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Connecting Calgarians with Their Communities



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The Day The Earth Cleans Up

Be sure to join the world's largest ecological movement on April 22, 2018, that is providing stewardship for protecting the Ecological Footprint of our planet. Many new environmental laws have been created since that historic day on April 22, 1970, when millions of people gathered in the streets marching towards ending the mounting pollution problem created by 150 years of the Industrial Revolution that was becoming both deadly and disease inflicting. In that same year the Environmental Protection Agency was created and since has introduced many robust environmental laws such as the Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act.



Earth Day is the largest civic-focused day of action in the world where more than 1 billion people in 192 countries now take part. On this day in groups, people clean up their communities and roads, plant trees, march, sign petitions, meet with elected officials, encouraging change to protect the only planet that the many of us live on. With the recent plastic pollution epidemic poisoning and injuring of wildlife, especially with marine life, the organization that leads Earth Day worldwide, Earth Day Network, announced that Earth Day 2018 will focus on mobilizing the world to End Plastic Pollution Epidemic.

Everyone can Join The Earth Day Movement by simply stopping the use of and eliminating single-use plastics, choosing products using alternatives to fossil fuel-based materials, and with promoting 100 percent recycling of plastics. We also need to sanction greater corporate and government accountability and change human behavior concerning the current unsustainable use of plastics.

You are encouraged to take action by joining the over 2.5 billion people performing Acts of Green.



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The Bears

With Calgary being so close to the mountains it is no surprise that we would encounter a symbol of the Canadian wilderness in the city, the mighty bear. At any time Calgarians can see several bears at the Calgary Zoo and Griffith Woods Park in southwest Calgary was closed last year due to the presence of a large grizzly bear. We also can discover many human-friendly bears around the city in the form of public art.

There are bronze playful cubs at Century Park in the Beltline and emerging from the greenery a 3-meter bronze bear is overlooking the University of Calgary's Taylor Quadrangle. In Baker Park on Scenic Bow Road in the North-

west, there are bronze sculptures of two bear cubs playing with their mother and another one of two young bears at play. At YYC's new International Terminal one can discover, as one of a few of the animal sculptures there, a granite family of bears.

Tucked inside the SW corner of the Calgary Municipal Building we can find a stylized bronze sculpture by the French-born sculptor Suzanne Sablé, The Bears. Standing with their backs to you the simplified shapes of a mother bear gesturing her cub unaware of the danger is turning to confront you. The broad masses without texture or detail have truncated rears revealing



the arches of their round bodies.

The Devonian Group of Charitable Foundations Commissioned Sablé for the large sculpture to be installed at the new Calgary City Hall in 1982. Suzanne's modernistic style with The Bears is also prevalent in several other bronze animal sculptures such as horses, polar bears, giraffes, and an elephant. While exploring The Family of Horses and the Centre Street Bridge Lion, pop into city hall and experience a safe encounter with nature.

Be sure to check out this little know piece of Calgary public art inside the Calgary Municipal Building. Keep reading WebStamp as we continue to explore Calgary's collection of Public Art. There appear to be many bear sculptures to explore, not to mention horses, beavers, and many other animals. Public art is important to the well-being of a city and reflects towards visitors and local citizens the essence of its citizens.

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Redefining Tiny Houses

The definition of a tiny house, according to Wikipedia, is a house of less than 93 m² (1,000 ft²). Many come to the assumption of tiny as houses of up to 37 m² (400 ft²) and would use the term small for houses larger than 37 m² and not exceeding 93 m². The majority of tiny houses with the current tiny

in his 46 m² (495 ft²) 2-bedroom duplex unit. He actually has 92 m² because his 2 bedrooms are in the semi-basement which still preserves his tiny home status.

The tiny house movement is not just about living in eco-friendly tiny trailerable units but more about simplifying your lifestyle,



house movement are basically small trailerable units so they can easily be placed for living in without too many restrictions classified as an RV. Most jurisdictions do not allow for permanent dwellings with foundations under 56 m² (600 ft²) to be built, restricting many of the smaller permanent tiny houses to be built, especially in an urban environment.

Many in Calgary are living tiny already in homes less than 93 m² in tiny/small houses, condos, apartments, bachelor pads and mobile homes. A friend who commented on tiny houses saying he couldn't live in a tiny house, especially having to crawl up a ladder to a low loft to sleep in was surprised when I told him he was already living tiny

reducing unnecessary baggage and leaving more time and resources to enjoy life with. Going tiny doesn't mean you have to wedge yourself into cramped quarters. The goal is to live and enjoy life without having too many burdens holding you down from achieving Hygee. Eliminate all your excess

baggage by getting rid of all the items that you will never use, can do without, and barely use.

Having your books, pictures, videos converted to digital eliminates additional needed space or storage. Experiment to see how small you are comfortable with. Take the desired living area and add the minimum elements you would feel comfortable with. For example, take your bedroom and cordon off your minimum requirements. How small can you tolerate for changing in, and how much room is needed for the bed. Also, reduce your clothes in your closet(s) and drawers to only to that around 20% you actually use consistently. This can help determine what size your closet needs to be without having the require-

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ment of additional storage furniture.

Look around and see what really is needed in your everyday living. In most houses today, there is a living room, den, family room, computer room, and entertainment area. Downsizing these rooms into one or two multi-function rooms would be a big step to reducing home size. We could combine the dining and breakfast rooms into one eating area that even includes a bar. Making smaller bathrooms and only having one sink is all that is needed; remember, our ancestors used outhouses. Get creative with smaller bedrooms with the sleeping area, using a small dressing area, and a fair-sized closet. We could even bunk the beds with each bed exiting into a different room.

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Going tiny means eliminating all the excess space that is not needed. Once you have determined how small a space you can live in comfortably, then you find the right place to downsize to whether it is 18 m² or 74 m². There may be many motives one is

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The Day The Earth Cleaned Up

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Join the End Plastic Pollution Campaign, plant or donate a tree to stop global deforestation, and reducing your ecological footprint are but a few ways you can Make A Difference. The Earth Day Network has many simple ways and easy tips to help you make every day Earth Day. Going green and protecting the earth preserves our planet for generations to come with a comfortable environment and can help you save money and improves

your wellbeing and health. You can check out the impact you are having on the planet with the Ecological Footprint Quiz.

How many planet Earths would we need if everybody lived like you? My own ecological footprint resulted in requiring 1.8 Earths, which is actually great compared to the average USA citizen who would require 5 Earths to live sustainably. Make your M.A.D. Move one Earth Day, actually everyday, and Make A Difference helping preserve Planet Earth. Join a group or do your own Act of Green and help Earth Day Network reach their goal of 3 billion acts for the organizations 50th anniversary in 2020. Get Involved, Give to the Cause, and Spread the Word we need to protect our natural resources from dwindling beyond sustainability.

Redefining Tiny Houses

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interested in living tiny/small. We see people going tiny for many reasons; financial, reduced stress and unnecessary baggage, more time and resources to enjoy living, and improved eco-sustainability are but a few reasons.

Most can Join the M.A.D. Tiny/ Small House Movement and Make A Difference in improving their lifestyles simply by dropping their excess belongings and eliminating the space that is never or rarely used. Go tiny/small, as long as you are living comfortably.

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