

# THE MISSION STATEMENT



The Newsletter of the Cliff Bungalow-Mission Community Association

January/February 2009

## **Robert Giles Recognized at the AGM**

Robert Giles was recognized at the Annual General Meeting on November 26th for his special contributions to the community over many years of service. In his honour, a sundial will be installed in the community garden. He was given a standing ovation by everyone who attended the AGM. The following is a summary of how he got involved with the community association and what he has done for the community.

Robert moved to the community around 1994. He attended our AGM that fall. After the meeting was over, he came up and introduced himself and said he would be interested in working on a special project, that of organizing a flower contest in the community. That was the start of a long relationship that Robert has had with the community association and the community as a whole.

We invited Robert to a subsequent Board meeting and he was appointed to the new position of Director of Parks and Environment. At that time, Robert was a writer on gardening for Canadian Gardening and the Globe and Mail and was a commentator on gardening on CBC. If we had looked for someone like Robert to do the types of things he ultimately did, we could not have found a better candidate. We were so lucky to have him attend this one AGM and then get involved in community activities on an ongoing basis.

About this time, the community was approached by a landscape architect who worked for the City of Calgary. The City had allocated some funds to help improve inner city parks and our community was one of the communities that was to benefit from this funding. Robert worked with the City through this process and we were able to get improvements made in our parks including the park adjacent to the Community Centre.

One park was particularly intriguing to Robert, that of a small park on the south side of the 200 block of 24th Avenue SW, across from the Holy Cross Hospital. It had an abandoned basketball court in it. This basketball court was no longer used for that purpose because some hospital employees used to play during the night, the Holy Cross being a 24 hour operation and that of course did sit well with resident trying to sleep. So, there it was sitting abandoned and Robert had an idea that it could be used for as community garden. There were very few community gardens in the City of Calgary at that time. He was able to convince the City that this idea had merit and he worked with them



**Sundial presentation (held by Paul Varga)**

on all the details to get this built. There was also a lot of work involved in engaging the community in ensuring there was support for the concept and to start the process of plot rentals.

The new community garden had not taken up all of the old basketball court area so there might be a play area for children but it became obvious that the area was not being use by community children. There was another area of the park that was much more suitable for children's activities and to this day is well used. So Robert decided this provided an excellent opportunity to expand the garden to accommodate the additional community residents who wanted a garden plot. He contacted the developer of a townhouse project that was being built just east of the community garden and she connected him to her builder. The builder worked with Robert on developing the plans and coming up with a cost estimate. He was able to get funding for the expansion through

*Cont. page 9*

# Blue Cart is coming to the Southwest

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2009-0002

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## THE MISSION STATEMENT

Winter 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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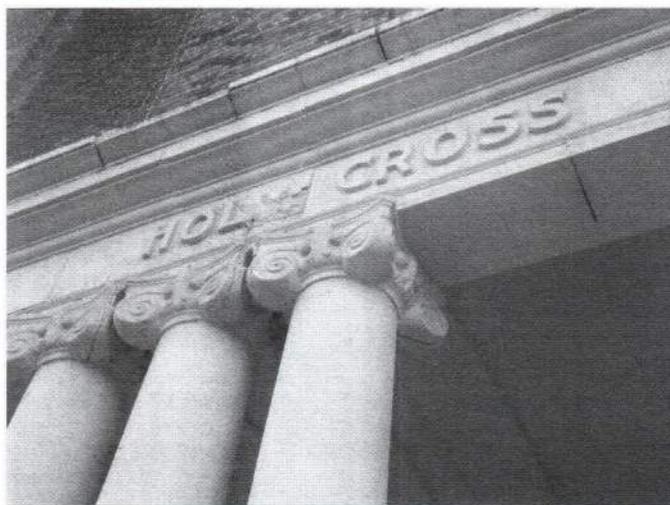
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## LETTERS

### The Holy Cost Hospital Dreams

In the last Mission Statement, Peter Atkinson presents some interesting ideas for the redevelopment of the Holy Cross site: park space and public access to the riverfront, low-income housing, small scale independent retail outlets, and the restoration and maintenance of historic architecture, all done in an environmentally friendly manner in consultation with the community. Unfortunately, based on past experience, many of us question whether the current owners will ever have the same vision, or the will to even look at new ideas.



The owners of the Holy Cross, Enterprise Universal, aka the Huang family, and the architect, Poon McKenzie want us to believe that by building high rises that quadruple the approved Floor Area Ratio limits, and therefore the on-site population, not to mention the traffic on 2nd Street, their new development will benefit the community. In exchange, they promise to save one brick wall of the original hospital.

Enterprise Universal bought a property valued at \$20 million, that had just undergone \$30 million in renovations paid for by the taxpayers of Alberta, for \$4.76 million. (30 years earlier, the government bought the Holy Cross for \$5 million). And then the Huangs turned around and rented it back to the same government. They've since received close to \$10 million in government grants earmarked for low income housing, and yet never followed through on most of their plans. In an unprecedented move, the CHR moved 42 seniors from the Holy Cross to another home, and Enterprise Universal paid some of the money back.

Peter Huang is quoted in the Calgary Herald in

September of last year as saying "we could blow it all up, knock it all down, put condos in and make a fortune, but that's not what are interests are." Yet now, a year later, that is what he proposes to do, with the help of Poon McKenzie. The same Poon McKenzie who acted as a frontman for a secret investor, who promised us an exciting new condo project on 22nd Avenue. The project is now cancelled, but not before we lost seven original heritage homes that served as low income housing rental units. In return, we have an empty lot that will probably be an eyesore until the next real estate boom.

As the developers and architects plan grandiose schemes and make promises, the original, historic Holy Cross hospital crumbles. The decorative facade is falling apart. Most of the leaded glass windows are bricked over. The interior woodwork and other features are compromised. In my opinion, we have already provided Enterprise Universal with enough subsidies, grants, and concessions. As a sign of good faith to the community, let's see them restore the original Holy Cross right now. They have already milked enough from the public teat to pay for it. Then we can consider the value to the community of their other proposals and promises.

— Patrick Maiani



## Tell us what you think

If you have comments of interest to community members, we want to hear from you! Write to: Editor, Cliff Bungalow-Mission Community Association, 462, 1919B - 4th Street SW, Calgary, AB T2S 1W4, or e-mail us at editor.cbmca@hotmail.com. Letters may be edited for length and clarity. Feature articles must be no longer than 600 words.

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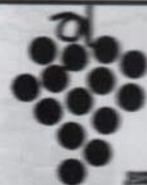
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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

# Enhancing the Quality of Life for CBMCA Residents

By Rick Williams

It has been a very interesting year, to say the least. In 2008 we had a boom and bust cycle occur within a five month span, going from a huge volume of high impact development permits in June to downed tools, idle sites, and vacant lots in November. The year ahead should prove to be just as exciting. We will be faced with a new set of challenges, such as how to manage community improvements and enhance the quality of life of our residents in an economic downturn.

The first Holy Cross information session was held in November with a follow-up planned for January 17th. There are significant Mission ARP issues to be addressed and I urge you to participate in this process. Thanks to some great work by Peter Atkinson and the committee we are getting our point across to the city and to the developers, on this and other projects. We will be going to a co-directorship of the Development committee for the first time next year, with Natasha Pashak and Peter sharing the load.

Crime and security has been on the minds of many in our neighbourhood over the past year and has reached a level where our residents have seen the need for a grass roots initiative to combat it. As a result we have a new crime and safety e-committee, with Sebastian Gault heading it up. Its first meeting will have been held in December and others will follow in the coming weeks.

Projects in all committees are running at full speed. Our newsletter under our new director, Twyla Yacyshyn, is scheduled to return to publication every two months. Heritage has four or five projects on the go and is earning serious respect city and province wide for its initiatives. The Riverpath project is due to begin construction in the Spring, a minor delay on the city's part preventing



construction beginning this fall, and the Community garden has had some great improvements done, and will be its usual gorgeous self come next spring.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our board members, committee members and volunteers for their tremendous efforts over the past year. Without the help of these committed souls our community would not be the great place to live that it is. I hope we can count on your continued support this year.

Finally, a request for volunteers. I urge you to take some time from your busy schedules and participate in something of special interest or concern to you; you can give as much



or as little time as suits you. Community activism requires involvement; managing change and getting results takes manpower. If you truly want to have an impact at the community and city level, and have some fun at the same time, get involved. We can and are changing things for the better in our neighbourhoods. Please join us.

## Great Turnout at the AGM

There was a great turnout at the Annual General Meeting held on November 26th. It may have been because of the information booths. It may have been because of the reception prior to the AGM. It also might have been because we were celebrating the 30th anniversary of the community association and the 20th anniversary of the community centre. In any event, it was an evening filled with good cheer, getting to know your neighbours and learning a bit more about the community.

We celebrated our anniversaries by reviewing of our history through pictures over the years. Eilish and Murray Hiebert showed a video of the community made in 2005, the centennial year of Alberta. Leslie Evans, Executive Director of the Federation of Calgary Communities made a presentation recognizing our 30th anniversary as a community association. We also recognized the special contributions of Robert Giles (see article elsewhere in this newsletter).

There were a number of people in attendance who have been part of our history:

- Former community association Presidents Hank Petranik, Bob Lang, and Eilish Hiebert.
- Former Vice President Lynne Thornton
- Former Treasurer Georgia Hoffman

- Former Aldermen Madeleine King and Jon Lord
- Former Chair of the 4th Street BRZ Barb Beard
- Life time member Mary Lyon

Of course, there were our current key people:

- President Rick Williams
- MLA Dave Taylor
- Alderman John Mar

The following people were elected to the Board:

- President – Rick Williams
- Vice President – Bob Lang
- Secretary – Bil Heatherington
- Treasurer – Jana Lait
- Newsletter Editor – Twyla Yacyshyn
- Development Co-Directors – Peter Atkinson and Natasha Pashak
- Heritage Director – Marilyn Williams
- Environment Director – Paul Varga
- Crime and Safety e-Committee Leader – Sebastian Gault

Following the formal meeting, people stayed around to talk more about our community and what we as a community might do in the future. All in all, it was a great evening. Thanks to everyone who attended and helped make this a special evening.

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### CENSUS TAKERS REQUIRED



The City of Calgary is taking applications for census takers. The Civic Census will start April 1 and continue to April 21, 2009. To complete an application to be a census taker, you must be:

- 18 years of age or over.
- Available to attend a daytime training session in March.
- Able to walk in seasonable weather conditions.

Applications will be accepted in person at The City of Calgary, Election & Information Services office at 1103 55th Ave. N.E., between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday, Jan. 19, up to and including Friday, Feb. 6, 2009. Please note, in addition to filling out an application form, there is also a short skills assessment test that will take approximately 30 minutes to complete. Resumes are not accepted. Applicants who have not received a notification of appointment in the mail by March 9, 2009, can assume all positions have been filled. For more information, call 403-476-4100.

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## Natasha Pashak Joins Development Committee

By Peter Atkinson

I am pleased to announce that we've added some much needed to help direct the Planning and Development Committee. Natasha Pashak and I have joined forces to run the development committee portfolio through a co-directorship. Natasha is a long time Cliff Bungalow Resident with deep roots in the neighbourhood extending well up her family tree. Recently returning to the community after pursuing studies outside of Calgary, Natasha brings an intimate knowledge of the community and a desire to help shape its future.

The Holy Cross redevelopment is still the primary issue on the table these days. The first information session was held on November 22nd and was attended by approximately 110 people despite being advertised with very short notice by the City of Calgary. The Information Session presented the initial Concept Plan proposed by Poon MacKenzie to the residents of the community and the City of Calgary collected feedback from those at the event for the purpose of incorporating them into their comments to the architect. The Community Association also gave our comments about the Concept Plan to the City in early December. The comments provided by the Development Committee are reflected in the

following points:

- The site needs to have a mandate of sustainable development in line with the ARP's Environmental Considerations Section 13.0.
- The landscape and open area should focus around the connection to the river and to the Community Garden with sunlight access protected, supported by retail where appropriate.
- The office uses should be mixed into the residential development and not as a stand alone building.
- The mix of uses should include a portion of the development devoted to affordable housing and affordable office spaces in line with the ARP's Affordable Housing Section 6.2.
- The Traffic Impact Assessment should be used to evaluate the proposed density allowed by the ARP. If the TIA does not support the density proposed, the max limits should be lowered to accommodate appropriate development.
- Impacts on pedestrian routes on and off site should be considered and capacity increased where needed.
- Linkages to the Erlton LRT station should be planned to help reduce traffic in the community.
- The maximum height should be reviewed

with consideration that the surrounding neighbourhood is limited to five storeys.

- The McNabb Wing should be retained and that a density bonus is a good incentive for encouraging its heritage designation.

The City of Calgary will review our comments, along with those gathered at the Information Session, to create their own comments to submit to Poon MacKenzie. Poon Mackenzie will then rework their Concept Plan with all the comments received, and present a Revised Concept Plan on January 17th. The location of the next public session has not been set, so keep your eye open for signs in the community. We will try to have advertisements out early, but we have to wait for the City to set the location.

If you would like to get more information about the Holy Cross, there are a couple of websites to visit: [www.calgary.ca/holycross](http://www.calgary.ca/holycross) – City of Calgary Page [missionholycross.blogspot.com](http://missionholycross.blogspot.com) – Community Association Blog. Or feel free to call or email either Natasha or me.

We are always looking to hear from the community residents on these issues, so please drop us a line. Hope to see you on the 17th.

## Fourth Generation Resident Gets Involved

By Natasha Pashaks

Please allow me to take this opportunity to introduce myself. At the last general meeting of the Cliff Bungalow-Mission Community Association, I was named co-director of the Development Committee. My name is Natasha Pashak and I have owned a home in Cliff Bungalow for ten years. As a fourth generation resident of the neighbourhood, I feel deeply rooted in the community. My great-grandparents were the first owners of a home (that is still standing) on 21st Avenue. They raised eight children in that home and owned a grocery store on 4th street where the Bank of Montreal is currently located. My grandparents lived on 24th Avenue – what is now the southern parking lot of the Holy Cross Hospital site, before moving to 21st Avenue. My father lives on 2nd street, just steps away from the home he grew up in.

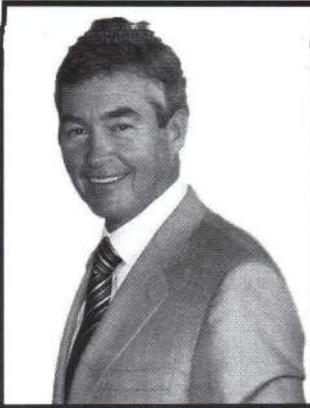
Family roots are not, however, the reason I wanted to live here. I chose Cliff Bungalow-Mission because of the vibrancy that comes from the diversity of the people who live here.

I wanted to live where I didn't have to own a car, where I could walk to work, to buy groceries, to socialize at the many wonderful cafes, bars, and restaurants.

In the last ten years, the neighbourhood has changed, in some ways for better and in some ways for worse. I feel the loss of certain businesses, but am excited about newly-opened and about to open businesses that promise to provide the continuity of character that Cliff Bungalow-Mission has long been known for. As the owner of an historic home, I sympathize with other homeowners who face the prohibitively high costs of restoration, particularly for homes that have reached their life expectancy, but I am saddened by the loss of original homes, particularly where the new developments are out of place. Thoughtless redevelopment projects worry me for their seeming lack of regard for the character of the community – its social character, environmental character, and historic character. I am deeply concerned about the quantity and quality of affordable housing available to long-time residents, particularly

in the face of so many condo conversions and redevelopment projects. At the same time, I know that increased population density is a good thing and I respect the rights of property owners to do what they wish with their land.

I joined the Community Association because I want to be involved, to add my voice to the dialogue about the neighbourhood's future. The redevelopment of the Holy Cross Hospital Site has enormous potential to make a positive impact on the neighbourhood and, in turn, the city. I aim to ensure that, regardless of the inevitable changes we face, the basic characteristics that make Cliff Bungalow-Mission a wonderful place to live are maintained. As someone who chose to make my home in Cliff Bungalow-Mission for the people who live here, I feel that every effort must be made to make this neighbourhood a welcome home to all. I look forward to meeting more of you, fellow neighbours, so that I can advocate on our behalf through the role of co-director of the Development Committee.



**Lee Richardson**

Member of Parliament Calgary Centre

## The Federal Budget...

At the time of this writing, Finance Minister Jim Flaherty is conducting broad national pre-budget consultations. With a federal budget set to be delivered on Tuesday, January 27 – six weeks earlier than usual – the government is carefully listening to Canadians to prepare a budget that responds to the global financial crisis and considers our nations diverse needs. We will bring forward a smart stimulus plan with targeted spending and tax cuts to make a real difference for Canadians including accelerated infrastructure investments, improved competitiveness and strengthened

financial markets.

These are difficult times, but we are prepared. Our government is acting and Canada will come out of this difficult economic period stronger than ever before.

### A Busy Agenda...

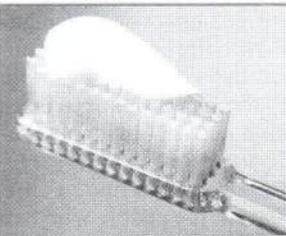
In addition to working together to deal with the global economic crisis, Parliamentarians face a busy legislative calendar focused on the environment, democratic reform, a stronger Canadian presence on the world stage and ensuring safe streets and communities.

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## Robert Giles Recognized cont.

Alberta Lotteries, Calgary Foundation and the Bank of Montreal. This took a lot of positioning effort as community gardens were not really on the radars of funders at this time. So he was breaking new ground for the other communities that followed. Part of the deal with the Bank of Montreal was that there would be three plots dedicated to providing produce to the Mustard Seed.

The community garden has been a tremendous success and is a real asset to the community. Our community has a lot of apartment dwellers, both rental and condominium, and this project has allowed them to be able to grow their own produce and flowers. From a community association perspective the building of the community garden was basically painless. No funds were provided by the community association, other than installing a sign. The first phase was built with City funding through the parks upgrades and the extension was funded by outside funders. Robert led the charge in getting it done and without him we would not have this tremendous asset today.

Getting the community garden built was not all he has done. When he first got involved, he was still working as a garden consultant. One of his clients had a greenhouse that they decided to get rid of. Well Robert put on his community hat and got it delivered to the community garden site. It was used for early seeding of special plants and in propagating others. The garden was enhanced well beyond the basic community garden and there are many flowers and plants surround the garden making it in Robert's vernacular "a veritable garden of Eden". The garden won prizes for three years from the Calgary Horticulture Society. Our community garden team then decided not to enter to allow other community gardens to win.

Robert led the community garden team for ten years. In six of those ten years, there was also a garden competition in the rest of the community. There were several categories including front curb appeal, balcony gardens and container gardens. He would go to various community businesses and some beyond (e.g. garden related companies) and obtained prizes for the contestants. We have many pictures of that time (many were published in our newsletter) and it really made the community a better place in which to live.



The Calgary Horticulture Society wrote a book on community gardens and Robert was one of the key contributors for this book. He wrote an article in *The Globe and Mail* in June 1996. It was called "Nostalgie de la boue" ("longing for the mud"). It highlighted our community garden and how it got it started.

Robert says that there are three key requirements for a community garden: (1) a piece of land, (2) long term use of the land and (3) access to water. He says he knew there was water on site, so that made this community garden possible within the money available to build it.

His contributions do not end there. He was able to get the park where the community garden is located, named after William Aberhart, former Premier of Alberta and a former resident of our community. By this time, he had really warmed up to the challenge of trying to get the City to name this park. Not only was he successful, he got the City to put in the sign at no cost to the community.

He does have a couple disappointments, however. One was not being able to find a location in the community for community composting. Another was a potential garden for the Dr. Rouleau house that was moved to behind the Alberta Ballet building. He proposed a period garden be built

## Alumnae Association of the Holy Cross

During its 105 years of service to citizens of Calgary, the Holy Cross Hospital became a cherished landmark in the Mission district and a well-respected addition to the city's health care facilities. The Alumnae Association of the Holy Cross School of Nursing feels it is time to honour the four brave Grey Nuns who came from Montreal in 1891 to establish the hospital, as well as the 2409 nurses who proudly graduated from its school of nursing.

The committee have met with the owners of the Holy Cross Centre and have received their support and permission to place a bronze sculpture in an area near the wing built in 1929. We have found a talented artist to create this artwork. The sculpture will consist of 1 1/2 size Grey Nun in her habit and a Nurse in traditional graduation uniform.

Because the 1929 wing of the hospital is considered a historical site and the entranceway, porte-cochere, and the pillars must be preserved, the sculpture



Robert Giles

at that site but sadly the building has not yet been refurbished and nothing has progressed on this special garden. These are obviously things that were beyond his control and the latter still is a possibility.

Due to failing health Robert stepped down from the Community Association Board and the community garden team but his heart is still here. He now lives in another community, not because he wants to but due to his apartment building here being the site of a large condominium project. His mind and heart still resides in this community and he still is "longing for the mud". Robert has truly been a "community builder" in every sense of the term and our community is proud to recognize his contributions through the installation of a sundial in the community garden.

would be installed in the very visible area northwest side of the present hospital complex. Providing an ideal focal point in the historic Mission district, which was and remains, such an important part of life in Calgary.

It is our hope that the placement of this Commemorative will be a memorable tribute to all the "Nuns and Nightingales" of the Holy Cross hospital and nurses throughout the Province.

Now, the Holy Cross nurses who have helped Calgarians for so many years, need help themselves. We ask for your financial support to create this lasting and meaningful tribute to the nursing profession in Calgary.

For more information call Barbara Nesselbeck at (403) 252-7356, email [nessbeck@telusplanet.net](mailto:nessbeck@telusplanet.net) or Rita Williamson at (403) 255-7261, email [ritawilliamson@shaw.ca](mailto:ritawilliamson@shaw.ca).

# Wrapping Up the 2008 Gardening Season

By Nancy Tice

Happy New Year! January is a grand time of the year to remind ourselves just how well Cliff Bungalow-Mission gardeners succeeded in enhancing the summertime neighbourhood. Better late than never, the accompanying photographs prove there must have been some sunshine available amid last year's cool, rainy summer. They also offer inspiration for daydreaming about what might be accomplished with better weather ahead (we hope) during summer 2009. The photographs represent a fraction of the gardening energy that made walking

through the neighbourhood a pleasure during the late summer and long mild autumn when we finally got the weather we should have had in June and July.

I was impressed that so many gardeners persevered regardless of late spring snow, and hail, and chilly temperatures combined with crushing downpours of heavy rain. Kudos, cheers, hugs and pats on the back to all of you for creating a special sense of place.

I wonder how many of us made New Year

resolutions regarding the environment. Those of you who are too busy to read the newspaper are missing Emma Gilchrist's award-winning feature, "The Green Guide," which appears in the Calgary Herald every Friday. Her writing is crystal clear, timely, well-researched, and packed with locally-based resource information which makes it easier to take positive action on any one (or several) of an astonishingly wide, fascinating array of environmental issues. Happily, the past year's columns can be viewed online at [www.calgaryherald.com/greenguide](http://www.calgaryherald.com/greenguide).





1. Peony buds frame a lovely porch in Cliff Bungalow, 2. Fragrant lilacs bloom near Sacred Heart Convent, 3. Henry Ka's sweet peas, 4. A flower lover's balcony along 23rd Avenue SW, 5. Stephen Barley grew a pumpkin in the Peking Dragon garden, 6. The tallest sunflower I saw in Cliff Bungalow – Mission, 7. Planting potatoes in the community garden, 8. Autumn colour in Lindsay Park, 9. A balcony tomato crop, 10. Colourful community garden plots, 11. Artful flowers inside and outside Masters Gallery Ltd., 12. The art of pruning along 19th Avenue SW, 13. A touch of colour improves a Cliff Bungalow lanescape, 14. Nasturtiums gone wild in Mission, 15. It didn't rain every day, 16. The flower car occasionally appears in Mission.

# Working Hard to Stop Crime

By John Mar, Alderman Ward 8

Fighting Crime has been on the top of my agenda since coming to office, I have worked hard to ensure The Calgary Police Commission has all the resources it needs to fight crime effectively, and here is how it's paying off;

- Within the next three year budget cycle (2009-2011) the Calgary Police Service has received approval for 315 growth positions. A majority of these resources will be designated to front line and uniform positions.
- In 2009, District 1 alone (which includes the Centre City area) we will see an increase of 60 beat officers, from 17 to a total of 77 officers. This increase will provide an enhanced capacity to cover more areas or hot spots within the Centre City, as well as allowing for coverage seven days a week. The goal is to put more officers on the street, resulting in a more sustained and continued police presence.
- The City and Calgary Police Service are also committed to developing and enhancing strategic partnerships to address the broad issues of addictions, mental health and homelessness.

In March 2008, Council approved a pilot project to test public video surveillance cameras, also known as Closed Circuit Television (CCTV). CCTV is not new to Calgary. Security cameras are in use by public and private organizations across the city. What is new, is that The City of Calgary will be testing the effectiveness of CCTV in downtown crime hot spots. The expected primary benefit of CCTV will be as an investigative tool. Surveillance cameras can help police collect evidence for their investigations. If the cameras also prove to help deter offenses and help Calgarians feel safer, then these will be added benefits.

If I can be of assistance on any civic matter

# Do You Have Your Community Membership Yet?

Cliff Bungalow-Mission Community Association

## Membership Form



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Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

- Single (\$5)       Full (residents only)      Memberships are valid until the  
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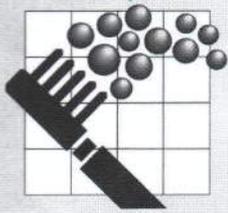
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## Community Resolutions for the Next 100 Years

By Marilyn Williams,  
Heritage Committee Director

While attending various heritage conferences over the past year, I have encountered a number of wonderful ideas for maintaining a sustainable and historic community, and thought it would be fun to share them with you.

The greenest building is the one already built. I will re-use existing heritage properties.

- Saving the embodied energy in one small heritage building (like the former With the Times location) equals the recycling of 1,344,000 aluminum cans.
- Renovating a property supports the local economy since it hires more local people than construction. The renovation industry surpassed the construction industry on a GDP basis. We just don't hear about them as an industry because they are not organized into lobby groups. Further, craftsmen with preservation skills are becoming a growth industry.
- Re-use leads to affordability. It is always cheaper to reuse an older building than to build new, unless the very lowest quality construction takes place.

If possible I will telecommute from home in a neighbourhood I love. Telecommuting can have a triple benefit of reducing transportation, allowing folks to live in neighbourhoods they value, and since older neighbourhoods are the generally people's favourites, these neighbourhoods can thrive.

## Western Canada High School Modernization Project Underway

On November 20th the CBE welcomed all the stakeholders of the \$35 million "Western Canada High School Modernization Project" to bring them up to date regarding the project status. The spirit was celebratory with banners, T-shirts, goodies and the presence of around 50 participants. The project team gave high calibre presentations of their respective responsibilities: Stantec for strategic management of the project, Cohos Evamy for Architecture and Engineering and Lorne Simpson, for the Heritage restoration. Other key players were introduced - Clark Builders for implementation, and assistant principal Jayme Macdonald who will be the school's prime.

Much has occurred in the 12 months since

I will not confuse increased residential density with increased square footage. Doing this encourages the proliferation of non-sustainable "starter castles" and removes smaller, more affordable cottage homes from the market. Small properties are ideal for single person households (in the US, one third of households are single person households) and boomer couples aging in place.

I will never use LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification as an argument to demolish useful buildings and lose embodied energy, although it's a wonderful practise for greenfield (new site) construction. Did you know that for the evolving LEED Neighbourhood Design standard, preserving a historic building counts only one point out of more than 100 possible points?)

I will not use recycled materials from buildings demolished for that purpose (I didn't kill the elephant. I just bought the ivory), nor will I accept recycling bits of an old building as an excuse to tear it down. (One project took pride in saving the bricks from a building to grind up and pave pathways in their "conservation garden".)

I will think twice about replacing things I can repair - for example, it takes 126 times more energy to make a new window vs. repairing the old window.

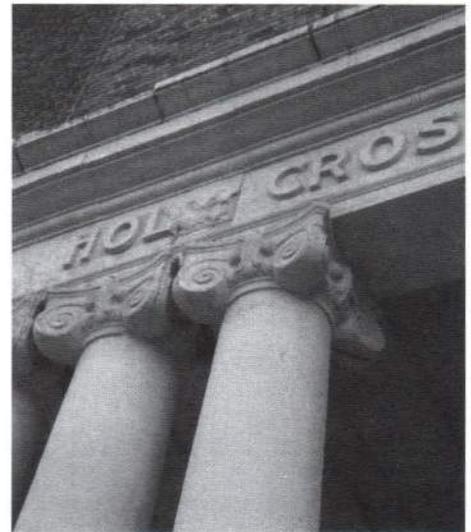
I will be more open to the idea of land use change for acceptable, sensitive adaptive

the project was announced and the stakeholder group began formal discussions. Options were generated and carefully evaluated and a realistic plan put forward; the project management, architectural and engineering contracts were awarded; and over the summer the project team was located in the school as they prepared their project plans. The highlight for the community was to hear the detailed work that has gone into planning the restoration work for the exterior of the school which is to be completely maintained.

There was a positive reaction amongst all the stakeholders, not least from the students who were excited and vocal participants. The CBE will provide regular status updates through project completion in July 2011.

re-use of old buildings. Our Mission ARP supports work-live places, building out the back, and parking relaxation for designated heritage properties. Other great ideas are bungalow courts for aging in place, and bringing back small corner stores.

Whenever I feel my resolve weakening because of short term inconvenience, I will ask myself: What do I want this neighbourhood to be 100 years from now?



## Public Information Session - Holy Cross Site

Join us for an Open Viewing and presentation on Saturday, January 17th from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Cliff Bungalow - Mission Community Centre (2201 Cliff Street SW).

The City of Calgary has received a Land Use Amendment application and Concept Plan for the redevelopment of the Holy Cross site (see map) submitted by Poon McKenzie Architects. The Concept Plan was presented for public review and comment in November 2008 and was used to provide direction for the Mission Area Redevelopment Plan amendment and Land Use Amendment application. The City of Calgary is hosting an Information Session to present the draft Mission Area Redevelopment Plan amendment and Land Use Amendment to the public. For more information, please call Christine at (403) 268-2918.

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# New Committee Rises to Crime Challenge

By Sebastian Gault

The new Cliff Bungalow-Mission Crime and Safety Committee held its inaugural public discussion on December 9th. The large turnout bore witness to the widespread perception that the local crime situation is deteriorating. The committee reflects a unique initiative that seeks citizen-based solutions to combat this unwelcome trend and to work towards transforming our neighbourhood back into one of the safest places in Calgary.

The evening began with five bylaw officers explaining their duties and daily battles. Martin Cull from Blockwatch Calgary pointed out that crime can be fought successfully through community cohesion and cooperation. Alderman John Mar, who was elected on an anti-crime platform, sent a representative to follow the proceedings.

Community Liaison Officer (CLO) Phil Davies explained the reasons for the statis-

tically-substantiated rise in crime in our streets. The "Clean to the Core" campaign has dealt a severe blow to the criminal element in the downtown area. The supposed effectiveness of this campaign is predicated on the belief that displacing crime actually causes it to diminish by a factor of 25 percent. Since Cliff Bungalow and Mission districts are part of the overflow basin for downtown's displaced crime, the police have acknowledged in their modeling the inevitability of a "temporary" crime increase here.

To cope with this planned social emergency, the Crime and Safety Committee has started a number of initiatives to empower citizens to get involved and make a difference themselves. There is a growing feeling that the police and city authorities must show greater openness to our concerns since our neighbourhood appears to be bearing the brunt of their displacement experiment. The wish to follow San Francisco in removing public payphones, which have become feeding

stations for drug trafficking on 4th Street, is an example of an anti-crime suggestion that Mr. Davies listened to.

An appeal went out to all residents and business-owners to call the police hotline at (403) 266-1234 or 911 whenever they notice criminally-suspicious behavior. Even when the police may not be able to react in time, the statistically-noted information will have an impact on the future deployment of officers and reduce the likelihood of the incident recurring.

A walkabout program, for both those with and without dogs, is being organized to get more eyes on the street. To sign up for the walkabout program, register for our planned regular Crime and Safety Newsletter and gain information about our new website, please write Sebastian Gault at [safety.cbmc@gmail.com](mailto:safety.cbmc@gmail.com). The next meeting is scheduled for February 3rd, contact the previous email address for details.



## Memorial Park Library

Register for programs by phone at (403) 260-2620, online at [www.calgarypubliclibrary.com](http://www.calgarypubliclibrary.com), or in person at any Library branch. A valid Calgary Public Library card in your name is required.

### Welcome To Canada

Find out what our country has to offer, including do's and don'ts in our culture, city and national supports and services, and local attractions. Co-sponsored by the Calgary Bridge Foundation In-School Settlement Program. Saturday, January 31st from 1:00 am to 3:00 pm. Register by calling (403) 999-3405.

### The Philharmonic at Your Library

Expand your listening horizons with the musicians of the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra in an enjoyable performance and open discussion. Monday, February 2nd, from 2:00 to 3:00 pm. No registration required.

### Antiques Road Show

Meet expert Sheldon Smithens and bring

your items to be appraised in the Library's version of this popular television show. Saturday, February 7th, from 1:00 to 2:30 pm.

### Time to Think About Investment

Start with the basics and build your knowledge in making confident investment decisions. Refreshments provided. Co-sponsored by the Investors Group. Saturday, February 21st, 1:00 to 2:30 pm.

Register in person, by phone at (403) 260-2620, or on-line at [www.calgarypubliclibrary.com](http://www.calgarypubliclibrary.com) and click on Events and Programs.

### Computer Literacy

Join us Saturdays from 10:00 to 11:30 am for our various computer literacy programs.

- Internet Part 1 – January 31st
- Introduction to Hotmail – February 7th
- Introduction to Excel – February 14th
- Internet Part 2 – February 21st
- CyberSeniors – Learn how to use a

mouse, search the internet, use e-mail, and about the components of a computer. For ages 50 and up. Thursdays February 5th to 26th from 10:00 am to noon.

### Learn English at the Library

Designed for new Canadians and presented in partnership with the YWCA. A non-refundable fee of \$35 is payable at the time of registration. Wednesdays February 4th to March 18th from 5:30 to 8:00 pm. Register in person.

### ESL Conversation Club

New Canadians with intermediate ESL skills can practice English listening and speaking in small groups. Mondays February 23rd to April 6th to 2:30 to 4:30 pm.

### Reading Buddies

Teen volunteers and Library staff provide one-on-one reading support and fun literacy activities for readers in Grades 1 to 3. Ages five to nine. Thursdays, February 19th to April 9th from 4:30 to 6:00 pm.

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Beginning with one expedition vehicle and a Trans Africa tour, they have steadily extended and broadened operations, which now include tours to Africa, Asia, Antarctica, Latin America, North America, Europe and The Middle East. They are very excited to be connected via UNIGLOBE Custom Travel to the many adventure travel seekers in Calgary and area.

Together Kumuka and UNIGLOBE Custom Travel offer over 450 exciting tours, ranging from two days to thirty five weeks, covering 75 countries, spanning 7 continents, and making use of a wide variety of transport and accommodation styles. UNIGLOBE Custom Travel can provide exciting Family Adventures, Tailor-Made Adventures and Private Group Expeditions to suit the many needs of our clients.

There are three key reasons why adventure seekers should choose UNIGLOBE Custom Travel and Kumuka:

1. You're in safe hands - Kumuka has been established for over



25 years and carry more than 12,000 passengers annually. UNIGLOBE Custom Travel is your local adventure expert who will provide you with a dedicated consultant who will assist you before, during and after your vacation.

2. Value for money - Together we offer more inclusions than any other adventure company. Ask your UNIGLOBE Expert to help you with a comparison to see how we help stretch your travel dollars as far as possible.
3. No nasty surprises - We give you the full amount upfront so you are not surprised by any additional charges, fees, or taxes upon arrival.

Although we would like to be able to showcase our full range of Adventure Tours we have chosen three exciting



adventures to highlight to whet your appetite.

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Do you want to visit the Galapagos Islands but at the end of the day enjoy the comforts of a hotel rather than sleeping on a boat? Then look no further than our UNIGLOBE Custom Travel Galapagos Explorer Tour. During the day you will visit a selection of the islands and discover the large diversity of species and rare wildlife that thrives on these volcanic landscapes.

### **Alaska Outdoor Adventure**

Our UNIGLOBE Custom Travel Alaska Outdoor Adventure offers family fun and adventure at Kenai Fjords National Park, Matanuska Glacier & Denali National Park. There are great opportunities to view Alaskan wildlife and glaciers, as well as exciting activities such as sea kayaking, dog mushing, and white water rafting. You will start in Anchorage, and head to Seward, gateway to the Kenai Fjords National Park. Here you will walk to the foot of the gigantic Exit Glacier, visit the Alaska Sea Life Centre, and enjoy a fantastic day cruise to the face of a tidewater glacier, looking for whales, sea otters, sea lions and puffins. At Matanuska Glacier strap on crampons, and venture out onto the blue glacier ice on a guided glacier trek. In Denali National Park, take a wildlife tour to look for grizzly bears, moose and caribou, and visit the Dogsled Kennels. Finally we head back to Anchorage on one of the world's greatest train trips.



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# Reframing Our Community Views

This photo may look like an innocent flower pot. Look again. Reframed, this is a symbol of optimism and change. How come? This flower pot is in an alley frequently littered with abandoned chesterfields, shopping carts, sleeping bags, garbage and more, behind a condo-ized older building off 4th Street near 17th Avenue SW.

Enter Sandy and Kate from the condo board. "In the Spring, Kate and I decided we were going to be the first on our block to try to change things," said Sandy. "I know this may sound weird," added Kate, "but we took a big risk putting a big, beautiful flower pot in such an alley. We both wondered 'Will they be vandalized? stolen? smashed?'"

Kate and Sandy lovingly tended this flower pot. No damage all summer. The 'broken windows' theory is a study outlined in *The Tipping Point*, a tiny fascinating book by Malcolm Gladwell. The basic finding is that one unrepaired broken window leads to more, while immediate repair creates an ambience of caring and folks are less likely to disrespect the place – like Kate and Sandy's flower pot achieved, perhaps?

## 'Eyes on the Street' theory of urbanist Jane Jacobs

In our last "Mission Statement" CBMCA Development Director Peter Atkinson speaks of the 'eyes on the street,' theory of urbanist Jane Jacobs, who almost single-handedly stopped massive roads going through her New York neighbourhood. "Eyes on the Street" advocates that this is our best protection against undesirable activities.

"But what happens when there are lots of eyes on the street, but they are all blind to what happens around them?" asks Peter. "How are we choosing to live downtown? Are we living and owning the streets that we live on?" Peter



goes on to say: "Community is only made through interaction. The more we can get to know those around us, the more we can decipher when something is not right in our area....Are we actually living in a downtown community or are we simply creating places that are easy prey for crime and vandalism?" Peter talks of keeping his blinds open – eyes on the street can come from inside as well as from outside.

So, rather than thinking of ourselves passively, with crime swirling all around us, what would happen if we all asked ourselves Peter's questions, acted upon our answers, and each one of us got to know our neighbours better, exchanged observations and compared what was happening? If we were pulling together, would we be better able to help the police in their community policing role? Would it perhaps make our community a safer place to live? Maybe if we tried it, we might surprise ourselves!

Shopping Carts full of cans and garbage  
What do we think when we see shopping carts full of cans and garbage? A mess; a blight on the street? Look again. Reframed, a valuable service is being performed here, environmentally and aesthetically, by a marginalized section of our population. Everyone has to make a living. These people deserve recognition for making theirs performing a public service. Incidentally, one morning there were freshly picked flowers in a Pepsi bottle on top of one such cart.

## Something You May Not Know About the Community

Former community association President Hank Petranik reminded us about something you might not know about the Earl's building located at 4th Street and 24th Avenue SW.

"Before I forget, you should document another of the Community Association's accomplishments which took place during my term of office. The Earl's "Tin Palace" on 4th Street does not look like most other Earl's which are boxy, non-descript buildings. The lovely stonework and fountain along with the parking lot on the side were a direct result of the pressure applied by CBCA to the developers.



## Graffiti Artists Have A Soul

This looks like a decorative wall mural. Reframed, it's a testament to the soul of graffiti artists, that they do not graffiti on an artistic endeavour. Other cities have found that real graffiti artists appreciate a large graffiti wall supplied for their art expression – much of which can quite beautiful.

## The Message of This Article?

- Keep your eyes and ears open when you move through the neighbourhood. Get to know your neighbours – consider it 'networking for safety.' The Christmas season is anthropologically a proven excellent time to make contact!
- All street people are not the same. You can get to know them too!
- Think of what you can do, like Kate, Sandy, and Peter, to change out attitude towards living in an inner-city neighbourhood.
- Write this newsletter with any inner-city neighbourhood watch ideas you may have.

When we work together, we can amaze ourselves with the power we have to make our own neighbourhood a safe, healthy place to live! Feedback and ideas welcome. Please e-mail to editor.cbmca@hotmail.com

The stonework is actually from recycled material salvaged following the September 1985 earthquake in Mexico City. That building is a very attractive offset to the stark Shoppers Drug Mart across the street and is a lasting testament to the efforts put into the ARP and the pressure placed on City Hall by the CBCA."

So now you know something new about the community. For you information, CBCA stands for Cliff Bungalow Community Association, the name of the community association before 1990 when it became the Cliff Bungalow – Mission Community Association.

# Start the New Year in your new home!

There's still time to ring in 2009 in your new home! If you need to find more space for your growing family, want to be closer to amenities or have decided to downsize, the Calgary housing market has many exciting opportunities available right now. I specialize in Southwest Calgary, a close-in community with homes and amenities to suit every need — including yours.

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*Here's a quick snapshot of the last six months of activity in your area.*

## Mission Cliff Bungalow

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Bungalow - Single Family	5	\$271,340	686	59
Three Storey - Condominium	4	\$333,875	945	42
Townhouse	4	\$553,875	1,490	46
Apartment	68	\$305,634	811	47



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