

# The Mission STATEMENT

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CLIFF BUNGALOW - MISSION COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

JULY / AUGUST 2009



## LILAC FESTIVAL, THEN AND NOW

By BOB LANG

THE LILAC FESTIVAL celebrated 20 successful years on May 31st. This event basically came from a sidebar conversation we had at a meeting early in 1990 dealing with the review of the Cliff Bungalow Area Re-development Plan. We identified the need to raise the profile of the community and its value to the city as a whole. During this conversation, we identified the concept of a Lilac Festival, a street fair we could hold on 4th Street and involve the 4th Street merchants. We decided we should explore this further and I delivered an invite to merchants along 4th Street. We met in February of that year. It was a very small group, just five as I recall. Besides myself, there was Gord Cope who was our newsletter editor and then Calgary Herald writer (also author of *A Paris Moment*); Barb Beard, owner of 4th Street Rose (the restaurant that launched 4th Street as we know it now); and Gina and Diana Brown of Gina Brown's (then located where the Urban Barn formerly was on 4th Street near 22nd Avenue).

The group thought the idea was great. We then involved other community and business people and started to organize the first Lilac Festival. We did it on a shoestring with a few dollars donated from various businesses (the BRZ was formed afterwards) and with only volunteers doing the work. The City was less co-operative than they are now. The concept of closing down 4th Street was met with resistance. We pointed out we had two parallel streets that would handle the traffic and buses and it was after all a Sunday, not a regular workday. We did the closure ourselves (now the City does it and charges the BRZ). We also had fewer problems with other jurisdictions such as getting health approvals. Now all food vendors must get prior approvals with their proposed menus being approved as part of that process.

Anyway we got through all the regulatory hurdles of that time and the first Lilac Festival started at noon on Sunday, June 2, 1990.

*(continued pg. 11)*



## NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE OFFERS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**THE MISSION STATEMENT** is determined to produce an informative, entertaining newsletter that everyone in the Community will look forward to reading six times a year. To achieve our goal, we need a few new volunteers to participate on the Newsletter Committee:

**Deliverer:** Picks up newsletters at the dropoff point in the community and distributes them to certain stores and the Memorial Park Library. Observes whether more or fewer newsletters are needed at each site. Time commitment: 1-1 1/2 hours, every two months.

**Editor/Proofreader:** Reviews submissions for length, grammar and political correctness (may occasionally rewrite an article to shorten it or improve the style). Carefully reviews pdfs of the newsletter prior to printing for typographical and grammatical errors and layout problems. Editing and proofreading tasks sometimes have to be completed within 24 hours. Attends Newsletter Committee meeting once every two months. Time commitment: 3-4 hours, every two months.

**Writers, reporters, photographers, artists:** We can always benefit from the creative talents of community residents who have something to say about the experience of living in Cliff Bungalow-Mission. Time commitment: variable.

Interested? Contact Bill Longstaff at [ballot@shaw.ca](mailto:ballot@shaw.ca) or 403-245-9587, or Jim Bowman at [j.bowman@telus.net](mailto:j.bowman@telus.net) or 403-228-0827. ☛



### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

HELLO,

My name is Jack Peace and I am the Parks and Rec. Chairman for the Erlton Community Association.

After the annual pathway and river cleanup was complete, I did a walk around and found everything was in good shape. There were no needles found and I retrieved all items that were flagged. I would especially like to thank the group from the Cliff Bungalow-Mission Community Association as they did a *superb* job of cleaning up the west side of the Elbow River. I walked from the 25th Avenue Bridge to Macleod Trail South on the west side of the river and it looked really good.

Thanks again for joining up with us, we appreciated having you and I hope you enjoyed the event. I attended the walk in your community and really enjoyed it. Thanks again to the people who provided the talks.

Yours Truly,  
Jack Peace  
Erlton Community Association ☛



### THE MISSION STATEMENT JULY - AUGUST 2009

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The views expressed by contributors to The Mission Statement are not necessarily those of the CBMCA board or its associates.

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# LOST IN TRANSITION

BY RICK WILLIAMS, PRESIDENT

A CASUAL WALK around our historic neighbourhood produces an odd feeling these days. The beautiful tree canopy, flowering gardens and well-kept houses and apartments are a summer delight as usual, but turn a corner, really any corner, and you are confronted by the soul-deadening sight of vacant housing lots or block after block of derelict construction sites. Some of these spaces are still huge, dangerous pits while others are conveniently turned into surface parking lots or material storage sites, or just left as a rubble field. Each of these spaces had heritage houses or buildings on them in the very near past.

A recent building inventory study undertaken by the CBMCA Heritage Committee has provided some disturbing statistics to what most of us already knew in our hearts: we are losing our built heritage, and with it our community character, at a catastrophic rate. The recent economic downturn has been only a minor flatline in a trend that has been rising exponentially over the last decade, and we are already seeing a resurgence of land use redesignation and development permit requests that bear little resemblance to or recognition of the charm and character that drew the majority of us to this neighbourhood. Though the study only deals with residential loss, it shows that since 1995 there have been 50 homes demolished in Mission and 20 in Cliff Bungalow. That is a total of 70 residences - the vast majority built between 1906 and 1913 - that housed single and multi-family owners and renters. The destruction of commercial heritage properties on 4th Street is more obvious simply because it is continuous and relentless. Entire blocks have been razed simply because there is no economic deterrent to demolition. Unlike regulations governing other western cities like Vancouver and Winnipeg, it is fiscally advantageous to demolish first and redevelop when convenient.

The list of properties lost is long and evident to even the most recent of residents. The Calgary Historical Walking Tour for Mission and Cliff Bungalow documents just some of the more significant losses: St Mary's School, the Davidson real estate office (old Flower Cottage) on 4th Street, the Lent House and Binning House and carriage house on 5th Street are just a few examples. More recently we have lost a contiguous streetscape of seven heritage homes on 20th Avenue, our With the Times magazine shop and the former garage that housed Urban Barn, and individual sites too numerous to mention. An additional and no less important cost to our community is the loss of the urban canopy - the giant trees, both public and private, shading these properties and their neighbours - to make room for an easy clear site development that may or may not occur.

There will be evolution and sensitive densification in any inner city community. It is expected and welcomed and we have many fine projects that reflect that thinking. What cannot be tolerated is the haphazard, ill-thought-out speculation that has characterized recent developments throughout the inner city. This community will welcome visionary plans and City initiatives that recognize the history, culture and environment of our unique area - our sense of place. It took over a hundred years to build the complex tapestry that is our community, and it will be our legacy for the next two hundred. ☛

# ADVERTISE

in the  
**Mission Statement**

Send hard copy with a cheque payable to CBMCA to:

Newsletter Editor  
Cliff Bungalow-Mission Community Association  
462, 1919B-4th Street SW  
Calgary AB T2S 1W4

Copy may also be sent electronically to:  
editor.cbmca@hotmail.com

### Pricing

	One issue:	One year (six issues):
Eighth page:	\$50	\$200
Quarter page:	\$90	\$360
Half page:	\$165	\$660
Full page:	\$300	\$1200

### Sizes (in inches)

	Width:	Height:
Eighth page:	3.8125	2.25
Quarter page:	3.8125	4.666
Half page:	7.75	4.666
Full page:	7.75	9.666

• The above rates are for black & white copy. For colour (back page only) increase the rates shown by 50 per cent.

• Submission deadline:

first Wednesday of every second month

• Acceptable formats for submission are 300dpi, B&W or CMYK (if the ad is in colour): psd, tiff or eps.

• For information call (403) 245-9587

*Ads are accepted from community businesses and public service agencies only.*

## TWO PASSINGS HAD CLIFF BUNGALOW- MISSION CONNECTIONS

BY BOB LANG

**TWO PEOPLE WHO** passed away one day apart in January, 2009, had an impact on Cliff Bungalow-Mission Community as well as the rest of Calgary.



Dr Fred Moriarty passed away on January 12, 2009. He was family doctor to many community and Calgary residents and was a long-time leader in the medical community in and beyond Calgary. His

office was located in our community and he was a strong supporter to keep the then Holy Cross Hospital open. At one time he was the Vice President of Medicine for the Calgary District Hospital Group that then managed the Holy Cross, Colonel Belcher and Rockyview Hospitals. Naturally he was very disappointed when the Holy Cross Hospital was closed in 1996.

In addition to his involvement with the Holy Cross, he served as President of the Calgary Medical Society and President of the Alberta Medical Association. More recently he served as Medical Director of Primary Care Network (Calgary West Central). He practised medicine for over 30 years and made a significant contribution to our community.



Doc Seaman was a well-known Calgary business and community leader who passed away on January 11, 2009. He is probably best known for his role in leading the move of the Atlanta Flames to Calgary. However, he also made

many philanthropic contributions to the Calgary community and one of those was to Cliff Bungalow-Mission. In March, 1998, he made a donation towards the first phase installation of historic street signs in our community. He was very low profile when making such contributions and few know about them. So now you know about someone that impacted our community. ☺

## DEVELOPMENT: WHAT DO YOU THINK?

BY NATASHA PASHAK

**WITH THE SLOW-DOWN** in the number of development projects to address, the Development Committee is taking the time to think about our goals for the future of Cliff Bungalow-Mission. A questionnaire was circulated to the Committee that included the following:

- Do you feel a sense of community with your neighbours?
- What do you love about the neighbourhood?
- What do you hate about the neighbourhood?
- What is missing?
- How could your life in the neighbourhood be better?

Responses from committee members indicate three main priorities: preservation of historic properties, responsible management and preservation of natural environments, and improvement of social opportunities for neighbours.

What do you think? What do you love about Cliff Bungalow Mission? What would improve the community? Submit your thoughts to: [cbmca.development@gmail.com](mailto:cbmca.development@gmail.com)

There are a few development issues to report. The Calgary Planning Commission recently endorsed a rezoning for the property at 18th Avenue and 1st Street S.E. The new zoning would allow for a building 52m high up from 23m. The developer proposes a 15-storey luxury condominium that would take up the entire property. To compensate for the lack of green space, the developer will pay to ameliorate the public park immediately south of the site. The Community Association objected to the rezoning based on the objectives of the Mission Area Redevelopment Plan to maintain the historic character of the community with architecturally compatible buildings and to maintain the prominence of the Cathedral with shorter buildings. This matter goes to City Council in the coming weeks.

The Mission Area Redevelopment Plan has been amended to accommodate the Holy Cross Site. The Community Association was unsuccessful in lobbying for the maximum building height and density that is most compatible with existing buildings in the community. However, the new ARP includes the creation of a public green space on what is currently Holy Cross Lane, the construction of a pedestrian bridge across the river at 23rd Avenue, and the connection of 23rd Avenue through the centre of the site. There are no imminent plans for any new construction.

Please contact me at [cbmca.development@gmail.com](mailto:cbmca.development@gmail.com) with any comments, questions or concerns. ☺

# CBMCA SUPPORTS HERITAGE TREES

BY MARILYN WILLIAMS

**THE HERITAGE ROUNDTABLE** held June 4 at Hillhurst-Sunnyside Community Centre was dedicated to heritage landscapes and trees. It was organized by the heritage director of CBMCA, and the association donated gifts and refreshments. The Community Heritage Roundtable is a series of regular discussions around heritage issues focused on sharing information, building heritage networks and inspiring citizen action. CBMCA participates on the steering committee.

While there are many city initiatives to plant new trees, there are few designed to protect the lovely, large mature trees, which often have a story behind them. That was the focus of our second annual event. The evening started with a walking tour of Hillhurst and we were delighted that the snowstorm of last year did not repeat itself.

After the walk, there were three presentations. The first presenter was Libby Fairweather, the Executive Director of the Heritage Tree Foundation of Canada who coordinated the Alberta Heritage Tree Project. You may have read previous articles in this newsletter listing community trees which are part of the project, or perhaps seen their plaques when you walk by. Libby spoke about the foundation and the Alberta chapter, as well as their projects, including the future Alberta Heritage Tree Registry and what it means for Calgary Heritage. Our Heritage Committee is counting on this registry as a step towards protecting our heritage trees. Link to [www.heritagetreefoundation.com](http://www.heritagetreefoundation.com) to get the details. Be sure to check out the link on "Trees and the Environment," especially the section titled "Age" which lists all the advantages of the older trees.

Michelle Reid, the conservation landscape architect for the City of Calgary Parks Department, who has worked on historic parks including Reader Rock Garden, Central Memorial Park and Bowness Park, presented the history of Calgary's Vacant Lot Garden Club and how it facilitated community gardening early in the development of the city. Michelle focused on the one remaining Vacant Lot Garden: Bridgeland-Riverside Community Garden, which is now a designated heritage site.

Russell Friesen, Urban Forestry Coordinator with City of Calgary Parks, gave a more sobering talk about the threats to heritage trees by private development as well as the City's own services and engineering departments. Even in new neighbourhoods developed since 1975, utility and service access (water, electrical, sewer) has replaced the edge of property allowance for trees and these neighbourhoods will never see tree lined streets. It was not entirely bad news though. Russell spoke about a number of city initiatives related to new plantings of which Neighbourhoods program is the most likely to benefit urban areas, albeit in the longer term. In addition, in 2000 the city tree bylaw was updated for the first time in a century. ☛



PLAINS COTTONWOOD  
BESIDE THE CRESCENT  
HEIGHTS COMMUNITY  
HALL PHOTOGRAPHED  
BY WALTER DANYLAK

# MONEY ISN'T EVERYTHING

BY NANCY TICE

**THE HAPPINESS REPORT** out of UBC last year (well before the market meltdown) suggests that people are happiest when they benefit from a feeling of belonging within a web of valued relationships bolstered by the sense of community that comes from residing in a socially healthy, safe neighbourhood that offers daily access to nature. As it turns out, the happiest people live in lower-rise housing options which compose neighbourhoods that seem to more easily provide the circumstances which encourage happiness. Perhaps most happy people would agree with our past community association president, Pat Maiani, who always said residential buildings should be no higher than trees.



PLEASANT VIEWS REWARD PEDESTRIANS  
THROUGHOUT CLIFF BUNGALOW-MISSION

Coincidentally, David Suzuki's new book notes that happy people are good for the planet because they create smaller carbon footprints. He thinks happy people are more focused on personal growth, relationships, and community involvement compared to those who depend on immersing themselves in consumerism as a means of determining self-worth. One envisions pleasant family evenings sorting recyclables, or playing board games with the children, or, by golly, taking a long, leisurely walk after supper – all activities that will seem painfully quaint to anyone addicted to Calgary's culture of hyper-busyness where people work so long and hard to acquire the material evidence of success.

Late last year I attended an open house meeting hosted by the Community Association about rising crime in the neighbourhood – most specifically in Cliff Bungalow, west of 4th Street, which had recently seen an upward trend in the crime rate. At times during that evening I was reminded of the old fable (or was it a riddle?) about a group of blind men trying to describe the same elephant. It seemed that many residents aren't very familiar with their own neighbourhood because they've only recently moved here, or they are way too busy to be attentive to it.

So, what's my point? I'll leave it to others to write about the new frugality or "recessionista chic" and simply suggest that many of us who may need to cut expenses might begin to spend more time enjoying our own neighbourhood.

We should be able to recognize most of our neighbours and become aware of what constitutes normal, legitimate activities around our homes. We might walk at a slower pace, or walk further more often, vary our regular routes and become more observant. Be visible. Build a front yard snowman, feed the birds, use those front porches, sit on the front steps, visit local parks regularly, pick up litter, walk the dog along the alley. Given the banality of much recent residential architecture, it's up to us to keep Cliff Bungalow and Mission walkable by adding interest to the streetscape. I never pass up an opportunity to encourage gardening in locations visible to the public. Gardens require regular maintenance which creates visible activity, they add beauty to the streetscape, and they express an attitude of caring about one's environment.

Way back in the day, I was raised by old-fashioned parents to believe it is my civic responsibility to be a good neighbour, and to be a caretaker of my neighbourhood. If that attitude was more widespread now, it might go a long way toward pre-empting crime and keeping our neighbourhoods friendly, appealing places to live. While some things are beyond our control, to a great extent we get the neighbourhoods we deserve. ☛



## 26TH AVENUE RIVERBANK PROMENADE UPDATE

BY BILL LONGSTAF

IT'S BEEN A long time coming — about 3 years — but construction on our 26th Avenue Riverbank Promenade is scheduled to begin in June with a Sunday afternoon Grand Opening in September.

First proposed by the Community Association to the City in 2006, the renovation of the river pathway along 26th Avenue between 1st and 4th Streets evolved into plans for a Historic Promenade, an opportunity to create a special place for enjoying the river while documenting the community's history and emphasizing its relationship to the Elbow.

The process began with an exciting concept plan, created by Carson-McCulloch Landscape Architects and funded by the Parks Foundation. The plan was introduced to the community through extensive outreach, supported by the Calgary Foundation, with presentations at coffee shops, the community hall, seniors' residences and other venues. With strong community support, the plan was presented to the City and, with the help of then Alderman Madeleine King, the City agreed to undertake the project.

The process has been convoluted at times with various delays culminating in the belated discovery that a development permit was needed. The permit required assurance of stringent waterway protection and approvals from various agencies including from the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans. Finally, however, all is in order for work to begin and hopefully will be well underway when you read this newsletter. An architectural sketch of the Promenade is shown on the Grand Opening announcement on page 12.

The City will pay for the basic construction and the Community Association for the interpretive and other special elements. These will present a heritage theme and will include plaques giving the history of the Cliff Bungalow and Mission communities and the natural and built histories of the river and its environs, emphasizing the floods of water, of immigration and of recent development in the area. The integrity of the natural bank will be carefully maintained.

To fund the Community portion of the project, the Promenade group of volunteers sold bricks and lamp standards, held fundraising events, obtained grants from City of Calgary Heritage Planning, the Alberta Real Estate Foundation, and from Alberta Lotteries, and received donations of money, merchandise and enormous amounts of time from residents and others.

The Grand Opening of the Promenade is scheduled for 2:00-4:00 p.m., September 20th, 2009, featuring a mock portage, laughter with Loose Moose Theatre, live music, eats, a history tour, displays by river-oriented groups and a host of dignitaries. And, of course, all are welcome. ☺

# Memorial PARK LIBRARY

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[www.calgarypubliclibrary.com](http://www.calgarypubliclibrary.com)

General Inquiries 403-260-2600

Program Registration 403-260-2620

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12 - 8 pm Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday  
12 - 5 pm Sundays (mid-Sept to mid-May)

## JULY - AUGUST 2009

### Eco-Heroes:

Calgary Co-op Summer Reading Adventure for Kids  
Join undercover Eco-Heroes on their quest to rid the world of Eco-Crime. Collect all five game pages throughout the summer until the end of August, read great books, and enter to win fantastic prizes.

### Just for Adults - Read All Summer!

Participate in CPL's first ever adult summer reading adventure. Discover new reading interests and enter to win great prizes.

### ESL Conversation Club (Intermediate)

New Canadians with intermediate ESL skills can practice English listening and speaking in small groups.  
Mondays July 6 to Aug. 17 — 2:30 - 4:30pm  
Registration required

### Memorial Park Walking Tour

Let heritage architect Lorne Simpson lead you on a walking tour of the historical features and new plantings in the recently restored Memorial Park. Meet on the front steps of the Library.

Tues. July 28 — 7:00 - 8:30pm

No registration required

### Ernest Manning: A Lifetime of Service

Author Brian Brennan talks about Ernest Manning's 25 years as Alberta's premier and his long-running "Back to the Bible" radio ministry.

Thurs. July 30 — 7:00 - 8:30pm

No registration required

### Reading Buddies

Teen volunteers and Library staff provide one-on-one reading support and fun literacy activities for readers in grades one to three.

Fridays July 17 to July 31 AND/OR

Fridays Aug. 7 to Aug. 21 — 2:00 - 3:30pm

Registration required

# THE LIVING ROOM IS A PLACE FOR RESTFUL LUXURY

BY JIM BOWMAN

VEENA AND I hadn't seen each other in a couple of months, and it was time to catch up. She had always wanted to try The Living Room, located at 514 – 17 Avenue SW. I had some misgivings, having passed by the menu posted at the front gate of the restaurant and concluded that the prices were beyond my usual budget. But we agreed to limit our spending to \$50 each, and, what the hey, we had to celebrate the fact that we both had full-time, permanent jobs in the midst of the depression (or recession, as some would call it).

We were immediately greeted at the door by a young, friendly, enthusiastic server who offered to take our coats. We were invited to select any table in the restaurant, and chose one right by the window, offering an entertaining view of the passings-by of 17th Avenue.

The restaurant is in an old 1940s bungalow, one of the few houses still left on 17th, but its interior design bears little resemblance to its previous residential use. Intimacy is achieved by situating groupings of tables at several levels. The colors are restful browns and beiges, and many of the surfaces are soft fabrics. The late moderne style design gave a feeling of restful luxury.

There was soft background music, but around 8:45, it became more obtrusive. Like an increasing number of establishments in the neighborhood, The Living Room is a resto-bar – a restaurant that takes on the characteristics of a bar at a certain hour.

Our fellow diners were mostly youngish professionals, and tended to be in largish groups. They certainly seemed to be enjoying each others' company, but were not boisterous. On a Tuesday night, the restaurant was almost full by 9:00. It might be a good idea to make reservations in order to avoid disappointment.

Our server was attentive, and knowledgeable about the items on the menu, some of which were unfamiliar to us. An interesting feature was the availability of “interactive appetizers” and “interactive entrées” – courses designed to be shared by two.

We had a bit of difficulty sticking to our intended budget of \$50 each. The amazingly long list of wines ranged from \$40 to \$1150 a bottle, and house wines were about \$9 to \$20 a glass. Appetizers were \$12-



\$16 for individual servings, or \$19-\$31 for “interactive” appetizers. Entrées were \$26-38 (for individuals) or \$40-\$77 (interactive). For special occasions, a *Menu surprise* – a six-course dinner consisting of whatever the chef feels like creating – is available for \$90 per person. The executive chef, Kevin A. Hill, signs his name to the bottom of the menu with justifiable pride.

For an appetizer, we decided to share the fondue – then realized that neither of us had had fondue since the 1970s! This was a classic Swiss-cheese-and-sauterne fondue, served in an interesting rectangular cast iron pot designed to distribute the heat from the burner evenly. It came with generous quantities of cubed baguette, as well as grilled apple and bell pepper slices for dipping.

For the main course, Veena decided on the Opal Valley lamb shank, described as “fire roasted lamb provençal served on a bed of herb de Provence buttered spinach fettuccini.” The organically-grown Australian lamb was a substantial portion, and had been roasted in a tomato glaze. The spinach fettuccini was nicely cooked and herbed. A few minutes later, our server apologetically brought a small plate of seasonal vegetables, cooked *al dente*, which had been accidentally omitted from Veena's plate.

I chose the “duo of house-made potato gnocchi.” It consisted of two mounds of gnocchi (shell-shaped, potato-stuffed pasta) served on a long, narrow platter. One was infused with a simple tomato-based Calabrese sauce, the other with a Gorgonzola cheese and cream sauce, with a bit of caramelized onion. The plate was garnished with *la religieuse* – “the nun.” A curiously-named Swiss fondue lovers' delicacy, it was the lacy-textured, wafer-shaped bit of congealed melted cheese that remains in the bottom of the pot.

With a glass of house wine for each of us and a coffee for me at the end of the meal, our bill came to \$103.95 plus tip, only slightly exceeding our budget. It had been an evening of unhurried, restful, experiential luxury. Though more costly than I would normally consider, I can see why The Living Room is rated by restaurant reviewers as one of the best in the city. ☘



# LEGISLATIVE SESSION WAS ANYTHING BUT DULL

REPORT FROM DAVE TAYLOR, M.L.A.

It's so good to be back in Calgary-Currie for the summer season. After a long spring sitting of the Legislature, I'm looking forward to seeing as many of you as I can during a stacked summer lineup of events and festivals. I would be remiss however, if I let my excitement over the summer prevent me from giving a sum-up of the Spring Session.

It was not dull, that's for sure. My colleagues and I were put to the test as we faced a number of very contentious bills and confronted some very concerning changes in government policy. Chief amongst these was the announcement from Finance Minister Iris Evans that Alberta would run a four billion dollar deficit in the coming fiscal year. Now, we all know that desperate times call for desperate measures. We are facing a global recession that may have been impossible to insulate ourselves from completely, but how it is that Ed Stelmach and the Finance Minister went from projecting an eight and a half billion dollar surplus in 2008, to announcing a deficit of four billion dollars in 2009 is, at the very least, worrisome. Moreover, if what we have seen from Stephen Harper is any indication of what we will see from Ed Stelmach, the worst news may still be coming.

What we need from our Government is a concrete plan to ensure we don't remain in the red for long, and a good strong road map to get us out of the boom and bust cycles that have plagued this province for decades. Our Government needs to do what you and I do to make the books balance: save during the good

times, so the money is there during the bad times. This would prevent us from having to take some of the emergency measures taken by Mr. Stelmach. A number of health services have been delisted, medical procedures have been postponed and changes to seniors' drug coverage made. It's sad that our Government feels it necessary to ask those who are in need of care the most to shoulder more of the Province's financial burden. Our seniors - people who have paid taxes longer than any other demographic to ensure that provincial services remain intact - are now getting the short end of the stick. We cannot let this continue. We have to do a better job.

I did leave Edmonton, however, knowing we had done some very good things. I was successful in persuading the Health Minister to fund the cancer drug Avastin; a provision I applaud him for because it will save lives. My colleagues and I were also successful in standing up for the teachers and students of this province, by convincing the Government to make crucial changes to Bill 44; a bill that threatened teachers with reprimand for teaching topics that conflicted with certain religious beliefs. I take great pride in these accomplishments as they will contribute to a better way of life in our fine province. I look forward to my next opportunity to further this cause.

I hope to see all of you at some point over the summer months. I'll be hosting my annual Stampede Breakfast on July 7th, in front of my office in Marda Loop. Please extend the invitation to your friends and family. We serve the best pancakes in town! ☘



# PUBLIC SAFETY

REPORT FROM ALDERMAN JOHN MAR

As a former RCMP Officer, I recognize the need for additional manpower on our streets, which is why I advocated for 400 new police officers for Calgary. The Calgary Police Service is now hiring 316 officers over the next three years, the vast majority of whom are being funded by the City of Calgary. In fact, Emergency Services alone were a major component of the City Budget.

This year, I was appointed to the Calgary Police Commission and have been utilizing my previous uniformed experience to direct and change policing through Policy and Governance.

As part of my ongoing commitment to public safety, I have been instrumental in the successful implementation of the Safe Communities and Neighborhoods (SCAN) Act to close down many "crack houses" in Ward 8 communities.

Additionally, 72 new "beat officers" have initiated sustained foot patrols in the Clean-to-the-Core regions of the city, a substantial portion of Ward 8.

This change in strategy will allow citizens to have greater interaction with the frontline officers, create higher visibility, and increase public safety. ☘



## INVESTING IN CALGARY

REPORT FROM LEE RICHARDSON, M.P.

ON JANUARY 27TH, Finance Minister Jim Flaherty introduced Budget 2009 - Canada's Economic Action Plan, a bold agenda to protect Canadians from the immediate economic threat while helping to establish the conditions needed to secure long term growth and prosperity.

Recently the Government of Canada announced two significant investments in Calgary's infrastructure that will be funded as a direct result of the Economic Action Plan. These investments provide both an immediate economic boost and long-term sustainability, for a greener, more efficient infrastructure system in Calgary.

The Government of Canada is setting aside up to \$90 million to support a number of transit improvements identified as priorities in the City of Calgary. These include: four-car rapid transit stations and trackwork on 7th Avenue; a new station at 11th Street; new park-and-ride lots in the Southeast; an upgraded closed circuit television security system; a new Advanced Passenger Information System; and upgrades to the transit power system.

Another \$100 million will be allocated to Calgary's Ring Road, a major commuter and transport thoroughfare designed to reduce congestion and

improve road safety. Extending the Calgary Ring Road creates jobs, while reducing strain on our city's road and transit system for years to come.

Investment in public infrastructure like Calgary's public transit system and Ring Road stimulates our economy, relieves traffic congestion and will help our community prosper now and in the future. It also creates a lasting legacy that will improve our city for many years to come.

These two projects are concrete examples of federal leadership and Canada's Economic Action Plan at work.

CONTACT US: Calgary Centre residents requiring assistance may contact my office by mail, phone, fax, e-mail or appointment. Our constituency office contact information is:

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## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR COMMUNITY CASINO OCTOBER 30 AND 31

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED for the community casino being held on October 30 and 31, a Friday and Saturday. This is the largest fund raising activity that the community has. We get casinos about every one and one half years. The funds are used to pay for rent, utilities (ever increasing), cleaning and maintenance of our community centre. These funds also are used for special projects such as the Historic Street signs and other heritage projects.

We need to fill 40 volunteer shifts. If you can, volunteer for both days or two shifts. You do not have to be experienced in casinos. We have professional advisors and many of us have helped at many casinos over the years. There are two shifts a day, one starting late morning to around supertime. This is followed by an evening shift to closing time. In addition, there is a late shift (starts around 10 pm) of people who count all the

money from the gaming tables. We feed you and there are snacks and non-alcoholic beverages. When not busy, you can read, watch a video, do homework, talk about world or local affairs or do other things like that. We can pay for baby sitting if you need it. We can provide a ride to and from Cash Casino (Blackfoot Trail) where our event is located. Casinos are now smoke free, so you will not have to worry about smoke.

While you may not know yet if you are available then, we need you to sign a volunteer form ASAP so we can submit your form and those of others along with our final submission to Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission prior to the casino. We can adjust to your schedule closer to the casino dates. To obtain the form or if you have any questions, please contact Bob Lang at 403-229-2726 or [rvlang@aol.com](mailto:rvlang@aol.com). **Please do it now!** ☎

# LILAC FESTIVAL, THEN AND NOW

(from pg. 1)

It had been wet for days prior but it did not rain that day and the sun came out as though on cue at noon. In those days, we had a parade and an opening ceremony. While there still is the parade, the opening ceremony was dropped a couple of years later. We connected with a vintage car club that used to meet weekly at the former Willy's Hamburger on Macleod Trail. They provided the cars for many years for the dignitaries who ride in the parade. In recent times, the cars are new and are part of the sponsorship of the Festival. In the first year and in many of the early years, there was a decorated bicycle parade. The dignitaries judged the best ones and prizes were awarded.

The first event went from 20th Avenue to Elbow Drive. It was gradually expanded to 17th Avenue thereafter and when the 4 Street BRZ boundaries expanded north of 17th Avenue, the Festival was expanded to 12th Avenue. In the first years, Gina and Diana Brown went to craft events and invited the vendors to be a part of the Lilac Festival. They did and ever since the first one, there never has been yard sale feel to the Festival. The cost to rent a table was \$25 and that included a table with tablecloth and skirting and two chairs. The reported cost this year was \$250 for a table only (for food vendors it is higher).

There were many events and contests in the early years. The Community Association had a nail-pounding event in front of its booth. 4th Street Rose had a lemon pie eating contest (no hands) that became an annual event until it closed. Gina Brown's had a Fastest Knitting Needles In The West contest. These types of events no longer happen. I guess the closest to this type of event now is the volleyball tournament at Original Joe's.

In the first year, the Community Association sold popcorn and pop at its booth and had a display on the community's history. As already mentioned, health regulations made it more difficult to sell popcorn as it was not packaged. Later, for many years, the Community Association hosted the first beer garden of the Festival. During the first years of this, we partnered with Mission Bridge and Wildwood on the former Holy Cross parking lot located where the Shoppers Drug Mart now is. When Shoppers was built, we moved to 18th Avenue adjacent to Burger Inn. The last few years, we have had a regular booth featuring our history and information on the community association.

There was a wonderful camaraderie during the first Festival that lasted many years. We used to put up balloons on the light standards (sort of like balloon bouquets). Each table also got some balloons. We spent the evening before blowing up the balloons, first at the community centre and then at the Bank of Montreal. Then after the Festival (it only went to 5 pm for many years), we had a barbeque at the community centre. Gina Brown went around and got all sorts of merchandise and certificates that were then drawn at the barbeque for all volunteers, both community and business people. Everyone was really happy that we had pulled off this event so well.

Some things have changed. One of the most obvious is the presence of police and security people. I was somewhat surprised at the numbers of police and security people that were present this year and it was just after 10 am. This is one of the issues you may have read about in newspaper reports on this year's Festival. Current requirements are one police officer per 1000 people at \$93 per hour. With an unknown attendance of over 100,000 people this no doubt is a challenge for the BRZ who have taken over the organizing of the Lilac Festival. In addition, there were lots of security guards. I also saw many Bylaw Peace Officers and even an EMS person roaming the street.

While it has lost much of its home grown feel, there are still many of the elements of the first Lilac Festival such as the parade, many interesting vendors and lots of food and drink. Dogs have been a part of the Festival since day one. It has grown a lot from 10,000 in the first year to over 100,000 now. Some people think it is now too big. While this may be true, maybe we should look on it as our contribution to the vitality of Calgary. At a meeting at one of our local coffee shops the day after this year's Festival, a former resident told me of taking recent arrivals from Europe to the Lilac Festival. These people had noted the lack of street vitality in Calgary prior to attending but they were favourably impressed with the Lilac Festival. The Lilac Festival also has accomplished the original goal of raising awareness of our great community and 4th Street. So let's celebrate that fact along with 100,000 of our closest friends. ☘



# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## Historic Calgary Week

Friday, July 24th to Monday, August 3rd

## Take the White Line -

### Cliff Bungalow-Mission Historical Walking Tour

Tuesday, July 28, 2009 at 2 p.m., 1 to 2 hours

Tour starts at historic Cliff Bungalow School,  
2201 Cliff Street SW, East Entrance

The Calgary Electric Railway began service in 1909 with two streetcars, and in the fall of that year the White Line started service to Cliff Bungalow-Mission and surrounding communities. The original line ran from downtown to Mission via 1st Street and 17th Avenue, and was later expanded to connect the Holy Cross Hospital to the General Hospital in Bridgeland.

Join us for a stroll along 4th Street, the Mission high street of the day, exploring the southern leg of the White Line from 21 Avenue to its terminus at Mission Bridge. Along the way we will highlight historical commercial, residential and cultural sites that lay along the route, and the fascinating residents that took the original light rail transit.

## Promenade Grand Opening

Sunday, September 20th, 2-4 p.m. (see below)

## Community Casino

Friday, October 30th, and Saturday, October 31st

## Cliff Bungalow-Mission Community Association

### Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, November 25th

## Mission Statement

### submission due dates

First Wednesday of every second month



Come celebrate with us! Our Cliff Bungalow-Mission Community Association

## Mission Historic Promenade Grand Opening

Sunday Afternoon, September 20, 2009, 2-4 p.m.

at Mission Bridge — Elbow Drive & 4 St. SW



- ✓ **WATCH** early missionary arrival by canoe portage
- ✓ **LAUGH** with Loose Moose  
As they put their spin on Elbow River history
- ✓ **TOE-TAP** to Gypsy Grass Live Band's  
20<sup>th</sup> Century Songs
- ✓ **EAT, DRINK & MEET**  
your Promenade-user neighbours, funders, dignitaries\*
- ✓ **TOUR** the new Promenade  
With author/historian John Gilpin
- ✓ **SIGN UP**  
for Promenade involvement opportunities

\*● MC Dave Taylor MLA Calgary Currie ● Alderman John Mar ● Hon. Lindsay Blackett Alberta MLA Minister of Culture ● former Alderman Madeleine King ● Parks Foundation, Calgary ● The Calgary Foundation ● CBMCA President ● Carson McCulloch Landscape Architects ●

DISPLAYS: ● Adopt-a-Park ● River Valleys Committee ● Water-testing ● CBMCA Environment Committee; Heritage Committee ● Doggy-poo program ● John Gilpin to autograph newly published book for sale ●