

PEOPLE IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

Brentwood's Most Active Traveller?

By Lee Hunt

"Well ...I haven't visited Portugal." With that devilish one-liner, Jim Nielsen summed up his vast travel experience. He must indeed be one of the Brentwood community's most well travelled members!

Jim and his wife, Christine, were 'pioneers' in Brentwood. In early 1960, they moved into one of the only completed homes west of Charleswood Drive – the total cost was \$15,000. Since the area was totally barren, Jim set about planting trees. As he put it, "I went crazy planting trees...then they grew to be 40 to 50 feet tall!"

Jim and Christine's four daughters all attended Brentwood Elementary School. Sadly, their eldest daughter, Jennifer, died of leukemia while still in elementary school. Her three sisters went on to attend Senator Patrick Burns and then William Aberhart. Because her daughters were all in Brentwood Brownies and Girl Guides, Christine became a leader in both. The girls were also active in community ringette, soccer, and baseball, while Jim coached a Brentwood baseball team for one year.

Jim, Christine, and their daughters embarked on a wonderful adventure in 1975-76. Jim, a Guidance counselor with the Calgary Board of Education, was on sabbatical at the University of Hawaii. The entire family spent the first semester in Hawaii, then set off



for Fiji, New Zealand, and Australia. The girls spent four months in an Australian school, then the family set out to see the world (their five tickets for around the world cost only \$8000 in total). At their own pace, they visited "everywhere" – this included Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, India, Burma, Iran, Nepal, and Egypt. They also spent time in Kabul, Afghanistan which, according to Jim, "at that time presented no sense of danger at all." Then it was off to many European nations with a stay in England to visit Christine's parents. Summing up the impact of that journey, Jim observed, "the kids were old enough to get a lot out of the trip." Those three daughters are now long grown up and Jim is the proud grandfather to two grandsons and one granddaughter.

When Christine passed away a number of years ago, Jim decided to remain in Brentwood which had been such a wonderful home to the family for so long. Now, Jim is incredibly active with walking, hiking, and biking. He belongs to a hiking club which has weekly outings in both the city and the mountains. In winter, Jim participates in a cross-country ski club skiing primarily in the Kananaskis area.

Jim is also very interested in music. He attends many Philharmonic concerts and has previously been a member of the Westside Singers and the Gilbert and Sullivan Choir. Jim continues to travel, with one of his more recent trips taking him to Russia and the Ukraine. He remembers most enthusiastically living right in the homes of the local people and eating most of his meals there as well.

With his wealth of travel experience and his ongoing physical accomplishments, Jim is a knowledgeable and active member of our Brentwood community.



Respect your Neighbours!

In order to keep your community looking tidy and show respect for your neighbours, please ensure your blue bin is not visible from the road on non pick up days.



As a community adjacent to the University of Calgary, Brentwood and its residents, schools, and businesses have a history closely intertwined with that of our nearby campus. Many University families settled nearby and have watched both Brentwood and the University grow up around them, along with growing kids, some of whom are now also settled in Brentwood and raising their own families here.

Many of the women in these families have also participated in the U of C Faculty Women's Club over its 50+ year history, building community both here in our neighbourhood, on campus, and throughout Calgary. It was women from this organization who, in 1965, started Campus Preschool Association, which, after being on campus for a short time, was later located in Brentwood for several years before finding its current home in Capitol Hill. Hundreds of Brentwoodians have participated in Calgary's first parent cooperative preschool over the last 40+ years!

A brand new book, Golden Threads: Women Creating Community, is a fascinating collection of stories, articles, and original art by and about numerous past and present Brentwood residents, as well as many neighbours in nearby communities. The art often portrays our local landscapes, such as Nose Hill and our southern Alberta skies. It also details a history of Campus Preschool, the Faculty Babysitting Swap and its incorporation of local neighbourhood swaps, as well as the evolution of various facets of Calgary and the University through the dedicated outreach of so many women.

To name just a very few of the over 60 contributors to this book, you will find entries by or about neighbours and nearby friends such as

Shared Landscapes Brentwoodians Featured in New Book!

Audrey Andrews, Michelle Caird, Heidi Dick, Judith Hall, Sally Goddard, Karen Gummo, Louise Guy, Polly Knowlton Cockett, Dorothy Krueger, Edna Lancaster, Randie Lind, Angela Rokne, Dorothy Sharman, Vera Simony, Sue Stodart, and Joanne Wyvill! These and other women who may have lived, worked, or played in Brentwood over the last half century will also be familiar names to many readers. Bree Horel, Kirsten Horel's daughter, designed the book's cover. Brentwood Murals, Nose Hill Park, Whispering Signs, local schools and the Brentwood Playgroup are all mentioned, as well as other corners of our shared communities.

It is clear that Brentwood and its people have been significantly contributing to the fabric of the University of Calgary and the wider community since they were established over 50 years ago. The University of Calgary Faculty Women's Club has published this book in order to capture some of this unique history through the first hand voices of local women. Any proceeds from the sales go directly back into the community through Calgary Youth Science Fair awards, undergraduate and graduate scholarships for students with dependent children, and other community support. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you are interested in obtaining a copy or two (great holiday gift idea!) of this fascinating local history.

Environmentally yours – in Community,
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