

Essence of Mission

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Urban Landscape

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THE MISSION STATEMENT



The Newsletter of the Cliff Bungalow-Mission Community Association

September/October 2007

Scandals of Mission Bridge Building!

Research by John Gilpin, author and water historian

It all began in the mid-1880s when the CPR decided to locate its townsite on the west side of the Elbow River. Farmers living south of Calgary needed to get to this new railway townsite. It was obvious that the most convenient route was via a road crossing the Elbow River at the Mission site. It was estimated that the residents of High River, Sheep Creek, Pine Creek and Fish Creek would save two miles by using this route to come to Calgary. But they needed a bridge!

Fundraising for Mission Bridge

The effort to build a road over Mission Hill and a bridge across the Elbow River bears an uncanny resemblance to our 2007 efforts to renovate our Mission 26th Avenue river path. Father Lacombe led the 1885 Mission Bridge project. In February 1885, Edgar Dewdney, Lieutenant Governor of the

North-West Territories, committed funds to the project – just as we received a 2007 commitment from the City of Calgary to fund river path renovation. Lacombe also collected \$500 from local residents for the project, which he estimated would cost between \$1,500 and \$2,000. Maybe Lacombe didn't sell bricks, bollards and lamp standards, nor run an 'Essence of Mission' September 22nd fundraising event, but 122 years later, Lacombe's efforts bear some resemblance to our 2007 river path fundraising efforts.

During the summer of 1885, an engineer from the federal Department of Public Works in-



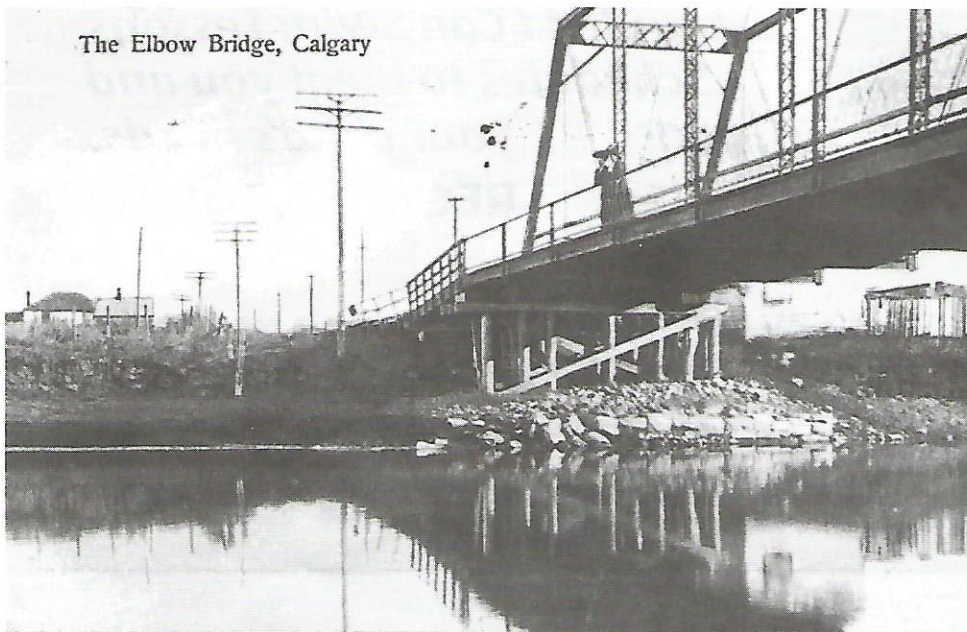
spected possible sites. By January 1886, the location was selected and a final cost determined. Hector Langevin, the federal Minister of Public Works, agreed to cover the extra costs of its construction by adding a further \$1,000. It was also agreed that the Territorial government should handle the construction of the bridge based on specifications prepared in Ottawa.

Hiring a Contractor

In March of 1886, the Ottawa bridge specifications were sent to Edward McCoskrie who was hired by Dewdney to supervise its construction. McCoskrie was a Calgary-based civil and mining engineer, architect, surveyor and contractor. Rather than following the plans, however, McCoskrie made a number of changes which included lowering its height, using another type of truss system and reducing the number of piers in an effort to save money. Despite objections from the federal government to these changes (Ottawa was a long way...), construction of the bridge began in the spring of 1886.

Cont. page 3

The Elbow Bridge, Calgary



Left: Boy Scouts on the Elbow River
(Used with permission of the Glenbow Museum #NA-4099-12)

Top: Ladies standing on the Elbow Bridge c. 1901

(Used with permission of the Glenbow Museum #NA-1854-1)

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THE MISSION STATEMENT

September/October 2007

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LETTERS

Condo Conversion Information Not Accurate

I am one of the few remaining tenants at 515 23rd Avenue. I was just sitting here reading the July/August issue of The Mission Statement when I noticed the remarks: "Good news - the owners of the apartment building at 515 - 23rd Avenue have notified their tenants that the planned condo conversion has been put on hold for a year and the tenants can stay another year at reasonable rents" ("Community Activity at the Lilac Festival", July/August 2007, p. 5).

Unfortunately, this is not entirely correct. The condo conversion has not been put on hold. What has happened here is that the owners first sent a letter, in early May, (not an official/legal one as it was not signed) about the huge rental hikes and incentives to move out quickly. Within a month almost all the tenants had given their notice (11 out of 16 units). At the beginning of June, when about half the tenants had already moved out, we then received an official, legal letter stating that plans had changed and a condo conversion is planned and, yes, the remaining tenants can stay at the same rent. A couple of days after receiving the letter the conversion started. So, essentially:

1. tenants were told of the huge rent increase and incentive to move out;
2. most tenants made plans to move out and gave the owners their notice;
3. a new letter was distributed about the planned condo conversion so remaining tenants can stay;
4. condo conversion started right away.

Right now, I am living in a construction zone along with the remaining four other tenants. There is a huge bin outside my balcony and lucky me, a portapottie too! Workers are here Monday through Friday (one Saturday too) starting at 7:30/8am through until 5pm making lots of noise and mess. Our security doors are being left open, the hallways are left in a huge mess, laundry facilities are being removed on Monday and our buzzer system has been taken out.

Just thought I would provide you with a more detailed and accurate account of the situation.

Jenny Brown

Editor's note: this letter was written in July 2007 and information regarding the state of construction is accurate as of July 2007.

Scandals cont. from 1

The construction of the bridge encountered a number of problems, first reported by Father Lacombe to Dewdney in August 1886. Lacombe indicated that nothing was done because the contractor was "a man of no means" and had a drinking problem.

The problems with the project became even worse when Lacombe visited the site in October. He found that all work on the project had ceased. Only a third of it had been completed and construction materials were scattered about the site. The contractor "escaped after having been drunk for most of the summer" and the subcontractors and laborers had not been paid.

Mission Accomplished

Following Lacombe's inspection, I.G. Baker & Co. was hired to complete the project.

The first Mission bridge went into use in the spring of 1887. It was replaced in 1901 by a steel truss structure, and replaced again with a reinforced concrete bridge in 1915. Concrete bridges were encouraged by the City Beautiful Movement which had a great influence on Calgary before the First World War. They were considered to be more durable and attractive than steel bridges.

These and other stories will be part of the ongoing program of activities in the "If the River Could Talk" series. This will wrap up with a Water Workshop at Heritage Park on September 23rd, which is the 75th anniversary of the Glenmore Dam.

To find out more about these activities, please call John Gilpin 245-0551, or e-mail jgilpin@telusplanet.net.

Tell us what you think

If you have comments on the Newsletter or on issues affecting our community, we want to hear from you! Write to the 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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No Time Limit on Ugly

By Pat Maiani

I never thought I'd welcome the installation of billboards on 4th Street. But I have to admit, I find the huge blue advertising for the next development creation more attractive, in my opinion, than the brown field it rises up from. But much more attractive were the mature trees and old houses that used to occupy the space.

How long will we be looking at that billboard? Who knows? Unfortunately, we will probably be subjected to more and more of

these urban wastelands and their oversize promises for 'inner city lifestyle living'.

Ironically, if all the empty lots in our neighbourhood still had houses on them while they waited for the developers to get their plans together, and if all those houses, and the vacant homes waiting for demolition were rented out until their last possible moment, how many homeless people could we house?

Not surprisingly, many Calgarians would prefer a roof over their head, even if it is an

older house, than living on the street. And they would gladly care for those properties until the time came to move on.

But unlike other urban areas, Calgary politicians don't see urban decay and homelessness as enough of a problem to do more about it than work on a 'ten year plan', involving subsidizing developers or using taxpayer dollars to build low income homes. Winnipeg doesn't permit demolition without a limit on the amount of time the property will sit vacant. Many American cities use tax penalties to discourage speculators from leaving buildings and properties vacant and fines are issued if those properties aren't maintained.

Our favourite magazine store, With the Times, has about six weeks left before their lease expires and they are evicted. Take a close look at the building while you can. Hiding behind the facade is one of Fourth streets first retail establishments. And next door, a beautiful art deco facade that use to house an auto repair shop. Plans are for it, too, to be torn down. And in it's place, another billboard? How long will we be living with another hole in the ground?

As we've seen on 21st Avenue, in Calgary, there is no time limit on ugly. 🗑️

HERITAGE HIGHLIGHT



**Somerville Duplex (1912)
621-623 - 22 Avenue SW**

By Jim Bowman

This attractive Edwardian duplex with brick exterior finishing and Tudor Revival style half-timbered wood and stucco gables was built in 1912 for landlord W. Somerville. Its first residents were George Nendick, the manager of a woollen mill, and Thomas Sheldon, a CPR conductor.

From 1934 to 1946, the eastern part of the duplex was the family home of Abraham Belzberg, an immigrant who came from Poland in 1919. By working as farm-hand near Drumheller and at the Burns meat packing

plant in Calgary, Belzberg was able to bring his wife Hinda and their infant daughter to Canada. He finally acquired a business of his own, the Calgary Brokerage Exchange, an auction house and second-hand furniture store that became Christy's Furniture Arcade, with five outlets in Calgary. Abraham also invested in real estate, with some success, and was able to provide a comfortable life for his family. The Belzbergs' son Samuel, along with his brothers Hyman and William, created First City Financial Corporation, a financial services, real estate and insurance conglomerate worth several billion dollars at its peak. 🗑️



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IN BRIEF

Essence of Mission September 22nd

Songs, music, food ambience, atmosphere will accompany this unique time-travel experience: Drinks and a broad selection of appetizers, courtesy of 4th Street restaurants; Loose Moose Interactive Theatre; (a real) Mountie law-keeper in the early West; some characters from that period; and by special time travel arrangement, Queen Victoria will make a special appearance. Don't miss this! It's great value, and takes care of your 2007 charitable donations to the tune of \$50!

To order tickets: We realize this procedure is cumbersome, and we apologize, but it's because of handling money and tax receipts.

Here's what you need to do: Please make cheques (\$75 per ticket) payable to "Parks Foundation, Calgary" Make sure you put in the subject line: "Mission Riverbank #500115" Then snail-mail your cheque to: Essence of Mission, #15, 101 - 25 Avenue SW, Calgary, T2S 0K8.

We will mail your tickets to your cheque address, where Parks Foundation will also mail your tax receipt, unless you instruct us otherwise. If you wish the tax receipt to go to a business, or anyone other than the cheque-writer, please specify that. Thanks! We look forward to having a grand evening together. For further information please e-mail: elbowriverbank@yahoo.com.

If the River Could Talk Water Workshop

On Sunday, September 23rd, a workshop will be held in the Canmore Opera House at Heritage Park between 11:00 am and 4:00 pm. The program will feature speakers, a walking tour and a ride on the S.S. Moyie. This is the culmination of the water walk series, organized by the Cliff Bungalow-Mission Elbow Riverbank Historic Promenade Project.



Dan Dankewich

July 22nd water shop along the river path.

Due to generous financial support from the Calgary Foundation, the City of Calgary, the Alberta Stewardship Network, and Heritage Park, this event is free of charge. However, pre-registration is necessary to ensure entry to Heritage Park and participation in the various activities of the workshop. For further information and to register contact John Gilpin by phone at 245-0551, by email at jjgilpin@telusplanet.net or by mail at 201 Somervale Pt SW Calgary T2Y 3K4.

- John Gilpin



Major work being done on Cliff Street.

Cliff Street Chaos

The simultaneous occurrence of three major excavation projects turned Cliff Street, below the escarpment on the west side of Cliff Bungalow, into one monstrous construction zone for the better part of a week at the end of July.

As anybody who has tried to access our Community Hall has seen, the entrance to the front of the building has been fenced off. The door to the hall and the school that shares the building sits eerily perched on the far side of a ten-foot deep ditch running the entire length of the building. The excavation is part of a waterproofing project by City Corporate Properties to hopefully eliminate an ongoing water seepage issue. Identical excavation work is being done at Rundle College a hundred yards north on the same street.

This work has created large traffic disruptions as well as dust and debris issues. While this was going on the City of Calgary entered the picture with a very large backhoe, opening a hole in Cliff Street that closed all access to the street for three days. This project was part of an Inner City parks revitalization program that will see an irrigation system brought to the green space between the two schools, as well as some added benches. Similar bench additions and remediation work had already been done at Triangle Park, again on Cliff Street, earlier in the week.



Residents of the street remarked that at least it cut down on the speeders for a few days. Ten days later the street is filled in but the sidewalks are missing, most likely a different department, and the school excavations remain unfilled. Perhaps it was all part of a traffic calming pilot project.

- Rick Williams

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City of Calgary Civic Census

In April, the civic census takers were out counting Calgaryans for the City to determine accurate statistical information on residents. This information is used to make informed and appropriate decisions on the provision of population based city services, such as transportation, roads, transit, fire protection, police services, utilities, recreation, etc.

Calgary's population grew by 2.84% from April 2006 to April 2007. A total of 1,019,942 people call Calgary home. That's a 28,183 more people than last year.

Cliff Bungalow saw a decrease in population from 2,049 to 1,845 (-9.96%) last year while Mission experienced an increase of 15 people from 4,433 to 4,448 (+0.34%).

Source: www.calgary.ca

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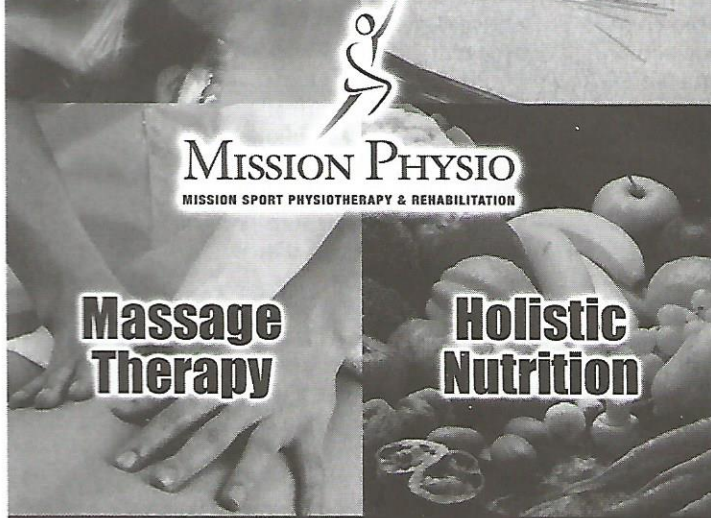
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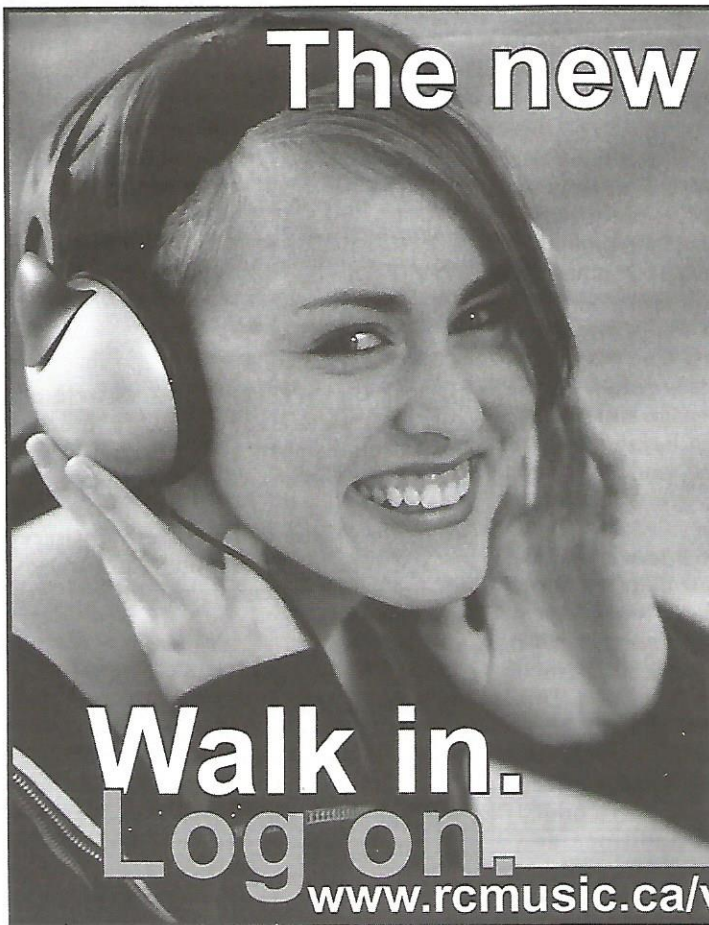


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Planning Ahead

By Nancy Tice

Not long ago I wrote about spring fever and how our spirits are lifted by the sight of early spring flowers after a long, brown winter. Springtime colour in the garden requires advance planning since spring-blooming bulbs and corms are planted in autumn. An elaborate garden isn't required. Nearly every multi-family building and more than a few houses have some type of shrub bed.

Some bulbs, referred to as minor bulbs because of their small size, are ideal for planting under deciduous shrubs where the soil will receive warm sunshine before the shrubs come into leaf. Minor bulbs produce small flowers that are best appreciated in close-up view in a raised planter or when planted en masse to create a carpet of colour. In a favourable location some species will naturalize, increasing in number every year.

Most of the minor bulbs are native to the Middle East where they survive in harsh mountainous terrain with little moisture available during the summer. After their short-lived early display of colourful flowers, minor bulbs thrive on neglect. They are ideal for low maintenance, water-wise landscapes.

Minor bulbs (and corms) are available at local greenhouses in autumn. They should be planted by the end of October to give them a chance to form roots before the soil freezes. Look for *Scilla siberica*, *Chionodoxa*, varieties of *Muscari* (grape hyacinth), small-flowered species of tulips, crocus, and *Fritillaria meleagris*. *Chionodoxa* is the earliest to bloom as indicated by its common name, glory-of-the-snow. Planted on the south side of my house close to the foundation wall, *Chionodoxa* usually blooms in March.

All the species mentioned in this article are extremely hardy perennials which bloom year after year. Luckily, bulb displays at the greenhouses have colour photos as part of packaging.

To avoid major damage to shrub roots when planting bulbs, use a narrow tool such as an old chisel or a blunt knife to open a small four-inch-deep hole for each bulb.

An autumn trip to the greenhouse and a half hour of light work will reward you with a welcome dose of early spring colour next year.

As for shrub plantings, they run the gamut from uninspiring to those thoughtfully designed with species knowledgeably chosen to meet any number of goals. I particularly enjoy the mix of shrub species bordering the north edge of the Elements of Mission catsup-and-mustard condo building along 21st Avenue. I refer to this type of planting as a mixed hedge; others might call it a hedgerow.

Since I'm biased toward a naturalistic planting style, to my eye the mixed hedge is quite beautiful. There is a lovely mix of foliage colours and textures. Most of the shrubs are either native species or their close relatives. There is a noticeable absence of invasive species which could invade the Elbow River valley choking out native plants there.

The mixed hedge supplies a varied source of food and shelter for birds and insects while also providing a privacy screen for ground level units without creating too much shade. It also represents a nod to the site's history – there was a grand mixed hedge in approximately the same location prior to the site clearance. It's a pleasure to see evidence of masterful landscape planning which goes far beyond the formulaic,



Red-leaf rose, willow and juniper combine to form a mixed hedge along the 200 block of 21st Avenue SW.

instant landscapes that more typically appear all over Calgary.

As of this writing in mid-July, it looks like a great year for container gardening in Cliff Bungalow-Mission. Maybe it's just my imagination but nearly every residential block has at least a few containers and/or front gardens.

If anyone out there is taking local garden photos, please send the good ones, along with a photo caption, to the editor whose contact information is on page 3. We always end up with way more photos than we can fit on the year-end colour-photo spread, but it would be great to see some photos with people or pets enjoying the garden. Happy gardening. And make sure to take some time to relax and smell the flowers. 🌸

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Crime Stats for Mission from July 2006 through July 2007

	Jul 06	Aug 06	Sep 06	Oct 06	Nov 06	Dec 06	Jan 07	Feb 07	Mar 07	Apr 07	May 07	Jun 07
Assault	3	1	3	2	0	2	5	2	2	2	2	3
Street Robberies	4	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Commercial Rob.	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
B&E (House)	0	1	0	1	0	1	2	0	0	1	1	1
B&E (Shop)	2	4	3	2	1	0	4	0	0	0	1	2
B&E (Other)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Theft of Vehicle	6	4	3	2	4	3	4	2	4	2	2	6
Theft from Vehicle	6	4	3	2	4	3	4	2	4	2	2	6
Mischief	5	8	6	5	4	4	4	3	5	5	4	5

Crime Stats for Cliff-Bungalow from July 2006 through July 2007

Assault	0	3	1	1	3	0	3	2	1	0	2	1
Street Robberies	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0
Commercial Rob.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
B&E (House)	0	3	1	1	2	0	1	4	1	0	0	1
B&E (Shop)	4	2	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	3	2
B&E (Other)	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Theft of Vehicle	3	5	0	0	4	2	2	2	2	1	5	1
Theft from Vehicle	9	10	9	9	1	10	7	0	4	2	3	2
Mischief	9	4	3	0	4	4	3	1	4	3	2	2

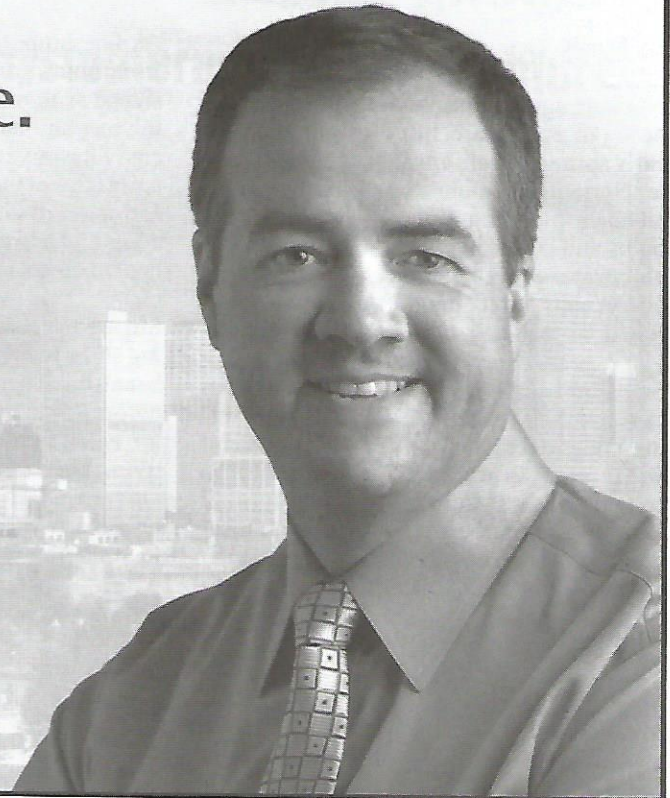
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Construction Blues Good Comes From Five Year Hole in the Ground

By Eilish Hiebert

The 21st Avenue and 4th Street hole-in-the-ground is still there but was the last straw in the overwhelming construction boom in our neighbourhood in 2004.

Frustrated residents answered a 'Construction Blues' call to register our organized outrage at the disruption of entire streets, alleys, intersections, sidewalks, parking, etc. Alderman Madeleine King organized a walkabout of this problem area with City Planning Department's Denise Carbol, later inviting all relevant City departments to host a meeting with our community, along with other inner-city communities, to examine findings.

As a result, just recently residents received an amazing document through Alderman King's office with an excerpt recommendation: "instruct Administration to develop a protocol to be followed by developers during construction." The protocol addresses items brought forward by residents at 'Construction Blues.' These include loss of street parking by residents, pile driving, lane and street closures, and believe it or not, about the hole-in-the ground: "instruct Administration to develop a protocol for when construction halts midway and does not appear to be moving forward anytime soon and bring this to [City attention] within six months."

This document is excellent and hopefully may be extended to all City communities. From our community's standpoint, however, it has one snag. Adherence to the protocols is voluntary on the part of the developer.

Watch the next Mission Statement for further news on this matter. 🏠

Heritage Designation Program – Part II

By Bill Longstaff

In the last issue of The Mission Statement, the Community Association's Heritage Committee introduced its new Heritage Designation Program and invited residents to nominate sites in the community worthy of recognition as part of our unique history. The program is in keeping with the Association's mandate to "provide leadership, support and resources to protect and enhance the unique and diverse natural, architectural, historic and social environment of the community."

Owners of sites approved for designation will be offered a heritage plaque by the Association, to be provided and installed at no cost to the owner. The plaque is illustrated in the accompanying photo. It is deep blue in colour, six inches in diameter, of durable enamel-on-metal construction, and contains the Community Association's logo. It is a handsome symbol of the special meaning of the site to the community.

Some questions that have arisen in response

to the first article are answered as follows:

Q: Are there any rules I will have to follow about changing my property if I have a plaque?

A: No. Heritage designation under this program imposes no obligations on the property owner.

Q: What happens to the plaque when I move?

A: The plaque recognizes the site and therefore remains with the site.

Q: Where will the plaque be installed, and who will cover the costs?

A: Where the owner chooses, preferably in a conspicuous location visible from the street. The Community Association will cover installation costs.

If you have a site in mind (sites can be buildings, institutions or natural features) or questions, contact Bill Longstaff at 245-9587 (ballot@shaw.ca) or Marilyn Williams at 246-3878 (marilynwilliams@shaw.ca). 🏠



"Dream Fragments" creatively fills the space in front of the Bank of Montreal on 4th Street near 23rd Avenue SW.

Dream Fragments

The freestanding pieces are constructed of laminated plywood, painted with acrylic paint and finished with a weather protective, ultra-violet coating. Components such as the door and door frame are made of welded steel.

The artist, Franklyn Hiesler, explains his vision: "Dream Fragments is meant to represent an Alice in Wonderland fragment of a dream by taking a component of our reality (the front of an office building) and shifting

our perception of that by introducing objects such as the table, fruit and door."

Franklyn is both a practitioner and educator in the arts. Community-minded, he has been a practicing artist since 1975. Franklyn has exhibited extensively throughout Canada, has conducted numerous workshops and delivered many lectures across the country. He is a performance as well as visual artist. 🏠

- Fourth Street Art Walk brochure

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Cliff Bungalow-Mission Historical Walking Tour

By Marilyn Williams

On August 3rd, a lovely summer evening, approximately 50 people from all over the city gathered at the Cliff Bungalow School, a municipal heritage property, to participate in a walking tour led by Marilyn & Rick Williams, with help from volunteers Eilish Hiebert and Joanne Snyder. Everyone received a free pamphlet of the Calgary Historical Walking Tour of Mission-Cliff Bungalow provided by the City of Calgary, from which the tour was adapted. Jim Bowman developed the main script; Jim is an architect at the Glenbow, a Mission resident and has given the walking tour for many years.

The tour began in west Cliff Bungalow where we covered aboriginal wintering grounds at the base of the Cliff Street escarpment, the Cliff Bungalow and Holy Angels Schools, the Somerville Duplex and Marilyn Manor. The group continued eastward to view a number of historic properties on Royal Avenue and 19th Avenue: the Ritchie, Treend, Mannix, Black, Jenisson and Mahood homes. After that we headed through central Mission, stopping at the Athlone Apartments, and on to the Cathedral district to

see the Sacred Heart Convent, the Edward Rouleau house, the Canadian Northern Railway Bridge, St. Mary's Cathedral and the old St. Mary's Parish Hall.

The tour then wound back to Cliff Bungalow School via the Flexford House Apartments, the Holy Cross and the Hartroft Bungalows. We also passed 4th Street to take in the Young Block and the Aberdeen.

The final leg of the tour was southwest Cliff Bungalow: a number of homes on 23rd Avenue: the Griffin and Aitken houses, plus a home where Jann Arden once lived in the basement. The last stop was Reader's Triangle Park, which was a good vantage point for Twin Gables, the Sheldon Chumir residence, and the Aberhart (also with a basement suite which Ernest Manning had called home) and Costello Houses. The response at the end of the tour was warm and positive; a congenial way to end a beautiful summer day. 🌞



Calgary Construction Boom Dwarfed

By Michelle Hebert

I've wanted to visit China for at least ten years and I finally made my way to the Middle Kingdom this summer. I spent three weeks touring the major sites in Beijing, Xian (of Terracotta Warrior fame), Shanghai and other places. My trip was magnificent. It was all I hoped it would be and more. The Great Wall was definitely the highlight but I enjoyed everything. Even the constant cloak of 40 degree weather and oppressive industrial smog is dulling as I recall the trip.

Beijing, the capital, will soon be a sister Olympic city. They are scheduled to host the 2008 Summer Olympics and have completed construction on many Olympic venues. It is clear they are gearing up to host an enormous number of athletes, media and visitors next year. The tourist infrastructure is quite amazing given that there are tons of people everywhere but surprisingly few problems - I guess they are used to moving large numbers of people around. Although there have been some recent articles in the Calgary Herald and Globe and Mail regarding protests organized by Beijing residents against their relocation. A surprising number of people spoke English as well which was pleasant and inviting for a unilingual Cana-

dian.

I did a few side trips from Beijing and one morning arrived back in the capital very early in the morning. I quickly realized that you are never alone in this city and even at 5:00 am people were out and about. I made my way to Tiananmen Square, the heart of the city, expecting to find a few people there but not many and probably some homeless people such as I would expect here. Unbelievably, Chinese tourists (and maybe locals) were out in full force to witness the raising of the flag in the square (which is kind of like the changing of the guard at Buckingham Palace) and happens each morning at sunrise. The square is the largest public plaza in the world and I swear one half of it was lined with people four or five deep watching the spectacle. I saw very few homeless people - one guy was sleeping in the underground passageway to the Forbidden City.

I couldn't help wondering about the June 4th, 1989 rebellion for which Tiananmen is famous. I got the strong impression that politics takes a back seat to economic success and normal people were mostly concerned with getting a job, making a living, supporting their families and getting ahead.

I would argue that materialism is perhaps more prevalent in China's middle and affluent classes than in many developed Western countries. Some Canadians, for example, are making lifestyle choices that support being less materialistic. (ie. owning a smaller home, driving a fuel-efficient vehicle). In my opinion, because opportunities to 'get ahead' are so new to many Chinese, they are embracing consumerism with open arms. I also got the impression that most Chinese are as apathetic about politics as Canadians are. I found it easy to forget that we were traveling in a communist country!

Among other places, I also visited China's major port city. Shanghai has a population of 16 million people and a "floating" population of another four million for a grand total of around 20 million residents at any given time. More than half the population of Canada is crammed into one city! It is one high rise building after another for as long as you can see. Shanghai has 2,000 buildings that are 25 stories or higher. But somehow it works and the city vibrates with energy. The creative architecture leads to an interesting skyline and at night when everything is lit up, it's unlike any other place I've visited.

Cont. page 15



Report from Dave Taylor MLA

Calgary Currie Constituency
2108-B 33rd Avenue S.W.
Ph: 246-4794 / Fax: 686-1543
calgary.currie@assembly.ab.ca

With the summer months coming to a close I want to say how great it has been to meet with so many of my constituents. Now that the Stampede is over I think I have eaten enough pancakes to last me until next year. The feedback I have heard over the summer has been helpful in focusing my attention on the work ahead. I will continue to meet with as many of you as possible leading into the fall Legislative session

A number of issues are a priority for all of us:

Affordable housing remains a pressing concern. I will continue to press the government on this issue. The rent supplement program has been depleted, which points to the need for a more comprehensive plan. Everybody needs a home, and the Alberta Liberal Caucus strategy will allow renters to keep a roof over their heads, while making real strides to create a sustainable supply of new affordable housing.

Health Care continues to present challenges for our growing population. The recent release of Calgary's census shows that our population growth is not only coming from outside the province but our maternity rates are booming as well. This baby boom is exciting but we must prepare for the future. The decisions we make now will greatly impact the world they grow up in. It was good to hear the

government will be fully funding the South hospital though we are all still waiting to see shovels go into the ground.

Investments in public transit are an important part of the cities infrastructure needs. In order for our transit system to be effective, it needs several things. It must be planned to meet the demand of the residents of the city. It must have access to funding from all levels of government as well as the private sector. An effective transit system is one that provides a practical alternative to the automobile, less costly to the wallet and to the environment.

Calgary is not a city that will settle for mediocre solutions to complex problems. Whether it's roads, schools, health care, recreation, environmental protection, public transit, police and emergency services, housing, neighbourhood preservation or anything else that goes into making a great city, we are an innovative people who want the Province of Alberta to share our vision and grant us the flexibility to get there.

I am always happy to receive invitations to community events, so please keep me informed and I will do my best to attend. If you have any questions or concerns about anything in your community or want to talk with me about an issue you are having please do not hesitate to contact my office at 246-4794.

Dave Taylor MLA
Calgary Currie Constituency

Dr. Jacqueline Chudiak
- Gentle Caring Dentistry -

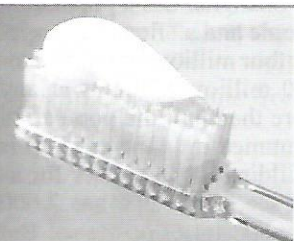
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Michelle Hebert

New restaurant, My Marvin's, is back in the community after a 30 year absence.

My Marvin's is Back

by Jim Bowman, with files from Linda Abercrombie and Ward Brandow

Believe it or not, there once was a time when there were only three or four restaurants on 4th Street. Those few establishments achieved such a reputation for excellence, that 4th Street soon became a street of restaurants, and is now home to about 30 restaurants, pubs, and coffee shops.

One of those early destinations was My Marvin's, located in the Aberdeen Block approximately where Aida's is now. In the 1970s it was known as "the place to be seen". Manager Hartley Yuffe offered innovations such as "celebrity chef night", where you could take over the kitchen and cook for your group.

My Marvin's has just been revived by Yuffe, located in the rotunda recently added to the Mission Centre at 2303 - 4th Street. The main entrance is cleverly hidden in a little nook on 23rd Avenue.

My Marvin's offers the Kosher-style or "deli" cuisine that originated in Eastern

European Jewish communities. It features such delectables as cheese blintzes, cheese-cake (made from Yuffe's own recipe), latkes, lox and cream cheese on a bagel, and three types of brine-preserved beef: corned beef, pastrami, and Montreal smoked meat.

Long-time Mission resident Linda Abercrombie recently visited the new My Marvin's with her husband Ward Brandow. Her report for The Mission Statement was so enthusiastic, we had to edit out some of the exclamation marks.

"The night we were there," she wrote, "we overheard a couple say to the manager that the onion rings were the best they had ever tasted so we thought we would try them out. They were right – they are outstanding. So we recommended them to two other ladies and they agreed – they were indeed, the best they had ever tasted!"

Located in the glass-walled rotunda of the Mission Centre, My Marvin's is excellent for people-watching. It is a casual atmosphere for lunch, and is also open for dinner. 🍴

Dwarfed cont. from 13

With space at a premium, house prices are astronomical. Shanghai-ers have also experienced a real estate boom in the last five years. Apartments in the city can range from 8,000 RMB to 14,000 RMB per square metre (RMB stands for Yuan Renminbi, China's currency, and 7 RMB roughly equals \$1CDN). I got the impression that many Shanghai-ers aspire to purchase their homes but as prices rise they, like many Calgarians, are forced to the outskirts of town or are left out of the market entirely.

Traffic authorities have attempted to deal with traffic problems in a number of ways. Cars cost about the same amount as they do here (even though many are manufactured in China). In order to control the number of cars in the city, the municipal government makes it incredibly expensive to register a car in the city. Vehicles with out-of-town license plates are also prohibited from utilizing the city's network of elevated freeways, a system of roads that are raised up on pillars and pass over the regular traffic on the ground. Given the expense of owning a car it's not surprisingly that only 1.5% of the 20 million people in Shanghai own a car but still there are traffic jams and delays.

Further, the government is expanding the metro lines and redesigning the fare system to encourage more people to use public transportation. It cost me four RMB (about 60 cents) to travel seven or eight stops from the west end of the city to the area called Pudong (check out the futuristic skyline in one of the accompanying pictures) which I thought was good value. I also liked how the government made use of swipe-able (and reload-able) plastic cards to pay fares.

The sights were unbelievable, the shopping incredible, the food delicious and the people friendly and helpful. I highly recommend China as a travel destination.

These are my impressions. If you've lived in China or are from there and you have comments, e-mail me at editor.cbmea@hotmail.com. 📧



Michelle Hebert

Shanghai skyline (Pudong area)



Lee Richardson

Member of Parliament Calgary Centre

Crime Prevention...

During the last election, Conservatives promised to tackle crime with tough new laws and increased crime prevention. Our government is serious about fulfilling our obligation to keep our communities safe.

Since taking office, we have introduced several justice bills aimed at getting criminals and violent gang members off our streets including:

- A bill to impose mandatory criminal sentences for gun crimes;
- Reverse onus: A bill that would force criminals to prove their innocence

in bail hearings for gun crimes so they are not free to roam the streets; and

- A bill that would impose tougher penalties on those who use a firearm to commit crimes.

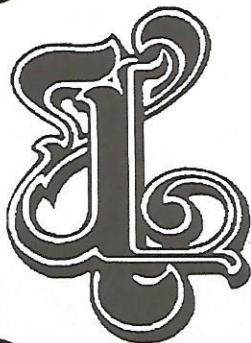
I want to thank Calgarians for supporting our efforts to reduce violent crime and provide greater security for our communities. Though the Dion Liberals oppose our efforts, we will continue to push for tougher gun crime laws and build a stronger, safer, better Canada for all Canadians.

Contact me with your comments...

If you have an issue or event you would like to share, please contact us.

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The Elbow is ideal for relaxing river recreation.

Mission 26th Avenue Riverbank

By Eilish Hiebert

This project is presently in the development stage. In the spring, the City of Calgary committed to implementing our Mission 26th Avenue river path renovation, starting early 2008. Alderman Madeleine King was most supportive in championing the riverbank project through the surprising maze of City Hall departments involved in the three blocks of river path. Andrew King from the City's Parks department is the project manager, with Mac Logan from City of Calgary Roads department responsible for construction of the physical path itself. Tim McCulloch, from the landscape architecture firm of Carson & McCulloch's, has secured the contract for designing and implementing the renovations.

'Bumpout' Design Concerns

Along with overwhelming positive, enthusiastic support, a few concerns were raised about the 'bumpout' design (areas where people can walk off the path a little) in the concept plans, especially in light of the Fish Creek 2004 after-flood discoveries. Tim McCulloch is working closely with the River Valleys organization (a Calgary organization concerned with riverbank riparian zones), Flood Control and City Water departments to ensure the updated design deals with this potential problem.

Rafters

Those of us involved in this project were trying very hard to stay on top of the river path, not dealing with the riverbank itself, for many reasons leaving it natural and untouched. However, we keep getting pulled in (pardon the pun) by human elements.

Rafters interviewed on those glorious July days along the river path were scratched and weary from climbing up the precious riparian zone, along the river bank.

"How come there's no path from the river to the road?"

"There is a path, at Goose Park down at 1st Street SW."

"Well, why don't they put a sign up on the bridge, so us rafters can read that?"

Why not, indeed? Many of these rafters come from the north and the south boundaries of Calgary, and are not at all familiar with this area. The stormwater outfalls at Mission Bridge, and at 2nd Street seem to be landmarks where rafters feel they can leave the river, unaware that there is a safe, private, disembarking place at 1st Street SW, just a few metres farther on. Grandview residents often watch rafters emerging onto a busy intersection at 2nd Street, often at dusk when it's hard for motorists to spot them. They often stay there for long times, celebrating while waiting for their rides to arrive!

At the time of writing, Tim McCulloch was busy meeting with numerous City departments, including Roads, Parks, Waste Water, Storm Water and Flood Control. He was also conducting meetings with Enmax, the River Valleys organization, and on and on...

For further information or to share your feedback, please e-mail elbowriverbank@yahoo.com. 🐾

Memorial Park Library

Writer in Residence Launch – Rona Altrows outlines plans for her tenure and reads from a selection of her work. Reception to follow. Saturday, September 8th, 2:00 to 3:30 pm. RSVP to 221-2006.

Write With Rona – Bring your notebook and pen or laptop computer to our informal weekly writing circle. There's no instruction or judgment – just sit back, relax, enjoy the company of your fellow writers, and scribble away! Drop in Thursdays September 20th to November 22nd, 6:00 to 8:00 pm.

To Market We Will Go – Rona Altrows shows you how to market your own writing, including pitching to a publisher, manuscript submissions and competitions. Saturday, October 6th, 10:30 am to noon.

Author Reading – Richard Wright reads from his new novel "October", an extraordinary meditation on childhood, memory and mortality. Register by calling 221-2006. Thursday, October 18th, 7:00 to 8:30 pm.

Don't Panic – Eat Organic – Health benefits of eating organic foods and living a green lifestyle. Thursday, October 25th, 7:00 to 8:30 pm.

Computer Literacy

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- Internet Part 2 – October 6th
- Introduction to Excel – October 13th
- Introduction to Word – October 20th

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ESL Conversation Club – New Canadians with intermediate ESL skills can practice English listening and speaking in small groups. Mondays October 15th to December 3rd, 2:30 to 4:30 pm.

Reading Buddies – teen volunteers provide one-on-one reading support, fun literacy activities, and a supportive environment for struggling readers in Grades 1-3 Wednesdays, October 17th to December 5th, 6:00 to 7:00 pm. Register by calling 260-2709.

Memorial Park Library's 95th Anniversary Party! – celebrate 95 years with period costume, old-time music, historic photographs and birthday cake. Read away your fines and enter to win prizes. Saturday, October 27th, noon to 2:00 pm. 🐾

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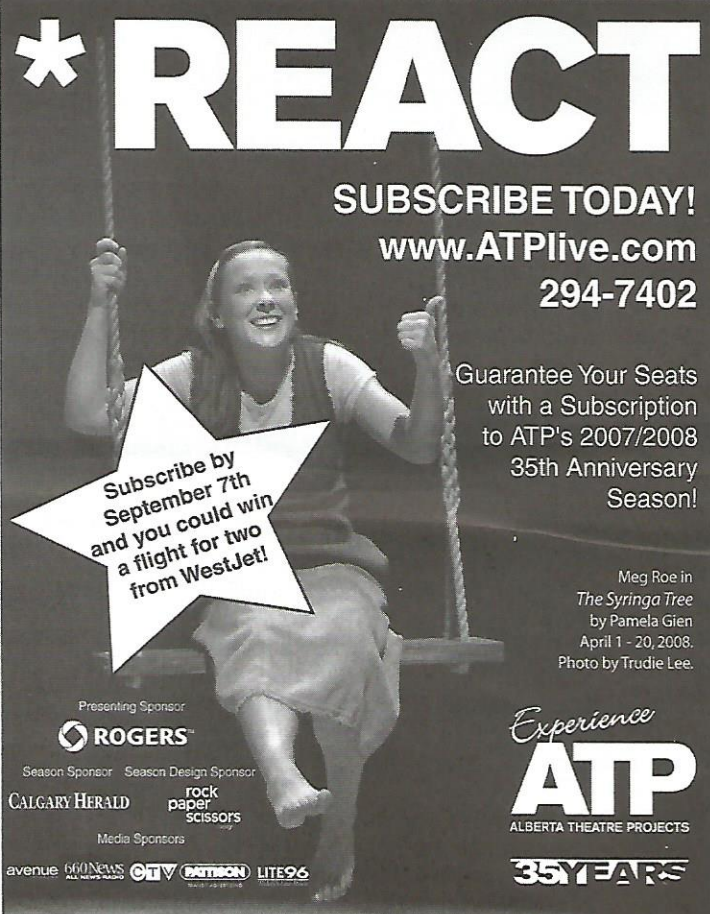
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Photo by Trudie Lee.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR



Essence of Mission
Saturday, September 22nd

The Riverbank Project group is organizing a community fundraiser which will include food and entertainment. See more details elsewhere in this issue.

Calgary on the Elbow – 75 Years Later

Sunday, September 23rd
A Heritage Park Water Workshop presented by John Gilpin. See cover article for Mr. Gilpin's contact information.

Heritage Committee Meetings

Wednesday, September 12th
Wednesday, October 10th
7:00 to 9:00 pm, Cliff Bungalow-Mission Community Centre.

Cliff Bungalow-Mission Community Association Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, November 28th
Mark your calendars and look for more information in the next Mission Statement.

Mission Statement Deadline

October 4th deadline for submissions to the November/December issue.



Homelessness and Affordable Housing Key with Calgarians

By Alderman
Madeline King

Madeline King Calgary's amazing **Alderman, Ward 8** growth is affecting us all. One of the worst challenges it presents is in transportation – there are more people going everywhere at all times of the day and we ourselves seem to have more and more places to be at, just in order to keep up.

The big picture plan for the future includes making major routes free-flowing, increasing public transit and keeping the neighbourhood residential streets safe for pedestrians. That makes it sound a lot easier than it is. Major road projects like the Glenmore Elbow interchange cost huge sums of money, impact neighbouring communities and disrupt traffic for several years at a time. Nevertheless it's a case of short-term pain for long-term gain. Bow Trail upgrading to the west of the ward is certainly one such project. The next phase should be to improve entry into the downtown core, and exit from it, before increasing capacity on Bow Trail as it moves through the community of Shaganappi. I'm hopeful that the timing will coincide with provincial funds making the west leg of the C-train possible – so local residents and commuters only face one upheaval.

The most effective way to reduce through-cutting traffic, reduce speeds and improve safety within the communities is by implementing community traffic calming plans.

Communities all over the city are eager to get on the waiting list, and I am working with several in Ward 8 to help get them to the front of the list. Changing local streets is always challenging as some people are very keen for the changes whereas others object.

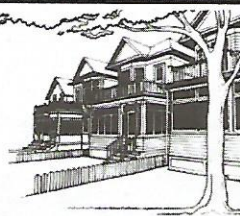
There are two significant ways to reduce the number of people using our roads. One is to increase public transit. City Council has supported purchasing new buses and C-train cars to reduce some of the overcrowding and improve frequency. For the past many years, transit has shared its capital budget with Roads about 50% each. I will continue to fight for transit's piece of the pie to increase. Because of our success as a city, our population is now projected to reach 1.5 million several years ahead of previous projections. Our roads can't take the strain. Last year there were more new vehicles in Calgary than there were new people! We must put more emphasis on transit.

The other way to reduce car usage is to make cycling and walking more pleasant. For this reason we have been focusing on more and improved bike lanes such as in Elbow Park and Mission. There is also a new one coming along 26th Avenue west of Crowchild Trail. As well, the City is encouraging telework, which enables people to work at places other than their office, and ride-sharing.

Late this fall, when we discuss and debate the next budget cycle, we'll be making key choices on transportation investments. Before that budget debate is where you have an important role to play by voting in the October 15 election. Last time our ward had the lowest turn-out, at only one in ten voting! This is your government, and your vote really does make a big difference. I'd be pleased to help you with any information – just call me at City Hall -268-1627.

Cliff Bungalow-Mission Community Association

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Address: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

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– Thought to Ponder –

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– James Allen



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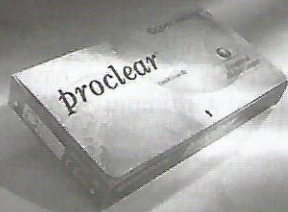
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