



# Bridges of Love

**"THIS IS THE DAY WHICH THE LORD HAS MADE: WE WILL REJOICE AND BE GLAD IN IT" Psalm 118:24**



The theme for June's Newsletter was chosen from a verse from Psalms. This scripture was a good fit with a photo Tom took in the early morning as we walked our dog, Buddy, behind our condo where we enjoy a forested area. After fresh rain from the previous day, not only did we appreciate the beauty of nature's new life, but we also took in the sweet aroma that filled the air.

Psalm 118:24 declares joy and gratitude for God's creation and provision. It encourages people to find joy in the present day and celebrate each day as a gift from God.

1. **Joy and celebration:** It calls for rejoicing and expressing gladness in the current day.
2. **God's role:** It acknowledges that the Lord has made this day and that we should find joy in that fact.
3. **Meaning of "day":** Some interpret "day" not just as 24 hours, but as a period or season of life, suggesting we should find joy in each stage of life.
4. **Example of a prayer:** Psalm 118:24 can be used as a starting point for a prayer of gratitude, acknowledging God's provision and asking for joy in the current moment.

## "FIRESMART ALBERTA"

Living in the lovely city of Red Deer for the past year has made us take note of the upkeep necessary for the many treed areas in this region. We appreciate the beautiful parks and tree-lined streets. It is truly a haven for nature lovers with beauty throughout the city. We cannot completely enjoy these treed areas, however, without a level of concern for the threat of wildfire!

The challenges that come from heavily treed areas call for a made-in-province solution for wildfire risk reduction and loss prevention—one that includes resources, tools, and programs that are accessible to everyone. FireSmart Alberta, founded in 2020, grew out of the top recommendation of the Government of Alberta's Spring 2019 Wildfire Review Final Report. Their goal is to foster an all-of-society approach to wildfire resiliency in Alberta. FireSmart Alberta works collaboratively and in alignment with FireSmart Canada.

Just as we all have a responsibility to be prepared for a disaster, we also have a responsibility to do what we can to prevent fire from destroying homes and landscapes in areas where we live. Wildfires are a natural part of Alberta's wildland ecosystems, so without wildfires, the landscape loses its diversity. Wildfires recycle nutrients, help plants reproduce and create a mosaic of vegetation that provides habitat for a variety of wildlife.

By choosing to extend our lifestyles and communities further into forested areas, however, we become more exposed to the danger of wildfires, putting our homes at risk. It is possible to live safely with this natural event, which is outlined on the FireSmart Website. Please check out the link below for resources on how to be FireSmart!

[FIRESMART RESOURCES](#)



Marg Pollon, founding executive director of Bridges of Love, stands at an information booth at an open house to wrap up Emergency Preparedness Week on Saturday, May 10. (Photo by Sean McIntosh/Advocate staff)

## Bridges of Love closes Emergency Preparedness Week with an open house

Bridges of Love hosted an open house to conclude Emergency Preparedness Week - May 4-10,

Sean McIntosh

Emergency Preparedness Week is described as a national awareness initiative and an opportunity for Canadians to take action to ensure they're prepared to protect themselves, their families, and their communities during an emergency.

"We're trying to raise awareness for what we can do personally (during a disaster)," said Marg Pollon, founding executive director of Bridges of Love.

"Everybody has a responsibility to themselves and their own families to be prepared for whatever might come their way. I think right now, with wildfire season, that's a concern for many. ... I think we all need to take stock of where we are and what we need to do to be prepared for whatever kind of disaster a region might suffer from."

[THE REST OF THE STORY](#)