A Small Effort, A Big Impact

We're so lucky to live in a beautiful, friendly, and welcoming community. With just a little extra awareness and care, we can make sure it's safe for everyone—including our neighbours who are blind or visually impaired and rely on their guide dogs to move independently.

Sometimes, the biggest difference we can make is in the little things:

- Don't pet a working dog unless permission granted
- Keep your sidewalks safe and your overhanging branches clear
- Leash your dog in public where bylaws apply

Thanks for being part of a community that cares.

RESOURCES:

There is an amazing series called Pick of the Litter which follows puppies being raised with volunteers and then being matched with clients. Available on Amazon Prime or Netflix US.

BC & AB Guide Dogs and other organizations (Pacific Assistance Dogs, Dogs With Wings, etc) have active programs in Calgary to raise puppies and train them for clients. Puppy raisers and puppy sitters are always needed. Feel free to contact Cynthia Hlynski at chlynski@gmail.com if you'd like to hear more about raising guide or service dogs.

THE SEEING EYE training facilities are in the United States if you'd like more information for working with them or making a donation. <https://seeingeye.org/guide-dogs/seeing-eye-dogs-2/>
CNIB has also begun to train dogs - <https://www.cnib.ca/en>

Community engagement meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of every month (except Jul, Aug & Dec; no meetings).

Next meeting **November 18**
7:00 p.m. at the
Community Hall

Wildwood Warbler Newsletter ARTICLES & ADVERTISING

Do you have an article idea or photos that would be of interest to your neighbours? We would love to hear from you!

SUBMISSION DEADLINE:
15th of each month

warbler@mywildwood.ca

For advertising sizing & pricing scan this code:



Wildwood Community Association

4411 Spruce Drive SW, Calgary, AB, T3C 3C1 * 403-246-3514 * www.mywildwood.ca

Wildwood Community Association EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	
President	Jason Chin president@mywildwood.ca
Vice president	AVAILABLE vp@mywildwood.ca
Secretary	Lenora Heintz secretary@mywildwood.ca
Treasurer	AVAILABLE treasurer@mywildwood.ca
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Traffic	Committee traffic@mywildwood.ca
Community Events	Michelle Stuart events@mywildwood.ca
Clean-up	Cheryl Northey/Craig Elias cleanup@mywildwood.ca
Casino	Kimmi Nguyen-Fonseca casino@mywildwood.ca
Community Garden	Pamela Gee & Carolyn Smith garden@mywildwood.ca
Membership	Jim Beswick membership@mywildwood.ca
Volunteers	AVAILABLE volunteer@mywildwood.ca
Grants	Brian Van Vliet grants@mywildwood.ca

WCA DIRECTORS' & BOARD CONTACTS CONT'D	
Sports & Community Programmes	Russ Dyck programs@mywildwood.ca
Yoga	Trudy Antoniuk yoga@mywildwood.ca
Learn to Skate	AVAILABLE skate@mywildwood.ca
Pickleball	Brenda Lomore, Loldine Vale, Tianne Cao pickleball@mywildwood.ca
Baseball	Dion Brake baseball@mywildwood.ca
Playgroup	Jennifer Fjellstad playgroup@mywildwood.ca
Shinny	Tanis Gatske shinny@mywildwood.ca
Soccer	AVAILABLE soccer@mywildwood.ca
Tennis Coordinator	Matthew Eubank tennis@mywildwood.ca
Tennis keys	Joyce Lang tenniskeys@mywildwood.ca
Skating Rink	Fraser Morden rink@mywildwood.ca
Facilities	AVAILABLE facilities@mywildwood.ca
Building Manager	Lola (403) 474-3845 bookings@mywildwood.ca
Directors at Large	Robyn Birdsell and Els Meerdink
Neighbourhood Partnership Coordinator	James Runge James.runge@calgary.ca
Councillor Ward 6	John Pantazopoulos
Report a Crime	Emergency Calls 9-1-1 Non Emergency (403) 266-1234
Calgary Police Service community Liaison	Cst. Max Lavictoire pol5467@calgarypolice.ca (403) 428-6244

Wildwood Community Association News

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Tuesday: 8:00am - 6:00pm
Wednesday: 8:00am - 6:00pm
Thursday: 9:00am - 6:00pm
Friday: 7:00am - 3:00pm
Saturday (2/mo): 8:00am - 2:00pm



Dr. L. Geng | Dr. L. Stanleigh | Dr. J. Park

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Wildwood Community Association

**We make change happen.
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**Innovation isn't just for the big players.
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Spare Parts & Gasoline is proud to manage the Wildwood Community Association's social media pages and website. We help organizations unlock digital value, launch new offerings, and adapt through change. From marketing to energy systems, we make innovation practical, accessible, and lasting.



**Let's get
started.**



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Community Groups: Edworthy Park Heritage Society



Is it a Merlin? a Cooper's or a Sharp-shinned Hawk? you decide! ©E.P.H.S.



White-throated Sparrow, Wildwood, ©Edworthy Park Heritage Society

It was a mizzling morning when rain drizzled and fog rolled, like smoke, into the ravines. It was the perfect morning for a hot chocolate with our neighbour who was trying to remove burs from her gardening clothes. The burs were dried now and brushed off easily, as they were designed to do. This ensured that the seeds had been carried to new locations, a process called "epizoochory". Burs are one of the leading examples of biomimicry, of scientific inventions or discoveries based on nature. An observant person, Georges de Mestral, a Swiss engineer, saw how a bur hooked its way into dog fur, and from that observation came his invention of velcro in the 1940s.

My neighbour commented over our morning chocolate break that birdwatching used to be considered one of the "nerdiest" hobbies. Now of course it has become very popular and has cast its previous image behind. The observation necessary for a birdwatcher (these days called a "birder" or in Britain a "twitcher") teach young people skills, valuable for scientific endeavours. Another example of biomimicry is based upon the shape of the bill or beak of a kingfisher which inspired a railway engineer who was also an ornithologist to make adaptations to Japan's bullet train. There are several videos on YouTube showing the advantages of the redesign.

Even as we write this, scientific research is continuing into how the brains of chickadees grow in the fall to enable them to remember the many places where they hide the seeds they find at your feeder. The fact that chickadee brains grow in fall and shrink in spring is inspiring scientists in the concept of neuroplasticity. How can brains change? How does memory function? Obviously the answers to these questions have importance for medicine.

And so our reflections on that mizzling morning reinforced the importance of birding. For us, of course, its main importance is the thrill of discovery, the pleasure of being outside in nature.

As parents, we should not dismiss the importance for our children of learning observation skills in nature. Who knows — maybe your child will make a velcro-type discovery and turn it into an invention?

Another neighbour reported that just before the first snowfall, they were out doing some last-minute chores. During a break, they noticed, in the shadowy area beneath their neighbours' spruce trees, some movement. As they focussed on that area, they saw 4 or 5 small birds that were scratching at the leaves on the ground. Soon the small birds were searching for seeds on the driveway and it became obvious that these were White-throated Sparrows — an indigenous sparrow (unlike the invasive, imported House Sparrow). The White-throated Sparrow is one of our favourite birds — it is an elusive ground-dwelling bird often overlooked in the shrubs and bushes but its sweet song in the spring is unforgettable — a rendition that is remembered by birders as "Oh Sweet Canada, Canada, Canada". It was a rare occurrence a few years ago when a pair overwintered in Wildwood.

Neighbours reported seeing a large Great Horned Owl. It was on the neighbours' driveway, being harassed by two magpies. It then flew and landed where it perched for only a second or so. The Owl was a very pale buff colour which apparently is typical of a subspecies found on the prairies. The neighbours and their grandsons were excited to see such a magnificent bird.

Yet another neighbour reported seeing a hawk in his yard. Hawk identification can sometimes be tricky as the same species can have several different colourations — dark morphs, light morphs. In our neighbour's case, we believe it was a Cooper's Hawk.

By the time you read this, all the leaves will have fallen. A Wildwood resident has finished a book about the birds, animals and butterflies that a child and her mother saw in Wildwood and Edworthy Park. Details of the book may be found elsewhere in the Warbler. There are many colour photos and although it is not a Society book, it looks like an excellent book — a children's nature book for adults. Happy Hallowe'en and stay safe!

— Edworthy Park Heritage Society



Wildwood Community Association

What Sally Saw: Wild Tales from Wildwood.

Perfect for Christmas! A book for the family with true stories about what wildlife Sally saw in Wildwood with many colourful photos (95% of them taken in the park or the neighbourhood). Birds, butterflies, bobcats, and more. There is a detour chapter to Kananaskis Country.

If we get 300 pre-orders by November 18th, we will print it! It's a very limited edition — for you and our neighbours!

To get your name on the pre-order list, email to gentian@telus.net. If we get enough pre-orders, we'll then email you for your payment by interac e transfer. The price will be about \$35.00.

Annual Stampede Block Party: Wimbledon Drive

The annual Stampede block party always takes place on Wimbledon Drive on Parade Day, rain or shine. Street gets closed so plenty of room to set up tables, chairs and games. Party tent goes up several weeks prior. Everyone volunteers to help set up and clean up. Some neighbors are known to continue activities into the wee morning hours.



New Therapy Practice in Wildwood!
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rosewoodservices.ca, or call
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Deanna Picklyk
MSW, RSW, MBA

Trauma, grief & loss, occupational burnout, anxiety & depression

Winter green cart schedule

Starting in November, your green cart will be collected every other week. This seasonal schedule helps match service to the lower volumes of yard waste during colder months. Weekly collection will return in April 2026, when spring clean-up season begins.

Visit calgary.ca/cartschedule to check your cart pickup schedule and sign up for reminders. Make it easy to remember your cart collection schedule this winter by downloading the Calgary Garbage Day app. If you have extra yard waste, you can also bring it to a City Eco Centre for composting. Free Fall Yard Waste Program – running Friday September 19 – Saturday, Nov 1, 2025. Thank you for doing your part to keep Calgary clean and green year-round!



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SPORTS & PROGRAMS REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

Learn to Skate (Ages 3–10)

- Registration is now open on Communal!
- Runs Sundays in January and February
- Small Group Lessons led by Coach Claire



Shinny Hockey (Ages 6–12)

- Registration is now open on Communal!
- Runs Tues. & Thurs. in January and February
- Fun, casual outdoor hockey (no contact)



Hatha Yoga - New Sessions

- Tuesday session: 7:30 to 8:45 pm
- Thursday session: 1:30 to 2:45 pm
- Community Main Hall, All Abilities Welcome



Thank You, Volunteers!

Our programs run because of amazing volunteers—coordinators, coaches, helpers, and behind-the-scenes organizers. If you've helped out this year: thank you! Want to join in? Email programs@mywildwood.ca

Spring Sports Are Around the Corner!

Baseball and soccer registration opens in January. Full details will be posted soon. We're looking for a few new coordinators too—interested? Reach out to programs@mywildwood.ca

Playgroup

Every Wednesday
9:30 to 11:00 am

Community Main Hall
\$2.00 per family
All children 0-5years
Caregivers must attend



Visit our website for more info

mywildwood.ca



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Lest We Forget

As Remembrance Day approaches, many of us look for meaningful ways to pause, reflect, and honour those who served. While Calgary has several large city-wide ceremonies, some of the most heartfelt gatherings take place right here in our own corner of the city. These three nearby events are close to home, easy to get to, and offer a more peaceful, community-focused way to observe the day.

Battalion Park – 2972 Signal Hill Dr SW

Ceremony begins at 10:45 a.m.

A neighbourhood-based service hosted by the King's Own Calgary Regiment.

North Glenmore Park (137 Battalion Memorial)

7305 Crowchild Trail SW

Full parade + service begins at 10:30 a.m.

A bit more formal yet still near our area.

The Military Museums – 4520 Crowchild Trail SW

Ceremony begins at 10:45 a.m.

Afterwards the museum opens to the public (by donation). A location with strong meaning and close by.

Links to each event posted on www.WildwoodLife.ca

MARKET STATUS - WILDWOOD

We are currently in a

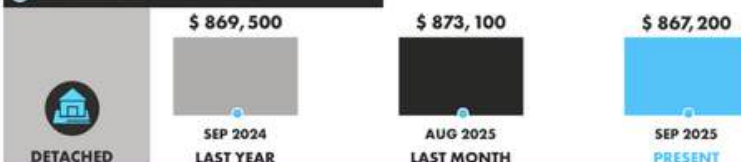
BALANCED MARKET

As of September 2025, we had 12 listings.
5 listings were sold in September 2025.

Listing Absorption Rate



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