



## President's Notebook

By John McDermid

Once again it is June and we anticipate a range of summer events in Crescent Heights. The new CHCA Board met for the first time on May 12th, following the April 16th AGM and our election of two new directors, which gives us a full slate of nine. Leaving us, as I noted here last month, is long-term director and outgoing Treasurer George Day. After many years wearing several different hats on our board, George has cycled out, but will no doubt continue to be a familiar and welcome presence at events in the community. Thanks again, George, for all your hard work and good counsel.

Joining us for the first time as CHCA directors (and yet to book their appointments at one of our finer local establishments for their CHCA Elm Leaf tattoo) are Darlene Jones and Rob Elliott. Darlene comes to the Board from an active role in the Traffic and Planning Committee and takes on the newly-minted role of Environment Director. Darlene has been our most active committee member to participate in the public engagement sessions that were such an important part of the Plan It Calgary program, the blueprint for future growth and development in our city, of which environmental impacts are such an

important component. Assuming the position of Environment Director, Darlene gives our board a new fresh look and a director's "portfolio" that will surely become an increasingly important one in our inner-city community.

The particular hat our other new board member, Rob Elliott, will wear has yet to be defined, although the temptation at our meeting on May 12th was to volunteer Rob for all manner of responsibilities. Rob had to be out of town on business the evening of our first meeting as a new board, so we'll report in this space next month what Rob's priorities for his role on the board will be.

Continuing with us for another year are the serious seven: Daniel Dang will continue to be our Business Liaison Director, but will also take on the Treasurer's role out of which George has just pirouetted. Daniel has had an active role in our annual audit preparations, a sound background in finance and some good ideas about how we can tweak our financial operations to benefit the organization in the coming year. Joe Nagy will continue as Planning Director, and Kris Karvinen carries on as Traffic Director. The tireless Sharon Anderson-

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## Garden Tour

Sunday, July 19th from 1:00 to 4:00 pm.  
\$2 per person (to cover costs)

We are finding a lovely range of gardens for the 2009 Crescent Heights Garden Tour, as our excellent gardeners once again agree to open their gardens for viewing. Pick up maps at the Community Hall, at 1101 – 2nd Street NW, at 1:00 pm and enjoy a pretty walk around the neighbourhood.

To keep our gardeners from being overrun this year, we are putting a limit on ticket sales, so be sure to come right at 1:00 pm or soon after. Happy gardening!

## Stampede Breakfast

Yahoo! Be sure to mark your calendar with our annual community Stampede Breakfast. It's on Sunday, July 12th from 9:00 to 11:00 am at the Community Hall. Planning is underway. There will be lots of things for the young cowpokes to do! You won't want to miss this.

Come meet your neighbours. We will be inviting our local politicians. Tap your toes to the beat of Crazy Bones String Band. In the interest of reducing garbage, please bring your own cutlery.

If your membership is not up-to-date, please contact Jonathan and Alison Martin at [curmudgeon9@shaw.ca](mailto:curmudgeon9@shaw.ca) to renew it so you can get those flapjacks with minimal wait. Among other things, a \$20 household membership goes a long way to paying for your Stampede Breakfast which is free to members. Non-members pay \$5 per adults and \$3 each child. Exact change is always appreciated!

Ya just gotta come to this, pardner – see you there!

# The Crescent View

The Crescent View is published 10 times per year by Flexys Systems Publishing for the Crescent Heights Community Association. The View is distributed to all households within Crescent Heights by your neighbours.

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[www.calgaryarea.com/nw/crescenthts/crescent.htm](http://www.calgaryarea.com/nw/crescenthts/crescent.htm)

## Crescent Heights Community Association

1101 - 2nd Street NW  
Calgary, Alberta T2M 2V7

## Volunteer Board of Directors

<b>President</b>	John McDermid	277-8653
<b>Treasurer</b>	George Day	277-1043
<b>Secretary</b>	Anne Underwood	277-0249
<b>Planning</b>	Joe Nagy	277-1364
<b>Traffic</b>	Kris Karvinen <a href="mailto:kgkarvinen@gmail.com">kgkarvinen@gmail.com</a>	
<b>Parks</b>	Sharon Anderson-Marr	276-1831
<b>Business Liaison</b>	Daniel Dang	355-0058
<b>Communications</b>	Penny Smith <a href="mailto:smithpenny@shaw.ca">smithpenny@shaw.ca</a>	
<b>Block Watch</b>	John McDermid	277-8653
<b>Past President</b>	Connie McLaren	230-0224

## Committees

<b>Hall Rentals</b>	Marlene Zaharichuk	804-5600
<small>Hall rental inquiries will be answered in two to three days</small>		
<b>Playgroup</b>	Stacie Banks	670-6872
	<a href="mailto:stacie_banks@yahoo.ca">stacie_banks@yahoo.ca</a>	
<b>Memberships</b>	Jonathan and Alison Martin <a href="mailto:curmudgeon9@shaw.ca">curmudgeon9@shaw.ca</a>	
<b>Babysitting Co-op</b>	Robin Strathdee	276-8610
<b>Rink Manager</b>	Tim Edwards	606-9303
<b>Block Watch</b>	John McDermid	277-8653

Inquiries and comments can be emailed to  
[chcaboard@hotmail.com](mailto:chcaboard@hotmail.com)

Member of FCC

**Community Liaison Officer:** Dominick Laporte  
District 3, #3241 284-3393

Community and Block Watch  
e-mail list contact Penny Smith at  
[smithpenny@shaw.ca](mailto:smithpenny@shaw.ca)

## President's Message *cont. from cover*

Marr continues as our Parks Director, and we are discussing making this a hyphenated Board position, perhaps Parks-Gardens, which would reflect how many of the initiatives that she heads up have a direct bearing on the "small parks" in our community: individual private gardens, Sharon has been instrumental in making arrangements for last year Neighbourwoods Tree Planting Program, the garden tour, this year's plant exchange, as well as the Healthy Yards Program tailored specifically for Crescent Heights and delivered right in our community on June 11th. Penny Smith will continue as our Communications Director, in charge of our community email list and ensuring those on the list get all the information they need and not a lot of bumph they do not need or want. Anne Underwood will continue in her Executive Committee role of the CHCA Secretary, ensuring our reporting responsibilities with various oversight bodies are current and accurate. She also provides us with wickedly accurate minutes of our monthly meetings and AGMs, including those always important Action Items.

We have a very good crew taking us into the balance of 2009 and early 2010. I hope you will join me in welcoming our new colleagues and thanking our continuing Board members for another year. They are a pleasure to work with, have a deep store of good sense and public spirit, and are among the most enthusiastic and energetic members of our community. And they let me continue as President for one more year.

## Invasive Plants

### Weeders of the Wild Volunteer Role

Invasive plant species consist of weeds, trees, shrubs and even flowers. They are harmful to Calgary's natural environment because they displace native plants, reduce diversity, disrupt ecosystems and cost taxpayers money. A new Invasive Plant Management Plan was implemented to address the 100-plus invasive plant species identified in Calgary parks. We are looking for volunteers to join Weeders of the Wild and help reduce the number of invasive plants in our parks and green spaces.

Volunteers help eliminate invasive weeds in Calgary's natural environment

In other developments, we reached an important milestone in our ongoing discussions and negotiations in respect of entering into a sub-lease arrangement with the Rotary Park Lawn Bowls Club, whose old clubhouse has recently been removed from the site, and where a beautiful new one will soon take its place. The City of Calgary asked that we enter into this agreement with the Lawn Bowling Club to secure a lease of occupation for the Rotary Park site, and we have been working on the terms of the arrangement for a little over a year. We are now at the point where we have come to agreement between the Association and the Club, so it is over to the City to review the document and perhaps have its Law Department drip some slime on it. Pardon me, entirely uncalled for.

In truth, we look forward to working with the City to see the agreement through to completion and to clear away any impediments to the Club's construction of its beautiful new facility west of the lawn bowling greens. The new Rotary Park Lawn Bowls Club will truly be one of the jewels in the crown of our community, and there is evidently still room in the Wednesday night informal league for local residents who might like to try the sport while enjoying a frosty beverage. The contact information I have for the Wednesday Night League, where drop-ins are welcome, is the worthy Rhonda Hellard, (403) 508-9896 or email [rhonda.hellard@shaw.ca](mailto:rhonda.hellard@shaw.ca). Roll another one, just like the other one, and do enjoy the summer; it took long enough to get here.

parks. Volunteers may work alone or in groups to tackle weeds that are best eliminated by hand pulling. In addition, they assist by mapping other sites that require treatment. Participants are provided with training and the necessary equipment for their role. Benefits include a proactive approach to controlling invasive species, protecting our natural environments, meeting other volunteers with the same interests, and it's a great way to stay fit!

For more information on the Weeders of the Wild role, please contact Sonia Gonsalves at [sgonsalves@calgary.ca](mailto:sgonsalves@calgary.ca) or call (403) 537-7523.



# 42nd Annual River and Pathway Cleanup a Cakewalk

by Hound Ferrett

Eleven hardy souls enjoyed one of the few fine Sundays this past May 3rd, by participating in the annual River and Pathway Clean-up. We assembled at the Starbucks at Memorial Drive and Edmonton Trail and right after 10:00 am, struck out Westward, picking up and bagging all manner of flotsam and jetsam.

Like last year, we tackled our river reach in an East to West direction, to get the tougher stretch of the riverbank done first. This is not a very pleasant stretch of the River Pathway along the beloved Bow, but it's ours and we've taken it on for quite a number of years now. Thanks to the following nimble and quick volunteers (in the order of sign-up); Sue Buegin, who joined us from Rosedale, having just completed a clean-up of McHugh Bluff on April 19th, along with other Rosedale residents and a few Crescent Heights residents as well (we'll hope to join forces with Rosedale again next year to scour the bluff once again). Also with us on May 3rd were Michael Willman, Elsie Ross, Penny Smith, Bev Rodgers, Jan Heath, Barry Lassiter, Leslie Hannah and Brian Hohm. Brian likes to go his own way and

tends to cover the north side of Memorial Drive, which does not get the kind of attention that the south side, along the pathway, enjoys from our group and others who clean up the area on a periodic basis.

Thanks to all of you, most of whom are repeat volunteers for the R&P Clean-up.

Thanks also to the mysterious Diana, who joined our team, having been unable to locate her own group, the Sierra Club. You are welcome any time, Diana. Our crew was a little smaller than in past years, but we got the river reach done and even finished a little early, the conclusion being that having done such a good job last year, this year's was a snap.



## Louise Riley Library

We're Renovating! You can look forward to Self Check Out machines, more space, a new computer area, fresh décor and layout, new flooring and ceiling, new furniture and shelving, a new window, and new meeting space. Over the next few months, everything in the Library will be moved, changed and in general disarray. We pledge to do our very best to help during the transition. We ask for your understanding, sense of humour and

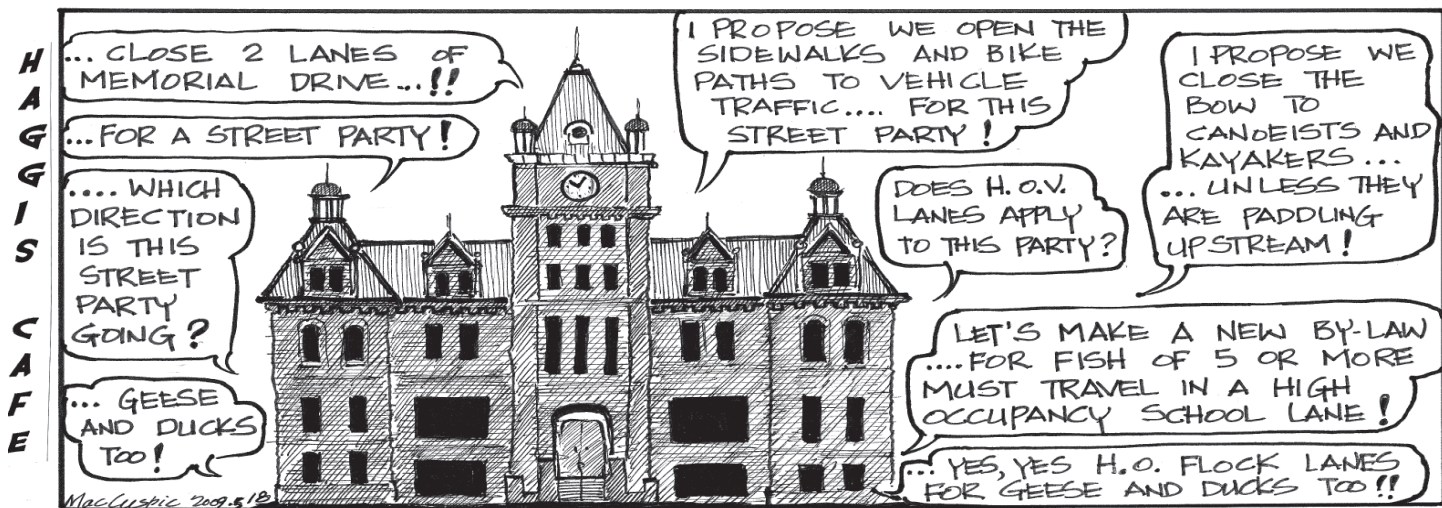
patience while things aren't quite right. The finished space will be bright, spacious and welcoming.

### Adults Read All Summer!

Calling all adults who enjoy a summertime read. Calgary Public Library is offering its first-ever adult summer reading program, Just for Adults – Read All Summer! Discover new reading interests and enter to win weekly book

prizes! Drop by any library location starting June 18th (until late August) to find out more and join the program. Make Calgary Public Library part of your summer reading!

Programs are free with a library card. Register in person, by calling (403) 260-2620 or online at [www.calgarypubliclibrary.com](http://www.calgarypubliclibrary.com). See the website for a full list of summer programs.



# Stanley Jones School 100th Anniversary Celebration

As some of you know, the year 2013 will mark the 100th Anniversary of Stanley Jones School, where the education of our youngsters continues today, as it did 100 years ago.

In preparation for this historic event, a partial committee has been formed to plan and carry out the festivities. Current plans include finishing the Historical Garden Project, renovating the school building and the research, writing and publishing of a historical book to mark the occasion.

Please spread the word to any and all that have had some connection with the school such as students, teachers, custodians, support staff, volunteers, community members and anyone else interested.

The Historical Garden Committee (Route to Roots, or R2R) contacted John Gilpin, a noted Calgary Historian to help us in the 100th Anniversary endeavor. To that end, we are looking for any historical documents, pictures or stories from anyone connected to the school and this includes any age, from any generation. Much of this will be included in the historical book, to be published to honour the event.

Regarding stories, we are looking for anything of interest (and that means pretty much anything) of yours, or your parents/grandparents/children, regarding Stanley Jones. For instance, does anyone know where the barn once stood; were there really WWII Victory Gardens; did any of your classmates or students become famous (or infamous, for that matter); did you become famous (or infamous, for that matter); did any weird and wonderful

things happen such as air shows, sports victories, sudden school closures; weather incidents; awards, are you in the strap book; memorable teachers, sad events such as the passing of a student, parent or teacher; pigtailed in the ink wells; where was the skating rink located; to name just a few things to jog your memory.

We are also looking for volunteers to serve on the 100th Anniversary Committee. Time commitments will be small to start but will increase over time, depending upon your task but remember many hands make light work!

Please contact Connie McLaren at (403) 230-0224 or email [connie.mclaren@encana.com](mailto:connie.mclaren@encana.com) with any questions, concerns, suggestions or volunteering. In the near future a website link will be set up on the Calgary Board of Education's Stanley Jones site at [www.cbe.ab.ca](http://www.cbe.ab.ca).

## Crescent Heights Playgroup

Attention all pre-school aged kiddos out there. It's spring and the playground is ready for action. Want to play with your friends and meet some new ones? Well there is a place for you to run and play inside to get all those spring wiggles out and when it is nice outside we go to the playground!

The Crescent Heights playgroup gives pre-school aged children a place for free play. It also gives both moms and caregivers a chance to see other adults and get to know the community. You can store your bags and strollers inside while we play outside.

Join us Wednesday 10:00 to 11:30 am at the Crescent Heights Community Hall. It is free to Community Members and Associate Members – so neighbouring communities are free to come with the purchase of a \$20 Associate Membership. Parents and/or caregivers with any number of children at any age – babies included. There are toys and books at the center, so just bring yourselves, indoor shoes for running in the hall and snacks for your kids.

For more information call Stacie Banks at (403) 670-6872 or email [stacie\\_banks@yahoo.ca](mailto:stacie_banks@yahoo.ca)

## Alberta Gives Green for Going Green


### Courtesy Climate Change Central

Has the thought of improving your home for energy efficiency been pushed to the back burner in this current economic climate? Delay no longer! The provincial government is now rewarding Albertans, who make energy efficiency purchases and upgrades in their homes, with cash rebates.

Just what kind of rebates are we talking about? If you purchase a new home with a high energy-efficiency rating, you could get up to \$10,000. If you purchase an EnergyStar® clothes washer, you can get

\$100 back. If you replace your old furnace with a high-efficiency furnace (92 percent or higher), you can receive \$500. If you participate in the federal government's ecoEnergy Retrofit Program, the province is providing complementary funding for insulation and hot water upgrades.

For more ideas and information on energy efficiency, subscribe to our free online newsletter [enerclick](http://enerclick.com), visit [www.ClimateChangeCentral.com](http://www.ClimateChangeCentral.com), call us toll free at 1-866-609-2700, or email [contact@climatechangecentral.com](mailto:contact@climatechangecentral.com).



**Hey! Where can I pick up a copy of this GREAT newsletter?**

The Crescent View is published monthly and is available for pick-up at Gardens Grace on Edmonton Trail, as well as The Urban Baker, Pints & Half Pints, Boogies Burgers, The Country Kitchen, Subway, Joshua Tree, Crescent Heights Convenience, Second Cup on Centre Street, Center Convenience, Peter Pan Convenience Store, Lamda Centre and New Asian Market.

The View is also delivered by volunteers to all households, but is very hard to deliver to any condo's or apartments due to building access, etc. If you would like to have enough copies for units in your condo or apartment building, please call our distribution manager Diane Altwasser at 276-7118.

If you would like access to the newsletter on the web, you can visit [www.calgaryarea.com/nw/crescenthts/crescent.htm](http://www.calgaryarea.com/nw/crescenthts/crescent.htm) and you will see the View PDF underneath the Block Watch Logo on the right side of the screen.



# Rosedale Teacher Recognized

**By Helga Shield**

Congratulations to Mrs. Michelle Goulet Barteaux of Rosedale Playschool, a finalist for the Alberta Child Care Professional Awards of Excellence. Mrs. Michelle was one of only three Calgary pre-school teachers so recognized.

"These awards are a celebration of Alberta's many outstanding child care professionals who deliver high-quality programming through our licensed and approved child care programs each day" said Janis Tarchuk, Minister of Children and Youth Services. "The awards give Albertans a way to formally say thank you to their children's caregivers for their

dedication and commitment and applaud them for a job well done."

The provincial child care awards play an important role in acknowledging the valuable contributions child care professionals make to children's learning and development.

Mrs. Michelle is a firm believer in play, and will tell you herself that she "believes in giving children roots, and absolutely giving them wings". She is simply adored by all our playschool families.

We can't think of a more deserving nominee.



Mrs. Michelle with Patrick during show-and-tell on his "Lucky Duck" day.

# It Takes a Village

The Babysitting Co-op continues to expand. We have lots of new members this year, and a whole crop of kids under the age of 5. The Co-op is a not only a great network for babysitting; it is also an excellent way to meet new people, make play dates, and ensure that you have a safety net if you should ever need short-notice or emergency care. If you are new to the neighbourhood or the city, and especially if you don't have family nearby, the Co-op can be an invaluable resource! Come join us at our next monthly meeting – we look forward to getting to know you.

## How It Works

- Using a system of chits, members arrange and exchange babysitting amongst themselves on an as needed basis.
- All members and their families (all adults in the home) are required to participate in the Block Parent program and go through the Calgary Police Service's security screening process.
- Moms (and dads?!) can attend the once-a-month informal evening meeting (sans kids) to get to know one another. Meetings are held the last week of each month between September and June rotating at various members' homes. It's a great place to talk about parenting challenges, neighbourhood news, new things in your life, and enjoy munchies and wine.
- Community Association members in good standing pay a \$25 non-refundable fee to participate.

If you would like to see if joining the Co-op is a venue for you or simply would like more information, call Robin at (403) 276-8610.

# Emergency Operations Centre Public Art Component

**By John McDermid**

Crescent Heights was well represented when the jury chosen to select the public art component of the new Emergency Operations Centre in Rotary Park met a final time in May to review the artist's conceptual rendering of the sculpture he will construct and install south of the striking new EOC.

I was invited to attend two sessions last summer, where the four-member jury considered some 40 Expressions of Interest from artists all over North America. We narrowed the choice down

to a short list of three, and then selected Stephen Glassman of Venice, California.

As I mentioned last month in the View, I was able to meet Glassman on site on the coldest day of March, where the artist spent some considerable time in Rotary Park taking in the views of downtown, Prince's Island and the mighty Bow River. He was favourably impressed by the volume of pedestrian traffic moving through the park and the hardy spirit of those walkers, runners and dog walkers braving the cold. The result of this visit is a striking and dynamic steel-and-native

stone sculpture, the finer points of which have yet to be worked out among the Artist, the project's Architects and Landscape Architect, the Fire Department and of course the City's Law Department.

Will there be a staircase to an elevated viewing platform as contemplated as part of the piece? Probably not. Will people climb on the structure anyway? Probably they will, but without the benefit of steps. In any event, the essential form of the piece has been set and it is expected to be a magnificent complement to the building itself.

# Route to Roots, Stanley James Historical Garden

By **Connie McLaren**

To review, for those of you who are new to this project, this undertaking was initiated in the fall of 2004. Originally the plan was for a naturalization project ([www.mb.ec.gc.ca/community/ecoaction](http://www.mb.ec.gc.ca/community/ecoaction)), but that evolved into a Historical Garden project. Basically the undertaking is a perimeter pathway system around the schoolyard and the school itself. Spaced along this walkway are various gardens, all with its own unique tie to some historical aspect of the school and the communities who attend (Renfrew, Crescent Heights and Bridgeland). This gives rise to our project name: Route to Roots (R2R). Several gardens have been installed to date; the outdoor classroom, the Healing Garden (historical connection is the school was used as a hospital during the 1918/19 Great Flu epidemic).

In the shape of a labyrinth (a healing shape itself), the plot contains plants which continue to, or have in the past, been used for medicinal purposes. Other gardens installed are the Sensory Garden (historically tied to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing program at the school, Calgary's first, which continues to this day); the community Heritage Gardens (perennial and vegetable), one each for Renfrew, Crescent Heights and Bridgeland. Below is the wording on the plaque for the Crescent Heights Heritage Garden (authored by Helga Shield)

## **Crescent Heights Community**

In 1906, Archibald John McArthur, Crescent Heights' founding father, assumed two mortgages totaling \$3300, to purchase land from 16th Avenue South to the Bluff and Bow River. Within a month, he filed a sub-division plan for Crescent Heights with the province. The next year, local residents met and started a petition to incorporate as a Village. Incorporation gave them the right to collect property taxes and to organize a much-needed school district.

The Crescent Heights School District No. 1768 got underway in the local Baptist Hall with Miss Kate Lowry hired to teach at a salary of \$50 per month. In 1909, the Board approved rental of a piano at

\$7 per month. The first graduating class from Crescent Heights Collegiate Institute was on the move for a number of years as their campus was built. They spent the 1914/15 school year here at the Bridgeland School (as Stanley Jones was first named), then on to the Balmoral School building, the last of nineteen sandstone schools built in the City before WWI, and finally to their current location at Crescent Heights High School in 1929.

Crescent Heights old-timers have many fond memories of Stanley Jones School: the WWI Victory Gardens, the huge outdoor skating rink, playing fields as far as the eye could see, and, most especially, the thrill of being next door to Calgary's first official municipal airport. The Renfrew Airfield boasted a fleet of ten prop-driven monoplanes and biplanes when it was inaugurated September 12th, 1929. A revolving beacon was erected on top of the school. While the School Board requested all hangars and equipment be kept 600 feet away from Stanley Jones, the children delighted in the sight of open-cockpit craft zooming overhead. Etched forever on their memories is a leaflet drop over the school that caused quite a stir and the nearby crash of an early air-mail plane. The age of space, the very future, was before them.

Today, children from Crescent Heights, continue the tradition of walking to and from Stanley Jones School, echoing the footsteps of others who went before them.

Upcoming this fall is the installation of the Historical Playground, complete with a full-size tipi, the outline of a sod hut and hitching rails. Each of these commemorating several firsts; the First Nations, the settlers, and the students, who rode their horses to school.

A new sandpit was put into place last summer and it has been a big hit with everyone in the community as well as the students. The bridge over the sandpit will eventually be part of the connecting pathway system, joining all the gardens together.

The past winter months have not been idle ones for our committee. We have

authored an comprehensive document entitled "Stewardship and Sustainability Plan". This 64 page paper will be used by the CBE as the document to follow for any school venturing into a Naturalization Project. We have acquired the services of two grant writers; Damon Johnston and John Gilpin. Funding has been our biggest hurdle as no one on the committee had this background. Therefore we are very pleased to have Damon and John on board and excited about the project.

Many of you have seen the colourful mural on the west-side of the gym wall. This year a second mural will be installed on the east-side. As with the first mural, this was designed and painted by the students themselves, under the direction of artist Dean Stanton.

Upcoming in the next few years are the Literacy Garden, the Wildlife Garden and more formal gardens surrounding the school itself. A separate phase of the project will involve the school itself, which will be undergoing restoration. Drop ceilings will be removed and the original molding and ceiling will be revealed and restored. The main doors, permanently closed since the 1970's will be reopened, and refurbished.

We are starting to plan for the 100th Anniversary of Stanley Jones School (originally called Bridgeland School). The party, slated for summer/fall of 2013, is expected to be a big affair. More about this 100th Anniversary on page 7.

## **Huge Yard Sale**

Join us Saturday, June 27th from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at 338 – 7th Avenue NE. We are hosting a huge yard sale to raise funds for breast cancer.

We are looking for good quality and gently used housewares, clothes, shoes, and children's stuff. All proceeds going to Calgary's Weekend to End Breast Cancer. If you have any items you would like to donate, please contact Denise Bassett at (403)828-7452 or email [kbassett@telusplanet.net](mailto:kbassett@telusplanet.net). Please stop by and help support this very important cause. Thank you in advance for your support.



# The First Centre Street Bridge

Submitted by Professor Z

Bridge construction can often be a tempestuous topic in civic politics. The first decade of the 20th century in Calgary proved no exception.

By 1900, two major bridges spanned the Bow River, linking north Calgary with the original settlement to the south. To the east, the Langevin Bridge was completed in 1890 and provided access to the old Calgary-Edmonton Trail. To the west, the Bow Marsh Bridge- predecessor of the Louise Bridge- was constructed in 1888 and opened up the Hillhurst area and beyond to development. Although the present-day Crescent Heights area was only sparsely settled at the time, in 1882 a ferry service known as "Fogg's Ferry" began river crossings in the Centre Street vicinity.

It was not however until 1907 that a bridge would be constructed in the area. The Bow River Bridge Company was formed at that time by Archibald J. McArthur, an entrepreneur (and later a Liberal MLA) known by some as the "Father" of Crescent Heights. McArthur had by 1906 acquired two quarter sections of land, including the tracts upon which the nascent village of Crescent Heights would come to be situated. He had begun selling one acre parcels to speculators, who then commenced further land subdivision in anticipation of Calgary's expansion in the North Hill area. Once the prospects of a land rush in the area were well underway, the construction of a bridge was seen as a necessity to make the area attractive to prospective purchasers. McArthur held a one third interest in the bridge company; other investors included such Calgary luminaries as Pat Burns and William Roper Hull.

Once funding was in place, a British Columbia company was engaged to construct a low level steel structure at a cost of \$17,000. The bridge itself did not follow a true North-South alignment as its successor would do; to save costs it was erected perpendicular to the riverbank, resulting in a southwest to northeast orientation. On the north side of the crossing, a service road was in place by 1908 which continued in a northeasterly direction toward what is now Samis Road; it then cut west across the embankment, arriving at the top of the

hill in the vicinity of First Street NW. Not surprisingly, McArthur and his family resided nearby on First Street NW; their home was located on what is now the parking lot of the LDS church.

As soon as the bridge was opened, it proved popular not only for pedestrian use but for city contractors now able to not only haul gravel from the North Hill to construction sites downtown, but to dispose of clay from the same excavations at the foot of the hill. Heavy commercial use had the immediate effect of accelerating wear and tear on the structure, and the bridge company began to engage in an acrimonious battle with the city over upkeep and maintenance. While the city admitted some responsibility in the matter, very little in the way of financial support ever materialized. The bridge company then offered to sell the bridge to the city for its original \$17,000 cost; the city however wasn't interested even when the asking price was lowered to \$10,000.

By the spring of 1911, the Bow River Bridge Company's forbearance reached a tipping point. A toll gate was erected by the company, with fees instituted for both pedestrian and vehicular traffic in an effort to defray ongoing maintenance costs. No less a personage than Calgary mayor John Mitchell jumped into the fray following numerous complaints by both contractors and by North Hill residents who had come to rely on the bridge, most of whom were now taxpayers (and voters!) following the 1910 city annexation. A public debate ensued, which resulted in the company re-opening the bridge at no cost to all traffic save heavy commercial vehicles, which would thereafter be banned from crossing. At the time, peak daily traffic was estimated by the company to be 2,000 pedestrians and 200 vehicles.

The situation remained unresolved throughout the spring of 1911; the city continued to be unwilling to purchase the bridge and eventually adopted a wait and see approach to defer any decision until after the annual Bow River runoff, as the possibility existed that the dilapidated



structure might then be swept away. The city ultimately agreed to lease the structure with the intent of purchasing it outright subject to by-law approval by taxpayers. Taxpayers however voted against the recommended \$7,000 purchase price in 1911 and a price reduction to \$5,000 early the following year was also defeated at the polls.

On a separate front, the city had recently extended streetcar service to Crescent Heights, thereby lessening the impact of any future disruptions in bridge access, and at the same time weakening the bridge company's negotiating position.

By 1912, plans were underway for a new Center Street bridge; the old one by then was open strictly for pedestrian traffic. Since little opportunity existed for the bridge company to recoup its investment, it agreed to sell the old bridge to the city for only \$1,300 and the ownership change took place in June of that year. It wasn't until 1914 that plans were finalized for the new structure; construction however wasn't actually to proceed until 1915. Although the old bridge was still standing (barely) in early 1915, it was unable to survive a further Bow River flood session; the north span succumbed in June and after separating, began to float downstream. Aboard were the City Engineer and City Commissioner who chanced to be inspecting it at the time. While both were rescued by firemen near the Langevin Bridge, a pedestrian who was crossing at the same time was not so fortunate, and was drowned.

What remained of the old bridge's iron structure was sold as scrap by the city to the provincial Highways Department for \$1,700, resulting in a profit to the city of \$200!

Although this is most likely a topic for a future article, readers might also be

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# We Love Our House!

By Lisa Evers

My husband Mike, my son Craig and I have lived in Crescent Heights since 2000. Two years ago, after years of trying to fix up our 80 year old house, we realized it was costing us more than if we were to just start over. It was a very difficult decision as we loved our old house, but the bills each month for utilities were getting ridiculous and every time we tried to fix some part of the house up it ended up costing well above any normal estimate.

Two years ago, while on holidays, we took the laptop and some design software and worked out our dream house. I had been collecting pictures of what I would want in my dream house for years so I had a really good idea of what I wanted.

Mike, on the other hand, had a few must haves. We then took that drawing to an architect, who drew it onto our land. We then got all the necessary permits and hired a contractor to build it for us. Things went relatively smoothly from the stories I've heard from other people doing the same thing. We worked very hard the final three months painting and

doing all the tiling ourselves. We didn't have any experience with tiling but you learn quick as we found out. It was well worth the work as we are much more proud of it than if we had hired someone else do it for us. We want to thank our son Craig and his buds for lending a hand painting. It was truly appreciated: By the way boys, we are starting the deck this month!

We finally got to move into our new

house on December 1st, 2008. What a relief. It was strange seeing our same scenery yet turning around to a new house. I have just recently gotten used to it. And now the fun part starts. Decorating is my thing. Mike is so easy going so I pretty much did as I please and he did have some vetoing power! As I mentioned, we will be building the deck in the next couple of months – so more hard work! But it will all be worth it in the end. We love our house!

## Healthy Yards

Crescent Heights Community Association, in partnership with the City of Calgary's Healthy Yards Program, would like to offer you the opportunity to participate in a free two-hour session on Thursday, June 11th, from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm at the Community Hall (1101 – 2nd Street NW). The program teaches the basic principals for environmentally friendly yard practices and has openings for 50 Crescent Heights households.

The Healthy Yards seminar incorporates the following components into yard and garden care:

- Responsible pest management (alternative pest methods, "naturescaping", beneficial insects)
- Water Management (water-wise gardening principles and use of a rain barrel)
- Composting

- Grass cycling (mulch mowing)

Healthy Yards participant households will receive a composter and rain barrel, as well as information and training on the tools and techniques for environmentally friendly yard practices. Other household members are encouraged to attend. Participants also receive newsletters, event invitations, information updates, a Healthy Yard's sign and access to the Healthy Yards resources for troubleshooting pest-related concerns.

If you are interested in registering for the Healthy Yards program, please call 311, and mention that you would like to register for the Healthy Yards session as a member of the Crescent Heights Community or register online through the Healthy Yards website [www.calgary.ca/parks](http://www.calgary.ca/parks).

## The First Centre Street Bridge *continued*

interested to know that the 1915 \$375,000 Centre Street Bridge project eventually approved by Calgary voters was a somewhat more modest undertaking than the proposed \$469,000 structure turned down the previous year. Plans for an even more elaborate bridge designed by Thomas Mawson in 1913 as part of his comprehensive "Vienna on the Bow" plan for Calgary were rejected by city council in view of the estimated \$10,000,000 cost to implement the entire plan. In any event, Mawson's version would have become obsolete very quickly as it called for a "funicular" elevator on the north section of the bridge to transport vehicles and pedestrians from the base of the North Hill to the top.

### References

*Hugh Dempsey, "Calgary, Spirit of the West"; Eric Gormley, "The Village and the City"; Harry Sanders, "Historic Walks of Calgary"*

## Crescent Heights

Crescent Heights Community Association  
Membership Application Form

Please mail this form  
with your cheque to  
C.H.C.A.

1101 - 2nd Street NW  
Calgary, Alberta  
T2M 2V7

### Voting (Residents)

☐ Single (\$10)      ☐ Household (\$20)      ☐ Senior (\$5/per person)

### Non-Voting (Business and Non-Residents)

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

Names : \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

☐ Yes, Send Me Community Emails      ☐ Yes, Send Me Block Watch Emails

☐ New Membership      ☐ Renewal      Date \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_