

From the Rockies to the West Coast

My parents' first Calgary home
faced north towards Nosehill Park.
The name *Nosehill* came from an aboriginal translator:

the hill resembled their chief's nose.

Between my parents' street and the street across
was an entire block of grass with spruce trees.

A field with a baseball diamond, two playgrounds,
the community center where I attended kindergarten,
Brownies, then Girl Guides, and outdoor ice rinks,
were west of our block,
my elementary school grounds to the east,
Confederation golf course to the south.

From their current Calgary home's kitchen,
my Mom could see the Rockies
until newly-built homes blocked this view.

From their driveway,
you can see Canada Olympic Park's ski runs
lit up on winter nights.

I traded one-hour drives to Banff,
weekend camping trips to Radium Hot Springs,
downtown Calgary's bar-hopping, Alberta's PST-free shopping
for Vancouver's Kits Beach,
local mountains, surrounding bodies of water,
milder winters, where rain replaces snow,
lavender, blackberries, hydrangeas, rhododendrons,
proximity to Vancouver Island, Whistler, Seattle.

Bonnie Quan Symons
110 – 1877 West 5th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V6J 1P5

778-835-1811 (cell)
bqsymons@shaw.ca (e-mail)