

Ramsay



Hoo's in the Trees?

page 8

Photo by Nic Nolet (@nnolet)

DEC 2023

Ramsay

Real Estate News



One of the greatest pleasures of the Holiday Season is to exchange greetings with those whose friendship we value so highly. In this spirit it is a pleasure to say **THANK YOU** and extend our sincere appreciation for the pleasant experiences we have enjoyed with you.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and an amazing New Year filled with happiness and good health.



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Greetings Ramsay



By Kolja Vainstein, Ramsay Community Association President

With the Annual General Meeting recently having taken place in November, I would like to start out by introducing the newly elected 2023/2024 RCA Board of Directors.

President Kolja Vainstein	Director at Large Danny Zoetewey
VP Internal Miguel Garcia	Director at Large Jeff Wiehler
Secretary Chelsea Lees	Director at Large Christine Ward
Treasurer Glenn Street	Director at Large Carol Engstrom
Director at Large Robyn Finley	

The VP External position is still currently vacant, so feel free to reach out if this might be of interest to you.

I would like to thank outgoing board member Kelsi Hurlbut for her time and contribution to the Ramsay community.

There are several other people who I would like to thank who have led groups and supported the Board and community this past year:

- Teresa Chan (Memberships)
- Margaret Toye (Newsletter)
- Martin Baker (Community Garden)
- Miguel Garcia (Recreation/Facilities)
- Ray Chow (Ice Crew)

Your community support is very much appreciated.

The end of summer Party in September was a huge success. I can't thank the community enough for stepping up and volunteering before, during, and after the event. We truly have a great community.



As we round out the year, the RCA Board is applying for grants to help complete desperately needed maintenance work on the rink structure and shack. In parallel, we are working on a long-term plan to maintain and rejuvenate our aging infrastructure. We'd love to hear what you think our community space should be. Take a couple minutes and scan the QR code and complete a quick survey.

With our next community newsletter scheduled for March, stay tuned online for updates! Follow our social media or go to the website (ramsaycalgary.ca) to sign up for the e-newsletter. As a reminder,

General Meetings are open to all community members on the first Tuesday of every month (no meeting in January) and details can be found on our website.

On behalf of the RCA, I want to wish everyone a safe, happy, and festive holiday season!

Kolja Vainstein, President,
Ramsay Community Association

As always, if you have any questions, comments, or new ideas, please email me at president@ramsaycalgary.ca

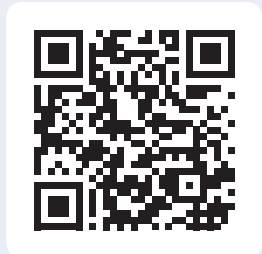
Ramsay Ramsay Community Association Membership

RCA membership for 2023-24 are on sale now. The membership year runs from July 1st, 2023 to June 30th, 2024 so there is still most of a year to enjoy the benefits of being a member!

Over 40 local businesses offer members-only discounts to RCA members, including a number of breweries, coffee shops, restaurants and other shops in Ramsay and Inglewood. A full listing of participating businesses and discounts can be found here: bit.ly/3gD3hn3

Being a part of the RCA also helps support community recreation and programming for all ages.

Membership cards are issued within 5 business days of payment being received. Use the QR code to access the membership form.



Stay connected to the RCA on ramsaycalgary.ca or following RCA on Facebook & Instagram

Joining a General Meeting, held virtually on the first Tuesday of almost every month. Find the link to join on our website under events.

A Farewell to Lilydale

Making Way For The Greenline

By Ward 9 City Councillor Gian-Carlo Carra



Last month, we officially commemorated a significant city-shaping outcome of the GreenLine: the demolition of Lilydale. At the time of its relocation in 2021, Lilydale was the largest chicken abattoir in Alberta, and the single largest water customer of the City of Calgary. While under its latest corporate owner, Sofina Foods, it was a better neighbour than the ammonia leaking, chicken part scattering, foul smelling nightmare it had been at its lowest points. This remnant of the area's stockyard days was simply incompatible with the neighbourhood Ramsay had become, and the future we need to move into. It cannot be understated that without the GreenLine sweeping up beside the Lilydale site, the decades-in-the-making dream of relocating the plant (into a modern facility still within our tax base), never could have come to pass.

Maybe, by the measure of Lilydale alone, we can judge the GreenLine's city-shaping mandate a success. But we're far from done.

- In 2024, the City of Calgary will transform the 11 & 12 ST SE corridors into shining examples of the public realm improvements that the GreenLine will bring to its host neighbourhoods.
- Also in 2024, construction will begin on a new fire station at the

corner of 11 ST & 11 AV, serving Ramsay, Inglewood, and the east side of the downtown. This will not only be a fire station, but also transit-oriented shops, services, and homes for hundreds of new neighbours. Check out my post on welcoming firefighters to Inglewood and Ramsay: gccarra.ca/firestation

- The Lilydale site will not only accommodate part of the GreenLine right of way but will also provide an ideal space for a variety of transit-oriented development in south-east Ramsay. Planning for this outcome will occur in 2024, driven by the need for the Saint Anne's school site to do double duty as both a park and storm water detention, finally solving some of the storm water issues plaguing 9 ST & 19 AV.
- Finally, the long-awaited detailed design for the Ramsay-Inglewood station area is currently being negotiated between the GreenLine Corporation, the Development Partner, Bow Transit Connectors, and the City's TOD team. Look for my feedback informing those negotiations to be shared on the Ward9 website soon.

To learn more and stay updated on GreenLine development progress, visit calgary.ca/greenline





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Co-op Living in Ramsay Heights

By Margaret Toye

On November 1, 1977, the first members of Ramsay Heights Co-operative Housing Ltd. moved in, exactly one year after they purchased the property for \$60,000. The parcel of land has a slope of 18-30 degrees and Ian McDougall MRAIC was the architect who took on the challenge of designing the complex on the hill. The co-op was financed under the Federal Housing Act with a CMHC loan for the whole project of \$1,615,000. The mortgage was paid off in 2020.

The co-op is not a rental property nor is it a condo. As a housing co-operative, Ramsay Heights is an independent continuing non-profit association incorporated under the Cooperatives Act of Alberta and is governed and managed by its member shareholders with an objective to provide safe affordable housing. It follows the seven International Co-operative Association (ICA) principles, which include voluntary and open membership, democratic member control, co-operation among other co-operatives, and concern for community.

New members purchase shares in the co-op; there is collective

ownership of the co-op. Being a member of the co-op brings voting rights as well as the responsibility to adhere to the co-op's bylaws and policies, and to engage in volunteerism within the community. There is a monthly housing charge, set by the membership, which funds a zero-based operating budget that includes a replacement reserve for capital expenses. Members make decisions about the coop, such as setting the monthly housing charge and in 1986 approving the building of decks and fences, and more recently to cover the original cedar and stucco siding with vinyl, determining the vinyl's colour through dotmocracy.

The Southern Alberta Cooperative Housing Association (SACHA) is the regional federation. Its membership consists of housing coops from Red Deer south. It is also a cooperative and subscribes to the ICA Principles. <https://www.sacha-coop.ca/> The Cooperative Housing Federation of Canada (CHF Canada) is the national federation of housing co-ops. Its membership consists primarily of housing co-ops. It too is a cooperative and follows the ICA Principles. <https://chfcanada.coop/> They provide support and services that benefit the housing co-ops in southern Alberta, i.e. Calgary, High River, Okotoks, and Lethbridge. Ramsay Heights is a long-term member of both federations.

My family lived in Ramsay Heights for two years, and my parents were founding members. My siblings were 14 and 13 when

we moved in and I had just turned 4. My sister Liza shared a few recollections with me, including that we moved in on a cold New Year's Eve Day. My parents paid \$2000 for their share of the co-op. "That was a big deal for our family, and a lot of money." She also told me she'd been thrilled to move into a 4-bedroom house, so that she and I no longer had to share a room. "It was all so modern and cool." She remembers being excited about having a balcony, and I remember my dad showing me Santa's footsteps in the snow on the balcony one Christmas morning.

As long-time resident Patricia Matthews shared with me, the social aspect of co-op living is very important. Every function has a social component. She says, "within the co-op members get to know each other" and that they learn from fellow members, gain understanding of other cultures, and serve on committees.

Patricia also told me about the Rainbow Flag, which has been the official co-operative symbol of the International Co-operative Alliance since 1925. The flag symbolizes fading political divisions and the unity of all people, and includes the colours of the flags of the word. Each colour has meaning, such as red representing courage to stand together and orange representing hope. The flag is often confused with the Pride Flag; the main difference is that the Co-op Flag has both dark blue and sky-blue stripes, while the traditional Pride Flag has just one blue stripe.





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Weeping Birch In Calgary

By Carol Engstrom

As I have wandered the streets of Ramsay and travelled by bus and car through various older neighbourhoods in Calgary, I have wondered how the weeping birch was chosen to be planted in our fine city. Well, to investigate my question I asked my sister's friend Don McKeowan.

The *Betula Pendula Gracilis* trees, as well as most other trees that have been planted in Calgary, go through popularity rises and falls, much like fashion does. So, while bell bottom trousers were in fashion in the 50s and 60s the weeping birch was in fashion too. This was a time when there was a big push to get homeowners to plant trees on their properties. In the early days of Calgary's 1950s boom, trucks drove through neighbourhoods and gave homeowners trees, often weeping birches that were five years old. At this time, the tree was not native to Calgary or even Alberta. It originated in Northern Europe, perhaps like my ancestors from Sweden.

I like the weeping birch because it is a great home for birds and owls. It also has extensive branching and beautiful little leaves. Northern flickers like to hammer holes in the white bark and build their nests. Its showy white bark makes it easy to spot, especially in the summer against the green vegetation. The persistently squawky magpie uses their branches and do does the ever-cheery Chickadee.



The trees that adorn our neighborhoods have seen many moons pass them during the night. Most weeping birch are likely 65 or 70 years old and like an elder human they would have many stories to tell.

Developers often choose the trees which they thought would be a nice complement to the neighbourhood. For instance, for McKenzie Towne they chose the Shubert chokecherry trees, and some would say too many were planted for one neighbourhood. A diversity of trees allows for a diversity of creatures.

The weeping birch requires lots of water to keep their branches, roots, and leaves alive so don't be afraid to water them. Most old trees go through a "permanent wilt point": the point of time when the soil moisture is too low to sustain the tree. Unfortunately, once this threshold has been passed there is nothing the human can do.

While walking or skateboarding through our city be sure to notice the trees as you pass by. What was the trendy tree to plant in the 1990's? Was it the columnar aspen or Colorado spruce? In the new neighborhoods being created in the 2020's, will their trees look as majestic as the weeping birch?

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A Message From Our MP



By Greg McLean

As the world becomes less secure, with regional conflicts flaring in many parts of the world, we need to remind ourselves of the importance of National Defence. It's an essential service of our government that frequently gets overshadowed by more politically attractive issues. The risk of under-delivering on this service is a hazard, and a risk that will only be clear in retrospect. Yet, the current scenario reveals an alarming picture; our Canadian Armed Forces face a 16,000 personnel shortfall, coupled with a cumbersome procurement system and significant underfunding. This is merely the surface of issues facing the forces.

Protecting our Arctic region is of utmost importance. It is rich in untapped resources and has emerged as a focal point of interest from numerous foreign parties. Events like Russia's invasion of Ukraine have heightened concerns about the vulnerabilities of this strategic region. Presently, the defense infrastructure in the Arctic oscillates between being outdated and entirely non-existent, emphasizing the area's exposure. It is an expensive environment in which to operate, but our presence there is paramount to enforcing our sovereignty.

Another layer of complexity is our substantial reliance on the United States for our defense needs. Should Americans gravitate towards more self-interest, our mutual priorities may diverge. While it is not feasible to advocate for a completely independent defense policy, Canada must bolster its armed forces to act autonomously in some matters, including taking the funding of our defense partnerships like NATO and NORAD seriously. Consider peacekeeping – where we were once pioneers, now our contributions pale in comparison. Simply put, our armed forces do not have the essential resources to fulfill their fundamental role defending our own territory, let alone create a significant impact internationally. For the sake of our brave and committed armed forces personnel, and the proud history they uphold on our behalf, this needs to change.

Please contact me at

Greg.McLean@parl.gc.ca or by phone at

403-244-1880, and keep up-to-date on my work in Parliament on my website, **GregMcLeanMP.ca**.

Calgary Police Service: Operation Cold Start

Ramsay is served by five Calgary Police Service community resource officers. Constable K. Rozon (Const #5238) is our main point of contact, and he can be found at 1010 26 Ave SE and reached by email at D1CRO@CalgaryPolice.ca. CPS Constables have a Facebook page at [:fb.com/CPSConstables/](https://fb.com/CPSConstables/)

Now that the weather is cold again, CPS would like to remind us about Operation Cold Start. This is crime prevention collaboration by law enforcement agencies across Alberta aimed at addressing the high number of warm-up auto thefts that occur during the winter months.

Warm-up thefts are crimes of opportunity, where car thieves target vehicles that are left running and unattended. Between November 1, 2022 and January 25, 2023, in Calgary 246 vehicles were reported stolen while they were left running .

"Vehicles that are left running with the keys inside can be gone in a matter of seconds," says Acting Sgt. Chris Terry of the Calgary Police Service Crime Prevention Team. "These crimes can happen anywhere, even if you believe you are in a safe area, and even if your vehicle stays in your line of sight while you're inside your house or a store."

CPS officers patrol communities as part of Operation Cold Start, looking for vehicles that are left running and unattended. Officers also look for prolific auto theft offenders and other suspicious people and vehicles. Stolen vehicles are often used by criminals to commit other crimes in the city, victimizing other Calgarians.

"A cold car is better than a stolen car, so as the temperatures drop, if you need to warm up your car and you don't have a remote starter, make sure you bundle up and stay with your vehicle until you're ready to drive away," says Acting Sgt. Terry.

Calgarians who are planning to warm up their vehicle are reminded to:

- Never leave a running vehicle unattended if the keys are inside the vehicle, or if the vehicle has been started with a keyless ignition or push-button start.
- Use a remote starter whenever possible and keep your vehicle locked.
- If you are warming up your vehicle with the keys in the ignition or with a push-button start, stay with your vehicle.
- Use a steering wheel lock to deter thieves.
- Never leave spare keys or garage door openers in or around your vehicle.
- Never leave children or pets in a running vehicle.
- Do not leave valuables, including identity documents and bank cards, in your vehicle.
- Report suspicious activity to police immediately by calling 403-266-1234.
- If you witness a crime in progress, call 9-1-1.

Apprentice Cafe

An Eco-friendly Twist on a Community Staple

By Chelsea Lees

If you spend any time on the North end of Ramsay, you likely noticed around the end of June the beloved Bruhe changed hands and was reinvented into Apprentice Cafe.

It takes a special presence to make this little shop work for our unique community, and new owner, Rein Trotsuk, is the person to make it work. Born and raised in Lloydminster, Rein has travelled a windy path to bring him to where he is today. After attending culinary school in Vancouver and working in Italy and the Netherlands, he landed in Calgary with a mission to create a community spot with an eco-focused menu.

"I wanted to be a neighbourhood cafe where I could really connect with the people," said Trotsuk. His vision was to not only create a welcoming space for connection, but also serve



amazing foods that have eco-friendly considerations. He explained that they don't promote being vegan, or keto, or any particular dietary direction so much as they focus on making good choices with their ingredients. "It's one thing to have a product that tastes delicious, it is another to have a product that makes an impact...We are trying to use ingredients that have a lower environmental impact and focus on educating people through conversation."

If you have yet to check out this spot, you should! The ice cream was a treat in the summer, but for the coming winter months they will be serving up hot chocolate, coffees, breakfast sandwiches, scones, and more - all handcrafted in house.

Check out their menu online and even place your order ahead of time at apprenticecafe.ca

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Ramsay Came Together for the End of Summer

By Kolja Vainstein

The afternoon of September 23rd couldn't have been a better one for Ramsay's end of summer party. The skies cleared in the afternoon, and over 300 people from the community came out to enjoy food, drinks, music, and kids' activities.

We had overwhelming support from local businesses and community organizations that provided food, beverages, financial contributions, and raffle prizes for the event. A dedicated team of volunteers played a crucial role, managing everything from organizing the party, setting up the rink space, working the event, and then finally helping with takedown and cleanup.

A huge thank you to every person, business, and organization that helped make this event possible. The RCA is particularly grateful to Michael Kwadrans for taking the initiative to spearhead the event.

Stay tuned for more community parties in the future!



Neighbours gather in the rink



Carol Engstrom - Keeping Ramsay's tummies from rumbling



Jeff Wiehler and Michael Kwadrans - The rink and a drink

A BIG  Thank YOU



Mighty Halifax Style Donair



GHOULS JUST WANT TO HAVE FUN!

This Halloween, the kids (and adults) of Ramsay stepped up their scare game. Decorations were gracing many front gardens and maybe you where too scared to go out?

If that was the case we have a colourful showcase of some of the spookiest sights from October that you can view from the safety of the newsletter.



Henry and Alec - only two people running this train? It must be a skeleton service



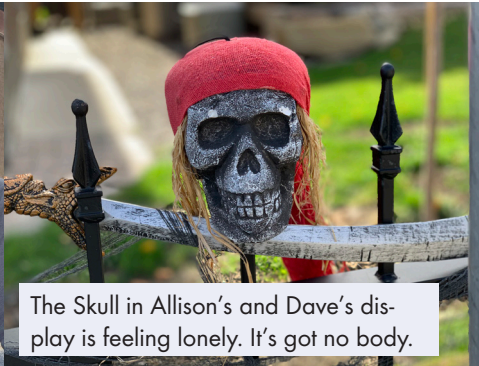
This train is on a one way trip to Diabetes Town



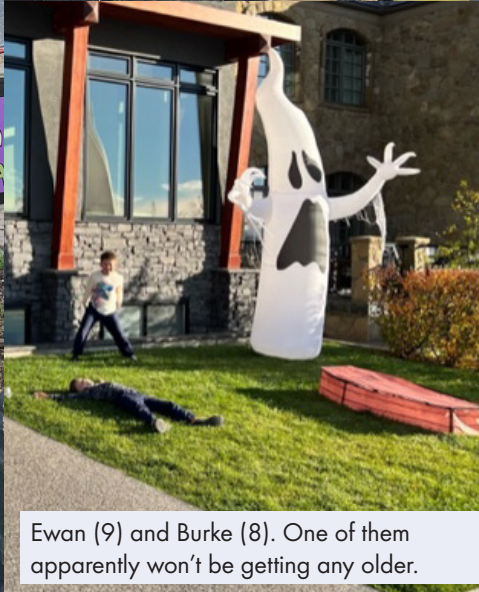
Pumpkin decorating for Halloween at Ramsay School - The Gourd, The Bad, and The Ugly



Allison Searle, Will Stoddart & Dave Stoddart



The Skull in Allison's and Dave's display is feeling lonely. It's got no body.



Ewan (9) and Burke (8). One of them apparently won't be getting any older.



Joanne Campbell's witch and cauldron



Joanne Campbell's amazing display



Miles and Isla - they may not look scary, but the skunk smelt terrifying, and who knows what is under Isla's hat?



A Candian Werewolf in Ramsay - 23rd Ave to be precise

Art in the Underpass

By Caitlind Brown & Monica Ila

Hello Neighbours! We are Caitlind Brown & Monica Ila, and we're Ramsay-based artists. We have been secretly developing a new temporary mural for the dark and dingy underpass connecting Ramsay and Inglewood. For the past year and a half, we've been working with RCA President, Kolja Vainstein, on a proposal for a colourful new artwork for the underpass on 11-12th Street SE. We've officially received permission from the City of Calgary and CPKC (formerly Canadian Pacific Railway) to go forward with our project. Our temporary mural will be designed with influence from hyper-local histories, stories, and myths, gathered through the neighbourhood as part of our community engagement phase – coming in Winter 2024.

The 11-12th Street Underpass is an important pedestrian corridor and the primary connector between Ramsay, our neighbours in Inglewood, and the Bow River. This underpass is part of the GreenLine redevelopment area; however, this space isn't scheduled for major improvements until at least 2027. We're looking to make this unpleasant underpass more welcoming to the neighbourhood as soon as possible. We will be funding the mural project through grants and fundraising, with a plan to begin painting in Fall 2024.

It's still early days, but you can connect with us through Ramsay



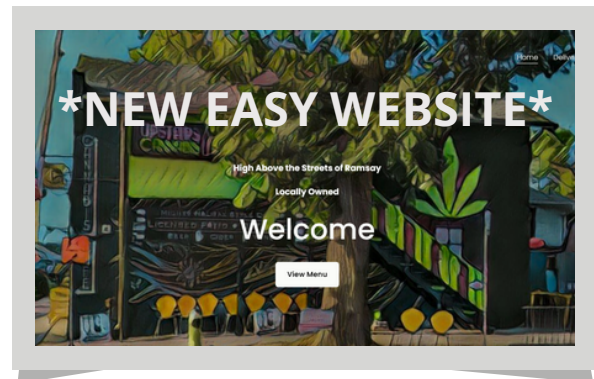
Community Association's website and sign up to hear about further developments of the mural project. Are you a business interested in sponsoring our project? Do you want to participate in our community engagement? Want to volunteer? Get in touch.

P.S. A huge thank you to Kolja for helping to make this happen!

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Upstairs Cannabis: a community-driven shop where neighbors gather, local music is showcased, and inclusivity shines. Through supporting local talent and community employment, they've created a welcoming, compassionate space.

BackPorch Stories Returns to the Lantern



By Ed Top

'BackPorch Stories', reminiscent of Stuart McLean's Vinyl Cafe, is just around the Inglewood corner. Every Christmas for the past 14 years, the Lantern Church has hosted these stories, which center around Pete, Mary, their three kids, and what they see from their back porch in Inglewood.

"These evenings have been memorable," says writer Ed Top. "Interspersed in the story, we try to incorporate every creative gifting that you can imagine, from dance and drama, to crowd involvement, and newly composed songs."

This year's story, 'Perfect Strangers', begins at 6:25 pm on Sunday, December 17. Free admission if you bring a smile! Similar to The Simpsons, the children in the story never seem to age . . . they've been 12, 14 and 15 since 2009.

"It's a little like the Princess Bride," Ed says, "where the grandfather is reading the story to his reluctant grandson and then the narrative comes alive with sword fights and dreadful dragons, forbidden love, grizzly torture and, well, miserable monsters. BackPorch Stories are a little like that - but without the grizzly torture, sword fights, miserable monsters and forbidden love."



The evening ends with the traditional lighting of the candles.

"It's great way to launch and reflect on the Christmas season," says Jonathan Top who has written a song for the production. "It's a lot of fun, but there is a poignancy to the evening as well. We want to wrestle with what it means to be community, especially during the Christmas season."

BackPorch Stories Returns to the Lantern
Sunday, December 17 at 6:25 pm

Toboggan or not Toboggan

At the time of writing, it feels like Jack Frost is stuck in traffic, but there is bound to be a flurry of snow or two coming soon.



So get your toboggans, tea-trays, sleighs, sledges, saucers and boards ready.

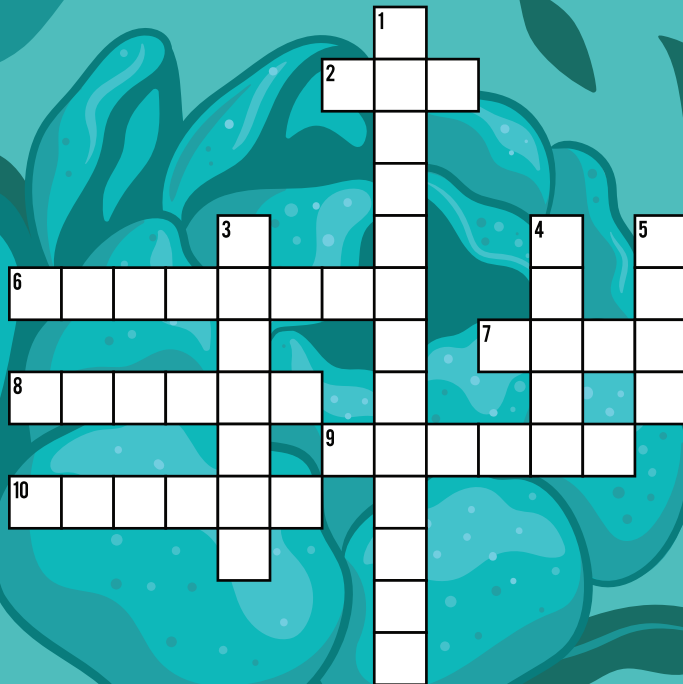
Don't forget a helmet, and join us on the hills in Ramsay.

And have a Merry Christmas :)



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6. JAROMEIGINLA 8. SADDLEDOME 10. WINTER

ACROSS:

2. HOW MANY TIME ZONES ARE IN CANADA
6. THE NATIONAL SPORT OF CANADA
7. 80% - 90% OF BEER CONSUMED IN CANADA IS _____ IN CANADA (CRAFT BEER FOR THE WIN)
8. THE INDIGENOUS WORD THAT CANADA IS DERIVED FROM
9. THE NATIONAL ANIMAL OF CANADA
10. CANADA IS THE WORLD'S _____ LARGEST COUNTRY BY SIZE

DOWN:

1. THIS FAMOUS CHILDREN'S BOOK CHARACTER IS NAMED AFTER A BEAR FROM CANADA
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4. THE TALLEST BUILDING IN CANADA IS TORONTO'S FIRST CANADIAN _____
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