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the Neighbours**

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# THE MISSION STATEMENT



The Newsletter of the Cliff Bungalow-Mission Community Association

May/June 2007

## Lilac Festival Grows Up... and Grows... and Grows...

*By Pat Maiani*

Who could have imagined eighteen years ago that the little fair jointly started by a couple of merchants and the community association would have grown to become Calgary's largest outdoor street festival? Back then, the whole purpose of the Sunday afternoon event was to draw attention to the sleepy little community and the businesses on Fourth Street, as well as have some fun. I'd say it succeeded.

This year, the current organizers expect to pack over a hundred thousand people onto the street, from Elbow Drive to 12th Avenue.

The Fourth Street Business Revitalization Zone offers free entertainment on a dozen or so stages, street performers, and six hundred tables of vendors selling everything

from trinkets to bread to insurance. Many of the Fourth Street businesses bring their wares onto the street as well. The restaurants and bars do a brisk trade, too. For them, it's often the best day of the year.

Take a break from the crowds and meet your neighbours at the Cliff Bungalow-Mission Kid's Area in the 21st Avenue Plaza. Fourth Street Books will tell some tall tales and put the Downstairs Band on stage. Second to None Meats will be serving up BBQ Bison and Elk. Some of the Community Association committees will host information booths like the Heritage Committee and the Riverbank Pathway Project. MacKay's Cochrane Ice Cream will be serving up some cool treats, and there will be a few other surprises, too.

Come out and enjoy the last Sunday in May.



Lilac Festival 2006 brought record numbers despite the bad weather.



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## Re: Pat Maiani's March/April Opinion

After reading Pat Maiani's opinion, I wondered whether it's productive to get so twisted up over architectural style. The urban design within Mackenzie Town would probably work just as well without the faux historic architecture. The main reason I'd feel uncomfortable living there is that Mackenzie Town is a distant suburb with poor access to public transit. As for residential Mission, the City would not support prescriptive architectural controls in the belief they would raise development costs.

A five-storey, 68 unit residential building is an allowable land use. CBMCA representatives fought the good fight for seven years during the Mission ARP review process and lost. What's left to say? The 2006 Mission ARP and the DC land use district for Mission are the recently approved statutory documents which determine the community's future. Inevitably, the post mortem debate will continue since the elimination of popu-

lation density, affordable housing, genuinely historic character and the urban forest is an unfortunate consequence.

However, the 2006 Mission ARP does contain urban design guidelines for residential development and that's an improvement over the 1982 ARP which contained no urban design guidelines at all. It's of interest to note that Poon McKenzie Architecture was involved with the first recent development in residential Mission which demonstrated attentiveness to urban design well before guidelines were established and approved by Council.

Pat Maiani and I would probably agree we both enjoyed Mission more when it was still a neighbourhood rather than an investment opportunity, but a cheap shot at Poon MacKenzie for the sake of clever word play seemed inappropriate for publication. 🍷

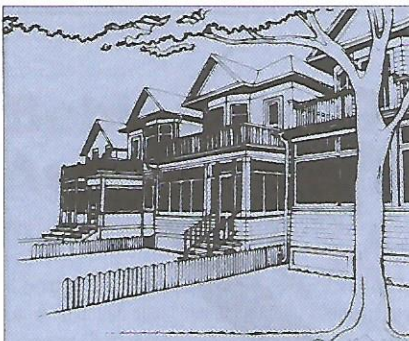
*Nancy Tice*



**The 2006 Lilac Festival provided fun and entertainment to people of all ages!**

### *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@cliffbungalowmission.ca](mailto:editor@cliffbungalowmission.ca). Letters may be edited for length and clarity. Feature articles must be no longer than 600 words.*



## THE MISSION STATEMENT

March/April 2007

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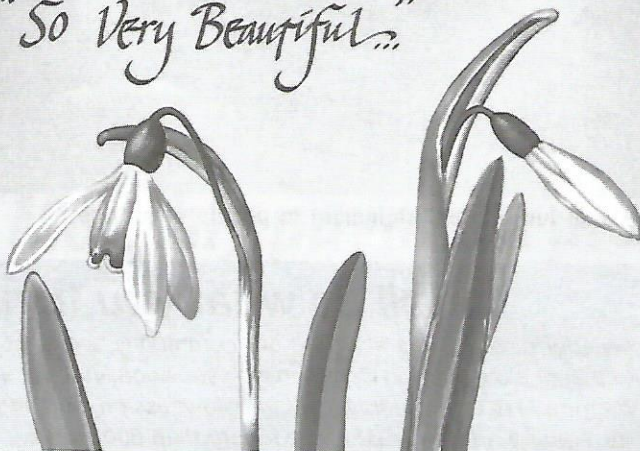
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## Behind the Scenes – Community Association Board Updates

By Pat Maiani

Though it may not always be evident, there is a lot of activity going on behind the scenes that affect how we live in our neighbourhood. The Board and committees of the CBMCA are dealing with issues on a daily basis. Here is an example of what we are working on now.

Marilyn Williams has taken protection of the community's heritage and history under her committee. In the short term, they are doing what they can to encourage the preservation of significant properties, in this, one of the oldest communities in Calgary. Long term solutions are changes to the land use bylaw to encourage occupancy and property upkeep by the speculators that hold them, and historic designation for some properties that are threatened, like Western Canada High School.

The Development Committee, led very competently by Peter Atkinson, continually faces pressure from architects, developers and politicians for community endorsements of their individual projects. This usually involves relaxation to land use bylaws

and Area Redevelopment Plan (ARP) guidelines so the builder can make more money, and/or the owner can exercise their 'artistic vision'. They also have to take action on illegal construction and signage.

Unfortunately, many development applications ignore the best interests of the Community, or the how the vision of their design fits within the context of the neighbourhood and its heritage.

To support the Development Committee, the Board has decided to enforce a 'No Relaxation Policy' for all new applications. We feel that to ignore the thousands of hours of input implemented in existing policies and the extra time required to consider all aspects of 'special requests' is wasting our resources and compromising the values of the community.

Bob Lang keeps his eye on traffic and transportation issues. Currently, a proposed intersection at 25th Avenue and MacLeod Trail could have a significant impact on neighbourhood traffic, depending on the design that is chosen. New plans for additional parking are also on the agenda.

Paul Varga takes time from his busy schedule lawyering to keep environmental initiatives in the forefront. From the community garden to planting 100 trees this spring to recycling and the Riverbank Promenade Project, there is a lot to do to keep the community green.

Jana Lait has recently taken over as treasurer. It's not just paying the bills. With prudent management over the past few years, the Board is now considering the best way to improve the Community with the money we have accumulated. Some ideas include heritage property preservation, affordable housing development, or even legal challenges to development enforcement issues. Maybe a combination of all the above? An action plan will be developed over the next few months.

Michelle Hebert not only puts this newsletter together, but makes sure it is delivered and distributed.

All of us work together to try to make Cliff Bungalow-Mission a better place to live. If you feel you can contribute, please contact us. We could use your help. 🍀

## Results of the Community Casino Held in November

By Bob Lang

One of the key ways we raise funds for the Cliff Bungalow – Mission Community Association is through casinos. We have one about every couple of years and they raise substantial funds that help the ongoing operations of the community hall and fund special projects, including the delivery of this newsletter.

The last casino we did was on November 19th and 20th. We have recently received the net proceeds of that casino. There are two sources of this revenue. The first one is the net proceeds from the operation of the gaming tables at the two-day event we hosted. These are pooled with all the other two-day events during the same quarter held in Calgary (in our case, October to December 2006). This amounted to \$35,966.44. The second source is a percentage of the net proceeds from the slot machines that are located in all the casinos in Alberta. These are pooled and shared

equally with all the other groups that host a casino in that quarter in Alberta. This amounted to \$49,514.77. The total of these two sources of funds is \$85,481.21. This calculates to \$2,137 for every person shift that our volunteers did during our two-day event (there are 40 person shifts during the two-day event).

The volunteers who helped with this casino are hugely appreciated and deserve to be recognized. Without their help, we could not have successfully achieved this fundraising event. Their names are as follows: Linda Abercrombie, Allison Attree, Martin Bober, Ward Brandon, Brenda Brown, Dan Dankewich, Adrian Dodds, Lynn Gaudet, Wanda Gorczakowska, Michelle Hebert, Eilish Hiebert, Murray Heibert, Georgia Hoffman, Wes Jenkins, Rob Jobst, Bob Lang, Larry Lehr, Bill Leong, Bill Longstaff, Charlotte Lovell, Pat Maiani, Stacy McDougall, Angela McKinnon, Val McLean, Jan Mulder, Mark Olson, Joyce Peregoodoff, Harry Sanders, Peter



Saunderson, Paul Siller, Carl Sullivan, Bob van Wegen, Paul Varga, Shelley Wheaton and Rick Williams.

We hope you will thank them when you meet on the street or in our local shops and restaurants. We also invite you to volunteer at the next casino.

*Editor's Note: Bob Lang did a fantastic job co-ordinating the casino effort for the Community Association and we applaud his recruiting and organizing skills to bring in this much needed revenue stream to the community. Bob devoted a huge amount of volunteer time to making the casino a success. Thanks Bob! 🍀*

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# Committee Reaction to Strategic and Other Developments

By Peter Atkinson

Poor little 20th Avenue, once a thriving street full of Manitoba Maple and early 1910 vintage homes, is now the largest scar in Mission and Cliff Bungalow's urban fabric, maybe even the largest piece of vacant land in either of our Communities since they were originally settled. It seems as though this final move by Strategic to knock down the two remaining houses is the final swipe of the knife cutting out the last piece of detritus left over from an infection that began about four years ago with the introduction of the word "Ingersoll" into the Community's everyday vocabulary. This bankrupted site has slowly leached out its virus and taken what was once a quaint little section of 4th Street with restaurants and flower shops and turned into ... well, rubble. The progression of the Ingersoll site wrapped the corner to 20th Avenue, leaving two homes abandoned and left to decay. From there, a second development came, a residential super block that acted as a host as the virus crept down the street. Earlier this year, 20th Avenue was home to a row of eight houses. With all of the legal occupants evicted it became home to many of the area's homeless before safety became an issue and six of the eight houses were torn down. The final two houses were knocked down in late March and more than ever people want to see these developments proceed. The question is, at what cost? There are two developments planned for these sites, but they both have some issues.

The eastern most of the two sites is a residential/condo development by Poon Mackenzie that takes the place of the original six houses knocked down earlier this year. The development permit was approved by the City in late March, though there is still some discrepancy about who will be replacing the large Manitoba Maple trees that will be taken out during the construction phase of this project. The more infamous of the Mission Flatlands, involves Strategic Developments trying to make the carcass of the Ingersoll plan work financially. They are trying to make the nicest, most traffic-engineering acceptable, politically supportable, bad urban design decision possible, simply due to dollar bills. I thought we were past the era in Calgary where we developed our city without fully considering the ramifications to the urban fabric and the street

patterns. We want good, quality, well structured urban design, not urban design that only aligns itself with the most lucrative dimensions for leasable office area.

The application to close the lane exiting onto 4th Street has come through the Community Association and has returned with our recommendation for a T intersection and a request for a detailed review by the City's Urban Design Review Panel. So, the next move comes from the City while it reviews the decision at Council. We will be there to argue our points.

In the meantime, Strategic seems to be pushing the political agenda forward by amplifying the disruption through the demolition of the two remaining houses, seemingly putting forward the notion that anything is better than nothing. I disagree. I think that the right decision is better than a mediocre one.

A little further to the east, on the corner of 18th Avenue and 1st SE, Jeremy Sturgess is in the initial stages of proposing a 23-storey, high-end, residential tower that would see the park on the corner of Elbow River and 1st Street SE regenerated after it is dug up to make room for the project's underground parkade. The Community Association communicated the need for a buffer to the busy MacLeod Trail South, but that the potential 40+ meter height relaxation that the project was looking for was excessive, and that there might be other opportunities to pursue on that difficult site.

Other development news includes an approved Development Permit for a four-storey office/commercial development on the site that is currently occupied by Walkin Around. Some slight adjustments were made at the Development Committee's request for the contemporary project proposed for the current Urban Barn site, another four-storey office/commercial, as well as a whole lot of conversions happening at

the Holy Cross site which will require an investigation into their parking capacity.

With a lot of development permit applications coming through the Community Association and a lot of developers attempting to push the boundaries set out by the City bylaws and the Community Area Redevelopment Plan (ARP), there has been a lot of internal dialogue about how to strengthen the Community's desire for adherence to both of the City documents. The internal dialogue has recently been captured in a position statement – a statement to be communicated to all those who are looking to develop in the neighborhood that speaks about the Community Association upholding the requirements set out in the guiding documents.

"Cliff Bungalow-Mission welcomes developments that respect the history and character of the neighbourhood, comply with the Area Redevelopment Plans and bylaws, and will be a benefit to the people who live here."

This position statement will be used to help communicate the desires of the community, and that the Community Association does not look on relaxations to either the City bylaws or the ARP favorably. We are looking for high quality design for the streets of our neighborhoods that not only respects the character of the historic nature of the streets, but also respects that buildings do impact the environment and that future buildings must fully consider their ecological, energy, social, and economic impacts on both the local community and the larger built environment. Cliff Bungalow-Mission encourages quality developments. The Community Association is ever trying to preserve our communities' character and urban quality in the historic fabric while at the same time pushing developers and builders to understand that they can act on climate change through the buildings that they design and construct today in our neighborhood. 🌱

– Thought to Ponder –

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# Spring Fever

By Nancy Tice

A 17th Avenue florist was displaying small pots of flowering pansies during the first week of March. A few days later, *Hepatica nobilis*, an early-blooming perennial groundcover, suddenly produced 41 (I counted) small, sparkling blue flowers in my backyard. Spring fever sets in early but it's a long wait until June 1st, a reliable date for planting frost-sensitive, tender annuals outdoors in Calgary.

Eager container gardeners daydream while browsing through gardening magazines filled with beautiful, colourful photographs. Those of us still lucky enough to have gardens keep a close watch for signs of new growth. Our condo neighbours might wonder what we are doing wandering around out there staring at the ground.

Now, Lilac Festival is fast approaching. I'll do my best to have the front yard cleaned up by the last Sunday in May. Pansies prefer cool weather and will easily tolerate a late frost. They're a good choice for a cheerful, early container planting in honour of our springtime festival. Cautious container gardeners may want

to wait another week before planting other, tenderer annuals outdoors in pots too large to bring inside overnight.

During the summer, I often learn something new by paying attention to who's planting what along my favourite pedestrian routes. Last summer, an annual named *Diascia* was thriving with morning sunshine on a patio along 2nd Street. I had thought the species required many hours of hot, afternoon sunshine to perform that well. Apparently not.

*Diascia* is a lovely plant which is not as popular as it should be, perhaps because it lacks an easy to pronounce common name. Look for *Diascia* in the pot-stuffer section of your favourite greenhouse. This year, I'll try it on my front porch as a substitute for the gorgeous *Calibrochoa* "Million Bells," better known at my house as "twenty bells." *Calibrochoa* needs a much sunnier location to put on a blooming good show. I'll also remind myself to try some of the foliage plants that looked so wonderful in other gardeners' containers last summer.

Trial and error. Live and learn Experience is the best teacher. Happy spring! 🌱



Photo Credit: Nancy Tice

**New Zealand Flax foliage combined with petunias (Original Joe's, summer 2006)**



## Holy Cross Hospital (1892) – 2200 Block of 2nd Street SW

By Elspeth Cameron

In January 1891, four Sisters of Charity – members of the Montreal-based Order of the Grey Nuns – came to Calgary to establish a hospital. Three months later a two-storey, 24-ft square wood-frame facility with a capacity of four patients was opened. The Oblate Fathers donated the hospital's present site, and in November 1892, a three-storey brick and sandstone building with a mansard roof and pointed dormer windows was ready for use. It was one of the Catholic institutions that later formed the core of the Village of Rouleauville. Dr. Édouard-Hector Rouleau was associated with the hospital for many years. A school of nursing, established in 1907, operated until 1979.

Pre-World War I additions were largely sympathetic with the original building. A substantial 1928 addition, designed by William Stanley Bates, included a beautiful chapel with Italian Carrara marble. Further construction in the 1950s and 1960s completed the present complex of buildings; by the mid-1960s no pre-1928 structures remained. The chapel was dismantled in 1973 when the interior of the Bates-designed wing was replaced with emergency and mental health facilities. The outer wall of the 1928 section is now the oldest part of the hospital.

After 1969, when the Grey Nuns sold the Holy Cross to the provincial government, the hospital was operated by local authorities. Before it was closed in 1996, the Holy Cross had become noted for its cardiac and psychiatric programs. The Holy Cross Centre is now privately owned, and used for housing, offices, clinics and other tenants. 🏠

– *Thought to Ponder* –

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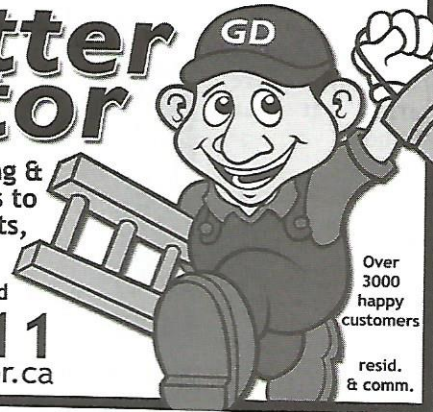


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# A Sense of Identity – A Plan for Mission Rooted in Its Built and Natural History

By Marilyn Williams

This is the second part of the Sense of Place article from the March/April 2007 issue in which I looked at the essential qualities for an ideal neighbourhood of the future, how each relates to heritage, and how the area redevelopment plan (ARP) for a neighbourhood is vital to foster these qualities: a sense of place, a sense of identity, a sense of community, and diversity.

Historic buildings and sites can define the character of a community and provide a sense of place. Like Cliff Bungalow, there are still pockets of Mission where we see the rows of older homes fronted by mature trees, and apartments from the turn of the 20th century (Sibley Apartments, Flexford House) and later from the 30's and 40's (the Athlone). In addition, Mission is positively rich in historical monuments and institutions: the grand pillars fronting the McNab Wing of the Holy Cross Hospital, St. Mary's Cathedral and the Parish Hall (later the CNR station and now the home of the Alberta Ballet Company), the mansard roofs of the Sacred Heart convent. On 4th Street, some of the original brick commercial buildings (Bannerman, Wright, and Young Blocks) form the most memorable part of the street.

The ability of the inhabitants to identify themselves in relation to the place where they live gives them a connection to the past and a sense of identity. Mission is layered in history and is likely the earliest known residential community in Calgary. It begins with the Elbow River corridor which the Blackfoot, Stoney and Tsuu T'ina people used for thousands of years. Missions were built in various locations from 1875 onward until finally settling in our neighbourhood, and the Holy Cross hospital was established in 1891; the first St. Mary's church was built in 1889 and the convent in 1893; the French-Canadian village of Rouleauville was incorporated in 1899 and subsequently annexed and "Anglified" in 1907; the railway was developing during this period and the CNR purchased St. Mary's Parish Hall for their station in 1911. Most of the houses and early apartments in Mission date back to Calgary's first boom in the early 1900's, as did the first street car line and commercialization of 4th Street (although the first bar, the Blue Rock Hotel, was established much earlier at its far south end in 1893).

Because of later booms and periods of sporadic development, not everything from Mission's built environment remains, but what

does is significant. The landmark St. Mary's Cathedral is so magnificent that the area which surrounds it is known as the Cathedral district. This area is bound by 18th Avenue SW, 2nd Street SW, the Elbow River and 1st Street SE. Also in the district are St. Mary's Parish Hall, Sacred Heart Convent, the Rouleau and McHugh homes, the House of Israel, and the new Lady of Lourdes School which tries to respect the historic architecture of its surroundings.

The Holy Cross site which covers eight acres is remarkable for its setting and its history. The residential and commercial districts of Mission are similar to Cliff Bungalow, but more of the original brick buildings with their pedestrian-oriented store fronts remain along the east side of 4th Street. I would go so far as to say Mission provides a sense of identity for many Calgarians, not just residents of the community.

These highly unique districts contribute to another essential quality: diversity. Like Cliff Bungalow, Mission has evolved over time so that within these districts there is a further diversity of architectural styles as well as a variety of types and sizes of residences – from apartments and four-plexes to cottages and mansions. And finally, thanks to Mission's history of multi-use, there is diverse development of residential, commercial, schools, churches and hospitals. With the loss of many of the detached homes, we are losing the diversity of residents of various income levels.

Mission's heritage landscapes can provide a sense of community. The built environment of the cathedral and synagogue, the beautiful and peaceful convent along the riverbank, the former hospital, the schools and the shopping district all give Mission the feel of a village within Calgary. Adaptive re-use such as the CNR station by the Alberta Ballet Company, and heritage buildings for restaurants along 4th Street complete the picture with arts and entertainment. This explains the outcry at the loss of St. Mary's School. It was not simply a building, but part of the fabric of the community.

As with the Cliff Bungalow ARP, the Mission Area Redevelopment Plan (ARP) is the statutory document which together with the land use bylaw guides future development. Some of the objectives are similar as well: to recognize and protect the historic character of the Community throughout the neighbourhood and encourage conservation of the community's historic resources through

sensitive intensification, renovation and adaptive re-use. However, some of the ideas for implementing this are quite new. For residential areas one of the most interesting recommendations is developing semi-detached dwellings, townhouses and apartments in rear yards of the old character homes.

But there are some key differences. In preparing for this article, I sat down for the first time to read the hundred plus page document from cover to cover. I was surprised to find that over ten pages were devoted just to the history of Mission and its heritage properties. Natural areas, the riverbank, and references to environmental design are given equal attention. There are clear goals to improve the west bank of the Elbow River where necessary, through restoration and pathway development, and to maintain and protect existing trees and shrubs, and encourage additional planting. There are also some very relevant sections which cover smart growth, urban design and affordable housing.

The Mission ARP acknowledges Mission's diversity by giving special attention to its four districts, the Cathedral district, the Holy Cross site, the medium to high density residential areas, and the commercial districts along 4th Street and 17th Avenue.

In addition to items mentioned above, the ARP policy for residential stipulates that apartment buildings should be articulated every 25 feet and incorporate elements of nearby historic homes such as bay windows, cornice lines, turrets and building modulations. The ARP policy for the commercial areas on 4th Street and 17th Avenue east of 4th Street is for pedestrian scale development, limiting the height to 14 metres (17.6 metres on 17th Avenue) with setbacks, or stepping backing building height to allow for sunlight. Separate and distinct windows, such as bay and French windows, with clear glazing are encouraged at ground level, as are features such as forecourts, special doorways, columns, awnings and arcades. As with Cliff Bungalow, there is special focus around maintaining narrow store fronts, with a somewhat wider allowance at 40 feet.

The Cathedral district is mainly zoned for RM-5 (5 storeys) plus special zoning for the schools and certain heritage properties; 17 storeys is allowed for the convent site if the historic convent building is retained. It is interesting that for the school sites, long

*Cont. page 23*

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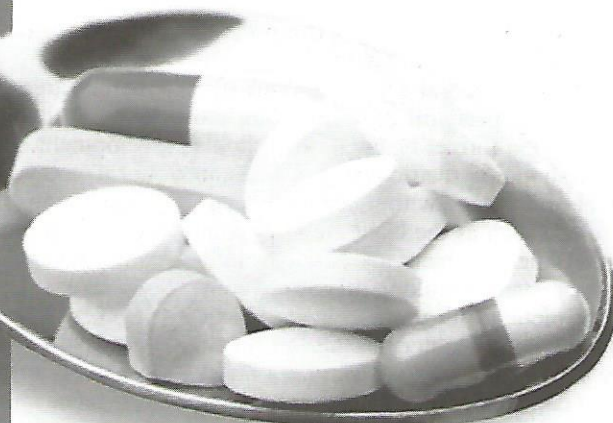
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OSTEOARTHRITIS  
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## IN BRIEF

### 26th Avenue River Pathway Enhancement

Consultants and City of Calgary staff will exhibit preliminary concept plans at a Drop-in Open House between 7:00 and 9:00 pm on Wednesday, June 13th at the Cliff Bungalow-Mission Community Hall (access from 22nd Avenue and 5th Street SW). As our pathway enhancement project is now proceeding to the detailed design phase, this is your opportunity to learn more about the project!

### Jazz Performance Series

The Calgary Jazz Performance Series presents the Spencer Cheyne group, featuring Brent Mah on saxophones, JJ Soriano on guitar, Brendan McElroy on bass, and Spencer Cheyne on drums. Calgary's up and coming jazz guns with a twist of funk, Latin, and even some hints of Rock and R & B. Wednesday, May 30th, 8:00 pm at the Cliff Bungalow Community Hall, 2201 Cliff Street SW. Tickets are \$15 and are available at the door at 7:30 pm. For more information about the series and this concert please visit [www.calgaryjazz.com](http://www.calgaryjazz.com).

### Heritage Research Workshop, Part 2, June 2nd

Research a property of interest to you or significance to the community.

Join us at the Cliff Bungalow-Mission Community Hall (access from 22nd Avenue and 5th Street SW), 10:00 am until noon, Saturday, June 2nd.

- We will step through the application and evaluation process.
- Supported by the Calgary Heritage Initiative. Handouts will be provided.
- Free of charge

It is not necessary to come to both parts if you missed Part 1, and handouts from Part 1 will be available.

For more background, read "Heritage Research Workshop to Bolster Neighbourhood Inventory" in the 2006 November/December issue of the Mission Statement.

To register, contact Marilyn by email at [marilynwilliams@shaw.ca](mailto:marilynwilliams@shaw.ca) by May 20th. 🐾



### Saturday Afternoon Music Jams

An informal group has been gathering at the Community Hall to listen, play and sing in Saturday afternoon jam sessions. There is always room for more music lovers.





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The right policy covers more than health costs if you fall ill while travelling. An ear infection, for example, is a small thing, but it could prevent a family from flying home. Without the right coverage, the resulting costs – medical expenses, hotel bills and flight cancellation fees – could be considerable.

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# Riverbank Promenade Gets City Green Light!

By Eilish Hiebert

Yet another car in the Elbow River on 26th Avenue and 2nd Street SW! Driving south on 2nd Street SW on St. Patrick's Day at 3:00 am, a car drove straight across 26th Avenue down the five-metre embankment, right between the stormwater outfall and trees, landing right in the middle of the Elbow River! The 26-year-old woman was released from hospital with minor injuries. Someone right on that corner claims that this is the third such accident in five years!

From our river path enhancement point of view, this is living proof that we need to do something with that river path – right now it looks like a hidden intersection. We have alerted City departments and riverbank consultants to this situation.

City Parks and Roads will break ground early in 2008 on our Mission 26th Avenue River Path, from Mission Bridge east to 1st Street SW. We have nothing but praise for our dealings with the City of Calgary myriad departments involved in this project. This process

## If the River Could Talk!

By Eilish Hiebert & Paul Varga

You never know the power and passion of Calgary citizens until you happen to hit on what really strikes a chord with them! Take the 26th Avenue Mission Elbow Riverbank Urban Promenade project, for example. All of a sudden, amazing people are joining up with us in an effort to revive citizen interest in our river – our oasis in the urban world, and the quiet lifeblood of our community.

The result of these blossoming connections is a free six-part series on the Elbow River entitled "If the River Could Talk!" (Please see poster elsewhere in this newsletter—thanks to Rob Jobst for professionalizing it for us!)

**Guided River Walks** – June 10th, July 22nd and August 19th. You won't want to miss these three wonderful Sunday afternoon monthly guided walks, with experts covering different aspects of the Elbow: its history, its natural environment, as well as the water itself!

**River Rafting Trip** – Saturday June 23rd (rain day Sunday, June 24th): You can choose to participate in a guided, supervised June rafting trip to actually see for yourself what you can't see from its urban edges: the riverbank itself. (This trip is guided by River Watch, a professional company that is solely responsible for this tour).

was wonderfully championed and facilitated by Alderman Madeleine King.

CBMCA community vision is best articulated by organizing committee's Bill Longstaff: "We have this wonderful river running through our Community. We wish to leave its banks natural and untouched. However, as we mature as a city, there are sections of our river path that almost cry out for an urban treatment. Mission 26th Avenue river path is one of these."

As our pathway enhancement project is now proceeding to the detailed design phase, June 13th is your opportunity to learn more about the project. Please bring your ideas and any questions to the open house on Wednesday, June 13th between 7:00 and 9:00 pm at the Cliff Bungalow-Mission Community Hall where consultants and the City of Calgary staff will exhibit preliminary concept plans for the project.

### Riverbank Volunteer and Participation Opportunities

Our City assurance came mid-March. Now

**Become A Citizen Scientist** – Then, in September you can participate in two uniquely different workshops on September 23rd and 30th, one elaborating on this water journey, including a Glenmore Dam tour; the other giving you the chance/choice to train to become a 'citizen scientist', helping to protect the river and monitor its well being.

The Cliff Bungalow-Mission Community Association (CBMCA) has teamed up with John Gilpin, author and water historian who has fascinating stories – for example, did you know that the island under our Mission 4th Street bridge was once planned as a bird sanctuary? John says you may even be able to add your own story to his upcoming book!

The CBMCA is also proud to be working with Robin MacLeod, whose organization is called (somewhat curiously) S2G, short for 'Glenmore Dam to Stanley Park Preservation Society'. Robin is connected with many other water organizations in Calgary, ERIC (Elbow River in Calgary) and ERWP (Elbow River Watershed Partnership). River Valley's Mac Hickley is the mover and shaker behind hooking us up with these people... so we hope to see you out in the next six months at these events.

Guaranteed: great information, lovely surroundings, good company and a good time for all! 🌿

we are engaging our many willing, waiting volunteers. If you choose to attend the many riverbank events in the next six months, you'll be busy on a lot of Sundays!

The riverbank volunteer group met on March 17th, and (at press time) was already planning an Earth Day display of riverbank project and volunteer information near the Mission Bridge on Sunday April 22nd. Then, on Sunday May 6th, the group plans to participate in the annual litter cleanup of the riverbank.

Incidentally, the nature of the river garbage tells its own story – last year yielded a valid driving licence, a \$20 bill, a new set of pliers, a screwdriver; two shopping carts, lots of Safeway food wrappers; dozens of gum, candy and chocolate bar wrappers – reinforcing our request to build into the promenade smaller, more convenient garbage containers. Then there were the Lysol, Vodka, and other hard liquor bottles, prompting us to consult CPTED in the design (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design). Many other more visible beer bottles and cans are faithfully collected by two men with a shopping cart most mornings around 7:30 am, we have observed – quite a service when you stop to think about it!

During Lilac Festival Sunday May 27th, 10:00 am to 6:00 pm, please visit our information table down by the river. As well, please drop by our information table at the Community Family and Kids' area at 21st Avenue (former site of Ducky's beer garden!) We had some more elaborate plans for Lilac Launch, but we'll save those for next year, when we can see the riverbank progress, and we have a longer timeline to plan.

We also have exciting plans for a Saturday September 22nd, 5:00 to 8:00 pm Community Hall fundraising event – fun and original, with lots of community participation. Mark your calendar, and watch for details of this advance-tickets-only event in our July-August "Mission Statement."

Volunteer Pat McCurry is contacting area schools to initiate a riverbank art/writing competition.

And if this does not keep you entertained and busy enough, particularly on Sundays, participate in our joint series "If the River Could Talk". It would probably be a good idea to cut out the poster to refer to for dates, for yourself and possible summer visitors.

For more information, or to get involved, e-mail [elbowriverbank@yahoo.com](mailto:elbowriverbank@yahoo.com) 🌿

# UNIGLOBE Custom Travel

## Travel Insurance – Don't Leave Home Without It!

At UNIGLOBE Custom Travel we offer a wide range of travel insurance options that cover individuals or families, and our policies can be purchased separately or as part of a travel package.

Whether you travel near or far, it is important to ensure you are always protected for the unexpected. Emergency medical situations, trip cancellation or interruption expenses, and loss or damage to your personal property or baggage, can happen anywhere.

We are happy to provide you with an overview of some of our travel insurance options in order to help you and your family stay protected.

### Travelling Within Canada Insurance

When packing up the kids for the annual family trip, it's easy to forget some of the small but important things. You may think about travel insurance for a vacation to Europe or the Caribbean, but it may not cross your mind when you are travelling within Canada. In fact many people believe that their provincial health care plan will fully protect them wherever they are travelling within Canada.

The unfortunate reality is; your provincial health care plan has limitations. You may need emergency medical assistance. Emergency expenses generally **not** covered by government health plans include ambulance services, x-rays, emergency dental treatments and more. Even when you are travelling within Canada, you may need to cancel and return home for a family emergency, or your personal property could get damaged or lost.

Take into account the following real life scenario:

*Alan Brown, a Toronto resident, travelled to Banff to enjoy a week of skiing recently with friends. On the third day Alan lost his footing and collided with a tree. At the local hospital, he was found to have three broken ribs and a serious back injury. Alan had to undergo immediate rehabilitative treatment for his spinal injury.*

**Alan's Classic Medical Policy - \$24. Alan's Total Claim \$26,360 paid entirely by RBC insurance.** Cost of unused hotel and prepaid lift tickets, ground ambulance, phone calls home, transport of Alan's family to his bedside, air ambulance with physician escort from Calgary to Toronto.

### Emergency Medical Insurance

Emergency medical situations happen – even on a short trip. The cost of medical services can be very high, and Canadian health insurance plans typically cover only a small portion of the costs. Without insurance coverage you are responsible for paying any medical costs you incur on your own, and that can be very expensive.

*When Morton and Arlene Biback left on their*

*trip to Mexico, they were looking forward to a relaxing vacation. While in Mexico, Mr. Biback suffered a heart attack. 'The hotel doctor wanted to take my husband to San Antonio, but wanted \$16,000 US up front – and I don't exactly carry that kind of money around with me,' said Mrs. Biback. 'I was in a strange country and did not know the language and it was very scary – my husband was having a heart attack and I did not know what to do.' 'When I remembered we had insurance and I called RBC Insurance it was like finding a lifeline. The people were amazing.' RBC Insurance arranged to have Mr. Biback transported to a certified hospital in Guadalajara, where he had emergency surgery; covered the full cost of the procedure and hospital stay; covered the accommodation and transportation for Mrs. Biback, and helped the family deal with the hospital's administration, and paid for the medical expenses and air ambulance up front.*

**Mr. Biback's Deluxe Package Policy: \$88.00. Mr. Biback's total claim \$57,000 paid entirely by RBC insurance.** Medical expenses \$37,000, air ambulance \$18,000 and subsistence allowance and expenses \$2000.

### Cancellation and Interruption Insurance

No matter how carefully you plan your trip, illness, accidents and family emergencies occur unexpectedly and quickly disrupt travel plans. While most travellers never intend to cancel their trip or return home early, you need to protect the investment you have made from hotels, airline and beyond.

UNIGLOBE Custom Travel protects clients against expensive penalties that occur if you have to cancel your travel plans due to an insurable risk. This type of insurance also provides coverage, in the event travellers have to interrupt their trip and return early or stay longer, due to a covered situation.

Some commonly covered risks include, but are not limited to:

- Emergency medical condition of an immediate family member (includes spouse, parent / step-parent, grandparent, grandchild, in-law, step-child, brother / sister / step-siblings, aunt / uncle, niece / nephew), business partner or key employee.
- Death of your travelling companion, their immediate family member, business partner or key employee.
- Complications due to pregnancy
- Travel advisory issued by the Canadian Government
- Delay of a scheduled carrier due to weather conditions, for a period of at least 30% of the travel period

*Clare Thomson was looking forward to a trip to Disneyland with her son and his family. Two days before the trip her grandson fell ill and was admitted to hospital. He was unable to travel and Clare had to cancel the entire trip.*

**Claire's Non Medical – Trip Cancellation Policy: \$94. Claire's total claim \$6983 paid entirely by RBC insurance.**

### Deluxe Package Insurance

Our Deluxe Package insurance combines the most comprehensive protection with emergency medical coverage, cancellation and interruption insurance for over 40 specified risks, baggage damage and loss coverage, and flight and travel accident insurance.

### Annual Plans

Annual Plans are available for frequent travellers who make several trips a year out of province or outside of Canada. We are able to provide insurance for an unlimited number of trips within a twelve month period. Simply let us know the length of your average trip. Our annual plans provide you with the peace of mind knowing that you are covered every time you travel.

*Family of Four – 2 adults – ages 36 and 42, children ages 10, 7 and 5. – Total: \$100*

### Family Plans

Family rates are available on our medical and annual medical packages. A family includes parent(s) and/or unmarried dependent children under 21 years of age, or under 26 years of age if a full time student. We simply calculate the adult(s) rate and add the dependent children for free!

### Visitors to Canada

If you have friends and family who come to visit you in Canada, are on a valid work or student visa, or are a new immigrant awaiting government health insurance plans, UNIGLOBE Custom Travel can also provide Visitors to Canada insurance.

As a preferred partner with RBC Insurance our travellers have access to emergency assistance from anywhere in the world, 24 hour a day, 7 days a week. You will also benefit from access to our top tier hospitals, doctors and other medical service providers as well as up front payment of covered medical services.

**Travel insurance is an essential part of every trip. Please contact the specialist at UNIGLOBE Custom Travel for your travel insurance needs. Call us today at 272-1000 or stop by and see us at Suite 800, 2424 4<sup>th</sup> St. S.W. in Mission Square.**





# Report from Dave Taylor MLA

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

The Legislature is back in session and I am excited to be back there and speaking out on your behalf. There is

support staff, public and community health workers. Our need is clear. It's time to stop the foot-dragging.

much work to be done on a whole range of issues and it has been great to be getting so much feedback from the constituents of Calgary Currie. Alberta faces some significant challenges, but Calgarians like to focus on solutions and there are real opportunities to move forward.

Forty Calgary communities need new schools, but mature neighborhoods like the communities of Calgary Currie need to preserve, protect, and repair the schools they still have. Neighborhood schools help make for vibrant, sustainable communities and liveable cities. So does neighborhood preservation. Densification without destruction involves protecting our heritage buildings and historic neighbourhoods. Investments in public transit should continue so people don't always have to drive. It's good for the environment – and for our stress level. Preserving our parks and natural spaces is key to any successful big city. So are strong families, and they need quality, available child care.

Affordable housing remains a critical issue for many of you. I have spent a considerable amount of time on this issue and we've identified solutions. The most important thing to do now is to put them into action. I will continue to take a lead role in making sure the Province of Alberta does this.

I am always happy to hear your feedback and to go to bat for you to ensure that we can get things done. Our office is open Monday to Friday from 9:00 am – 4:30 pm. As your MLA, my job is to facilitate solutions. That works best when we all work together.

I will continue to work on behalf of all Calgarians to make sure the Province fully funds the new South Calgary Hospital this city needs. The dollars are there. The need is clear. It's time to start construction. But we also need more people to staff a new hospital with state-of-the-art technology. We need to expand the capacities of Mount Royal, the U of C, SAIT and Bow Valley College to educate and graduate more doctors, nurses, lab and diagnostic technicians, hospital

**Dave Taylor MLA**  
Calgary Currie Constituency

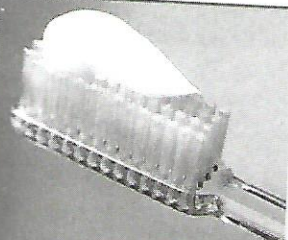
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Led by experts you'll hear memories, stories, historic uses of the river, community growth, what grows, lives on, goes on, and goes into, our Elbow River – you may even wish to train to become a citizen scientist, helping monitor and improve our Elbow River water quality.

### ALSO...

#### A River-Rafting Guided Tour of the Elbow River by *RiverWatch*

Saturday, June 23 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. (rain date Sunday, June 24)

RiverWatch Rafting offers a professionally-guided raft tour on the lower Elbow River. Friendly naturalist guides ensure comfort and safety while helping interpret natural, historic and environmental features. Participants are welcome to help paddle or just enjoy the float!

## A WATER WORKSHOP

### Calgary on the Elbow Workshop

Sunday, September 23 11 am – 4 pm @ Heritage Park

Featuring speakers, stories, history & lunch. Some walking required.



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Alberta  
Stewardship  
Network

A joint community effort of:

- Cliff Bungalow-Mission Elbow Riverbank Historic Promenade Project
  - John Gilpin, Author & Water Historian
- Robin McLeod from S2G (Glenmore Dam to Stanley Park Preservation Society)
  - Mac Hickey, Manager, River Valleys Committee

These five free water tours and workshops made possible by  
Alberta Stewardship Network (A.S.N.) as well as The Calgary Foundation



Cliff Bungalow-Mission  
Community Association

To register for any or all of above, or for further info, please e-mail John or Robin:  
jgilpin@telusplanet.net phone: 245-0551 OR ramcleod@telusplanet.net phone 243-2949

**HERITAGE PARK**  
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## ARTIST PROFILE

# Artist Portrait: Sean Dowdeswell, Fourth Street Muralist

By Michelle Hebert

Fourth Street is blessed with lots of interesting art from the funky, painted utility box on the sidewalk in front of the Super Drug Mart parking lot, to the lounging frogs on the corner at 21st Ave to the brick couch by Lululemon. Not only does 4th Street have great sculpture but it also has some fantastic murals. Sean Dowdeswell created the mountain scene on the north side of the Rigby Insurance building and the mural on the side of the Walkin' Around store.

Sean was only 20 years old when he painted the first of his three murals, the Rigby Insurance mural, in September 2005. He entered a competition hosted by a City-sponsored organization called Murals Under Pressure, which invited artists to submit designs for a mural on the Rigby site. The

owners of the Rigby Insurance building chose Sean's design and the City commissioned him to paint the mural that is there now. He said it took him about ten days to complete the 1,200 square foot landscape scene and most of that time was spent painting in the details on the trees and the foreground.

The Walkin' Around mural came about when Sean was encouraged by C.J., the owner of the departed Instant Video store in the Apartment Europe building, to approach the owners of the shoe shop. Fortunately, the owners had already been thinking about commissioning some art on their building so when Sean approached them, they were open to the idea. Sean said one of the owners, Frankie Ing, gave him three words; "bright", "energetic" and "shoes" to inspire a creation. Sean and C.J., also an

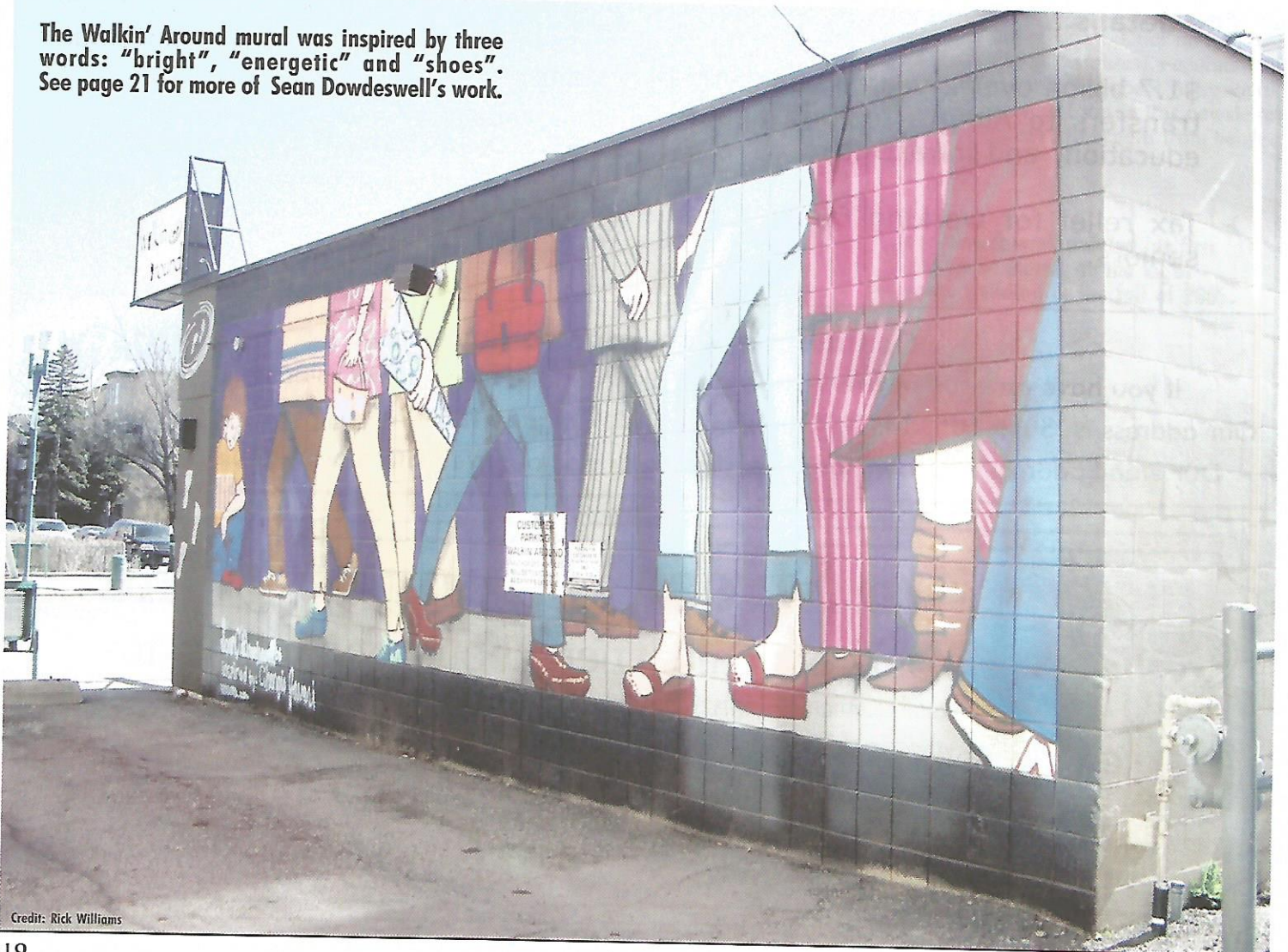
artist, put together some designs and Sean presented them to Frankie. Sean said he saved one of C.J.'s designs for last because he knew that it was the one the owners of Walkin' Around would choose.

"C.J.'s design was the best but it was more Egyptian-like, more squared off".

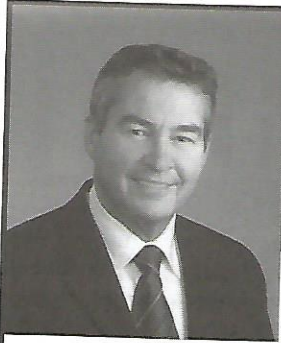
Sean took that design, softened it a bit and made it what it is today – a mural that, indeed, captures "bright", "energetic" and "shoes" as requested by the owners.

Sean, a native Calgarian and past resident of Cliff Bungalow-Mission, has another landscape mural on a building on 10th Street and 5th Avenue SW. Although he has no formal training, he is planning to apply to the Alberta College of Art and Design this year.

**The Walkin' Around mural was inspired by three words: "bright", "energetic" and "shoes". See page 21 for more of Sean Dowdeswell's work.**



Credit: Rick Williams



Lee Richardson

Member of Parliament Calgary Centre

## Budget 2007: Aspiring to a Stronger, Safer, Better Canada

In Budget 2007, we have achieved this by balancing the budget, cutting taxes for working families, investing in priorities like health care, the environment, infrastructure, and restoring fiscal balance by giving provinces the resources they need to deliver the front-line services that matter to Canadians.

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- \$1.7 billion over 2 years in additional transfers to Alberta to fund health, education, and infrastructure;
- Tax relief for working families and seniors;

- Assistance to help 1.2 million low-income Canadians over the "welfare wall";
- \$612 million in new funding for patient wait times initiatives;
- \$4.5 billion for initiatives to clean and preserve Canada's environment;
- A new Anti-Drug Strategy to crack down on gangs and the drug trade and;
- \$9.2 billion toward debt reduction;

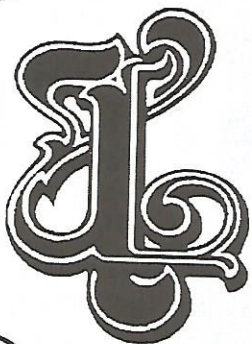
Budget 2007: Getting things done for all of us.

### Contact me with your comments...

If you have an issue or event you would like to make us aware of, please contact us.

Our address is: Suite 105, 1410 11th Avenue S.W., Calgary, T3C 0M8 or phone (403) 244-1880

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# Personal Insurance at Great Rates – A Benefit of Membership

By Bob Lang

Some of you may ask “why I should become a member of the Cliff Bungalow-Mission Community Association?” The cost of membership in your Community Association is similar or less than a good cup of coffee or your favourite brew. While you might think another pint is better than supporting your Community Association, you should think again.

Your small membership fee helps fund the Community and more importantly shows you recognize and appreciate the volunteer efforts from which you reap the benefits. If your Community Association was not active in making sure the concerns of the Community are heard at City Hall, your Community would be a less attractive place to live, work and play. That alone is incentive to become a member.

But wait, there is a more tangible and ongoing financial benefit to you also. By being

Cliff Bungalow-Mission Community Association

## Membership Form



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- Single (\$5)       Full (residents only)      Memberships are valid until the next Annual General Meeting  
 Family (\$10)     Associate

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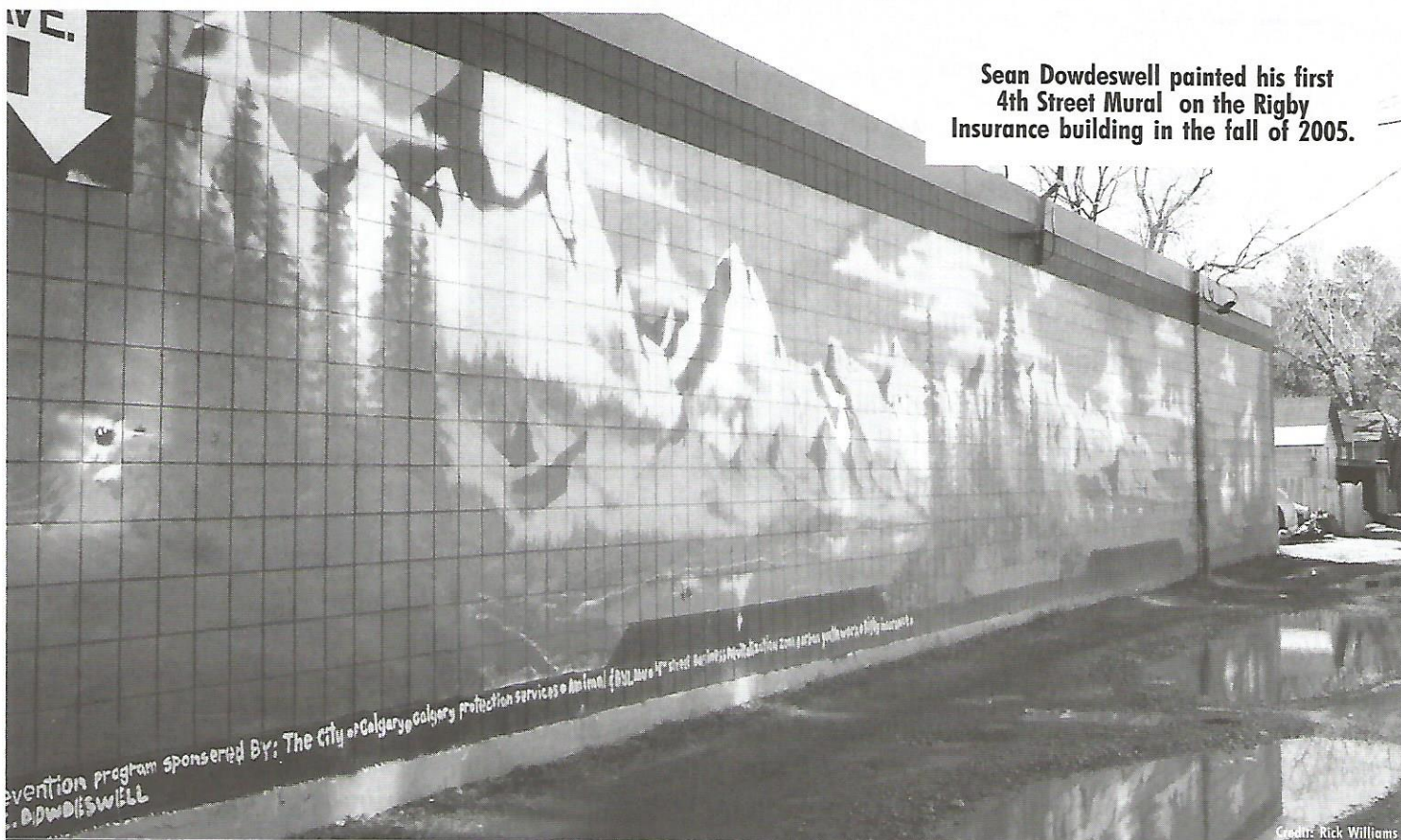
a member of the Cliff Bungalow-Mission Community Association, you can partake in a group home and auto insurance program that could save you hundreds of dollars. The amount you save depends on your exact circumstances, for example what type of vehicle you have.

Nevertheless, think about becoming a member of the Cliff Bungalow-Mission Community Association and investigate the possibility of insurance savings. Your support

is important and appreciated and you can also obtain a direct benefit in lower insurance costs.

You can obtain a quote by visiting the Smith Insurance Brokers website at [www.smithinsurance.ca](http://www.smithinsurance.ca). Click on Personal Insurance (Group Programs), Federation of Calgary Community Members. Why not fill in the membership form in this newsletter right now and start to benefit from being a member? 🏡

Sean Dowdeswell painted his first 4th Street Mural on the Rigby Insurance building in the fall of 2005.



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- loyal, high readership
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- affordable advertising rates
- high quality publications

We could give you many other reasons, such as our twelve years of publishing top-end community newsletters, our professional yet friendly approach, our solutions for all sizes of business... but we think it's best if you simply give us a call and experience the Flexys advantage for yourself.

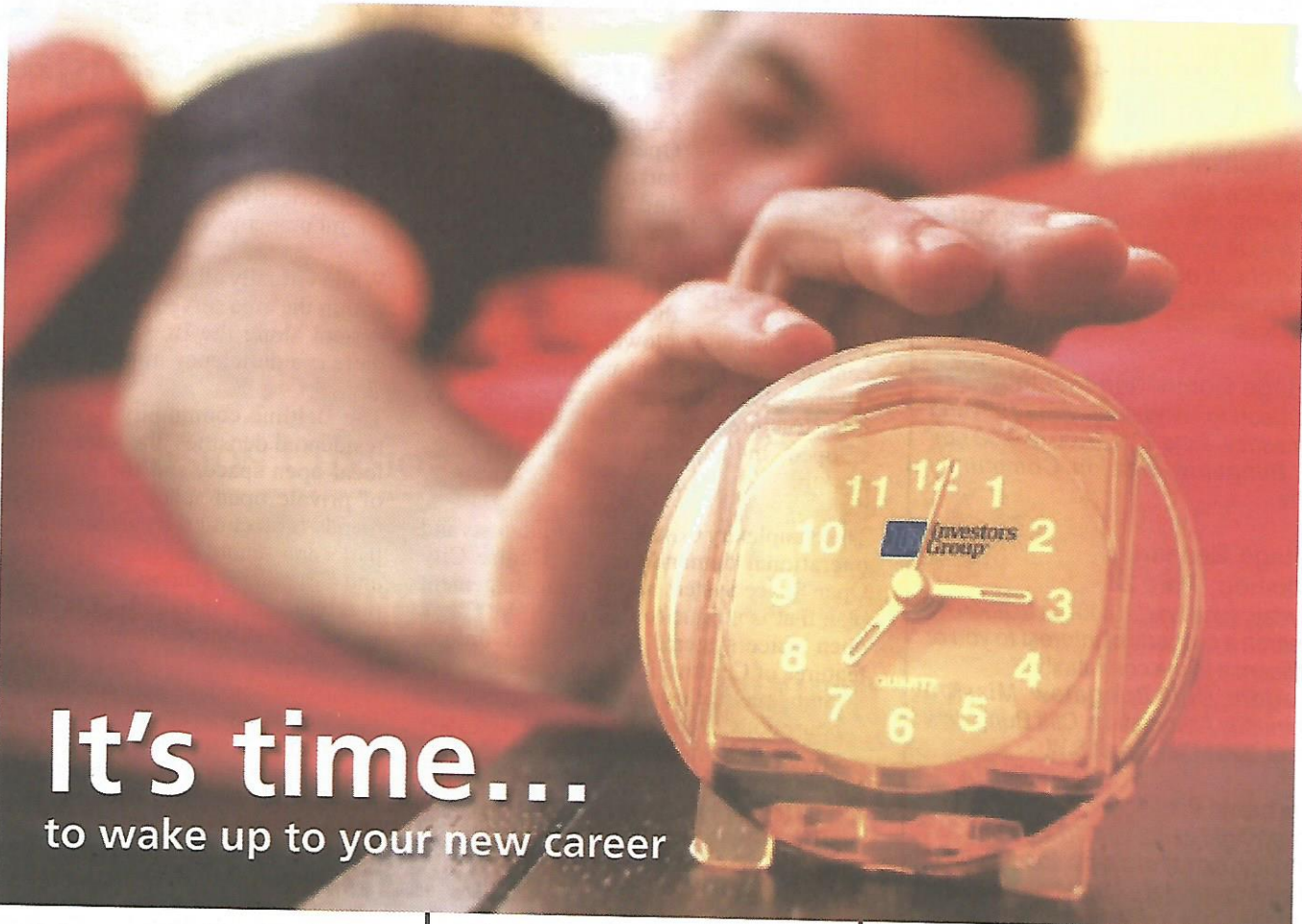


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