

Erlton Community Association Newsletter – October 2023



Elbow River – Photo by Judy B.

[Presidents Message](#)

Neighbours,

It was great to see some of you as we resumed our general meetings last month. I hope to see you at our next meeting on October 10th at 7pm at the MNP Centre.

The themes of housing and affordability have been in the news recently and we expect them to continue to feature prominently at our meetings as well. The West Elbow Local Area Plan engagement continues and the City recently passed its Housing Affordability Task Force Recommendations. The ECA will strive to share and help decipher information on these topics and can be a conduit to provide feedback to the City. To those of you interested in these issues I encourage you to attend our general meetings or reach out to the Planning Committee Chair (ecaplanningchair@gmail.com). Between the LAP and the Housing Strategy there are many decisions that are being made today that will shape our community for years to come and what we hear from our members will dictate the types of responses that the ECA will provide.

I hope you all have a wonderful Thanksgiving this coming weekend and I look forward to seeing you on October 10th!

Dylan Rayburn, President

Home is Here - The City of Calgary 2024 - 2030 Housing Strategy – Sept.2023

The City of Calgary recently released the 2023 Housing Needs Assessment report that indicates the current housing crisis is affecting many Calgarians who are looking to rent or buy an affordable home or are in need of affordable housing supports. The data used in the report was collected in 2021, it's expected the situation is worse for many people in 2023. The City of Calgary defines a household in need of affordable housing if it earns less than 65% of the median income and spends 30% or more of gross income on shelter costs.

The Housing Needs Assessment report is published every five years to coincide with the Statistics Canada census cycle and is used by City Council to identify present and future affordable housing requirements in Calgary.

*On Sept. 16th, City Council approved the “Home is Here: The City of Calgary’s Housing Strategy (with amendments) to address Calgary’s housing needs in the short, medium and long term. The Strategy provides specific actions that can be done to address the housing crisis and remove barriers to housing affordability and economic prosperity. The development of the strategy began June 2022 with the creation of a Housing and Affordability Task Force for the purpose of “advising council with advice and policy recommendations relating to increasing, measuring and managing **housing affordability** and **affordable housing** along the entire housing continuum”.*

Housing Affordability: *is a measure that analyzes market costs/trends with the purchasing power of Calgarians across the housing spectrum as well as the ability for homeowners and renters to keep up with the rising cost of housing (property taxes, rent increases, assessments and associated costs).*

Affordable Housing: *Housing provided by Municipal and Provincial Governments, not-for-profit entities and private entities, which spans the spectrum of housing from Emergency Shelters to Supportive Housing, to below and near market housing.*

The task force had representation from the business community and citizens who have lived, worked or studied in different levels of the housing spectrum in Calgary. After collecting data from additional panel contributors, feedback through City’s engagement portal (<https://engage.calgary.ca>) and other information sources, the task force compiled recommendations and actions and presented them to council in Q2 2023.

After three days of committee meetings and input from more than 150 Calgary residents, City Council approved the new Housing Strategy that included more than 80 recommendations and action items to address the ongoing housing crisis in Calgary and help all Calgarians to find a home that will meet their needs.

More information on the Housing Needs Assessment and Calgary Housing Strategy can be found:

<http://www.calgary.ca/social-services/low-income/housing-needs-assessment.html>.

(www.calgary.ca/social-services/low-income/task-force.html)

DID YOU KNOW? There are 156 different languages spoken in Calgary?
YUP! English, Punjabi and Tagalog are the top 3 most common languages spoken in Calgary.

Fun, Fun and More Fun:

Sunalta Pumpkin Carving Party – October 14th Sunalta Community Hall. 1:00 – 3:30 pm (Advance registration req'd. www.Sunalta.net)

Halloween on 17th Ave. SW: Oct.29th, Tompkins Park 2:00 – 8:00 PM **Free** family event featuring music, games, trick or treating along 17th Ave.

Readers Garden Café: Your ECA membership entitles you to 10% discount on drinks at the Café. We are working on an email confirmation for our members to present at the Cafe.

City of Calgary Erlton Park Farm Stand – Closed until Spring 2024 – Thanks to everyone for supporting this initiative.

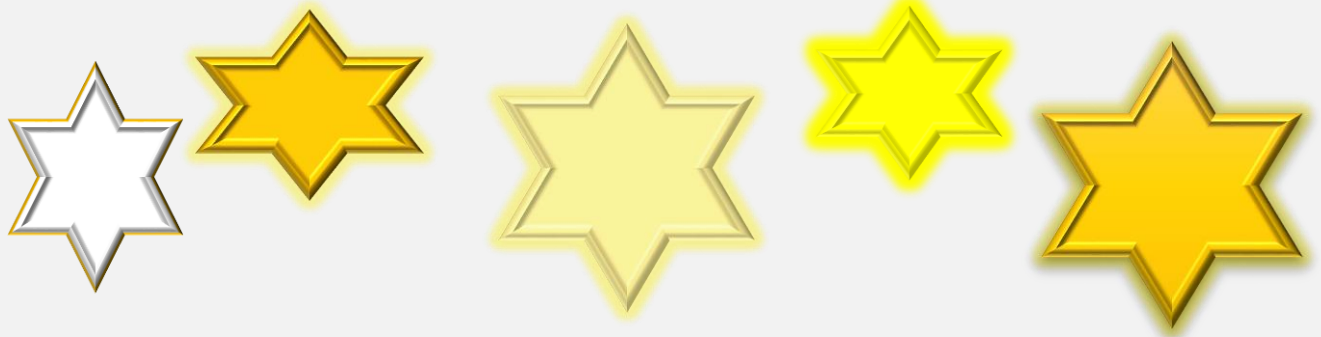
Erlton Garden Beautification Project: Volunteers needed to help us spruce up the park, please email us if you can help out.

SAVE THE DATE: ECA Annual General Meeting will be held on Nov.14th 2023 at 7:00 pm at the MNP Center.



Volunteering with ECA as a Director or Committee member is a great way to meet some new friends, have some fun and make a positive impact in our community. Please email Erltonsecretary@gmail.com; Erltonpresident@gmail.com; Erltoncommunications@gmail.com if you are interested.

ECA General Meeting on October 10th at 7:00 PM in the MNP River Room



The ECA Board of Directors would like acknowledge:

Jack P for his many years spent volunteering in our community to keep it clean and safe for everyone. If you ever wonder why our community always looks so clean, it's because of what Jack does!

THANK-YOU!



Stage 1 Mandatory Outdoor Water Restrictions remain in place. The following activities are not permitted during the restrictions:

- *Washing outdoor surfaces, windows, exterior building surfaces, sidewalks, driveways and walkways.*
- *Washing a car on a driveway or street.*
- *Filling fountains or decorative features.*

Check Calgary.ca/water/customer-service/stage-1-outdoor-water-restriction-in-effect.html for information regarding water activities that are permitted.

Alpha House is in need of Fall and Winter Clothing. Please have a look at the "How You Can Help" Page for a list of needed items. (www.Alphahousecalgary.com)



This Is NOT a Free Little Library

This is an Engagement Station for the West Elbow Local Area Plan. It will be stocked by the City with information for area residents to view (but we can also use the box for a library as long as there is room.)

This IS a Free Little Library

Open A Book (Poem by Jane Baskwill)

*Open a book
And you will find
People and places of every kind
Open a book
And you can be
Anything you want to be
Open a book
And you can share
Wondrous worlds you find in there
Open a book
And I will too
You read to me
And I'll read to you*



WEST ELBOW LOCAL AREA PLAN SURVEY

The West Elbow Local Area Plan is a planning document that guides development in our neighborhoods for many years. As such it is important to get it right when it comes up for review, as it is now. This spring, representatives from many affected communities met to talk in general about the document and our hopes and expectations for it. We felt that we wanted to seek feedback from our residents with our own survey, a link to which you find below. There will be many opportunities to provide feedback during the process but we as leaders wanted to understand the perspectives of our members and residents before starting a formal engagement with the City this fall. I'd like to thank Lisa Poole, President of the Elbow Park Residents Association, for leading this effort and for compiling the responses to the survey. Please let Dylan (President) or Heesung (Planning know if you have any questions about the West Elbow LAP engagement.

These survey questions have been developed by the communities involved in the LAP process, we are hoping for honest feedback from our community residents.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XRNT76R>



Calgary in October



Average High Temperature: 9.5 °C

Average Low Temperature: .4° C

Sunrise on Oct. 1st at 7:36 AM and Sunrise on Oct.31st at 8:27 AM

Sunset on Oct 1stst at 7:14 PM and Sunset on Oct.31st^h at 6:12 PM

Autumn in Erlton - Photos by Judy B.



Happy Thanksgiving!