



Dipping Into Brentwood's Past

By Lee Hunt

Our Brentwood Community draws ever nearer to its 50th anniversary. With this in mind, a dozen Brentwood residents met in May to compare memories. My thanks to participants Claire, Doug, Marion, Len, Eileen, Garry, Filomena – official note taker, Mike – official sound recorder, and Cheri.

The group reminisced about the completion of the 'old' Community Hall in 1964, with the Skate Shack soon after. The Hall was frequently used to show Saturday afternoon movies (the necessary blackout blinds were sewn by Brentwood Moms), while the Skate Shack provided respite for those skating on the outdoor rink in chilly weather. It was noted that Brentwood had its own early version of the Zamboni. Built by Claire's husband, Ernie Forre, and his brother-in-law Gordon Cook (since deceased), it was "a contraption with a holey barrel and a pipe across the back". Folks recalled as well, two farms in the area – one at what is now the tennis courts beside the Nose Hill Library and another where Bears paw Drive is now located.

The building of the Sportplex enabled the community to organize larger events such as Oktoberfest, Winterfest, Gambling Night, Bingo, and Garage Sales. A "Time Out Group" was formed by Marjorie Richards, while the "80's Ladies" (aka "The Stitch and Bitch Group") met weekly to work on macramé, crochet, and other handicrafts.

Other special Brentwood memories included block parties on Beaver Road and Button Road (the latter is now into its 12th year). Eileen and Garry recalled the 1988 Brentwood "Olympic Parade" when the Olympic Torch travelled to our community. (By the way, The Bugle would love to obtain photos of this event. If you have such photos, please contact Editor, Cheri Macaulay at 403-220-1219.)

As the topic expanded to, "What else stands out for you about Brentwood?" Doug wished to thank the three women who have represented Brentwood on City Council over the past 25 years: Theresa Baxter, Joanne Kerr, and Druh Farrell. Doug has been very impressed by the dedication of all three councillors.

When asked, "What keeps you in Brentwood?" the answers included such highlights as great neighbours, schools, churches, proximity to the Rockies, library, the farmers' market, and activities for a variety of ages at the Sportplex. As to the question, "What's missing in Brentwood?", folks for the most part thought that we were fortunate to have almost all of the necessities close by, though they would like to see more cafes, small businesses, plus a movie theatre.

My grateful thanks to all who participated in and recorded this event. Keep those memories coming!



Refreshing Thanks, and Distressing No Thanks

Thanks!

Very special thanks go to several in our local community who provided delicious refreshments for our Brentwood Jane's Walk last May. Sharon and Jack Yee of The Great Canadian Bagel provided dozens of fresh bagels to go along with the coffee and iced tea from Starbucks, both in Northland Plaza. The Nose Hill Library and the Brentwood Community Association rounded off the contributions with cream cheese and fresh fruit – all most welcome after the two hour amble through walkways, local gardens, mural tiles, and Whispering Signs. Thanks also to all those in attendance who collected bits of litter along the way as part of the citywide Pathway and River Clean Up weekend.

More special thanks for all the amazing refreshments for our Weeding Bees and Potluck gatherings in Brentwood Heights this summer. Former Brentwood residents, the Headleys, even sent live lobsters from Halifax with their son who was paying a visit to friends, which we enjoyed after a great pulling session. Don't miss these weeding bees next summer! Outstanding thanks go to Debbie Hall, Doug Andrews, Robin Cockett, and Richard and Louise Guy, who've helped pull weeds in the Natureground and Whispering Woods again this summer.

Thanks also to the avid interest shown by Environmental Education graduate students at the University of Calgary who held one of their classes in Whispering Woods, using the Prairie Amphitheatre as their outdoor classroom. Dr. Bonnie Shapiro had her students read from Mitchell Thomashow's "Ecological Identity" and Richard Louv's "Last Child in the Woods" before engaging in their inquiry of the area. All Brentwoodians should be extremely proud of the educational resources, wonderful spaces, and interpretive signage that have been created and supported – including through refreshments! – by so many of our neighbours.



The storms that buffeted the city early in August left their mark in some areas of Brentwood. Luckily, this tree in the alley behind Brockington Road caused no injuries and only minor damage to property. Photo: E.C. Holtby.



No thanks!

The weeds are unwelcome, however! This year we've been particularly tackling new patches of blue bur and stinkweed to curtail their prolific seed production. They seem to be moving in as the creeping thistle is compromised, leaving the area bare for a season or two before the roses and other natives have a chance to repopulate successfully. The good news is that these and other plants like goat's beard are easy enough to hand pull, and it's making a noticeable difference by reducing future outbursts. The creeping thistle has again been selectively treated with a herbicide by The City of Calgary Natural Areas, and there is definitely a reduction in the extent of the massive thistle infestation, but unfortunately the seeds are still spreading upwind, and there are new areas to tackle. The smooth brome further encroaches Whispering Woods, compromising the native biodiversity, though this more problematic invasion has not yet been addressed.

Escaped ornamentals also create issues in our local natural areas. Please Deadhead your Daisies and do not put them in your compost. Check out the Biosphere Institute of the Bow Valley, either in Cochrane or via their website, www.biosphereinstitute.org/p-ox-eye-daisy, for particular notes about oxeye and shasta daisies.

It's never too late to join in on shared stewardship in these areas. Newcomers are welcome and wanted. For more information: 403-282-2014 or environews@shaw.ca

Environmentally yours,

Polly Lee Knowlton Cockett

It's good sportsmanship
to not pick up
lost golf balls
while they are still rolling.

~ Mark Twain



Source: www.greatgamesforgolf.com/great_golf_quotes.htm

REMINDER!
DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME
ENDSENDSSENDS
Sunday, November 1 at 2:00 am

When changing the time on your clocks, copiers, recording equipment, etc. change the batteries in your smoke detectors at the same time to keep your family safe.