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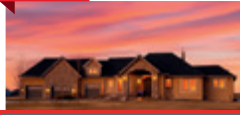
116 CHURCH RANCHES PLACE

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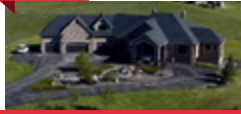
43 CODY RANGE WAY

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JONATHAN PENDLEBURY

REALTOR® Residential & Commercial, MSc, BSc

403-815-6440

jp@bearspawrealestate.com



ANDREW MARTIN

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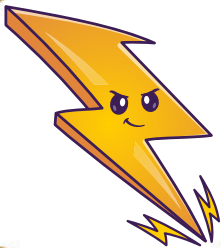
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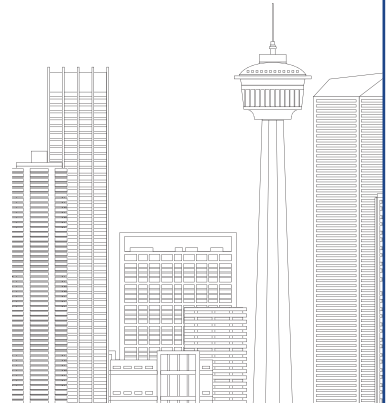
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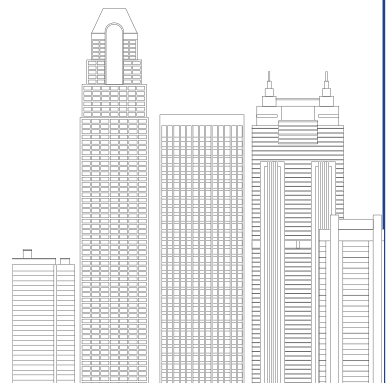
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Batters Up! Holiday Baking and Life Skills with 4-H



Baking isn't just about cookies or muffins — especially during the holiday season, it's a hands-on way for kids aged 9 to 15 to learn practical skills while creating festive treats. The Batters Up Baking Club, part of 4-H Alberta's Intro Clubs, gives young bakers a chance to explore new recipes, practice teamwork, and discover the science behind their favourite holiday goodies.

Each week, participants try a new baking activity, from holiday cookies to pies, brownies, and cupcakes. Along the way, they also practice planning, measuring, following instructions, and record-keeping, all skills that are part of 4-H's life-long learning approach.

Fun Baking Fact: Did you know that baking powder creates tiny bubbles of carbon dioxide that make dough rise? This is why muffins and cakes become light and fluffy! Learning the "why" behind baking steps helps young bakers become confident and creative.

Even at home, kids can explore similar skills from measuring ingredients to blending flavours in simple projects like a quick orange creamsicle smoothie, made with 1 cup of orange juice, 1½ cups of vanilla



Greek yogurt, 2 peeled oranges, 2 frozen bananas, and 4 teaspoons of vanilla extract. Try this at home for a refreshing twist on holiday flavours.

Through the 4-H Intro Club, kids not only create delicious treats but also gain confidence, learn teamwork, and explore new ideas all while having fun in a supportive environment. Baking becomes more than just mixing ingredients; it becomes a way to explore science, math, and life skills in a hands-on, memorable way. Whether it's measuring sugar, stirring batter, or decorating cupcakes, every step teaches something new and what better way to celebrate the season than with treats made by your own hands?

Find out more about 4-H Intro Clubs at 4hab.com/member or email introclubs@4hab.com.

Self-Care Through the Holiday Season

by Nancy Bergeron, R.Psych | info@nancybergeron.ca

The holiday season often arrives with a mix of excitement and exhaustion. Between family gatherings, financial pressures, and the weight of expectations, it's easy to lose sight of your own well-being. Yet caring for yourself—body, mind, and spirit—is one of the most meaningful ways to experience the season with more peace and joy.

Here are some simple ways to stay grounded and well through the holidays.

1. Slow Down and Simplify

The holiday rush can make even meaningful traditions feel like chores. This year, consider doing less so you can enjoy more.

Ask yourself:

- What truly brings me joy or connection?
- What could I let go of this year?

Simplifying plans, menus, or gift lists can make space for rest, laughter, and moments of genuine presence.

2. Nourish Your Body with Care

Cold weather, busy schedules, and rich food can leave you feeling depleted. Instead of striving for perfection, focus on gentle balance.

Eat regularly, stay hydrated, and make time for movement—even a short walk outside helps reset your nervous system. Rest when you can. Your body is not a machine; it's your home.

3. Set Emotional Boundaries

The holidays often highlight complicated relationships. You have the right to protect your emotional energy.

It's okay to say "no", leave early, or change plans that don't feel right.

Boundaries aren't unkind—they're how we create safety and preserve the capacity to show up with love where it matters most.

4. Stay Connected to What Matters

Amid the noise and marketing, take moments to remember what feels meaningful to you.



That might be spiritual reflection, gratitude, giving, or time in nature. Meaning doesn't come from doing more—it comes from doing what aligns with your heart.

5. Mind Your Inner Dialogue

Many people carry silent stress about doing the holidays "right." Notice the voice of pressure or guilt and replace it with compassion.

Instead of, "I should be happier," try, "It's okay to feel however I feel today."

Self-kindness softens expectations and makes room for authentic joy.

6. Create Restorative Moments

Small, intentional pauses can have a big impact:

- Light a candle and breathe deeply for one minute.
- Step outside and notice the winter air.
- Write down one thing you're grateful for each day.
- These simple rituals help your mind and body reset amid the busyness.

7. Ask for Support When You Need It

If the holidays stir up grief, loneliness, or old wounds, you don't have to face it alone. Reach out to a trusted friend, support group, or therapist.

Sometimes the bravest thing you can do is acknowledge that you're struggling and allow others to meet you there.

8. End the Year with Reflection, Not Resolution

Before jumping into goals for the new year, pause to reflect.

What did you learn? What moments mattered most? What are you ready to release?

Reflection honours your growth and sets the stage for gentle, sustainable change—no pressure required.

Poison Prevention During the Holidays

by Tracey Warren, Child Safe Canada National Director of Injury Prevention and Education



The holiday season is a magical time, but it can also be a risky one for little explorers. Child Safe Canada wants to remind families that poisoning incidents increase during the holidays. The good news is that most of these accidents are preventable with a few simple safety steps. Let's make this holiday season joyful and safe.

Ensure this holiday season is the most enjoyable and safest ever. Safety proofing your home, or areas within your host's home, takes only a few minutes and provides priceless comfort and safety.

Stay Vigilant During the Busy Holiday Season. We know the holidays are busy with meals to prepare, guests to entertain, and gifts to wrap. But small distractions can lead to big mishaps. Slow down, take a breath, and focus on potential hazards, especially when little ones are around.

- **Batteries** - A swallowed battery can cause severe airway burns. Keep all items with batteries, including button-type batteries, out of reach, and ensure battery doors are secured well.
- **Bags** - Guests' handbags and suitcases may contain medications, cosmetics, nail products, perfumes, and other poisonous products. Ask guests to store these items out of reach for children.
- **Decorations** - Holiday decorations may look fun, but many are choking or strangulation hazards for children. Keep fragile ornaments, small pieces, and strings or ribbons out of reach, and supervise little ones around holiday decor.

Be Aware of Sneaky Poisons. Here is a simple rule: If you would not serve it on a dinner plate, treat it as a poison. Even tiny amounts of make-up, cigarettes, or certain plants can land a toddler in the emergency room.

- **Fluids** - Move antifreeze, windshield washer fluids, bleach, detergents, and other cleaning products out of sight and reach.
- **Plants** - Check the safety of holiday plants and flowers online or via your local poison control site before decorating.
- **Alcohol** - Keep alcoholic drinks out of reach of children.

Travelling? Talk Safety with Your Host. Visiting relatives or friends can be tricky if their home is not child proofed. Take charge of your child's safety while travelling. Be diligent in safety-proofing the space you're staying in, secure anything that could be hazardous, and keep a close, watchful eye on your child. Have a friendly conversation about your child's safety.

- Do a safety check/proof together with your host and ask them to identify any areas that should be off-limits to your child.
- Ask that all medications, cleaning supplies, and other hazardous items be stored in locked cupboards.
- Set clear rules and boundaries for your child in the host's home (if age appropriate), and make sure everyone, hosts included, understands them to keep expectations consistent and the child safe.

A few minutes of preparation can prevent accidents and keep your family safe and healthy. Make this holiday season the safest and most enjoyable ever.

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SCAN ME

How to Highlight the Quality of a Newer Home to Attract Serious Buyers

by Virginia Cooper



Selling a newer home should, in theory, be easier—after all, the paint is fresh, the systems are modern, and everything feels move-in ready. But in practice, newer homes compete on perception, not just price. Buyers want proof of quality, and the sellers who demonstrate that proof most convincingly are the ones who convert “curious browsers” into buyers.

TL;DR

- Buyers trust what they can see, verify, and document.
- Showcase builder upgrades (materials, finishes, warranties).
- Offer a pre-listing inspection to show transparency.
- Present an organized documentation packet that reinforces quality and condition.

These actions shift buyer perception from “Is this home worth it?” to “This home is a safe investment.”

1. Start with the Builder’s Story

Most buyers don’t just want to know who built the house — they want to know why it’s better than the average home next door. If your home includes premium materials, energy-efficient systems, or smart-home upgrades, make them visible:

- Feature builder highlights in your listing description.
- Include brand names (e.g., Andersen windows, Moen fixtures, Bosch appliances) for credibility.
- Showcase any transferable warranties or green certifications (like Energy Star or LEED ratings).

A clear, fact-based comparison to standard features can create trust quickly.

2. Create an Experience, Not Just a Showing

Newer homes can sometimes feel impersonal — so your job is to make quality tangible. During showings:

- Stage selectively. Highlight craftsmanship with minimalist décor that lets details shine.
- Use daylight to emphasize finishes like hardwood, tile, and cabinetry.
- Keep all mechanical and system panels (HVAC, electrical, etc.) spotless and clearly labeled.

Buyers notice cues of care. Even new homes lose appeal if they feel unmaintained.

3. Offer a Pre-Listing Inspection

Transparency is magnetic. A certified pre-listing inspection signals confidence in the home’s condition — and that you’re not hiding surprises.

An inspection can:

- Validate that systems are in peak shape.
- Identify minor fixes before they become buyer objections.
- Reduce negotiation friction and build immediate trust.

4. Organize Proof of Quality (The Confidence Packet)

Buyers love documentation — especially those purchasing newer homes. Creating a downloadable, well-organized packet builds buyer confidence faster than any marketing phrase can.

Include in your packet:

- Builder plans and upgrade lists.
- Inspection reports and receipts for recent services.
- Appliance manuals and warranties.
- Maintenance records and HOA documentation.

Store the file digitally, label everything clearly, and save it as a PDF so it's universally accessible. A clear, structured packet demonstrates professionalism and reliability — two powerful emotional triggers for serious buyers.

If you're not sure how to compile or convert files, you can use a free online tool to combine or convert different file types into one polished PDF. Buyers and agents appreciate having an organized, shareable summary at their fingertips.

5. Add a Human Touch: Testimonials and Builder Endorsements

Real people validate what glossy marketing can't. Include:

- A short testimonial from your builder or contractor about the materials and workmanship.
- Reviews from neighbours who bought similar models or upgrades.
- Quotes from local service pros who can vouch for system reliability.

These micro-endorsements transform a data-driven listing into a story that resonates emotionally. You can even use layout inspiration you find online.

6. Checklist: Quality-Confidence Readiness

Use this quick self-audit before going live:

- Builder name, upgrades, and warranties clearly stated in the listing.

- Pre-listing inspection completed and summarized for buyers.
- All receipts, records, and floor plans consolidated into one PDF packet.
- Home is spotless, staged, and systems labeled.
- Testimonials and neighbourhood context included.
- Agent presentation materials emphasize transparency, not salesmanship.

This checklist ensures your home isn't just seen — it's trusted.

7. Comparison Table: What Buyers Notice Most

Buyer Focus Area	Traditional Home	Newer Home Done Right
Maintenance Costs	Unpredictable	Documented, predictable
Efficiency	Varies by upgrade	Proven energy metrics
Transparency	Reactive inspection	Proactive pre-listing report
Documentation	Scattered or absent	Single organized packet
Emotional Pull	Nostalgia-driven	Confidence-driven

FAQ

Should I still stage a newer home?

Absolutely. Even pristine homes need warmth. A few well-placed furnishings guide buyers' imagination without masking details.

Is a pre-listing inspection worth it for a new house?

Yes. It confirms what buyers hope is true — that the home is sound — and it prevents surprise renegotiations later.

What if my builder is no longer in business?

Provide whatever documentation remains (permits, manuals, or product brand lists). The goal is to show the story of quality, not the brand name alone.

Conclusion

A newer home sells fastest when it tells a story of verified quality. Clear builder documentation, visible upkeep, and transparent proof transform your property from "another listing" into a verified investment. In today's data-driven market, credibility isn't just earned — it's engineered.

Adult ADHD

by Carley Hyder, Reg. Psychologist



The typical stereotype of Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) often centres on young boys who appears restless and unable to sit still. However, ADHD has vastly changed now that research in the past ten years has (finally) branched out to include girls and adults. Adult ADHD is one of the top diagnoses right now, next to adult autism because so many of us were missed or never diagnosed as children. What does adult ADHD look like? Adult ADHD can differ by person, but these common traits are associated with adult ADHD:

1. **Disorganization:** Documents being scattered, messy cabinets/closets, missing appointments. Some people are able to 'keep it together' at work, even when their home life feels chaotic. This is called masking, and can work for a while, but can also lead to burnout. Other people struggle to stay employed due to the severity of their disorganization.
2. **Impulsivity:** Some indicators include impulsive spending, impulsive decisions, and erratic changes in daily schedule. Some individuals may not be able to

plan for things in advanced. There also seems to be a preference for change their routine.

3. **Executive Function:** The ability to plan and execute, such as meal planning, prioritize tasks, and being able to stick with them might be challenging.
4. **Struggles To Get Simple Activities Completed:** Having a hard time doing chores or tasks that are not exciting or 'less dopamine rich' such as dishes, laundry, tidying up, and balancing a budget.

If this sounds like you, you could have some of the symptoms associated with ADHD. There are great tools to help you stay on task and organized. Use a calendar to keep track of deadlines, appointments, and events. Do the less favourable task first, followed by a 'reward' or favourable task. Try to schedule each day to get a balance of items completed. You are not in this alone, ask for help; professional organizers, financial planners, executive function support from a licenced psychologist and in some cases, talking to your family doctor can also be helpful.

#HealthyTechnologyUse

by Recovery Alberta – Community Health Promotion Services



Technology is not going anywhere, in fact, it will continue to advance in the coming years. We use it everywhere, for school, work, and leisure. Strong connections and relationships are a protective factor for us that has been shown to help buffer risk and boost resilience. The availability of computers, smartphones, video consoles, and other electronic devices have given many the opportunity to always be connected. However, it is the time, the content, and reason of use that we want to focus on.

To ensure healthy technology use among the young people in your life, there are 4 Ms that you can refer to:

- **Manage:** The information online can be easily accessed but you can manage this by setting limits and clear expectations of use among the technology being used along with continually learning about different platforms especially those most popular in your life. For instance, using your phone during certain times of the day, what you can post, having limit checks, or learning about privacy settings on TikTok to ensure healthy use.
- **Meaningful:** To see the positive impacts of technology, you want to make sure that the use is

active, educational, and social. Is social media being used to post and connect with peers, or do they feel FOMO “fear of missing out” on an event that may be posted by their peers.

- **Model:** If you are setting rules and expectations, you want to also follow what you are asking the young people in your lives to do. Review your own use, are you on it during dinner or before bed? Ask them to show you platforms they are using and ask questions about the posts they see, for example, how this makes you feel, or do you know what filters are?
- **Monitor:** The monitoring of use will help you to see if there are signs that may lead to problematic use. When they are not using technology, are they bored or angry, have low self-esteem, worsening symptoms of mental health issues such as anxiety or does it interfere with school, social interactions, or sleep?

There are pros and cons when using technology. We encourage the use of the 4 Ms as a tool to see where/ if there needs to be of focus to ensure the positives of technology are outweighing the negatives.

Quick and Easy Bruschetta Appetizers

by Jennifer Puri



Affordable and versatile, bruschetta is a deliciously simple tomato and basil combo.

A classic Italian appetizer, bruschetta originated in 15th century Italy. Olive growers would grill bread over an open fire to taste their freshly pressed oil. The simple slice of toasted bread later evolved to include cheeses, meats, and olives.

Soft cheeses like goat cheese, ricotta, or brie can create a unique flavour. This recipe uses bleu cheese and slices of French bread, but you can also use ciabatta bread instead. Bruschetta can be served warm or cold as part of an appetizer platter.

Bruschetta pairs well with pastas and salads, grilled chicken, or fish. Leftovers can be refrigerated for two to three days in an airtight container.

Prep Time: 15 minutes

Cook Time: 10 minutes

Servings: 4 to 6

Ingredients:

- 4 cups of chopped tomatoes
- 2 tbsps. chopped basil
- ¼ cup chopped red onion
- 6 tbsps. extra virgin olive oil
- 1 loaf of French bread

- ½ cup mayonnaise
- ½ cup crumbled bleu cheese
- ¾ tsp. dry mustard
- ½ tsp. salt
- ½ tsp. coarsely ground black pepper
- 1 tbsps. white wine vinegar

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees Fahrenheit.
2. Slice French bread into ½-inch-thick slices and then cut into half. Lightly brush slices with olive oil on both sides, place on a baking sheet and bake in oven for 10 minutes or until lightly brown.
3. Prepare tomato mixture by mixing together tomatoes, red onion, basil, salt, pepper, 2 tbsps. of olive oil, and the white wine vinegar.
4. In a separate bowl gently mix together mayonnaise, mustard, and crumbled bleu cheese.
5. Spread the cheese mixture on the toasts then top with the tomato mixture. Garnish with fresh basil leaves and serve.

Bon Appétit!



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JOKE OF THE MONTH



Why did the football coach go to the bank?

To get his quarter back.

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