

Brentwood Potluck – You're All Invited!

Potlucks are popular in Brentwood with get-togethers ranging from casual dinners with neighbours, annual block parties, the group that tends the Natureground next to Dr Coffin Elementary (pictured here this summer), the gang that hopes to start a community garden and many, many more. So we thought we'd try one great big potluck dinner and invite...Everyone!

The Brentwood Community Association Potluck will be Saturday, November 7, at 5:00 pm and all of our neighbours are welcome – singles, couples and families; youngsters, seniors and everyone in between. This event is free but we do ask you to bring a dish that feeds 6-8 people, a list of the ingredients used in that dish (so folks with food allergies or restrictions will know what they can eat) and a serving utensil. Label the serving piece and all containers with your name. Once everyone arrives, we'll all sit down to a community meal together in the upstairs hall at the Sportsplex.

RSVP to Cheri at 403-220-1219 or Filomena at 403-289-3854 by Wednesday, November 4, so we know how many tables and chairs to set up.



Fitness Friends

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For more information contact
Judi @ 403-880-4467 or jvanden1@telus.net



A Great Summer of Social Stewardship

What's Blue and has Five Petals?

One of the favourite flowers found in the Centennial Natureground each summer is wild blue flax. It's a common native perennial, found at many elevations across Alberta, in both disturbed and undisturbed areas. It's easy to grow, and spreads by self seeding, but doesn't crowd out other natives and is easily controlled by hand if it grows where you don't want it to. With their captivating blue petals surrounding tiny yellow centres, these flowers dance in the slightest breeze. Medicinal oils can be derived from the seeds, with lots of them stored in each round seed capsule, most interesting to examine. Their long wiry stems are useful for making cords or even bracelets. Each flower blooms for only a day, gently dropping its five petals onto a blue speckled ground below. A brand new flower then emerges the next day in the first light of the morning sun. Even the silhouettes of the stems, leaves, flowers, and seeds are entrancing to observe on the sandstone beneath them in the Natureground, or to sketch, as Jannis Allan Hare did for the Trembling Trees sign in Whispering Woods found at 51o 06' 16.02" N 114o 08' 15.09" W 1138.4m. Go see!

Thanks Again!

We had a great final summer bee in Whispering Woods and the Centennial Natureground the evening before school students went back to class across the city. It is interesting how many people come out of the woodwork when there is food and friendship to be had.

Special thanks to Andrew Stiles, Andrea Batchelor, Madeleine Oldershaw, Cathie Kernaghan, Gloria Toole, Marg Low, Louise and Richard Guy, three generations of the Hall family, Robin Cockett and his brand-new-to-Calgary postdoctoral student and family, and Mark, and other neighbours who joined in along the way. It's truly wonderful that this multigenerational mix consists not only of current families from Dr. Coffin School, but also alumni families and former teachers, as well as those from around greater Brentwood and across the city. These bees are indeed great communal gatherings. Thank you, everyone! Do join us next year – we are making real headway on the weeds, and we'd get further with your participation – we always have fun.

Environmentally yours,

Polly Lee Knowlton Cockett, environnews@shaw.ca



Gloria Toole delights in dissecting out undesirables in Centennial Natureground



Rite of passage: U of C prof introduces new student family to pleasures of summer weeding in Whispering Woods

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