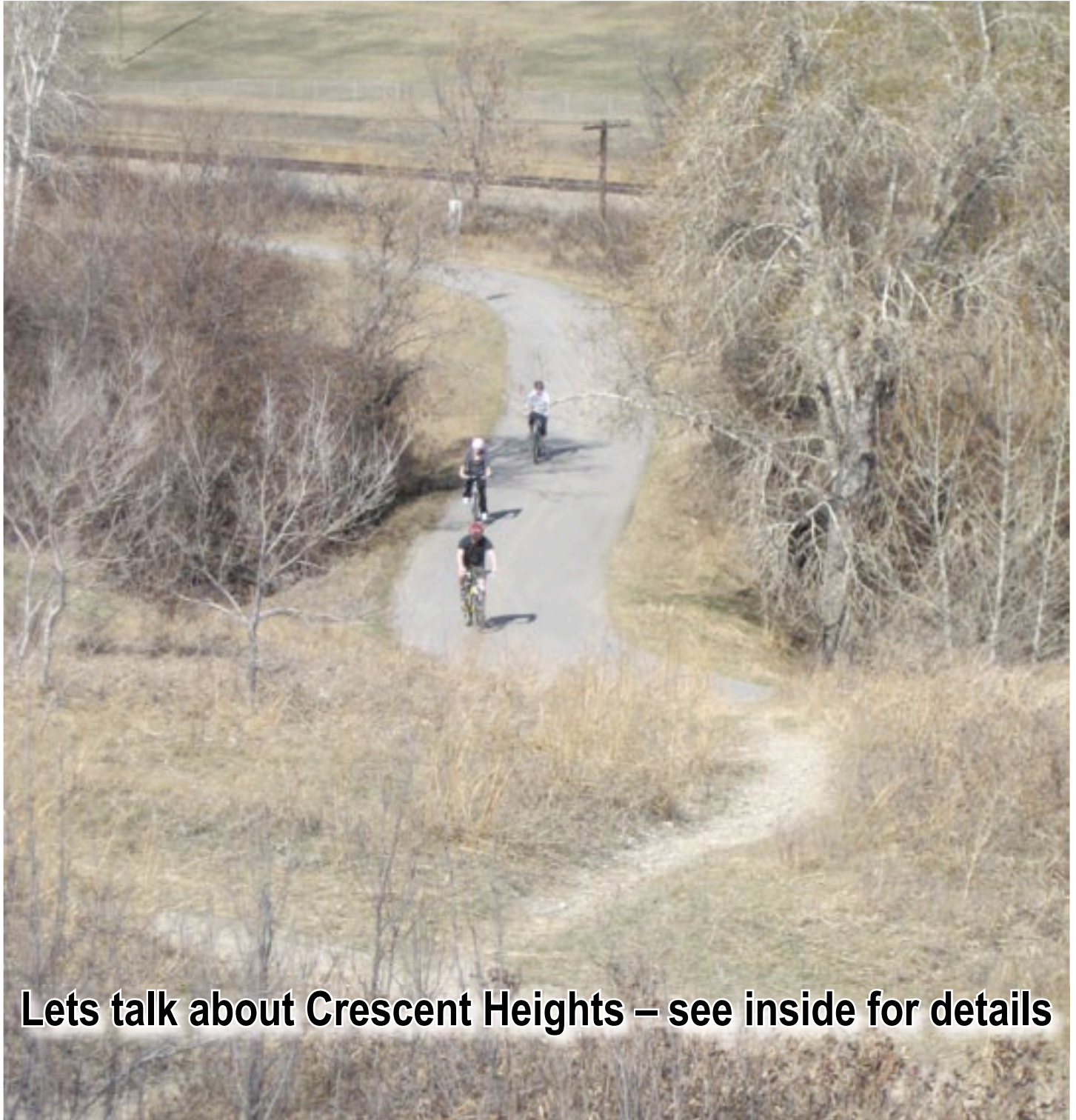


● The Crescent View

November 2013



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CRESCENT HEIGHTS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



Lets talk about Crescent Heights – see inside for details

SEPTEMBER SALES STAY STRONG

Courtesy of  **creb®**
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Rise in new listings prevents further tightening in the resale market

Calgary, Oct. 3, 2013 – City of Calgary residential sales totaled 1,923 units in September, 19 per cent higher than last year and 14 per cent higher than long-term averages for the month.

While sales activity over the past three months has been above long-term trends, it was less so in September than in July and August.

"The impact of the floods likely boosted sales throughout July and August, and it appears as though some of that additional demand is starting to ease," said Ann-Marie Lurie, CREB® chief economist. "Nonetheless, sales growth remains strong, in part because net migration has been stronger than anticipated and rental product is in short supply."

As Calgary's market remains in seller's territory, a notable shift is occurring with new listings. While monthly levels of new listings have been declining since 2011, over the past three months the levels of new listings have improved. The growth was not enough to cause any significant changes in inventory levels, but it has helped prevent further tightening in the market.

"The increase in new listings has given buyers more choice," said Becky Walters, CREB® President.

Activity varies by community, property type and price. Consumers searching for lower-priced single family homes often have to adjust expectations or consider alternative communities or property types. While many buyers think the seller's market conditions should lead to a significant price premium for their property, consumers remain price sensitive.

"Selection is limited in the lower price ranges, but choice has improved for higher priced homes," said Walters

Condominium apartment and townhouse sales totaled a respective 3,147 and 2,494 after the first three quarters of the year. Year-to-date sales growth is more than double the levels recorded in the single family sector.

"The condominium market offer affordable options for consumers in the city, and the growth reflect that," said Walters. "But keep in mind condominiums still represent less than one third of residential sales within city limits."

Single family sales totaled 13,006 units after the first three quarters of the year, a 6.7 per cent increase over the previous year. Single family sales increased in the third quarter, while the first two quarters were on pace with activity in 2012.

"Tight market conditions have supported price growth in the Calgary market," said Lurie. "But the pace of unadjusted monthly growth has eased in September."

"While prices show strong year-over-year gains, if the level of new listings continues to improve relative to sales activity, prices should level off for the remainder of the year."

Condominium apartment prices totaled \$272,900 in September, a 9.5 per cent increase over 2012 and 0.9 per cent higher than August figures.

Meanwhile, single family and condominium prices totaled a respective \$463,700 and \$299,100, similar to unadjusted levels recorded in August and more than seven per cent higher on a year-over-year basis.

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**1101 - 2nd Street NW
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CHCA activities and operations is provided through volunteer community members and a volunteer board of directors, whose common interest is to advance and enhance the quality of life to CHCA residents, and promote partnership and cooperation between residents and businesses of Crescent Heights.

Volunteer Board of Directors

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Newsletter Editor	Elizabeth Stady, 403.245.3331 chcaview@gmail.com	(89)
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Community Rink Manager	Tim Edwards	(83)
Crime Prevention/Blockwatch	Jack Lawson	(82)
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Comm. Liaison Officer: Cst. Dominique Laporte, 567-6300
District 3, #3241

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Letters and submissions from community members are always welcome. Please mail or drop off at the Hall mail slot at 1101 - 2nd Street NW, Calgary, Alberta T2M 2V7, or submit materials via email to chcaview@gmail.com

Opinions expressed in the *The Crescent View* are not necessarily those of the Crescent Heights Community Association or of the publisher.

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More information on page 6.



www.calgaryarea.com/nw/crescenthts/crescent.htm

The Compelling Case of Eva Coo

by Kim Burchby,

Introduction by Professor Z



In the event anyone missed it, Century Homes Calgary ran again this year from July 26 to August 5th. Locally, there were about 40 homes participating; many enjoyed delving into their home's past and then sharing what they'd learned by way of a yard sign. One of the more fascinating stories that came to light this year was uncovered by local resident Kim Burchby, who with her husband Colin Anderson, owns a charming 1912 Craftsman- style bungalow in East Crescent Heights; picture attached. Here's their home occupancy listing up until 1953, which at first glance doesn't seem all that exciting:

1912-1914: no information located

1914-1918: William Coo, storekeeper, CPR; Eva Coo

1919-1925: Singleton D. Curran, farmer

1927-1934: Norman S. Mackie, accountant, Imperial Bank of Canada

1935-1936: James A. Key, physician 1937-1938: no information located

1939-1953: Hugh T. Robertson, teacher, various high schools

When Kim then undertook to find out more about the occupants themselves, she hit paydirt! Kim's story about her notorious resident continues from this point.

"Goodbye darlings!" (the last words of Eva Coo)

Eva Curry was born January 17, 1889 in Haliburton, Ontario, the second child of parents Albert Paterson Curry (1862-1920) and Margaret McDonald Watt (1867-1950). Eva abandoned her rural roots and headed to the big city of Toronto where her older sister Elizabeth Mary had married Erwin Snider in 1906. There, Eva met William Coo. They married and headed west.

In the 1916 census of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, J W Coo - 38 year old store keeper with the CPR — and his 28 year old wife Eva Coo appear living at 235 - 7 Avenue Northeast in Calgary, Alberta. By the mid 1920s, Eva had separated from her husband. In 1927, she appears in the Oneonta New York City Directory living at 39 Chestnut Street. From 1928 through 1934 Mrs Eva Coo is listed in Oneonta directories as the owner of a "roadstand" in Colliersville, Oneonta, New York. During that era, Oneonta was a bustling railroad town through which many transients passed every day to points east and west. Eva's clientele consisted of

- Continued on page 5



In 2012, we contracted an independent consultant to conduct an appraisal of our client base to ensure that we are meeting or exceeding our clients' expectations.

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Eva Coo cont. from page 3

truck drivers, railroad employees, college students and construction workers. Eva's Place, as it was called, was a popular stopover known throughout the region. Eva herself was a boisterous, outgoing woman with a quick sense of humor who could always be counted on for a good time. She was 5' 7" and weighed a muscular 170 pounds. Everyone knew Eva and she knew everyone else, including politicians and police.

Eva employed a staff that consisted of several local people who worked as bartenders and kept the bar, called Little Eva's Place, stocked with booze and supplies. One of the employees, Harry "Gimpy" Wright, 52, was a farmer whose mother had passed away in 1931. He was unable to care for himself and

came to live with Eva that summer in exchange for \$2,000 of his mother's inheritance money. Harry often drank at the bar to excess and took to walking down the highway, Route 7, in an inebriated state, sometimes falling alongside the road where he had to be rescued by other patrons.

In 1933, a girl named Martha Clift, originally from Pennsylvania, went to work at Little Eva's Place. She became a familiar sight at the bar and people noticed that she also became very friendly with Eva Coo. In 1934, passenger service on the D&H railway line between Cooperstown and Colliersville was discontinued. It's not hard to imagine how this would have affected Eva's business. In June of that summer, Eva reported to the police that "Gimpy" was missing. He had wandered out of the bar after a bout with the bottle and hadn't been seen or heard from since.

The police conducted a search and quickly found the body of Harry Wright, smashed up in a bad way, laying in a roadside ditch off Route 7. He was less than a half-mile from Eva's place and it was immediately surmised that he was struck and killed by a hit and run driver who didn't see the unlucky victim until it was too late. A local coroner examined the remains and ruled that Wright was probably killed by a hit and run driver while strolling drunk along Route 7, something that he was known to do in the past. His body was dispatched over to a local funeral parlor and prepared for burial. In the meantime, Eva, not known for her intelligence, showed up at a Met Life Insurance Company office in Oneonta with an insurance policy on "Gimpy's" life. The beneficiary named in the policy was Eva Coo. The claim was processed but the insurance company became suspicious and took their suspicions to the police.

An autopsy was conducted on Wright and the coroner ruled the death suspicious. It was later discovered that on the night of Wright's death, Coo and Clift were reported to be trespassing on an old farm near Crumhorn Mountain. That was enough for the sheriff's office. Both women were arrested. While they were held at the local jail, sheriff's deputies went to Eva's home and, without a warrant, broke in and searched the place. Officers found dozens of insurance policies on Eva's friends, acquaintances and employees, all naming her as the beneficiary. When confronted with the evidence, both women soon confessed. Coo said they took Wright to an old farmhouse near Crumhorn Mountain outside Oneonta and smashed his head in with a hammer. They ran over his body using a friend's car and then threw Wright into a highway ditch where he was found. However, each woman named the other as the one who actually did the killing and would not relent.

The sheriff then took Eva and Martha to Crumhorn Mountain to clarify their statements and it was there that one of the most grotesque interrogations in the history of criminal justice began. The Sheriff exhumed the body of Harry Wright and brought it to the site where he removed it from the coffin. For the next few hours, while the women argued back and forth about who did what to whom, sheriff's deputies carted around Wright's corpse, placing it in various spots in front of the terrified suspects who nearly collapsed from the stench and the summer heat.

- Continued on page 6



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**CASH
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Eva Coo cont. from page 5

In August 1934 the trial began in the baseball town of Cooperstown, New York. It attracted the usual media gang and entrepreneurs who sold souvenirs and memorabilia outside the county courthouse. Incredibly, Wright's body was again exhumed during proceedings so police could check on his wounds. The trial lasted almost three weeks and quickly turned into a circus. But in the end, it took just one hour for the jury to bring in a verdict. Eva Coo was found guilty of Murder 1st degree and sentenced to death at Sing Sing. Martha Clift was found guilty of Murder 2nd degree and sentenced to 20 years. That same day, outside the Otsego County Courthouse, a caravan of cars carrying Eva Coo, Martha Clift and a platoon of police and state troopers left for Sing Sing, about 90 miles south. Later, at the doors to the prison, the two women were allowed to say goodbye to each other. Martha was then taken to Bedford Reformatory, about thirty miles away, where she would serve out her sentence.

On June 27, 1935, after half-hearted appeals were filed by her attorneys, who often fought with each other and tried to make money from her story, Eva Coo ate her last meal. A last-second request was made to Governor Herbert Lehman to spare her life, but he refused. At 11:00 p.m. that night, she was brought into the death chamber. Two matrons, one on each side of Eva, escorted her to the chair. Her posture was erect and her shoulders pushed back. She appeared resigned but with a trace of the old bravado. She sat unassisted, her white hands gripping the ends of the chair.

"Goodbye, darlings!" she said to the matrons. Several minutes later she was dead, the third woman to die at Sing Sing in the 20th century. In his journal, executioner Robert G. Elliot wrote a simple notation: "New York June 27-1935-11 P.M. 9 Amp. Eva Coo #89508- 42 years" (Elliot, p. 279).

In Haliburton, Ontario, Eva's hometown, when her sister, Mrs. William Baker, was asked for a reaction to the execution, she told reporters that Eva "has been dead to her family for seventeen years" (New York Times, June 28, 1935). After her execution, Eva's body was not claimed. Accordingly, she was buried in a potter's field whose exact location is unknown and her grave has never been found.

References (all are online sources): Henderson's Directory, 1912-1953 - *peel.library.ualberta.ca*; *wegoback.wordpress.com*; *murderpedia.org*; *trutv.com*
Photo Credits: Eva Coo- *Murderpedia*; Burchby residence- *Professor Z*

Let's talk about Crescent Heights!

Crescent Heights Community Association membership drive initiative

Time Period: October 2013 to September 2014

Managed by: Current Treasurer for CHCA / Current Membership Director for CHCA

Distribution: CHCA members for implementation

Objectives:

- Promote neighbor to neighbour to neighbour contact and communication;
- Increase number of new members in CHCA;
- Tool to measure feedback and/or topics of concerns to CHCA residents;
- Encourage people to hold "mini block parties" to develop neighbourhood cohesiveness.

Mini Block Parties Format:

CHCA will reimburse up to \$50 to current CHCA members in good standing, to host mini block parties; The member who submits the expense claim must also submit a summary report of topics / discussions taken place at the event, and the desired outcome or solution proposed for further investigation / follow-up.

Receipts for expenses must be submitted to support the claim, together with proof of current membership. All submitted receipts and reports become property of CHCA.

Rules:

- Minimum of two new individual / family members per event (non-current CHCA members);
- Minimum 40% of the attendees must be new CHCA members (signup at event);
- Existing CHCA members can host 2 events per year;
- Existing CHCA members can participate in 2 events per year as non-host capacity;
- Reports and expenses must be submitted within two weeks of event's date.

Report to be submitted directly to membership director / coordinator with new membership signup forms and applicable membership fees for new membership(s).

Please allow up to 4 weeks, from receipt of claim, for reimbursement cheque to be paid.

"Let's talk about Crescent Heights" - membership drive initiative!

Report / Request for funding

Submitted by: _____

Event Date: _____

Attendees: _____

Report Date: _____

Location: _____

P#: _____ member / new

P#: _____ member / new

P#: _____ member / new

P#: _____ member / new

P#: _____ member / new

Topics of discussion and desired outcome:

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

Total Receipts submitted: _____ Cheque made out to: _____

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Crescent Heights Affordable Housing Development

The City of Calgary is considering construction of a multi-residential development on two vacant parcels of City-owned land at 210 and 212 – 15th Avenue N.E. For more information on the project, latest news and project updates, please visit calgary.ca/affordablehousingdevelopments.

Lee Prevost Project Manager, The City of Calgary
403.268.8732 or lee.prevost@calgary.ca

Newsletter Editorial Deadlines

The Crescent View is published ten times per year.

Deadline: The 10th of each month for the following month. For example: To be published in the June issue, the deadline is May 10. Special September issue deadline: August 5 (to accommodate all the 'back-to-school' material).

Remember – the December 2013 and January 2014 issues are combined and the deadline for submission of articles is November 10th.

Please email your articles or event listings, as an attachment in MS Word to Elizabeth Stady at chcaview@gmail.com.

Wild Rose United Church

Calling all families and youth! Looking for a fun service that is geared towards youth? Wild Rose United Church would like to invite you to NAKED FAITH, a high-energy contemporary service on Friday, November 15th from 6: 30 to 8: 30 pm. There will be fantastic music, great use of multimedia and great people to talk to. Free pizza afterwards! 1317 – 1st Street NW. 403-277-5576.

Perambulations

Hound Ferret on Patrol

October 1 was my first opportunity to walk up the new Samis Road sidewalk from Centre Street. Having been away and seeing the progress on the roadway that same day from the Prince's Island pedestrian bridge, it appears far cleaner and more "finished" than the initial plan suggested when rolled out about a year ago. As those of you who pass through the area regularly will know, there is now a curb on the south side, a full sidewalk on the north side, a landscaped verge against the bluff and evidently plans for bike lane roadway markings to better separate and protect pedestrians from motor vehicle traffic that will now be one way uphill (eastbound) into the community. Together with the new Samis road pathway, with its switchback and connection to the Samis staircase, this much travelled and much-loved end of Rotary Park is now almost ready

- Continued on page 10

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Perambulations cont. from page 9

for its close-up. It seems a long time and a far cry from when the old Samis pathway was unceremoniously removed two years ago.

Elsewhere in Rotary Park, other matters are nearing their resolution: the meandering pathway up from Centre Street now connects to a similarly-meandering gravel path that makes its way south-north along the east edge of the park, winding past the tennis club, the play area, splash park and now connecting to the concrete sidewalk in front of the EOC and the new sidewalk that spans the frontage of the Rotary Park Lawn Bowls Club along 1st Street NE.



CHCA Community Hall Activities and Events

November 2013 CHCA Calendar

05	CHCA Traffic & Planning Meeting, 7-9pm
12	CHCA Board Meeting, 7:30-9pm
19	CHCA Traffic & Planning Meeting, 7-9pm
26	CHCA Board Meeting, 7:30-9pm

November at the Hall

SUNDAYS:	Pentecostal Church Public Service 10am – noon
MONDAYS:	Fitness Class 5-7pm, call Lana 403-999-5373 Dance and Fitness 7:30 – 9:30pm
TUESDAYS:	CHCA Board and Traffic meetings - all welcome!
WEDNESDAYS:	Tai Chi 7:30 – 9:00pm
THURSDAYS:	Fitness Class 5:30-8pm For info call Lana 403-999-5373

For more a more detailed Hall Calendar and for event and activities contact information please visit:

<http://www.calgaryarea.com/nw/crescenthts/calendar/diary.asp>

Bad Bargain Made Good

On the other side of Centre Street the new seating area and viewpoint has been established, landscaped and finished at the far east corner of Crescent Road where it meets Centre A Street NW. This new viewpoint was designed and built pursuant to an agreement between the city and the purchaser of a portion of undedicated road right-of-way at the east end of Crescent Road. Although the original landowner (and purchaser of the additional parcel) is no longer resident in Crescent Heights, he lived up to his obligation under the deal and saw to the completion of the Viewpoint. At the time City Council voted on the disposition of the parcel (unwanted and much unloved by Parks) even the new Mayor thought it a bad bargain, but local knowledge attested to a long-standing pattern of bad behaviour at many other locations along the Crescent Road promenade. An additional landscaped viewpoint was thought at the time to be of potential benefit in spreading any such bad behaviours out along the promenade like beads on a necklace, and avoid the concentration that continues to occur at 1st and 2nd Streets NW. The mischief these mopes, mooks, skells and scumbags get up to in our front yard; now they have another venue, but under the watchful eyes of nearby neighbours.

The Honourable Member for High Dudgeon

Continuing in the theme of bad behaviours by visitors to Crescent Heights, the October issue of the newsletter included a call for feedback on the past two years' practice of situating the Canada Day Fireworks on the Centre Street bridge. Residents closest to the best viewpoints (near Crescent Road NW and Rotary Park) have reported bad behaviour, vehicular and otherwise, some achieving a state of moderate to high dudgeon at the tangled traffic flows. Certainly over the years Crescent Heights has been a preferred viewing site for any fireworks display visible from "our front porch" and the evening closure of Centre Street has no doubt added to the complications of visitor traffic seeking access and egress. Add to this micturition, forceful expectoration, spitting and picking of noses, plus loud talk, bad talk and litter, and some residents are voting with both feet. It is fair to say that we can bring some essential local knowledge to the event after two years of very complicated traffic flows, and we should certainly have the opportunity to press for more active traffic control than has been the case to date. On the other hand, we continue to be a resilient neighbourhood and a welcoming one. Many residents, some closer to the centre of the action and others further north off the bluff (where the evening's traffic was still bumper to bumper), were more bemused by the spectacle than outraged, to say nothing of being happy enough to have the fireworks so close to home.

Just How Welcoming are we?

We may be about to find out. The Calgary Homeless Foundation has approached Crescent Heights in anticipation of acquiring and developing a low income housing facility in the community: the plan is very much in its infancy and the agency is well steeped in the need to consult extensively with host communities and allow ample opportunity for public engagement and venting. Watch these pages and our other communications channels for further details and opportunities to learn more about the project and have input. It is anticipated that residents will be keen to learn the operational details of the facility and have input into a robust good neighbour agreement, which agreements tend to minimize potential adverse impacts of hosting the hard to house.

Dragonfly Co-housing Setback

This horrible news reached Hound in early September: a significant setback has befallen the proposed Dragonfly Co-housing project planned for the sloping site at 1st Avenue and 3rd Street NE. After attending a very exciting sod-turning ceremony at the site earlier this year, Hound was gobsmacked to learn that costs had escalated on the project, and the Dragonflies have been forced to re-evaluate the project. A nicer and gentler group of future Crescent Heights residents would be hard to conjure, so we'll hope the development's financial wrinkles can be ironed out and the project goes ahead.

Some Choice View Routes up for Grabs: Hello Dogpatch!

For the last several years Hound Ferret has been stumbling around in Crescent Heights' back forty, delivering the The Crescent View to formerly View-deprived residents in an area of the community lovingly referred to by one long time resident as "Dogpatch". The area includes a couple of multi-unit developments on 3rd Street NE, as well as the areas below, encompassing 3rd Avenue, 2nd Avenue and 1st Avenue NE, plus Marsh Road and Meredith Road, top to bottom. Hound's knees will soon be celebrating a birthday and, although they have not yet lawyered-up, they have definitely taken advantage of the free 30-minute consultation. If you are reading this in Dogpatch, Hound brought it to you, and he wonders if you might consider taking on all or part of the route. We'll hope that one day it will grow a little more to include our friends at the Dragonfly. In addition, two other routes are up for grabs: parts of the 100-block of 10th, 11th and 12th Avenues NW, including the corresponding section of Centre Street, about 75 papers. And a shorty is available on 12th and

13th Avenue NW, between 2nd and 3rd Street: thirty-odd papers, takes maybe 20 minutes, phone Hound now and any of these choice routes can be yours – 403-277-8653.

And finally this month, the leaf and pumpkin composting and recycling program continues in our community at the NW corner of the Crescent Heights High School Parking lot, but please remember that it only continues until November 10, and that Christmas trees are neither leaves nor pumpkins, nor is household rubbish, construction rubble or car parts. *Leaf and Pumpkin.*

Home Remedies for Cold & Flu

by Ryan Nakama, Naturopathic Doctor

It seems that cold and flu season hits earlier every year. They may sound crazy but these simple home remedies may be just the thing you need to beat the next nasty bug that invades your home.

Magic Socks:

What: Ice-cold socks on your feet before you go to bed that are magically dry when you wake up. I can feel you cringing.

Why: The cold increases blood flow to the feet in an attempt to warm the area. This creates a pressure gradient and draws congestion out of the head and chest. It is great for sinus and chest congestion.

How: Soak cotton socks in a bath of ice water. Wring out until just not

- Continued on page 13

Support your Community!

Buy Your Membership Today

Crescent Heights Community Association Membership Application Form

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Non-Voting (Business and Non-Residents)

- ☐ Associate (\$20) ☐ Business (\$50)

Names : _____

Address : _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone : _____ Email : _____

☐ Yes, send me community emails

☐ New Membership ☐ Renewal

Date _____ Amount Enclosed \$ _____

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- Tobacco Cessation Classes
- Access to Dietitians
- A Free Walking Program
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- Mobile healthcare services, in partnership with Ronald McDonald House® Southern Alberta



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every Mon 2pm-7pm

Remembrance Day 11/11 10am-3pm

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1st & 3rd Tues each month 9:30am-1pm

Interfaith Food Bank (5000 11 St SE)

1st & 3rd Thurs each month 10:30am-3:30pm

Salvation Army (1826-36 St SE)

2nd & 4th Thurs each month 10am-4pm

Marlborough Mall

1st & 3rd Fri each month 11am-3pm

Women In Need Society (16 Templemont La NE)

Tues Oct 29 12-4 pm

Women In Need Society (736 McDougall Ct NE)

Tues Nov 26 from 1-4pm

Women In Need Society (701 Erin Woods La NE)

Thurs Dec 19 2pm-7pm

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A special "thank you" to **Brian Hohn**
for helping to deliver *The Crescent View*.
Your volunteer efforts are very much appreciated!

Home Remedies cont. from page 11

dripping but still wet. Place on feet. Pull on wool socks over top and hop into bed. Start at the first signs of cold or flu and continue for a couple after symptoms are gone.

Bonus tip! This can be great for kids. My 2-year-old loves it and asks for "Mommy's Magic Socks" even when she's not sick.

Steam Inhalations:

What: Inhaling anti-microbial and immune boosting essential oils to help decrease congestion and lessen the severity and duration of cold and flu.

Why: Steam helps loosen and thin the thick mucus that can be hard to cough up and causes sinus headache. Including essential oils takes their antimicrobial effect directly to where it is needed.

How: Grab a large towel, a small bowl and boil some water. Drape the towel over your head. Place a 3-5 drops of essential oils like oregano, thyme, eucalyptus, lavender, tea tree, or rosemary into the bowl and add freshly boiled water. Lean over the bowl with the towel over your head to trap the steam and begin to breathe deeply.

Bonus tip! Coughing is common, especially at first so don't let that deter you. Choose lavender in the evening for its calming effects and rosemary in the morning for its energizing properties.

Honey garlic syrup:

What: a surprisingly tasty home made-syrup to combat nasty microbes

Why: Garlic and honey both have antimicrobial properties. While cinnamon is warming and improves circulation. The syrup also helps to soothe sore throats from coughing.

How: Slice or dice a head of garlic and place in a clean jar. Cover with honey. The mixture will thin over the next 24 hours. Take 1 teaspoon 3-4 times per day.

Bonus tip! I make what some have called "THE BEST" honey-garlic chicken wings/drumstick using just this sauce!

Give these tricks a try, even if they sound a bit crazy. If you still find yourself getting sick too often it may be a sign that you need a bit more immune support.

7th Street S.W. cycle track

Travelling from the Bow River Pathway near the Peace Bridge to 8 Avenue, the 7 Street S.W. cycle track opened at the beginning of July and is getting well used by all levels of cyclists. A cycle track is an enhanced bike lane that is protected by a physical barrier from moving cars, parked cars and sidewalks.

As Calgarians return from summer vacations, some will travel along 7 Street S.W. for the first time since the cycle track opened. The City created a guide that explains the new road features for motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians. The full guide can be found at Calgary.ca/bicycle.

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Off the Shelf

Book review by Judith Umbach

Maya's Notebook

by Isabel Allende



At first the dual settings of *Maya's Notebook* seem to engender culture clash. Maya, recovering drug addict, has been sent to remote Chiloé, the southern island area of Chile from Los Vegas, the place of her willful captivity in the drug culture. Gradually, author Isabel Allende draws out the nuances of the two societies, showing us the modern world's cultural symbiosis.

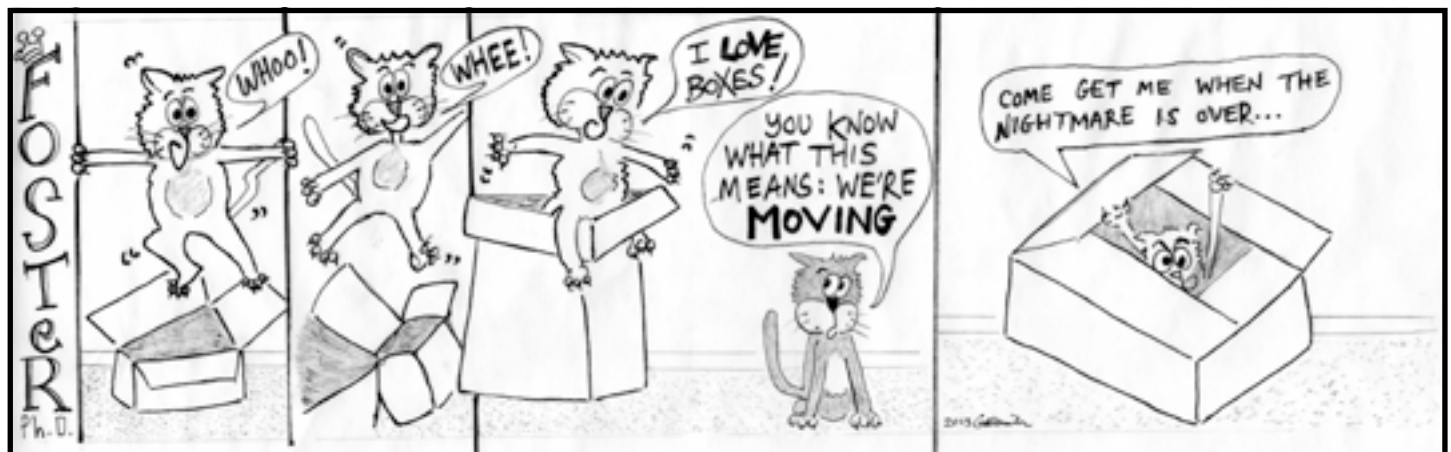
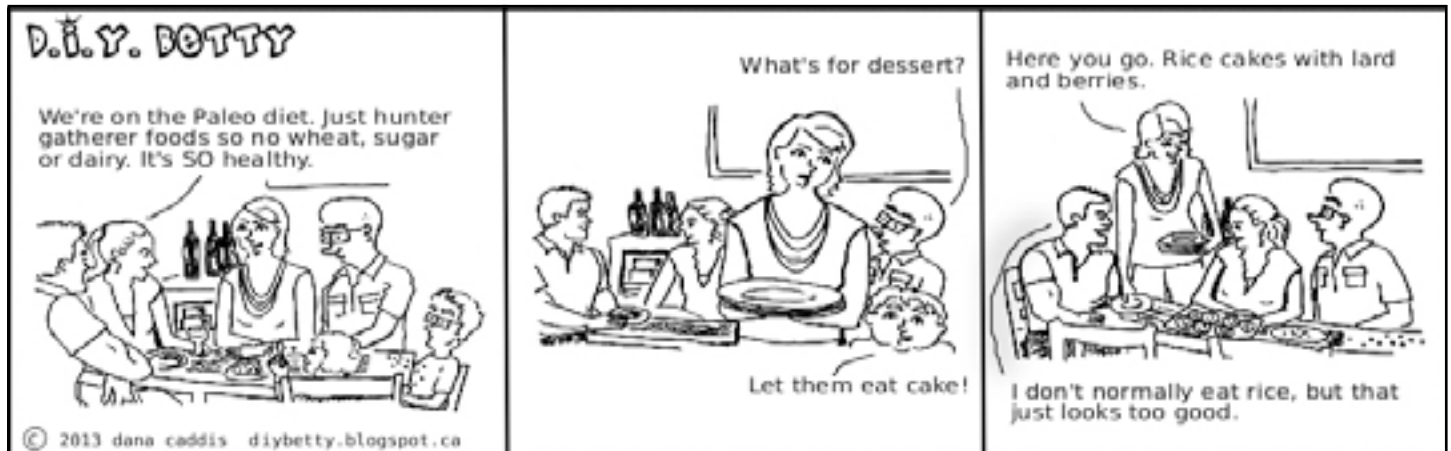
Maya's grandparents are her bedrock. Emotionally and often physically abandoned by her parents, she grows up spoiled (as she admits) by her eccentric Chilean grandmother and her warmly loving American grandfather. Rules are loose, when they exist, in favour of creativity and spontaneity. The family is so passionate that they collapse when struck with tragedy.

Sent to Chile in a protective exile by her grandmother, Maya has been instructed to keep a notebook of everything she does, thinks and feels. In exile, her home is made with a friend of her grandmother, a taciturn professor who is writing a book about the myths and anthropology of

Chiloé. Modern Maya, banned from using the internet and without most of her electronics, drops into an eighteenth century village. After she learns to stop chattering and rebelling, she begins to appreciate the genuine strength and friendship of a self-sufficient community.

Maya's Notebook moves ahead and backwards in a well-modulated rhythm. The joy of her early life helps her make friends in the village. Her knowledge of the wider world helps her see that the village is not so very isolated. Committed to sobriety, she takes full responsibility for her rehabilitation, while recognizing that she needs the emotional support of others. As she becomes sensitive to the troubles of other people in the community, she begins to assess her own period of self-destruction and sheer danger. Her evident healing encourages her friends and neighbours to include her in their traditions and beliefs.

With great skill, Isabel Allende offers the reader the opportunity to join Maya on a journey of self discovery and cultural exploration.



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