

The Mission STATEMENT

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CLIFF BUNGALOW - MISSION COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2009



URBAN LANDSCAPE

SEASON OF DELIGHT

By NANCY TICE

IN LATE MAY we yearned for spring, eager to feel the sun's warmth. After several glorious, sunny days in a row the neighbourhood began to unfold and relax in expectation of summer's pleasures. Lilac Festival has long claimed its position as a harbinger of spring. It is most enjoyable to see 4th Street merchants and restaurateurs transform their premises in anticipation of the day which also heralds the beginning of the patio season. Nearly every local restaurant and a few shops are complemented by brightly-coloured flowers. We have new, more warmly-coloured banners along the street courtesy of the BRZ, Rajdoot's windows were renewed brightly scarlet in the style which complements the cuisine, and it was a relief to see the flower basket tradition continue along the historic Aberdeen Block's "restaurant row" frontage.

Our commercial district needs all the help it can get since its walkability is marred by the interminably stalled construction project, a large vacant lot, and an alarming number of empty storefronts. Bright flowers, colourful awnings and patio umbrellas, and well-designed window displays draw the eye past unfortunate gaps in the streetscape helping to attract newcomers to explore the area while also continuing to foster a healthy level of local pedestrian activity. In short, sprucing up the commercial district is good for business. The many fine examples of extremely attractive seasonal enhancements may provide inspiration for the businesses that do not yet understand the concept.

Most of the flower baskets along 4th Street are professionally greenhouse grown for weeks in advance of their outdoor debut. The baskets suddenly appear in all their glory, overflowing with extravagantly colourful bloom. As in all things urban, it is diversity which



ONE OF THE
ABERDEEN BLOCK'S
MANY FLOWER BASKETS



A PICNIC IN WILLIAM
ABERHART PARK

defines interesting, uniquely personable neighbourhoods. We are extremely fortunate to have residential streetscapes and lanescapes that are enlivened every summer by the activities of enthusiastic home gardeners. You're all bloomin' wonderful!

Speaking of local colour, we've gained a bright new children's playground in William Aberhart Park (which is also home to the community garden). As I understand it, the new playground is a matter of lifestyle replacement. How pleasant it was to see a park improvement simply appear as if by magic without having to beg for it. Stop by and check out the sweet little "let's pretend" ice cream shop, and take a look at the community garden allotment plots which demonstrate a fascinating array of gardening interests and personal style. Let's hope for a long, warm, frost-free autumn. The park is located along the 200 block of 24th Avenue S.W. south of the Holy Cross Centre. ☺

(see pages 6 & 7 for more photos)

THERE WILL BE SOME CHANGES

BY RICK WILLIAMS, PRESIDENT

I THOUGHT I WOULD take this quiet time at the end of summer as an opportunity to congratulate our hard working committees and briefly summarize the activities of the Association.

DEVELOPMENT: The number of Development Permit applications reviewed by our committee is down in quantity but it seems that a number of the major applications raise very contentious issues. These usually concern land use redesignation or variance with our Area Redevelopment Plans, or both. Initiatives that will hopefully influence Administration policy city-wide are underway. The Development Committee is doing a great job of raising these issues with both developers and City Administration while encouraging the efforts to fill some of the holes in our community with sensitive development. Some earlier projects are finished or nearing completion, bringing new life and new residents to our streets.

HERITAGE: This committee has been extraordinarily busy saving our beautiful old homes and streetscapes, renaming bridges, streets and parks with their historically accurate references and recognizing our heritage buildings through the Community Heritage Plaque Program. They are influencing City policy to preserve what our community feels is its sense of place, that sense of history and humanity we love about our neighbourhood.

CRIME AND SAFETY: With neighbourhood crime stats from CPS unavailable Mission and Cliff Bungalow anecdotal evidence at least indicates a lessening in social disorder-type crime this summer with the advent of the Calgary Police Service clean to the core campaign, increased frequency of patrols and the new arrival of beat and bike cops in our neighbourhoods, as well as the good work of Bylaw Services. I know my street does not see the shattered glass of vehicle break-ins and other criminal activity that was so prevalent last summer and fall. Maybe the recession has thinned the ranks of the villains to some degree.

ENVIRONMENT: As you can see development of the 26th Avenue Pathway project is finally underway with the Opening Celebration scheduled for September 20. I hope to see you there. The community garden looks as lovely and lush as ever, a testament to the hard work of the garden committee and their gnomes.

September will see some changes for the Board of the Community Association. There will be departures of some members and the arrival of others prior to the Annual General Meeting in November. I will be resigning in September; I am running away with the Heritage Director to the north of England. There has never been a more exciting or more necessary time to get involved with your community association, whatever your interests or the amount of time you have available to participate you will be welcomed with open arms. The well-being of the community is in your hands. Goodbye and good luck. ☺

Does Canada Post Deliver Your Newsletter?

The Mission Statement is delivered by Canada Post to all homes in Cliff Bungalow-Mission except for the 100 block of 18th Avenue SE which is covered by a volunteer. Unfortunately, we have heard a few small areas are being missed. If you know of any homes that have consistently NOT received delivery of the Statement by Canada Post, please contact Jim Bowman at editor.cbcma@hotmail.com or 403-228-0827.



THE MISSION STATEMENT

SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER 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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FORM FOLLOWS FUNCTION

BY NATASHA PASHAK, DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

DURING VISITS WITH a few former-Calgarians this past summer, I frequently heard comments about how much this city, and particularly this neighbourhood, has changed in the last few years. So many large condominiums must mean the population has really increased. So why does 4th Street seem so empty? Are the vacant lots and abandoned construction sites solely to blame?

According to the most recent civic census, the population of Cliff Bungalow has actually decreased by 334 since 1997. The population of Mission has increased, but only by 762 in the same time period. This means that the population of Cliff Bungalow-Mission has only increased by 428 people in the last 12 years and this is at the loss of 70 historic character homes. That's an average population increase of 6 people per home lost.

For readers who are new to the community, the Cliff Bungalow-Mission Community Association has spent many long years, working with various municipal departments, to come up with an Area Redevelopment Plan (ARP) for both Mission and Cliff Bungalow. These ARPs specify the development guidelines for new construction in our community. From the Community Association's perspective, these guidelines intend to preserve the character – in architectural and in human terms – of the community, while allowing for increased population density.

Instead, large-scale condominium projects have redefined the architectural character of the community by dramatically increasing living space while only marginally increasing population.

Of further concern, two recent rulings indicate an outright lack of respect for the Mission ARP. The Subdivision and Appeal Board recently stated that Mission ARP is "directory" rather than "mandatory" in their ruling to allow the construction of two 17-storey towers on the south side of 26th Avenue despite an appeal raised by the Rideau-Roxboro Community Association and the Cliff Bungalow-Mission Community Association. City Council recently approved an ARP Amendment and Land Use Redesignation to accommodate another 17-storey tower, this time in the Cathedral District of Mission on 18th Avenue SE (formerly Sid's Grocery), despite our Alderman's best efforts to delay for further discussion. There are no imminent plans for construction on the 18th Avenue site.

Belying these development projects and rulings is, in my opinion, a belief system that rejects our community's vision for the future as outlined in our ARPs. These projects propose to re-imagine the community in such a way that would erase any vestiges of our past. This is not what we have worked so long and hard for in the drafting of our Area Redevelopment Plans.

My goal in writing about these issues is to get a discussion going. What do you think of recent changes in the community? What steps can we take to improve our quality of life in the neighbourhood? Please share your thoughts by sending me an email: cbmca.development@gmail.com ☛

DEAR EDITOR,

The River Walk in the Mission Area is about to become bigger and better than ever as machines and skilled workers turn their attention to new and improved ways to enhance the beauty of the River Walk-by-the-Elbow in our neighbourhood. The River Walk abounds in changing vistas throughout the year to uplift the body, mind and soul, and is there for all to share and enjoy.

The official opening date for the Walk is September 20th and I'll be there.

Fran Birzins ☛

ADVERTISE

in the

Mission Statement

Email advertising copy as a pdf to:
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BRIDGE #3205 GETS A NAME

BY BILL LONGSTAFF

In 2007, the CBMCA Heritage Committee realized that the little bridge over the Elbow River at 25th Avenue SW lacked a name. It was known to the City simply as bridge #3205. Recognizing an opportunity to incorporate it into the community's heritage, the Committee applied to the City to name it Scollen Bridge. On May 25th of this year, City Council approved the name.

Scollen Street was the name of 25th Avenue SW when the Mission district was part of the town of Rouleauville. When Rouleauville was incorporated into the City of Calgary in 1907, the street was renamed according to Calgary's street numbering system.

Father Constantine Scollen was born in Ireland in 1841. Ordained in the Oblate priesthood, he came to Canada in 1862 where he worked with Father Albert Lacombe, founder of Rouleauville. He established a mission among the Kainai (Blood) Nation in 1873. As interpreter and intermediary, Father Scollen played a key role in the signing of Treaties 6 and 7. He spent his last years ministering to and advocating for the Kainai, and attempting to bridge the divide between

the Native Peoples and the European settlers. He died in 1902.

In recent years, the Association has been working with the City to erect historic street signs in Cliff Bungalow-Mission. Along 25th Avenue, the new signs now pair "25 Ave SW" with "Scollen Street." "Scollen Bridge" is a natural extension of the street signs project and the historically appropriate termination of Scollen Street.

The Community Association and the City will mount a bronze plaque on the bridge to tell the story behind the name; however, that will have to wait. The City is hiring a consultant to evaluate the state of the bridge and that may result in work on the structure in 2010. Mounting of the plaque will be delayed until completion of any work.

In the meantime, our idea has taken on a life of its own. The application to name the bridge inspired the City of Calgary's Heritage Planning section to inventory all unnamed bridges in the city with a view to attaching appropriate historic names. ☛



SCOLLEN BRIDGE (FORMERLY #3205) PHOTOGRAPH BY RICK WILLIAMS

THE CATHEDRAL DISTRICT AND THE THEORY OF SEPARATE REALITIES

BY MARILYN WILLIAMS, HERITAGE DIRECTOR

I RECENTLY PRESENTED to City Council on the proposed land use change for the parcel of land containing the former Sid's Grocery (at 18th Avenue And 1st Street SE). The proposal would allow a 17-storey building in the Cathedral District where only six storeys are allowed now. The property is about 275 meters from St. Mary's Cathedral, separated by St. Mary's School and grounds.

Council seemed to understand my concerns, even though they may not have agreed. However, when I spoke about the Cathedral District itself, I made no connection. I was reminded of the theory of separate realities — the idea that all individuals have completely unique personalities, cultures and experiences which shape their thoughts and values differently.

As I presented, I was thinking about the rich history of Cliff Bungalow-Mission when it was used as wintering grounds by early Native Americans, and about the Oblate Fathers who built the first Mission Notre Dame de la Paix in 1872. I was thinking of Father Lacombe's dream of a French village where Mission is today, and the French and Roman Catholic influences

in the buildings that remain. And I was thinking of the old Village of Rouleauville, of St. Mary's Cathedral, the Convent and the Parish Hall. Council, I suspect, was thinking only of old buildings.

There is also a separation of values. The developer plans a modern urban art garden for the small adjacent natural park on the south side. Although this would fit nicely with the 2-floor art gallery in the proposed tower, it demonstrates the gulf between the values that the modern luxury condos represent compared to the aspirations of the community to "protect and enhance their unique and diverse natural, architectural, historic and social environment." The values of the community are timeless while so much around us seems to reflect some kind of civic mid-life crisis.

My efforts before Council were unsuccessful, not just because of this gap in understanding and values, but also because Council and the Administration were apparently being lobbied behind the scenes. For over two years our community was kept in the dark about this process and the planned changes to our ARP, the document we believed would protect against such changes to height and context.

Much needs to be done to ensure the development as proposed is not approved and to close the gap in communications. Serious two-way dialog is needed as well as serious thought by the architect (Sturgess Architecture) for a design consistent with

this historic district. There are reasons to hope for success. I recently read about the beautiful Burns Building downtown and the fight to save it. A 1980 article included a quote from Jeremy Sturgess, at the time representing the Alberta Association of Architects, advocating keeping "one of Calgary's finest buildings." Another example, the beautiful "flat iron" building in Kensington, shows his talent for creating buildings with deep sensitivity to history and context. Alderman Mar has said he will try to convince both Administration and the developer to work with us closely. And of course our Development Committee will participate tirelessly.

If you have concerns about this development, become involved. Keep up to date on the issue and share your comments at www.calgaryheritage.org. Click on Mission Cathedral District - Land Use Change for Tower. Write to your Development Director, Natasha Pashak, your alderman or MLA (you can post your letter on the above link). Share walking tours and your knowledge of neighbourhood history with your friends. Invite them to Rouleauville Park and take in the striking beauty of St. Mary's Cathedral. Help to bridge the gap. ☛

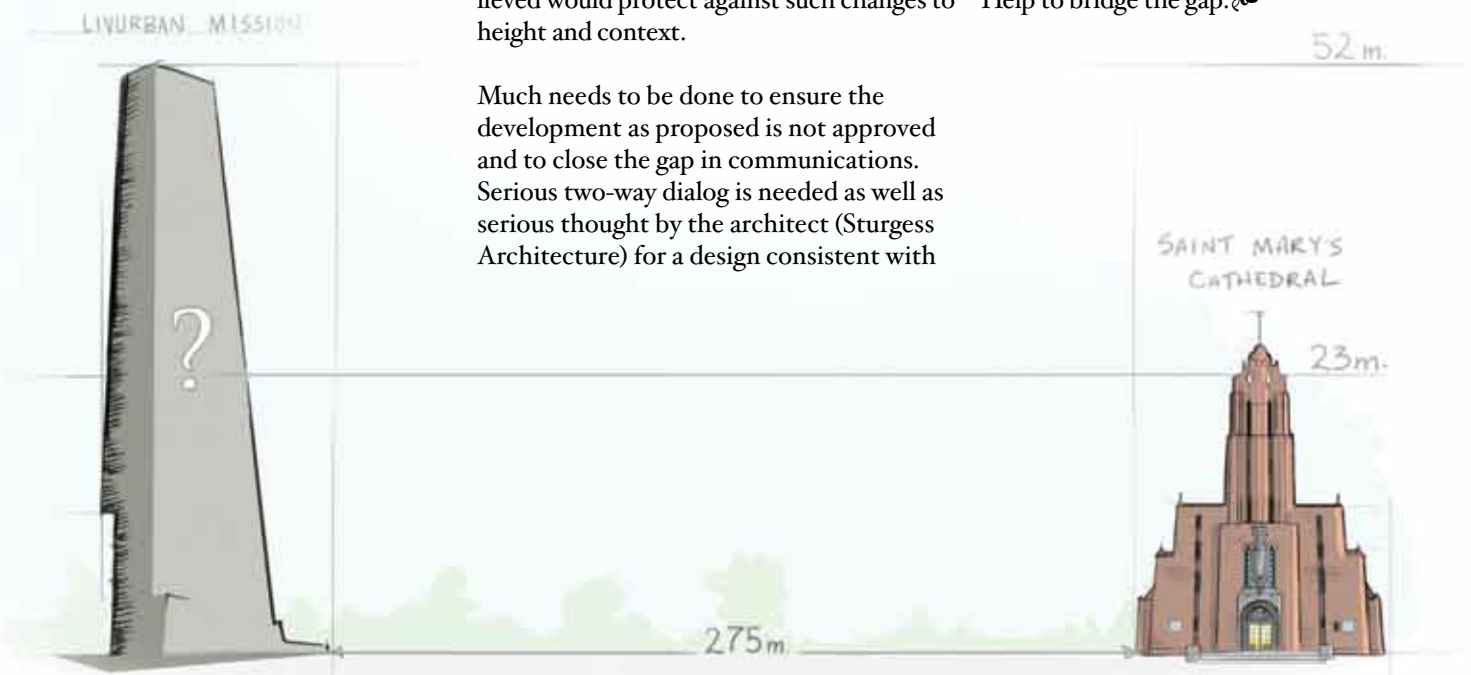


ILLUSTRATION BY SAM WILLIAMS

URBAN LANDSCAPE





1: THESE STILTWALKERS PROVIDED EVENING ENTERTAINMENT FOR A SMALL CROWD OF SURPRISED PASSERSBY IN LINDSAY PARK. **2:** A COLOURFUL MISSION BALCONY. **3:** A BEAUTIFUL FRONT GARDEN ALONG 22 AVENUE NEAR CLIFF BUNGALOW SCHOOL. **4:** A SIDEWALK SALE APPEARS ON 4 STREET. **5:** MIRA GROWS INGREDIENTS FOR A GARDEN FRESH SALAD IN HER COMMUNITY GARDEN ALLOTMENT PLOT. **6:** CANADA DAY BRINGS REPLACEMENT STREET TREES TO 4 STREET. **7:** DISPLAYING CANADA DAY SPIRIT. **8:** JUST ONE CONTAINER MAKES A WELCOME IMPACT NEAR THE FRONT DOOR. **9:** A CHEERFUL, SMALL GARDEN NEAR THE FRONT DOOR ALONG 24 AVENUE IN MISSION. **10:** KRICKET'S FLOWERS ALSO ENHANCE PUBLIC ART ALONG 4 STREET. **11:** ENJOYING LUNCH ON THE COLOURFUL PATIO AT OUZO. **12:** A POPULAR PHOTO OP LOCATION. **13:** WILDWOOD'S WONDERFUL CONTAINERS SUIT THE SUNNY LOCATION AND THE BACKGROUND ARCHITECTURE. **14:** ONE OF A FEW CONTAINERS ALONG THE RAJDOOT FRONTAGE. **15:** BELLA ENJOYS THE TINY FRONT GARDEN WHICH ALSO MAKES ROOM FOR A WATER BARREL (IN THE CORNER BEHIND THE CHAIRS) **16:** A LOVELY CONTAINER ENHANCES ONE OF THE INDIVIDUAL APARTMENT FRONT ENTRIES AT THE LAURENCE ALONG 5 STREET. **17:** SIGNS OF SPRING ALONG 2 STREET. **18:** A BACKYARD FLOWER BORDER IN CLIFF BUNGALOW. **19:** PREPARING TO RAFT THE ELBOW ON A HOT SUMMER'S DAY. **20:** THE NEW PLAYGROUND IN WILLIAM ABERHART PARK. **21:** LINDEN ENJOYS CONTAINER GARDENING ON HIS COMFORTABLE PATIO IN MISSION. **22:** GEORGINA AWAITS THE ONSET OF THE COMMUNITY GARDEN SEASON. **23:** LYNN WITH HER BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS ON THE FRONT PORCH ALONG 20 AVE. **24:** A LOVELY OLD LILAC COMPLEMENTS AN HISTORIC HOME IN MISSION. **25:** THESE FAUX FLEURS EASILY WITHSTAND LATE FROST. ALL PHOTOGRAPHY BY NANCY TICE

COMMITTEE IS HAVING AN IMPACT

BY SEBASTIAN GAULT

THE CLIFF BUNGALOW-MISSION Community Association Crime and Safety Committee was formed in December 2008 as a proactive response to a perceived increase in neighbourhood crime. After half a year of engagement, there is a sense that the Committee is having an impact. But there is still much progress to be made.

The focus of our past efforts has been working with other inner city communities to build lines of communication regarding common safety concerns. Our biggest success so far was our ability to find a common voice to speak to Telus about the misuse of public payphones on our streets. After thoroughly assessing the situation, Telus has decommissioned several payphones and affixed warning decals to others. And this not only in Mission, but also in Inglewood and Ramsay.

The Committee is set at identifying creative ways to make the community more secure and livable. For years, police have considered the woods at Cliff Hill, an escarpment bordering the Cliff Bungalow and Mount Royal communities, as a danger hotspot. Probably in connection with the next wave of the city's "Clean to the Core" anti-crime initiative, the number of cycle-borne police and bylaw officer patrols has been dramatically increased. Anecdotal remarks from local residents, including Cliff Bungalow-Mission Community Association President Rick Williams, point to a significant drop in illegal traffic in the area.

Suggestions are being sought for ways to more permanently increase the area's security without compromising its natural integrity. Amongst these is the proposal of extending Triangle Park (24th Avenue SW) beyond Cliff Street into the currently restricted area. This would open a line of sight into a certain section of the hill while providing a new local recreational amenity.

The Committee relies on the ongoing input of likeminded citizens who want to help preserve our community as a family-safe haven against the realities of Calgary's big city pressures. We are always looking for more involvement from other community residents. If interested, please contact us at safety.cbmca@gmail.com ☛

IL GIARDINO HAS AUTHENTIC ITALIAN FEEL

BY JIM BOWMAN

IN SPITE OF its location in a bland 1960s office building, Il Giardino (at 344 – 17 Avenue SW) has the feel of a warm, friendly, genuine Italian ristorante. What really makes it authentically Italian, for me, is the folk art mural of the peasant family sitting down to dinner, with their ferocious-looking cat, their docile-looking dog, and the grandpa who insists on smoking his pipe by the fireplace.

The room is a large one, but it is divided into several intimate spaces, with gas fireplaces and a warm, brick-red décor. Background music, in the last few times I've been there, has always been the same mix that features Italian instrumental folk music, operatic arias, and Italian-American crooners such as Frank Sinatra. The wait staff is friendly, professional, and efficient.

In my last few visits I started with the Caesar salad, and have never been disappointed. The Romaine lettuce is crisper and fresher than any I've been able to find in a store. The dressing is creamy, with freshly-grated Parmesan cheese. The croutons seem to be freshly made in-house. They're light and crispy like cheese puffs, not hard and crunchy like corn nuts.

Risotto is a northern Italian delicacy which is complicated to make, involving olive oil or butter, a particular variety of white short-grain rice from northeastern Italy, hard Parmesan-type cheese, white wine, and very careful timing. Very few restaurants in Calgary even attempt it. Try it as an accompaniment to the seafood dishes! It has a remarkably creamy yet nutty flavor and mouth-feel.

In a recent visit, I had the poached salmon, which came in a simple but delicious lemon-and-butter sauce, with mixed vegetables, and the above-mentioned risotto. The salmon seemed to me to be farmed Atlantic salmon, previously-frozen, and delivered by Bridge Brand. But there's not much alternative in Calgary if a restaurant wants to present seafood of consistent quality, year-round.

Pasta dishes are usually more economical than the meat or seafood entrées, and are often more interesting. Recently I tried the Manicotti con Ricotta (large tubular pasta stuffed with ricotta cheese and spinach) and it was heavenly!

A good dinner at Il Giardino, including one glass of wine or a beer, a salad or soup, and a coffee, can be had for about \$35-\$45. Not bad, these days. If nothing else, it's worth it just to see the mural of the family sitting down to dinner! ☛

LOCAL HERO WINS CITY OF CALGARY AWARD

BY EILISH HIEBERT AND BILL LONGSTAFF

THE HARDEST WORKING working community volunteer in Cliff Bungalow-Mission, and possibly in the city, recently received the City of Calgary's Community Advocate Award for 2009. We refer of course to our very own Bob Lang, vice-president of our community association.

The Calgary Awards celebrate and recognize outstanding achievements and contributions by Calgarians. The Community Advocate Award recognizes an individual Calgarian who has made a significant volunteer contribution to the community. To say Bob is a deserving winner is a major understatement. Few others have contributed as generously to community in this city.

He has served on the board of directors of the community association for 26 years and was president for 15 years. He arranged for use of the Cliff Bungalow School as the community centre, started the newsletter, initiated the amalgamation of Mission into the community association, was instrumental in convincing The City of Calgary to revise the Cliff Bungalow and Mission Area Redevelopment Plans, led the community and surrounding communities through the consultative process that resulted in the conversion of our one-way streets to two-way, initiated the historic street signs project, and was a founder of the Lilac Festival.

And Bob's contributions range well beyond the boundaries of Cliff Bungalow-Mission. He helped found groups such as Peer Mediation and Skills Training, Community Mediation Calgary Society, Safer Calgary, Inner City Coalition of Calgary Society, and the Inner City Community Life



Council, and has been actively involved in City planning processes. Bob chaired the Friends of Memorial Park Library, the group that successfully fought the closure of what is essentially our community's neighbourhood library. He is currently president of the Federation of Calgary Communities.

Nor, even though he is retired, has Bob neglected his professional life. He chairs the Reserves Committee of the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers and is secretary-treasurer of the Canadian Gas Potential Committee.

All of this is but a sample of the rich contribution Bob has made to Calgary. His value to our community is not only in the effort he puts into making Cliff Bungalow-Mission a better place, not only in the exceptional commitment he puts into the tasks he undertakes, not only in his detailed knowledge of municipal and provincial processes and how they affect our community, but also in the wisdom he has drawn from his vast experience and which he freely offers to us. We are very lucky indeed to have him. ☛

MORE 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 suppertime. 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 now 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 403-229-2762 (corrected from last newsletter) or rclang@aol.com. **Please do it now!** ☛



TAX RELIEF FOR LOW INCOME FAMILIES

REPORT FROM ALDERMAN JOHN MAR

PROPERTY TAXES ARE the way citizens pay for the services they receive from the City. The City of Calgary wants to ensure increases in property taxes do not make home ownership a burden for low-income Calgarians.

The City offers the Property Tax Assistance Program which provides a grant equal to a homeowner's increase in property taxes in the current tax year.

"The program provides assistance to residential property taxpayers experiencing financial hardship resulting from a property tax increase," says Susan Fernando, property tax mitigation worker.

But it's not just about property tax assistance, says Fernando.

"We also help people to access other services and resources in the community. For more information about the Property Tax Assistance Program, please call 3-1-1 or visit our website at www.calgary.ca/propertytax."

In order to qualify for the program, you must:

- Have had an increase to your property taxes in 2009
- Own no other property
- Meet the household income cut-offs (\$22,171/single person; \$27,601/couple; \$33,933/three persons; \$41,198/ 4 persons).
- Provide proof of income (2008 Notice of Assessment from Revenue Canada is required).

If the increase in property taxes will be a burden and you believe you qualify, contact The City of Calgary by calling 3-1-1 to apply. You can also visit our website at www.calgary.ca/propertytax to complete an application online. If you know anyone who may be in this situation, please let them know about the program.

Applications to the program will be accepted until 1 December 2009. ☎



NOW IT'S BACK TO WORK

REPORT FROM DAVE TAYLOR, M.L.A.

I'M GOING TO miss the summer. I had a ball hanging out in the constituency and seeing as many of you as I did. I want to thank the organizers of the Lilac and Marda Gras Festivals for their fantastic shows. Bringing everything together in the middle of a recession says even more about your commitment to your communities.

And now it's back to work, and boy is there work to be done.

I'm pleased to return to the Legislature as Alberta's new Energy Critic. I'll be responsible for holding Ed Stelmach accountable for the province's energy policy, and also for crafting my own vision of what our energy policy should be.

I think we should aim for balance in our energy industry. We need a healthy energy sector for Alberta's economy, but we also need a healthy environment for Alberta's people. We need a royalty policy that doesn't result in a "Made in Alberta" recession, but we need to avoid unchecked development that damages the environment. We can achieve this balance, and it will be my objective as Energy Critic to see that we do.

Many of you are concerned about our healthcare system. Despite denials from the Premier and Health Minister, it continues to be stressed by a hiring freeze. Nurses and doctors trained in Alberta with our tax dollars are being told to go where they're welcome – B.C. and Saskatchewan.

The quality of care in our hospitals is not a place to "save money." I understand this, and I'll be working to make Ed Stelmach understand it, too.

As always, I'm interested in what you have to say. If you have a concern, an idea, or just want to vent, drop me or my staff a line and we'll do our best to help. ☎

Distress Centre Calgary is currently recruiting Crisis Line Volunteers!

Receive extensive training, achieve personal growth, gain valuable communication skills and obtain direct work experience! Visit our website at www.distresscentre.com or call 403-266-1634 for more information. The next training group begins in September 2009.



SESSION RECAP...

REPORT FROM LEE RICHARDSON, M.P.

PARLIAMENTARIANS RECENTLY CONCLUDED a very productive session. Despite the limitations inherent in a minority Parliament, our Government successfully implemented an ambitious governing agenda, responding to the real priorities of Canadians.

- We introduced Canada's Economic Action Plan — the largest economic recovery program in Canadian history — as a response to the global recession. Our plan lowers taxes, helps create jobs through construction projects, guarantees stability in the financial system and provides help to the Canadians who have been hardest hit by the global recession.
- We took unprecedented and extraordinary action to cut through political and bureaucratic red tape to implement our plan — and today 80% of this year's commitments under the Economic Action Plan are already being implemented.
- We successfully passed 26 pieces of legislation that produced stronger environmental protections; new free trade agreements with our partners in Europe and South America; and more control over our Arctic sovereignty.

Constituents routinely inform me that they are pleased with the pragmatic, focused leadership of Prime Minister Harper, and I am pleased to work with my colleagues to deliver the results Calgarians want. ☛

Community Calendar

Cliff Bungalow – Mission Community Association Annual General Meeting
Wednesday, November 25th
2201 Cliff Street SW

Promenade Grand Opening
Sunday, September 20th, 2-4 p.m.

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

COMMUNITY GARDEN

CLIFF BUNGALOW–MISSION'S GARDEN OF MYSTERY

BY HELEN JULL

WHERE IN CALGARY can you see Egyptian Walking Onions; Orach, the spinach of Tudor times; roses, dill, bachelor buttons, daisies, potatoes, carrots and many other horticultural delights? There are even mystery plants that we can't identify!

Have a look in the 44 plots of the CBMCA Community Garden, in Aberhart Park, 227 – 24th Ave. SW, just south of the former Holy Cross Hospital. Visitors are welcome. The variety of contents and arrangements of the plots is amazing to see. Some march in careful rows, some are country-garden chaos, but all give enjoyment to the gardeners and to those who pass by.

Our Community Garden came about because of the inspiration and hard work of Robert Giles and those he encouraged to join him. A little used asphalt basketball court was transformed into a thing of beauty which provides pleasure and produce for members as well as building acquaintances among them. Experienced gardeners are pleased to share with beginners - their seeds, cuttings and experience in growing things in Calgary's challenging climate. We all know that passing on plants is a form of immortality.

Our current Garden Angel (aka Garden Coordinator) is Georgina Jameson who donates endless hours of her time and energy, organizes work parties to tend the public area of the Garden, keeps the list of active gardeners, provides reference material in the shed and encourages the rest of us to "weed before things seed!"

There is presently a waiting list of over twenty folks who would like to garden. This has encouraged discussions about the possibility of starting another Community Garden. If you would be interested in helping to start this project, please contact the CBMCA office at 403-245-6001 or www.calgaryarea.com/sw/cliffbung.

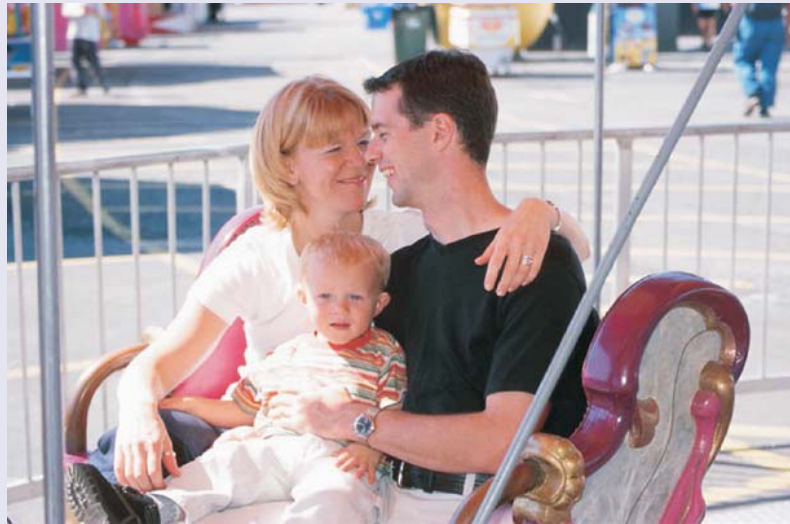
To join in, you must purchase a membership in the Cliff Bungalow-Mission Community Association for \$5. Garden plot rental is a further \$40 (seniors \$30) per year.

I started gardening when I was five. I have friends who started when they were sixty-five. Whatever age or stage you are at, you can meet neighbours, smell the roses and swap stories at your Community Garden. ☛



THE EGYPTIAN WALKING ONION PRODUCES LITTLE ONIONS AT THE TOP OF THE STEM, WHERE MOST PLANTS PRODUCE FLOWERS. AS IT MATURES AND WEIGHS MORE, THE STEM FALLS OVER TO THE GROUND, AND IT REPLANTS ITSELF.

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