



Connecting Calgarians with Their Communities



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Support Local Commerce Online

The world of commerce has changed dramatically with the evolution of the World Wide Web. In the last half of the last century, Baby-Boomers would go hang out at malls and shop locally from the many Brick-and-Mortar (B&M) stores all in one place. This was great for the local economy because most spending was done locally supporting local businesses. These businesses helped keep people employed and kept our economy healthy and prosperous. B&M stores today are having a difficult time competing with the internet and the new craze shopping with mobile devices.

Even the big box stores fell victim to the internet craze. Read the WebStamp Article Change In Doing Business to find out more. With the way the new generation, Millennials, shop with their mobile devices online has dramatically reduced the



number of visitors to local establishments. An even larger threat are the online giant ecommerce retailers like Amazon, Wal-Mart, and the many others that have arisen. Shopping has gone from buying locally to purchasing items from all around the globe.

In order to attract local customers in the 21st

Century, one must connect with them in their shopping mall, the cellphone and internet. A company needs to establish an online presence that is much more than just a web site. Today people are looking for content that is of interest. In this information age, a business can connect with customers using social media providing information that readers find useful, informative, and/or interesting.

With the online shopping being globally, the local economy still suffers with the lack of local buyers for B&M stores. WebStamp has begun a movement to encourage local online shopping. We are looking for all local Calgarian businesses to Join the M.A.D. Movement and help the local economy, and themselves, encouraging local commerce. You can Make A

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Hosting the Olympics

Hosting the Olympics

There has been a lot of debate on whether Calgary should host another Winter Olympics. Hosting a world-wide event today is a totally different hockey game compared to the successful hosting of Calgary's 1988 Winter Olympics. Back then the world was a much different place. Social attitudes have evolved according to society's needs, preferences, and beliefs shaped by the changing environment it exists in. Calgarians can see the benefits of hosting another Winter Olympics in 2026. but are worried about the burden of the costs they have to bear.

The pros we can expect, as with the 1988 games, are a growth in

the economy with the creation of many jobs with the building and hosting of the Olympics. There will also be a substantial tourism boost to the economy with the arrival of thousands of visitors from around the world. The City will also be getting a much-needed upgrading to the city's crumbling infrastructure and public facilities paid with Olympic funds. Calgarians can have their collapsing arenas and community centres rebuilt Olympic style simultaneously helping reduce the cost of hosting.

The Saddledome, Calgary Olympic Park, the Olympic Oval and many of the other Olympic and sports facilities will need upgrading in the future and we

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can have hosting help cover a portion of those costs. We will mostly get new facilities to accommodate future population growth like the CalgaryNext Multisport Fieldhouse Stadium. Concurrently we will also be upgrading and expanding Canada's Winter Olympic training facilities to ensure many successful Olympics by Canadian athletes.

Now let's look at the cons. Hosting a Winter Olympics today has many additional costs associated with it compared to ones from the past. The biggest expense would most likely be the security associated with 21st Century global violence and terrorism. Construction is costlier these days due to high labour and material costs, regulatory fire and safety rules and procedures, and Governmental Red Tape.

The many additional required expense brings up the total cost and this burden will most likely fall on the shoulders of the taxpayer. Calgarians will likewise have to endure a crowded city with greater traffic congestion for almost 5 weeks with the crowds

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2026 Calgary Winter Olympics

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Is Recycling going Astray?

Most Calgarians believe that recycling is beneficial to preserving our resources and helping save the environment. Let's reflect on the recent news that the Pacific Garbage Patch, which is largely composed of plastic, is now being estimated at 16 times its original size, an area of over 2 million km², comparable to the size of

ently, rumors utter that this may be due to Calgary possibly having an issue of disposing some of the recyclables collected. Shards from crushed recycled glass items have been stockpiled at the East Calgary Landfill since there just isn't any demand and waiting for a buyer. After 3 years of collecting glass shards, the city in 2012 decided



Greenland. Now think about the recent information campaigns by Calgary Waste & Recycling on what is recyclable and what isn't because their equipment is unable to process it, has me wondering if recycling could make even a larger eco-friendly impact. With the single use plastics, such as plastic cutlery, cups, lids, straws, etc. classified as garbage indicates a large amount of non-decomposing recyclable materials are actually buried in our landfills.

Also, I have heard about unconfirmed reports of citizens witnessing the dumping of recyclables in the landfills. Appar-

using the two-meter-high pile of glass mixing it with the aggregate used for underlay in road construction.

Recycling processing costs have escalated leaving many recyclables not profitable. Glass and plastic are not as profitable as aluminum and tin cans. The process can become costly converting one material into other recyclable products. There's no value in it and Nobody wants it as San Francisco's Department of Waste recently discovered after paying \$4,000 a tonne to recycle plastic bags. This leaves an undesired high resale price for the recy-

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Recycling should not be all about cost but saving the environment and sustainably maintaining our resources. Not saving the environment ends up costing more in the future. As we pollute and not take care of cleaning up properly we end up spending more to fix the problem in the future. As an example, we now have to spend much more eliminating our air pollution problem and controlling it then if we had just maintained it properly.

A recycling program should include using the current resources locally where we can save on shipping costs and reduce transportation pollution. Calgary could introduce another bin, say white, for glass. This would help sort the glass cleaner without all the debris from the other recyclables as with using the current blue bins. This clean glass could be recycled into new glass bottles. The city could also help establish a bottle making plant to use this clean glass.

Entrepreneurial opportunity exists for the city to create employment by building a glass recycling bottle making plant.

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Support Local Commerce Online

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Difference by getting listed in WebStamp's FREE Business Directory that is divided into 5 Zones, downtown and the four quadrants.

Join the Buy Local Movement and become part of the change that benefits our local economy and Calgarians. The Be Local Organization states that when more jobs are provided by local businesses than chains, poverty decreases. I am sure this also applies to internet chains. So, no matter how you do your shopping or commerce, do it locally with local businesses online.

Hosting the Olympics

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associated with the Winter Olympics and Paralympics.

Do we save money now and pay more later, or pay it forward to continue enjoying public facilities? Is spending and upgrading now worth it compared to having to spend more later maintaining and replacing facilities in the future resulting most likely with less or substandard structures? These are the question Calgarians need to ask. There is much more to consider, so do your homework and gather all the information considering the 2026 Winter Olympic bid.

When you have all the facts, disregarding the Fake News, of course, decide for yourself if it is worth it to you, your family, friends, and neighbours for Calgary to host another Winter Olympics. Then Join the M.A.D. Movement and Make A Difference in Calgary's future. Stand up and be heard and cast your vote with the upcoming Olympic Bid Plebiscite.



Is Recycling going Astray?

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There are lots of breweries in Alberta that would support buying bottles from local source and Join the Movement to improving the local economy with local commerce. It would be nice if the Alberta Government addressed the recycling program as a job creation program putting many Albertans to work cleaning up the environment.

With the right approach recycling can be profitable as long as we find creative ways to reuse the items we collect. We must first eliminate the many excessive unnecessary costs like excessive shipping along with developing new local avenues for our discards of living.

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