

Alberta Newsletter
Outpost
OUTPOST EXPATRIATE NETWORK



Dear Shell Community,

Welcome to our March / April newsletter.

It seems as though spring is on the way. We have enjoyed fabulous weather, and the snow is all but gone. The days are getting longer, and daylight saving begins this weekend.

We know that it is too early to fetch the patio furniture out just yet, but it is time to turn our minds to summer days, travel and adventures ahead.

Many of us will be packing our suitcases for a trip away (to the sun?) over the spring break. We would love to share your experiences and travel recommendations in our forthcoming newsletters.

Our Outpost Calgary Webmaster, Hanne Maretti, has been busy over the last several months putting together the new Outpost Calgary website, and we are now live. Well done Hanne!

Our Colleagues in Fort McMurray, Louise van Alenburg (webmaster) and Diane Forbes (Fort McMurray Info Point) have also been busy, and are putting the final touches to the Fort McMurray information webpage, so watch this space.

We are still looking for Information focal points for Edmonton, Montreal and Ontario. We would love to be able to provide newcomers to your locations with a contact for information and advice on their new posting. If you can help us out, please e-mail us at scan-outpost-calgary@shell.com

Happy Reading!

Nicky Turner

Editor: Hanne Maretti

Contributions:

Nicky Turner
Clare Snow
Diane Forbes
Miranda Mulders
Hanne Maretti

We welcome ideas or comments. Please email your input to scan-outpost-calgary@Shell.com

For the next issue, please send your contribution by May 17.

Let us know!

Do let us know what you think about the newsletter, and do not hesitate to make suggestions or bring your own contributions forward.

We highly value your feedback that will help us make the newsletter even better and more relevant to you.

We are live!

It has taken a little more time than we anticipated, but now the new Outpost Calgary website has finally been launched, providing newcomers as well as current expats in Calgary with information ranging from housing and schooling to what to do in and outside of the city.

A lot of the information on the new website has been based on what was available on the old one. The information has been restructured and rephrased by myself and Cheryl Lindeboom to give a better and more logical overview. At the same time, we have tried to shorten the information, making it more concise and clear and thereby more easily accessible.

We have also added a lot of new information, and we have placed additional information in the form of website links and links to brochures, among others available through the Links and Resources menu.

Of course, we are as always ready to help you at the office if you need more information or if you need a copy of our internal guides (Inside Guide or Your Child in Calgary).

Among the information, we have decided to test out a Buy & Sell section, located under the News Archive menu. We recently added such a section to the newsletter, which will appear whenever we have ads. Bringing the Buy and Sell section online is a way to keep it updated more frequently, and it allows for continued advertisement to buy or sell items.

At the moment, we do not have any items for sale, but we are just waiting for your contributions. The advantage is naturally that the items will appear till they are sold, and they will be removed immediately when they are off the market.

It has been and still is an ongoing process, and we are confident that we now have an up-to-date, helpful website. It is our wish that all current and future expats in Calgary will be able to find the information that they are looking for.

Since we consider the website an ongoing process in constant development, we encourage you to take a look and offer your comments. Do you find the information easily accessible? Are you missing any relevant information? Do you have any concrete wishes for further development of the site?

To see the new website for yourself, go to www.outpost-calgary.com. We do value your opinion, so we will be happy to receive your feedback on everything from colours to structure of menu items to whether you think there is information missing.

At the same time, I encourage you to take a look at page 4 of the newsletter. After the renovations of the site, we will be looking for a new webmaster to take over some time during the summer or early fall.

Maybe that is something that you would be interested in!

All feedback, comments or questions about the position are more than welcome at scan-outpost-calgary@shell.com

Hanne Maretti

Do you aspire to become a writer, or do you have an idea for an article that might be relevant for other expat partners?

Don't hesitate to bring your suggestions forward so we together can take a look at the possibilities for publishing!

Exciting news from Info Point Fort McMurray

Hello, my name is Diane Forbes, I am the Info Point for Fort McMurray, a branch of Outpost Calgary. I have been in Fort McMurray for 3 years, having spent time in other locations – Sydney and Melbourne, Australia, The Hague and New Zealand.

Home for us is Melbourne although we were born in Scotland.

My main responsibilities as Info Point include answering emails and phone messages, in addition to providing information related to schooling, driving, housing, life in general in Fort McMurray and any more individual queries to expatriates who come to Fort McMurray from abroad.

On occasions I will meet and greet new clients, perhaps have lunch and many have taken the opportunity to join our group of friends, affectionately known as the "Walkie Talkies" (see the pictures).

This is a diverse group of ladies who get together to walk the beautiful trails in Fort McMurray all year round, but who also meet for art lessons, bridge, golf, gym classes, sewing, community volunteer work and generally socializing.



The group is not only made up of Shell spouses, some are local but most are expatriates with a wealth of talents and most importantly friendship.

One such friend is Louise van Alenburg ex-Focal Point of Outpost Bintulu (Malaysia) and Outpost Rayong (Thailand), who has designed our Fort McMurray website which will be linked to Outpost Calgary website.

Louise and I are very excited about this website which hopefully will answer many questions from future Fort McMurray employees and families.

The website is available at www.outpost-calgary.com/fmm

Diane Forbes

What do you recommend?

What have you done, read, seen or experienced that might be of interest to others?

Let us know and we will share your thoughts with the expat community!

Looking to buy or sell?

If you haven't found what you're looking for or sold what you wanted at Outpost, take a look at:

www.kijiji.ca
www.buysell.com
www.usedcalgary.com

Volunteer Spot

Support The Kids Cancer Foundation of Alberta

The Kids Cancer Foundation of Alberta is a charitable organization that provides hope and support for families fighting childhood cancer.

This is done in a variety of ways ranging from weekend and summer camps that offer young people across Alberta a chance to escape the rigors of cancer treatment, for fun filled outdoor adventures. The Foundation also provides Clinical Support, Research and Scholarships.

On Monday March 15th, Alex Murray along with fellow school friends and teaching staff at Webber Academy are "Shaving their Lid for A Kid".

Each year hundreds of Albertans shave their heads in support of Albertan children who lose their hair each year due to cancer treatments.

If you would like to support and raise vital funds please contact Tim Murray in Risk and Insurance on 403 691 3602 or Tim.P.Murray@Shell.com

Clare Snow

Are you a volunteer?

If you know of an organization that seeks volunteers that you would like to recommend, let us know and we will advertise it in the next issue of the Outpost newsletter.

Webmaster & Newsletter Editor wanted at Outpost Calgary

Outpost Calgary is looking for a Newsletter Editor and a Webmaster. The positions will become available over summer, and we already now encourage interested spouses to contact us to secure a smooth transition.

Newsletter Editor:

We are looking for a someone who would be interested in putting together the Outpost Calgary Newsletter and develop it in cooperation with the rest of the Outpost Team.

The Newsletter is sent out at regular intervals and is meant as a help and an inspiration to the entire Shell Canada expat network. Expect to use about five hours per issue. Currently, the newsletter is created in InDesign, however, you will get free hands to develop it into you own style or use a generic template available to us.

Webmaster:

We are also looking for a someone who would be interested in maintaining and further developing the Outpost Calgary website. The website has just undergone major renovations and for now just routine maintenance is required, which should take no more than a few hours a month. However, we welcome new ideas and are planning on developing the website further along the way. Knowledge of HTML and/or Adobe Dreamweaver is an advantage.

If you think one or both of these positions could be of interest to you, or if you are looking for more information about them, send us an email at scan-outpost-calgary@shell.com or give us a call at 403-691-4829 during office hours.

Vacation idea: Grand Canyon River Rafting

Contributed by our colleague from Outpost Houston

Way before our posting in Houston, we have come to the United States on numerous occasions. Our first visit was a road trip through the Southwest with many stops in National Parks, including of course Grand Canyon National Park.

I still vividly remember the very first time I stood on the south rim gazing into that huge hole which is the Grand Canyon. I had never seen a scenery more majestic, in my life. The next day we went hiking on the Kaibab trail into the Grand Canyon. Of course we didn't go all the way down but the more we descended, the more frequent we saw glimpses of the river meandering through the Canyon. I was mesmerized and wondered how it would look, down there. I then had the hope to ever reach the bottom of the Canyon if I got fit enough. Never could I have imagined then, that I indeed would be deep in the Canyon, not by means of hiking into it, but on a 13 day oar powered rafting trip on the Colorado river.

One day, early June 2000, we found ourselves in a Las Vegas hotel at 6 am in the morning. There were still some people gambling but other than that it was only us and a couple of other strangers, dressed in outdoor gear. Yes, people were gathering for the bus ride to Lee's Ferry, near Page at the bottom of Lake Powell. Lee's Ferry was the starting point of our rafting trip.

The bus ride firstly took us onto the I-15 towards St. George, but then the bus left the freeway and took us on a tour through a spectacular landscape towards Marble Canyon, making a stop there at a trading post for people to gear up on books, maps or souvenirs.

Finally, we arrived at Lee's Ferry where we met the other part of our group who had come with self-arranged transport. Our guides were busy packing the rafts and once we dropped off our waterproof packed luggage, we got to know our other fellow travelers.

The first couple of days our boats took us through Marble Canyon on our way to Little Colorado, a side river of the main Colorado river. It was there that we entered the Grand Canyon and slowly but surely saw the Grand Canyon building up over the days. Every day, there was a new rock formation added.

In the meantime, our boats were not any longer bobbling on the river, but instead battled through rapid after rapid, one bigger than the other. When still in Marble Canyon, I heard my first rush of water and when I saw my first current, I had sweaty hands. It was a blessing that at that moment, I didn't have the slightest clue to how big the rapids would become. The rapids in the Grand Canyon are scaled from 1 to 10 and as far as I can remember, there are 3 rapids in the 10 category and many in the 8 category, especially the "jewel" rapids. Yes, every rapid has its own name such as Serpentine Rapid, Shinumo Rapid or Sapphire Rapid, one of the "jewel" rapids.

We learned about the river, the geology of the Canyon, terms regarding the rapids like eddy, tongue, sleeper, and even though we were not rowing ourselves, we were taught how to properly sail through a rapid by everyone spreading their balance correctly. And then of course once we maneuvered through a rapid successfully, we had to scoop out the water from the boat.

Our varied breakfasts, lunches and dinners were always served up by the staff

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what you can claim as an
expatriate spouse!

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www.outpostcalgary.com

Calgary

Newcomers Club

is the way to meet other expat wives and engage in a broad range of fun and interesting activities.

Visit: www.calgarynewcomersclub.com or call 403-245-8993 and leave your name and number.

Shell Chinook Club

gives you social and amateur recreational activities and services for its members.

The club offers a range of benefits and great networking possibilities.

Reach the Chinook Club office at: 403-691-3358

members. We were always provided with enough cold soda drinks and snacks. We slept on beautiful beaches under the stars. When there was a full moon, you could read a book without any extra light. Sometimes you woke up finding that you were surrounded by hundreds of paw prints created by among others, bighorn sheep. We saw a thunderstorm at the rim one day, we anticipated rain, but never got wet. The rain evaporated before it reached the bottom of the Grand Canyon.

We shared many stories and experiences with our fellow travel companions. We swam in turquoise blue side rivers, like the Little Colorado. We hiked into side canyons for hours and took a bath under waterfalls. We passed through the Hualapai Indian Reservation and hiked along Havasu Creek. We spent 225 miles on the river in awe of the everchanging scenery and the timeless beauty of the Grand Canyon. This trip was the best vacation I have ever had. It was a humbling experience, and I can recommend it to everyone that is interested in geology, is a thrill seeker or is even remotely interested in beautiful landscapes. Yes, you will be surrounded by "stone" for 13 days, but it is the biggest contrast you can ever imagine from the concrete jungle that is Houston.

There are many outfitters that provide trips on the river, whether it is engine or oar powered, whether it is by inflated boats or dories, or whether you want to raft yourself or the staff will do it for you. Trips last from 3 days up till 13 days. There is a yearly limit though to people allowed on the river so you often need to book way in advance. If you have any questions about rafting the Grand Canyon, please feel free to contact me at Outpost Houston - Outposthouston@shell.com.

Miranda Mulders

House for Rent

Executive 2 storey, 3bedroom, 2 1/2 bath with 9 ft. ceiling located in one of the most sought after neighbourhoods in Westside Calgary: The Summit of Montreux.

The master bedroom has 5 piece ensuite which includes deep soaker tub. Spacious bonus room. Bright, open concept main level with hardwood and ceramic tile. All black appliances including main floor laundry with top of the line king size front load washer and dryer. Huge double attach garage.

This home is fully furnished with two queen sized beds, one double bed, linens, towels and complete kitchen ware. Located on a quiet cul de sac this place is perfect for the busy professional who values a good nights sleep away from a noisy hotel room.

All basic services such as wireless internet, phone and utilities are included in the weekly price of only \$975 (call for negotiated monthly rate). Close to many amenities including Safeway, Subway, Shoppers Drug Mart, Panago, Edo, most major banks, Westside rec center, trendy Sunterra food market, the mountains and 20 min. to downtown. 2 min. walk to bus stop.

Contact Dave Bailey at 780-750-4969 or jumpnshout@jumpnshout.ca



Upcoming Events

March 26: **Coffee morning** at Sally's from 10 am - 11.30 am. The address is 23 Westbluff Ridge, and children are welcome. Please RSVP directly to Sally.

The Calgary Zoo offers many exciting events throughout the coming months. Rather than listing them here, click on the link and take a look at what might interest you: <http://www.mydigitalpublication.com/publication/?i=31066>

Thank you from Nicola!

Thank you for allowing me to host the Coffe Morning to raise funds for Haiti - we raised \$300, which was awesome! I would like to says a huge THANK YOU to those who generously donated towards this. I also really enjoyed meeting lots of new and familiar faces!

Do you want to share your future adventures?

We can now see an end to the indoors adventures that are forced upon us during winter, and it is finally time to start planning what to do during days of sun and warm temperatures.

Do you have plans to attend an event in or around Calgary?

Let us know so we can spread the word among our fellow expats and help inspire them as to what to do in the spring time in Calgary.

Welcomes & Goodbyes

We would like to **welcome**:

Chris and Jenny to Calgary!

As well as:

Alphons
Jacqueline

to Edmonton!

At the same time, we take our **goodbyes** with:

Tony and Laura and Family
Chantal and Gert-Jan
Ramzi and Paula
Linzey
John and Family
Luuk and family
Greg and Family
Ajay
Earle

We wish you all the best of luck on your new adventures!

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