

15th Annual Lilac Festival

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THE MISSION STATEMENT



The Newsletter of the Cliff Bungalow-Mission Community Association • May/June 2004

Lilac Festival Parallels Community Life-cycle

By Eilish Hiebert, CBMCA President

Lilac Festival is coming up May 30th – this year with extended hours – 10:00 am till 7:00 pm. It's great fun and a time for visitors to our community to also appreciate the great historic, vibrant area we live in. The history of the Lilac Festival echoes fairly closely the life cycle of our Cliff Bungalow-Mission Community Centre and Association, and that of many other Calgary inner-city communities.

16 years ago, the Lilac Festival started as a community initiative, greatly aided by Bob Lang, with a kind of community party, blowing up balloons, and setting up a few tables, with permission to close off part of 4th Street for a kids' parade. Those were the days when, all over Calgary, the social heart of the community was the community centre.

Now Lilac Festival attendance reaches 100,000. Now your Community Centre fulfills a different mandate, although we still have fun monthly social events, some of which may suit your taste, and you can walk to them! Coming up:

- May 30th – please drop by our Lilac Festival community table where we'll have information and would love to chat with you about your community ideas, before you have a drink at our Community Beer Garden by the Burger Inn off 18th Ave.
- June 12th – (13th if it rains 12th!) 'Springsong in the Park' will delight you, with a choir accompanying the birds in our beautiful, blooming community garden at Aberhart Park 24th Avenue and 1st Street at 4:00 pm.
- September 24th, 25th, 26th – 'Doors Open,' Friday reception, Saturday/Sunday city-wide tour of buildings in historic areas of our city.
- October 30th – Hallowe'en Party for both children and adults
- November – Fine Art Auction event

- December 5th – Christmas Craft sale

Over the years, Lilac Festival steadily increased in size, area and city-wide attendance – involving businesses, sidewalk sales, great food tasting opportunities, advertising, entertainment, promotions, large parade, sound stages bands. While this was taking place, the function of community centres was also changing. Some of the changes were people seeking entertainment outside their communities – live theatre, movies, concerts, and travel. Sports involvement was widening to include teams all over the city in larger rinks and stadiums; huge bingo and casino establishments replaced local games and card nights... Most communities in the city were affected thus; inner city communities were affected in a unique way.

Traffic through such communities as ours became heavier, with transit routes to downtown work places. Population trends moved towards smaller families, choices to remain single, and DINKS (double income, no kids). This, combined with the desire to escape the daily commute, and escape yard work(!), gave rise to 'condo living' and densifying the downtown core. This, in turn, gave way to supporting businesses and restaurants, mak-

ing our Cliff Bungalow-Mission Community a very desirable place to develop for these changing trends.

Now the Lilac Festival attracts crowds up to the 100,000 mark; the 79% renters in our community invite all their friends to Lilac parties in front or back yards of our community; we have huge beer gardens; hundreds of merchants. It's a grand day for everyone.

Our Community function has changed to become an advocate to preserve the character of our neighbourhood. Development is inevitable; we try to make sure it is appropriate for our beautiful, diverse, historic, well-placed community.

Have a wonderful time at Lilac Festival. Come out and support your community's efforts to keep your community a fantastic place! See you there!

P.S. In the city-wide river cleanup you can work side-by-side with your community neighbours Sunday May 16th. Meet at the Talisman Centre at 10:00 am. Look for Rob Jobst (you can't miss him; tall, red hair) CBMCA's organizer. Just phone Talisman 233-8393, Ext. 1235, to register, so they can gauge numbers for cleanup routes and free lunch! See you there!



Green Thumb Alert

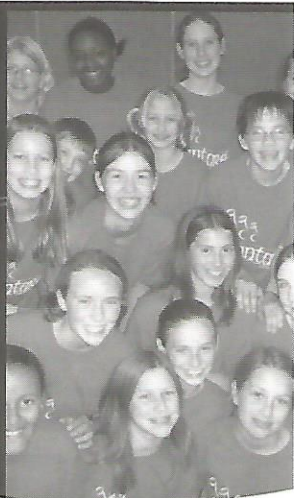
Neighbourhood Garden Competition

Garden gnomes will tour the Cliff Bungalow Mission Community in August 2004 to select winners in the following six categories. Three prizes for front gardens, 1st and 2nd prizes for container/hanging basket presentations, and 1st prize for the best apartment/condo balcony display.

For prizes secured so far, our community would like to thank Harry at 4th Street Liquor and Robyn & Sarah at The Craft (don't miss their present exhibition—till May 20th)

Come Sing With Us!

*aaa
ccc*
cantaré
Children's Choir



Cantaré Children's Choir is now accepting new members in its national award winning choir for the 2004-2005 season!

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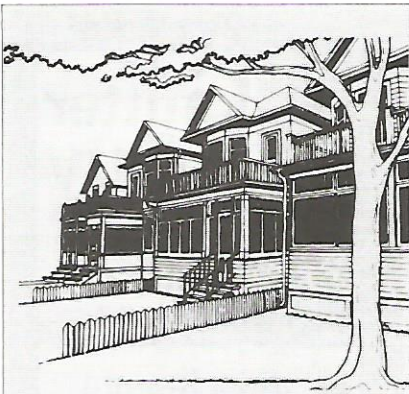
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THE MISSION STATEMENT

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Cliff Bungalow-Mission Community
Association exists to provide
leadership, support and resources to
protect and enhance the unique
and diverse natural, architectural,
historic and social environment
of the community.

The CBMCA mailing address is
462, 1919B - 4th Street SW
Calgary, Alberta T2S 1W4
www.cliffbungalowmission.ca

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:

Saturday we were cleaning out our Community Centre of years of accumulated material. To recruit some extra workers to supplement our volunteer force, we went down to a place commonly known as 'Cash Corner' – a spot where available casual labourers will work at almost any odd job for cash payment. Some are quite skilled. They stand on the corner of 12th Avenue and Centre Street, near the old Co-op.

We picked up three workers, Steve, Lex and John, negotiated \$10 an hour each, and drove them to the site and back again to Cash Corner. They were polite, willing workers and helped our volunteers do the job quickly and efficiently – and it was loads of work.

At our Community, we would like to encourage Calgarians to use this resource. Cash Corner is a great source of immediate casual labour, seven days a week.

-E. Hiebert, President CBMCA

Lilac Festival Community Beer Garden Volunteer Opportunities

Come and join us at the Community's Beer Garden at this year's Lilac Festival. There are lots of volunteer opportunities including:

- Set up in the morning prior to the opening of the beer garden. We make sure we look our best for our patrons. See all the behind the scenes activities.
- Greeters at the door. Walmart is nothing compared to this. Help welcome our customers and ensure that no liquor gets out onto the street.
- Beer ticket sellers. You are quick with figures and can kibitz with the customers as they pick up tickets for our thirst quenching products.
- Table ambiance providers. Get your exercise while helping to make our customers experience at our event great. Your smile is all the experience you need here.
- Beer pourers. Accuracy is a must here. Our bottom line depends on you. Please note there are a very limited number of these positions available. Experience is an asset.
- After Event Take Down. While this is an unsung activity, this is an extremely important component of our operation. With more hands, this can be a very quick activity.

Please note that there are three time periods during the event. Each are three hours plus some overlap time before and after that allows for getting started, turning over to the

The tradition
continues ...

Cliff Bungalow - Mission
Community

Beer Garden

at the

15th Annual

Lilac Festival

Sunday, May 30th
11 am to 8 pm

18th Avenue and 4th Street SW
(west side at same location as last year)

Thirst Quenching Brews
by Big Rock

Mouth Watering Food
by Burger Inn

And, back by
Popular Demand

bluessmyth

(formerly Moon)

Drop in for the Fun!

Better yet, why not Volunteer?
Call Bob at 229-2762
rvlang@aol.com

next shift and closing down. The set up is during the morning prior to the event and the take down is right after close.

To volunteer, call Bob at 229-2762. You can also e-mail Bob at rvlang@aol.com. Why not contact him right now!



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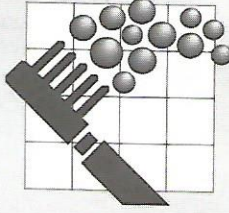
Dr. John Okoye

General Dentistry at the Holy Cross Centre

228-6020

Suite 104 2210 Second St. SW
(Across from Pharmacy)
WWW.MIRALTA.CA

Daytime and Evening Appointments Available



The Urbane Gardener

By Robert Giles

March did its out-like-a-lamb routine immediately followed by April Fool-ishness with a sprinkling of snow. When last seen, Bart Batty was heavily into greenhouse renovation in preparation to receive his lethal spicy collection of peppers and tomatoes of varieties galore.

Your faithful correspondent has been toiling in his basement locker-cum-growing patch raising flowers to enhance the perimeter beds of our community garden, trusting that suitable weather will see them burgeoning in time for our free Springsong in the Park concert.

It is supposed that all you loyal readers

have circled the date on your calendars and, cushions in hand, will be joining your friends and neighbours at this happy event! After a visit to our popstand perhaps you'll find a plant or two to lug home for your balcony or garden.

By the way, after a year's hiatus, we intend to re-enter the Calgary Horticultural competition and hope to resume our winning streak.

Rumour has it that the bleak area at the rear of the Holy Cross complex is scheduled to be landscaped this year. Won't that be a blessing! What is more disquieting is the footprint of elements of Mission which leaves precious little space for horticultural development. Let's hope we're unduly pessimistic.



Art show in hall April 4

ART! at the Crossroads?

It's actually almost right at a crossroads, pretty close to us in Cliff Bungalow-Mission: a real 'happenin' place, a treat for the senses with its delicious fresh produce; and a great way to spend a weekend morning!

Just take 25th Avenue straight across Macleod Trail, keep going right to the end, turn left, and take a right at the crossroads across the tracks. There it is! Don't forget to go on upstairs and view neighbourhood artist Dave Grudniski's great cowboy paintings, in between viewing culinary delights!

River and Park Clean-up

The river banks and Lindsay Park have accumulated another year of litter. Please take an hour on Sunday, May 16th to help clean it up.

We'll meet at 10:30 am at the Talisman Centre. Juice, coffee and donuts to the early birds.

Springsong in the Park

Join us June 12th at 4:00 pm at William Aberhart Park (24th Avenue SW between 1st Street and 2nd Street) for a free concert featuring the esteemed St. Mary's Vocal-Ease choir.

Expect great music, ice cold pop, a chance to be awestruck by our community garden and much more. Rain date June 13th.

June 12th
4:00 pm
William Aberhart Park

Spring Crafters at April Tea

If you missed them, see them at December 5th Christmas Craft Fair! Rea's Jewellery; Graham's stone work; fresh farm produce home delivery.



CALGARY'S BEST FREE FESTIVAL!

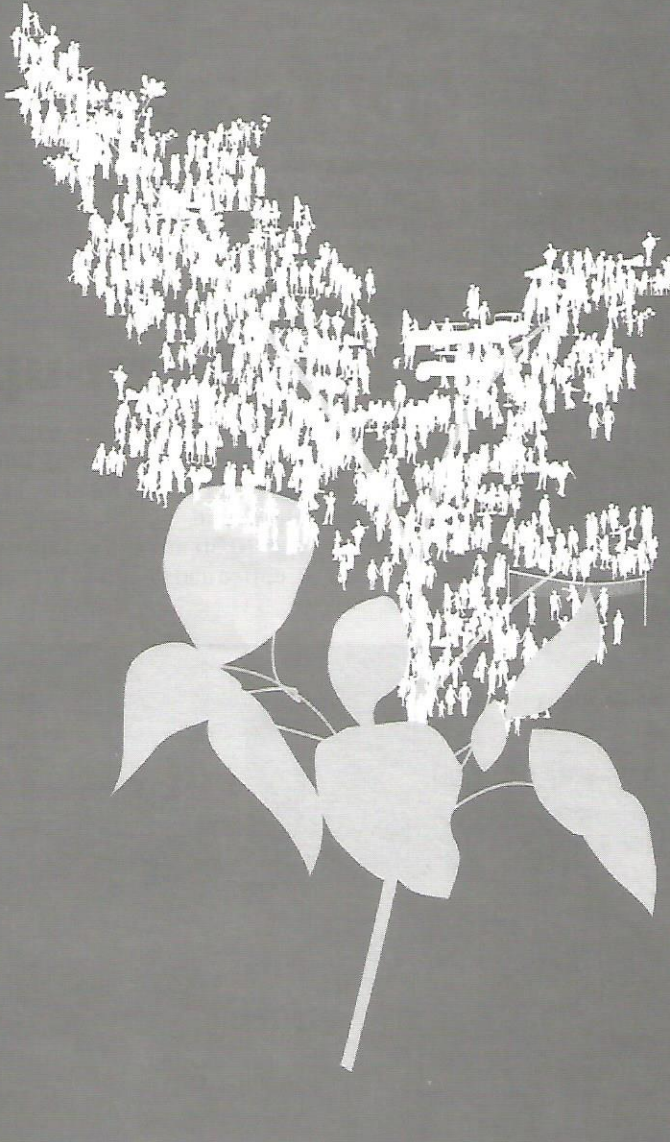
Lilac Festival

Sunday May 30 / 04

10AM - 7PM | Rain or Shine | 4th St SW from 12th Ave - Elbow Drive

JUST SOME OF THE FESTIVAL FEATURES:

TARIQ | REMBETIKA HIPSTERS | CARIFEST | LINDA MACKENZIE | MANJAR |
WANDERING VOLHYNANS | MISGUIDED ACROBAT | PILGRIM | FIELD DAY |
MY SISTER CRYSTAL | A CAPELLA FELLAS | JEFFERY SEZ | PHATTOE | HEX |
CLIVE | CALGARY FIDDLERS | PARKERS LIME | MOCKING SHADOWS | BRADY
LORENTZON | BUSHWAH BEAT | LOS MORENOS | AND MORE!



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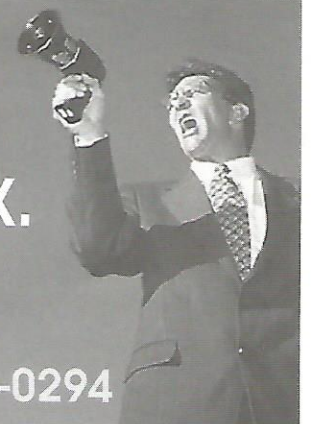


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Memorial Park Library

Memorial Park Library is located at 1221 2nd Street SW, www.calgarypubliclibrary.com. Hours of operation are Monday, Friday and Saturday, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm; Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, noon to 8:00 pm and Sundays (mid-September to mid-May) noon to 5:00 pm.

Technology Programs

- Introduction to Internet – Saturday, May 8th, 10:00 to 11:30 am.
- Internet: Beyond the Basics – Saturday, May 22nd 10:00 - 11:30 am.
- Introduction to Microsoft Word – Saturday, June 5th, 10:00 to 11:30 am.

Author Reading

Margaret Michaud – the Calgary-based author will read from and discuss her new book “Beautiful Smiles, Gentle Spirits: Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder A Misunderstood Problem.”

Refreshments, book sales and signing will follow the presentation. Co-hosted by Detselig Publishing. Thursday, May 13th, 7:00 to 8:30 pm.

Play it Again, Sam, Children’s Programs
Saturdays 1:30 to 3:30 pm.

MOSAIC Festival Family Storytime

Programs run at 2:00 or 3:00 pm. Ages 3 and up. No registration required.

- May 8th – Seabiscuit. Stories, songs and fingerplays
- June 12th – Winged Migration

Register for all programs in person or call 221-2006. A valid Calgary Public Library card in your name is required to attend all programs.

Watch for the Calgary Public Library display at the Lilac Festival on Sunday, May 30th and the Mosaic Community Cultural Festival on Saturday, June 5th.

All Calgary Public Library branches will be closed Victoria Day Monday, May 24th and every Sunday during the summer, beginning May 23rd.

Mosaic 2004

A Cultural Festival in Central Memorial Park. Join us on Saturday, June 5th from noon to 5:00 pm for a world of dance, song and food, displays and door prizes. Featuring the Rembetika Hipsters.

Mission Area Redevelopment Plan

By Bob Lang

Open Houses

Thursday, June 19th

4:00 to 9:00 pm

Presentations at 5:00 and 7:00 pm

Saturday, June 21st

10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Presentations at

11:00 am, 1:00 and 3:00 pm

Cliff Bungalow-Mission

Community Centre

2201 Cliff Street SW

(1 blk west 5th Street at

22nd Avenue SW)

In the last Mission Statement, we provided an overview of what an Area Redevelopment Plan (ARP) is and noted that the Mission Area Redevelopment Plan is currently under review. A draft revised Mission ARP is currently being prepared

by the City. After internal review within the City, this draft will be available for public comments. As part of the process of obtaining public comments, there will be two open houses held at our community centre. There will be displays to explain this document and there will be questionnaires for your feedback. People from the City will be there to answer your questions and there also will be community people there to learn what you think. The City will do overview presentations each day.

In October, the final draft will go to the Calgary Planning Commission for approval. It then will go to a public hearing of City Council, possibly as early as December 8th. This new ARP could have a major impact on the future of this community including whether or not the ARP will encourage the retention of our older buildings. We hope you will take the time to attend one of these open houses.

Social and Programs

From the CBMCA Social and Programs Team

Hello and happy springtime fellow Cliff Bungalow-Mission residents! What have you been up to lately?

And what would you like to be doing with that little bit of free time you’ve got? The mandate of the Cliff Bungalow-Mission Social Committee is to bring programs and special events to the community, and we’re really excited about all that’s coming up in the months ahead! We hope you’ll join us for one or more of our events this year, whether as a volunteer or as a participant!

And remember, May 30th is the Lilac Festival... If you’re interested in working as a volunteer for the CBMCA that day, please call 245-6001 and we’ll get back to you ASAP. If you have an idea for something different we might try as a

C o m m u n i t y Association, don’t hesitate to find out what it’ll take to bring to fruition – we’re here for you and want to have the best Community too! Drop by our Community Table at 18th Ave. near our Beer Garden beside the Burger Inn.

Ideas generated so far this year include a book club, classes for educational and entertainment purposes, games nights like Scrabble, Darts or Card Tournaments, popcorn and movie nights, summer sports in the park such as pick-up soccer or baseball on Sunday afternoons, and Coffee Chat Socials. As well, we identified an interest for more regularly run programs and activities for seniors. There are so many possibilities for what we can do and all it takes are people to run the programs!

Thank you to 4th Street Dollar Store Hassan Bhari and to Petro-Canada for door prizes for our recent fun Spring Dance, and to the residents who danced the evening away with us! Thanks to the crafters and Girl Guide Pathfinders for their enthusiastic baking for our April 17th craft sale (see page 5).



Here is beautiful use made of a historic building. Model Milk dairies is now the successful ‘Victoria’s Restaurant; at 2nd Street & 17th Avenue SW.

Deja Vows

Imagine slipping back into your dazzling wedding outfit again. Spend a romantic evening reliving those magical moments of your wedding day. Where else can you dance the night away, bid on exciting silent auction items and get new wedding photos taken – all for charity? These are only some of the great experiences The Kidney Foundation will have at **Deja Vows 2004 Wear Your Wedding Best Event** – a Kidney Foundation Fundraiser.

The event is the first of its kind in Calgary aimed at raising funds for the Kidney Foundation – a national, volunteer organization dedicated to improving the health and quality of life of people living with kidney disease.

Held at The Hyatt Regency Calgary on June 5th, the attire for the evening is “wedding formal”. Everyone is encouraged to wear his or her wedding best! For the ladies: her wedding dress, bridesmaid dress, a cocktail dress or mother-of-the-bride dress. The gents are asked to wear a suit or tuxedo.

Hosted by Leslie Horton from the Global News, the 2004 edition of this event will include cocktails, dinner, a professional photographer on location updating wedding photos, a silent auction, dancing and entertainment provided by Calgary’s own Dino Martinis!

The evening will kick off with cocktails at 6:00 pm, followed by dinner at 7:00 pm. In addition to the excitement generated during silent auction bidding, guests will have the opportunity to update their wedding photos courtesy of the professionals at D’Angelo Studio.

Enjoy live entertainment from Calgary’s own Dino Martinis! This band features three different bands in one. Combining the best of swing and jazz from the 40’s and 50’s, then transforming into Magic 8 Ball for a set of disco and Abba tunes, then closing the night as Jacuzzi Romance for a set of 80’s retro. The Dino Martinis are sure to please every listener.

The ticket price for the event is \$125, or \$900 for a table of eight. For more information about this event please call The Kidney Foundation at 255-6108.

For more information please contact Gina Race, Communications Assistant, The Kidney Foundation of Canada at 255-6108 ext. 35 or email gina.race@kidneyfoundation.ab.ca.

Health Forum

Kidney Foundation Health Forum

Saturday, May 29th
Coast Plaza Hotel
1316 – 33 Street NE

Information displays

11:00 am to 2:00 pm Free Testing

Healthy Lifestyle and Chronic Disease
10:00 to 11:00 am English Language
11:00 am to 12:00 pm Chinese Language

Take personal responsibility for your health by understanding your risks, and the opportunities available to protect yourself from chronic disease! Have your blood pressure and blood glucose tested. Know your results!

For more information call 255-6108 ext. 0

Recognizing a Stroke

Sometimes symptoms of a stroke are difficult to identify. Unfortunately, the lack of awareness spells disaster. The stroke victim may suffer brain damage when people nearby fail to recognize the symptoms of a stroke.

Now doctors say any bystander can recognize a stroke asking three simple questions: ask the individual to smile; ask him or her to raise both arms; and ask the person to speak a simple sentence.

If he or she has trouble with any of these tasks, call 9-1-1 immediately and describe the symptoms to the dispatcher.

After discovering that a group of non medical volunteers could identify facial weakness, arm weakness and speech problems, researchers urged the general public to learn the three questions. They presented their conclusions at the American Stroke Association’s annual meeting last February. Widespread use of this test could result in prompt diagnosis and treatment of the stroke and prevent brain damage.



Drop in to Krickets to welcome Susan and Dan to the neighbourhood.

Cliff Bungalow-Mission Community Association Membership Form



Name: _____

Address: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone (home): _____ Phone (work): _____

Beginning December 2003,

Membership type: (memberships are valid for 1 year from November AGM to November AGM, no matter when they are purchased.)

Adult (\$5)

Family or couple - 2 adults at same address (\$10)

Names of Children (if any): _____

(No charge for children if parent is a member)

Please send cheque, made payable to “CMCA” and form to
1919B - 4th St. SW, Suite 462, Calgary AB T2S 1W4 or drop off at Mailboxes Etc. (1919B - 4th St. SW, Suite 462)

Development-stressed Mission is truly “holy” ground



**Rob Jobst,
Development
Director**

By Rob Jobst

I'm reading a book called *Toward the Livable City*, comprised of a series of essays that deal with “the attractions and distractions of city life”. The chapter I have just finished, titled “Divorcing the City,” describes how a city-loving Bostonian is driven to the suburbs by the cacophonous upheaval of constant redevelopment. As I read her account of inescapable jackhammer noise, ground-churning vibrations, and the incessant beeping of backing-up vehicles, I felt the anxiety rising in me. We can all relate to what the author is suffering through and ultimately chooses to escape from.

There are few of us in this community who have not been affected to some degree by the relentless waves of development that have washed over the area in recent years. The water-torture pounding of the pilings being driven into the quaking ground. The dust and the noise and the inconvenience. The detours and the road closures. The loss of treasured old buildings. Life in Cliff Bungalow-Mission is not for the faint of heart or those more disposed to suburban tranquility.

Inner city life has its many benefits, but there's no denying that a pedestrian in Mission is likely to encounter more craters than the Mars Rover. Whether the changes that are taking place are a net gain or a loss to the community is certainly an issue that will garner many different opinions around a table in the Western Coffee Shop or The Planet these days. All I can say with certainty is that the Development Committee is working hard to preserve what they believe the neighbourhood values, and that they do their best to make new developments a positive addition to Cliff Bungalow Mission's urban fabric.

And on that note, I'll give you some brief updates on current developments. Think of it as the calm in the eye of the storm...

17th Avenue and 1st Street SE (Macleod Trail)

Residential/Retail proposal

This is Landstar Developments' 13-storey tower project that is slated for the former site of a Petro-Canada service station. More advanced plans have been seen and they are very encouraging. The committee's

previous comments and suggestions were acted upon and the Landstar project dropped much of its earlier curtain-wall glass aesthetic in favour of a more classy brick and stone look. More comments were submitted regarding detailing on the three-floor retail and parking podium and (I know that I promised this last time!) I hope to have a rendering in the next newsletter.

It is worth noting that Landstar is taking a risk on this location, as it is in a very un-residential part of the community, adjacent to The Soldier Shop, Bert and Jack's Auto Body and what seems like dozens of glass businesses. This project will be a big first step toward extending the life of 17th Avenue beyond 2nd Street to the Stampede Grounds.

509 – 513 21st Avenue SW

23-unit Condo proposal

This the latest of many projects proposed for this site over the course of 13 years and, after being oh-so-close to moving ahead, has bogged down on various fronts. It's like the gods just don't want redevelopment on this site! There have been problems with the front yard setback and resultant problems with the parking, loading zone, landscaping and other bylaw issues. Savvy residents of this strip have learned never to bail too quickly at news of a new development.

328 21st Avenue SW

38-unit Condo proposal

This project – named “The Standard” – has changed substantially since the last newsletter. Originally pitched as a 4-storey, 35-unit proposal, it became a 7-storey, 43-unit building, and is now a 5-storey, 38-unit project

The Development Committee has made many comments on the various incarnations of this project, ranging from the bylaw issues of setbacks and parking to the more subjective matter of aesthetics. Having finally met with all the basic bylaw requirements, this project has received a development permit



The Standard

and could begin construction soon beside the vacant pit of Ingersoll Development's “Colonnade” project. This is sure to be a “love it” or “hate it” kind of building. Residents will love it if they favour an eclectic smattering of architectural styles, or hate it if they believe in new developments relating to the existing streetscape.

The Mission Draft ARP states: “The design of new buildings should respect adjacent development in terms of massing, scale, proportion, facade articulation, materials and colour to create a unified landscape.” As such, the committee felt that the stark white stucco and aluminum panels would create a building without precedent in the community and disruptive to the streetscape. It was suggested that a darker colour palette would better assimilate with the surrounding properties, but the developer is under no obligation to make suggested changes.

Other stuff...

- There's lots of action happening with the Holy Cross Centre. The Development Committee is currently dealing with aspects of a parking plan as well as a much-delayed landscaping plan. There are also plans for

Development cont. on page 11



These houses on 23rd Avenue and 4th Street are affectionately known as ‘The Painted Ladies.’ They are up for sale/development soon. We are hoping the character of the neighbourhood will be maintained by the buyer/developer!

MISSION

WINE & LIQUOR MERCHANTS



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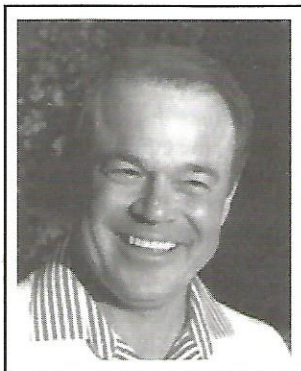
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ABOUT US

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Here is a portrait of development in our area: on 18th Ave. a 'Soho' condo development growing beside a 1908 house., flanked on the other side by 30 or so year old highrises...

converting the 1950 Wing to an assisted living facility and a proposal to provide affordable housing in a portion of the Grey Nuns Building. As well, renovations continue to the Family Medicine Wing to provide offices for the Tom Baker Cancer Centre. Proposals are also made regularly

Falcons Football

We are the Falcons. We are a brand new bantam football team for players in your area ages 13-15 that starts play this fall. We are looking for players. Whether you have played football before or have always wanted to, now is your chance! If you are motivated, coachable and have a great attitude, we want to talk to you.

For further information, please call Al at 225-3766 or email abnickel@hotmail.com.

Welcome 'AVENTA'

'AVENTA' Grand Opening, Friday, May 14th, at 2:00 pm. Now operating in the old Scottish Nursing Home site, on 25th Avenue, just west of 5th Street near Safeway, for 32 years, AVENTA Addiction Treatment for Women has been Canada's only agency offering alcohol, drug, gambling and nicotine addiction treatment specifically for women.

If you wish to welcome Aventa to our neighbourhood at this May 14th Open House, please phone Diane McPherson at 541-4646 to confirm your attendance.

Got any Old Computers?

Got any old computers or parts, cell phones, VCRs/CD/DVD players... to recycle?

Bring them Saturday May 8th between 9:00 am and 3:00 pm to Mount Royal College Parking Lot E1 or to the Anderson LRT Park 'n Ride.

Development cont. from 9

for commercial usages (such as a driving school!) that we oppose because they are not an "ancillary use" to the medical facility.

- A gentleman called me a while ago with a question about the huge project springing out of the ground between 25th and 26th Avenues, near the bridge to Erleton. To refresh everyone's memory, this is a two-tower project by the same developers who own the adjoining Mansions apartment block. These red brick buildings will rise 16 and 14 storeys and will be entirely rental units – a positive situation at a time when so many rentals are disappearing to condo conversion. There were concerns with overshadowing and traffic, but with that southerly edge of the community zoned RM-7 by City Hall, projects of this size have become the norm between 25th and 26th.

- There could be some good news about the former Academy Medical Building soon, which a high-tech firm by the name of InterVisual was good enough to completely retrofit before going belly-up. With the exception of Renfrew Furs on the ground floor, the entire building has sat empty for the past couple of years. Now it seems that there are a number of options being floated for the building, including the possibility it could be converted for residential usage. The Development Committee will let residents know when these rumours take on some substance.

- Something taking shape on 24th Avenue, just west of 5th Street, is more typical of an area like West Hillhurst than our own community. An infill house is nearing completion on a narrow lot between an

existing house and the Mount Royal Daycare. The owner is to be commended for constructing an attractive new structure that will seamlessly mesh with the established streetscape.

- I'm sure that most of you have noticed the remarkably speedy ascent of the Elements of Mission condo project at 2nd Street and 21st Avenue. After many months constructing the underground parkade, the four-storey building went up in what seemed to be little more than a week. The community fought this project but lost the appeal.

- Down the street construction has begun on the Our Lady of Lourdes School, which the Catholic School Board is erecting over the rubble corpse of the wrongly demolished St. Mary's School. If one were to struggle for a silver lining to this dark grey cloud, I suppose it would be that the new building will be a distinct improvement upon the existing gravel parking lot.

- And finally, the on-again, off-again soap opera that has been the Colonnade retail/condo project at the corner of 4th Street and 21st Avenue. In recent months, crews have moved around some dirt... and then disappeared. Then they drove some pilings... and disappeared. Then they dug part of the underground parkade... and now the site has been idle for about a month (I'm writing this in early April). Hopefully, we won't be left with Mission's version of an open-pit mine. Or perhaps a rainy summer might transform Mission into a trendy lake community! Only time will tell.

News from Madeleine King

By Madeleine King, Alderman

Why does the City want more money from other orders of government? Over the past decade cities have picked up the cost of more and more services. And that means an increasing reliance on property taxes and an inability to build the sort of city many of us want to see.

Some examples are a ring road around Calgary including a road on the west side (Reserve land, Weaselhead or wherever) and a public transit system serving the needs of a city of a million. Policing has fallen more and more on the City's shoulders, and with a lack of funding, many areas particularly in the inner city, don't have enough officers on the street. Without police presence we see a growing incidence of drinking, drug dealing and other street crime, which spoil our quality of life and economic opportunities. Homelessness is a growing problem with numbers rising

dramatically; again, the City is doing what it can, but property taxes were never meant to deal with major social and infrastructure issues like this.

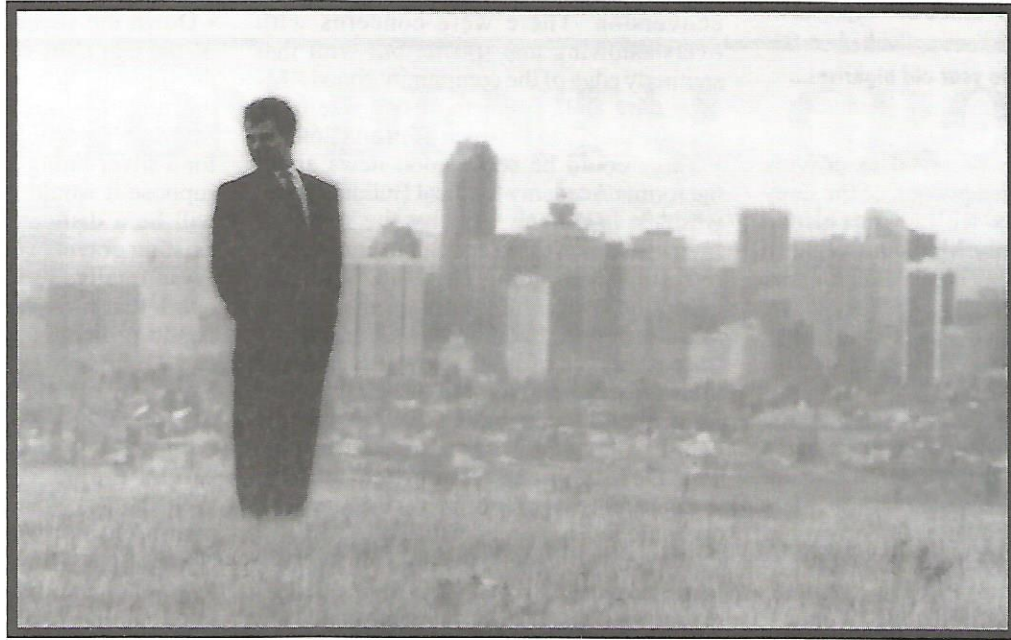
On water quality we need a regional plan and adequate resources to ensure our watershed remains safe.

And what of Emergency Medical Services being transferred to the Health Region? It's excellent news since it should operate as an extension of healthcare. But what if the standard offered under the new scheme is "basic life support" as contrasted with the "advanced life support" Calgarians are accustomed to; will there be an expectation that our property taxes pay for that improved standard? Income taxes and other taxes available only to the other orders of government are much fairer ways to pay for these things.

These are just some of questions about how the expectations of Calgarians can be met, and why the City wants more money from the other orders of government.

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