

Brevoort Park Newsletter Summer 2023

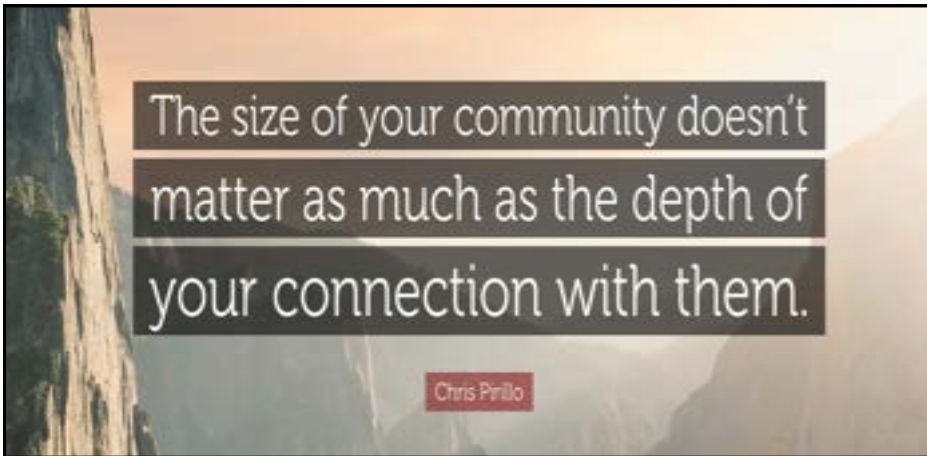
The community association has been lacking soccer coordinators for some time. This means our children are being sent to other areas and are not playing here at home. This is an important part of our community and we would like to see soccer return. Every season we have requests for a local team, and neighboring communities would like to have their children play in Brevoort Park. Sadly, we have been unable to offer soccer without a coordinator. If we do not have a volunteer to take on this role by July, there will be no **soccer for the 2023-2024 season**. If you are a soccer family, please consider taking on this role. Contact volunteer@brevoortpark.ca



BREVOORT PARK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



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PLANTING FOR POLLINATORS

It is Springtime in Saskatoon! With the fresh new season comes the planting so many of us look forward to, whether in our fields, large farm gardens, or baskets on our apartment balconies. All this planting depends on pollinators, like bees, moths, and butterflies for their critical role in our food supply.

We can help them do their jobs. While some plants are self-pollinating, the majority need the help of pollinators. Bees and butterflies are attracted to colour. Bees are especially drawn to blue, violet, purple, white, and yellow. They prefer single or flat flowers rather than double flowered or puffy ones. They also need a water source to live, so consider adding a clean, shallow water source to your garden with some rocks for the bees to land and drink.

Flowering fruit trees and plants (think: strawberries, tomatoes, apple, saskatoons, bell peppers) are great for bees. These are just a few of the flowers that are best: honeysuckle, lilacs, holly hocks, lavender, and clover. Specific flowers that are best for moths and butterflies include: azalea, clematis, delphinium, lilacs, and snap dragons.

You can learn more on Internet sources like www.wildaboutsaskatoon.org or www.sasktoday.ca or www.gardening.usask.ca

Submitted by Heather K.

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I had a biological and an adopted grandma. Both gave me the courage to live life fully

It was a chilly winter morning in Montreal when I got the text.

"Betty is dying."

Instantly, tears gathered in my eyes and, without regard for the fact that I was in a library, spilled over uncontrollably. I was about to lose another grandmother.

My grandmothers, Betty and Shobha, were one of my life's greatest gifts. I like to think they would have been good friends if they had a chance to meet.

Shoba was one of the very first people to hold me. Betty and I met when I was 13.

Betty lived on a farm outside of North Battleford, Sask., and Shobha lived an entire ocean away in India. I had the honour of calling both women grandmother, and both have taught me a lot about love and grief.

My *aaji*, a pillar of strength

Nine years ago before Betty died, I learned my

beloved *aaji* (the Marathi word for grandmother) had passed away. It was the opposite weather: a pleasantly warm afternoon in Saskatoon.

Friends circled in and out of our home in the days to come, offering their condolences. There were many phone calls from India with words meant to reassure. But, as if we were on a timer, my parents, sister and I felt an unexplainable pressure to move forward.

Even several weeks later, my dad would choke up recalling his mother. My mother's eyes would fill in *Aaji's* memory. I spent countless nights with the grief spilling onto my pillow cover.

For years, as we came to terms with the fact *Aaji* was gone, my family did this dance of quiet mourning. We tried with all our might to move forward, but in the mundane and extraordinary moments in life, we would feel her presence.

And it's unsurprising, because simply put, *Aaji* was incredible. She was a fiercely independent woman who was determined to live on her own terms.

— Continued page 4

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Continued from page 3

After the passing of my grandfather when my dad was only 17, *Aaji* refused to listen to all those who told her she would now have to be dependent on extended family.

Instead, she took her husband's modest pension, bought a small piece of land, and rebuilt her life brick by brick and that of her kids from nothing to everything. It was *Aaji's* unparalleled ability to financially plan, through seemingly endless hurdles and stifling gender norms, that endlessly inspired me. She encouraged my dad to pursue higher education — a dream that was thought to be unreachable because of their family's financial situation at the time.

That very gift of education would eventually bring my family to Canada and connect me with the other matriarch I would come to call grandma.

A second grandmother to me

Shortly after *Aaji* passed away, a close friend invited my family to Betty's farm in North Battleford.

Despite having never met us before, Betty embraced my sister and me as if we were her grandchildren, and immediately launched into a discussion with my mother about her garden.

With unmatched hospitality, Betty opened her home and hearts to us. Over the years, she took us Saskatoon berry picking and always insisting we take plenty of bags back home. She cooked with love for us, and her chicken and potatoes is one of my favourite dishes.

With an enthusiasm I will forever miss, Betty would always ask my sister and I about our lives, cataloging all the details away for our next conversation.

Now, despite both my grandmothers having passed on, I still feel their presence around me.

When I bite into a sweet *besan ladoo*, I see *Aaji* sitting for hours on the kitchen floor, labouring over the flour to get it to a perfect texture that melts instantly in my mouth. When I feel my patience running thin, I remember Betty's

never-ending optimism and the power of her warm smile. When I feel insecure about my height or broad shoulders, I remember how much pride with which *Aaji* carried her five feet eight inches.

In all these moments, I remember my grandmothers with grief, but also with joy and immense respect. *Aaji* and Betty's deaths taught me that remembering someone is not a sign of denying the truth, but a path to move forward.

My grandmothers were some of my greatest teachers. Perhaps in their deaths, they taught me this one last important lesson — to accept grief. I think this is their way of telling me that grief is an important part of life, a process that we must embrace and work through, individually and collectively.

Together, their memory and lessons, give my heart the much needed courage to live the life they so dearly loved.

This First Person piece was originally submitted to CBC by Vaidehee Lanke, a University of Saskatchewan graduate studying at McGill University, and one of Brevoort Park's own.



Congratulations to our coloring contest winner, Aurora!

Thank you for participating in our contest! We hope you enjoyed your gift!

Congratulations to Sawyer and Drew who are our Easter Egg decorating winners! We will be in touch with your prize very soon!

Thank you to every one who enters our contests!



WARD 6 CITY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Hello Brevoort Park, and Happy Spring! (for real, this time)

Downtown Entertainment District: Engagement is now underway for the public realm design for the Downtown Event and Entertainment District (DEED). Phase one seeking high level input from residents about what amenities they want to see in our downtown. The City will report back to the community before undertaking phase 2. Take the survey here: saskatoon.ca/engage/downtown-event-centrearena

Here are a few high-level reminders about Council's stated direction:

- ⇒ **No property tax** impact for the arena, convention centre, public plaza – (Full funding strategy – fall 2023)
- ⇒ Build public realm to drive density, efficiency and vibrancy
- ⇒ Official Community Plan to guide downtown growth, reducing city-building costs, maximizing service delivery and accelerating sustainability
- ⇒ New modern public transportation system designed to support downtown growth (Bus Rapid Transit BRT)
- ⇒ Use Vision Statement and Guiding Principles to guide the district plan

As Council's strategic lead for downtown development, I would add that this process, which began in 2017, came about due to insurmountable structural and technological challenges at TCU Place and Sasktel Centre. Costs to renovate are in the hundreds of millions of dollars and would

not solve the underlying deficits and accelerating losses. At each decision-making point in this journey, Council has taken a step forward only when the evidence and data supported it. The next steps will be significant, and I remain optimistic that Council's goals can be met.

Saskatoon needs to become more efficient, less expensive and more sustainable. Driving growth to the downtown where the expensive infrastructure and services already exist gives us the best chance to do that.

A few more notes:

Green bin pick ups have begun, so check out your waste calendar for dates. The building for the Farmers Market at River Landing will be delayed until the fall, but street stall Saturdays will resume this spring. Trail width expansion on Meewasin Trail is happening adjacent to downtown this summer and construction of the 14th Street Parklet will also be completed this season.

Have question? Please stay in touch:

cynthia.block@saskatoon.ca

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Sincerely, Cynthia



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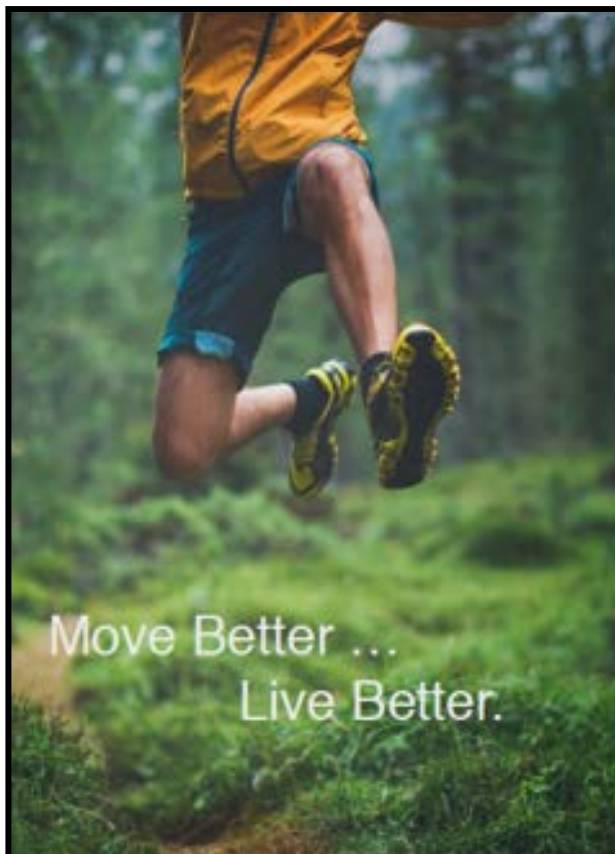
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GRANDMA'S RHUBARB PIN-WHEELS

This family recipe is shared by BPCA's own Celeste B. We are lucky she was willing to share this wonderful way to use some of that new rhubarb.

- 1 1/2 c. Flour
- 2 1/2 tsp. Baking Powder
- 1/24 tsp. Salt
- 3 1/2 tsp. Margarine/
butter
- 1/2 to 2/3 c. milk
- 4 c. Rhubarb
- 1 c. Sugar
- 1 c. Water



Instructions:

Sift the flour, baking powder and salt together. Cut in margarine until the mixture is a fine crumb. Add enough milk to form a soft dough.

Turn out dough onto a floured surface and roll into an oblong shape. Spread with finely diced rhubarb and roll.

Cut into slices, 1 1/2 inch thick. Place the slices cut side down on a greased baking pan.

Sauce:

Combine sugar and water, cook together for 10 minutes. Stir to dissolve sugar. Pour this syrup over the pin-wheels. Dot the top with butter.

Bake at 450 degrees for 20 minutes.



KID'S CONTEST

Spring is here! Count the number of bees in this newsletter and send your answer to newsletter@brevoortpark.ca by June 30th to be entered into a prize draw.



What did the sushi say to the bee?



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(On a budget)

1. Beaver Creek Conservation Area Trails - there's a few different hikes you can do, including a wheel-chair accessible one, plus you can often feed the chickadees
 2. Nutrien Playland Kinsmen Park
 3. SUM Theatre - free family friendly plays in parks all over the city (sun theatre.com to see where and when they perform)
 4. Saskatoon Public Library - lots of free summer programming for families at all branches
 5. Meewasin Valley Trails
 6. Visit the Remail art gallery
 7. Sample as many of the small local pop up ice cream shops in Saskatoon as you can
 8. Saskatoon Farmers Market
 9. Walk along River Landing - it's beautiful and accessible
- Wanuskewin - if you haven't been out there in a while, try to go and spend the day.

These are just 10 ways to enjoy Saskatoon this summer.

Add to this list all the festivals - the Children's Festival, the Fringe, FolkFest, and the Jazz Festival. There are also places just outside the city, like Pike Lake and the Berry Barn.

www.Saskatoontourism.ca is a good resource.

And remember: wear sunscreen!



How is the Market?
 SPRING, 2023, BREVOORT PARK

7	15
CURRENT LISTINGS	SOLD PROPERTIES
\$293k	41
AVG. SALE PRICE	AVG. DAYS ON MARKET

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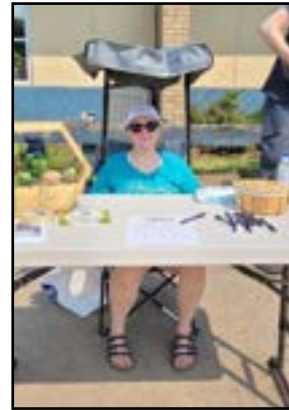
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COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE WEEKEND AND BBQ

May 13th marked the Brevoort Park Community Garage Sale Day and BBQ.

By the numbers:

- 21 individual garage sales in the neighborhood
- 1 bouncy house full of children
- 2 wonderful neighbors that spontaneously helped to supervise the bouncy house (THANK YOU!)
- 250+ burgers eaten
- 204 long-johns enjoyed
- 8 board members running the BBQ and information table
- 6 children of board members who helped keep their parents sane at the BBQ!
- 1 beautiful afternoon for visiting with friends and getting a good deal!



SAVE THE DATE - UPCOMING EVENTS

BREVOORT PARK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
KICK OFF TO SUMMER

ALL-WHEELED PARADE
OUTDOOR MARKET
PETTING ZOO
BOUNCY CASTLE
BARBEQUE
GAMES AND CRAFTS!
AND MORE!

**Brevoort
Park North
11am-3pm**

SATURDAY JUNE 17

Come & join us for the
**BPCA ANNUAL AGM
PANCAKE BREAKFAST AND BINGO**

September 9 Brevoort Park School

10:00am Pancake Breakfast
10:30am AGM
Grocery Bingo to follow
** Residents in attendance will receive
1 free bingo card

Do you check this box?

I Am Awesome

Then we need you!

Your Brevoort Part Community Association (BPCA) is looking for volunteers. We have two upcoming events we need help with:

- Kick Off to Summer - Sat, June 17th
 - Multiple volunteer opportunities: Parade, BBQ, Petting Zoo, Bouncy Castle, Games, Crafts and More
- Pancake Breakfast - Sat, Sept 9th
 - Setting up, flipping pancakes, helping with bingo, clean up

Volunteering makes the heart ❤️ grow in size and looks great on a resume!!

Interested in helping out?
Email volunteer@brevoortpark.ca
or call or text Tracy at 306-537-3800



Did you see advertised events that didn't happen? Throughout the past year, some events were cancelled due to lack of help.

We are in desperate need of volunteers to help take shifts for the upcoming events. Without people willing to take on a shift or two throughout the day, **the events will be cancelled!**

Our events are consistently staffed by the same few volunteers, who are reaching volunteer burn-out. Please consider hanging out at the bouncy house, set up the coloring table, line up children for the bike parade, etc. Stay for the full day, or just a portion, and still have time to enjoy the petting zoo and a burger!



In addition to the warm fuzzy feelings you will get from helping in your community, we will be offering a draw (for those that sign up and attend) for a \$25 gift card!

Watch for our email blast, website or the socials for information on how to sign up.

NEIGHBORHOOD FLOOD CONTROL

As you may have heard, the city of Saskatoon is planning to install an underground water containment unit in Brevoort Park South. This will assist in drainage for the Tucker Crescent and Early Drive area. Many of the homes in his area have suffered from higher than average water damage, during periods of storms or heavy rain.

A study was conducted and the most appropriate location for water storage is Brevoort Park South. Construction will also take place along some of the streets between the flood-prone area and the park.

Water will drain from the Tucker/ Early area to an underground storage unit, which will then empty into a larger return pipe on Preston Ave.

WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT?

There will be some construction disrupting traffic and

we will lose use of the park for a time. Once construction is complete, the park will have sod laid and any trees that are removed will be replaced. We can expect to lose a few mature trees, but not all.

In the end, our park will look much the same as it does now and activities can resume. The park will continue to remain a flat surface and will not be bowl shaped, as seen in other areas.

Public engagement meetings will take place June to December 2023.

You may find supplemental information at www.saskatoon.ca



COMPOSTING

As you know, the city of Saskatoon has expanded their green bin program into all areas of the city. This will assist in diverting food waste from the general garbage dump into a compost area.

WHAT CAN YOU PUT IN YOUR NEW BIN?



WHAT ABOUT YOUR HOME COMPOST BIN?

It is important to have the right mix of items in your home compost bin. Strive for a mix of “browns” and “greens”. This helps the decomposition occur and keeps the area from becoming stinky. Make sure you add water as needed (but not too much!) and your bin is best located in a sunny area given our cooler climate. Give it a mix!

Making compost can take as short as a few weeks or as long as a year or two. Different composting methods, types of organic waste, and weather conditions either speed up or slow down results. Carefully built and maintained hot compost systems give the quickest results. Before you know it, you will have dark, rich compost, perfect for the garden or flower beds.



DON'T FORGET

⇒ Kids! Count the bees in this edition of the newsletter and email your answer to newsletter@brevoortpark.ca. You will have a chance to win a great prize!

⇒ **KICK OFF TO SUMMER—June 17 11am-3pm**

Join us at the community rink area for an all-wheels parade, play on the bouncy house, pet some critters, check out the Archeocaravan, have lunch, and check out the market.

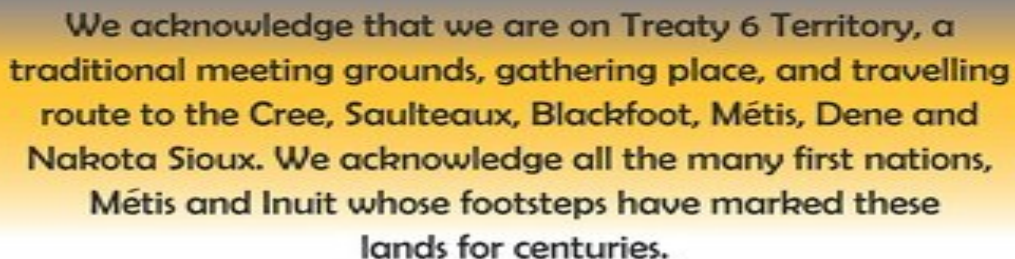
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.

⇒ **AGM, PANCAKE BREAKFAST AND GROCERY BINGO - September 9**

Come get your fill of pancakes and try your luck with our grocery bingo. **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.**

⇒ **GET READY TO WIN!** Purchase your 30 Days of Winning card, starting in June, for a chance to win cash and prizes every day in November. Cards sell for \$10. You have 30 chances to win as the names go back into the draw each day! Purchase multiple cards to increase your chances of winning. A special draw will occur in June for anyone who purchases the first month they are available. Over \$1,500 in cash and prizes available.

More details on the above are coming via email and social media. Make sure you follow us and sign up for our email list.



We acknowledge that we are on Treaty 6 Territory, a traditional meeting grounds, gathering place, and travelling route to the Cree, Saulteaux, Blackfoot, Métis, Dene and Nakota Sioux. We acknowledge all the many first nations, Métis and Inuit whose footsteps have marked these lands for centuries.



Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, website or email blast to get the updates on this upcoming opportunity to support your local community and take home some great prizes.

Join us for our monthly meetings at Brevoort Park School Library September to June 7pm-8pm.

Facebook: [brevoortpark](https://www.facebook.com/brevoortpark)

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