

**July/August 2010**

# ● The Crescent **View**

**NEWSLETTER OF THE CRESCENT HEIGHTS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

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**Sunday, July 11th**

**9am to 11am at the community hall**





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# Crescent Heights Community Association

1101 - 2nd Street NW  
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For community and hall information visit  
[www.calgaryarea.com/nw/crescenthts/crescent.htm](http://www.calgaryarea.com/nw/crescenthts/crescent.htm)

## Volunteer Board of Directors

<b>President</b>	John McDermid	277-8653
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<b>Block Watch</b>	John McDermid	277-8653
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<b>Hall Rentals</b>	Marlene Zaharichuk	804-5600
Hall rental inquiries will be answered in two to three days		
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<b>Memberships</b>	Jonathan and Alison Martin <a href="mailto:curmudgeon9@shaw.ca">curmudgeon9@shaw.ca</a>	
<b>Babysitting Co-op</b>	Tonya Fleming	260-7037
<b>Rink Manager</b>	Tim Edwards	606-9303
<b>Block Watch</b>	John McDermid	277-8653

Inquiries and comments can be emailed to:

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## Member of FCC

**Comm. Liaison Officer:** Dominique Laporte 284-3393  
District 3, #3241

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

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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 [elizhancok@shaw.ca](mailto:elizhancok@shaw.ca)

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



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

## President's Notebook

by John McDermid

There is very welcome news from our City of Calgary Community Recreation Coordinator, Amanda Turvey, that funding for upgrades to our beloved Rotary Park Wading Pool might be in the pipeline. We learned several years ago that new provincial regulations would mean that the pool would ultimately become subject to filtration or possibly chlorination requirements to ensure that hygienic standards were met and the pool not become a potential hazard to our little ones. No big public Petri dishes allowed. When we first learned of the pending regulations, then CHCA Board member David Finch made a series of inquiries with the City. The initial responses were not very encouraging, and fears arose of an expensive upgrade to meet the regulations' requirements, or the spectre of losing the wading pool entirely. No suburban pleasure dome for Crescent Heights, and perhaps not even a firm commitment to preserve and maintain our modest wading pool. We will hope for the best and do everything we can as a community association to help ensure the healthy future of the Rotary Park Wading Pool.

The June early season plant exchange went ahead on Sunday, June 6 and the result was the satisfied curiosity of many local gardeners who brought along their surplus plants and came away with something new to try. There was no shortage of Lilly of the Valley, nor from our own garden, any shortage of Lady's Mantle (*alchemilla mollis* or, as I like to call it when breaking up a gnarly old chunk of it, *alchemilla*

Parker-Bowles). Thanks to Sharon Anderson-Marr, Penny Smith and their crew of volunteers who brought order to the sometimes frenzied exchange. The event also generated a slight surplus of \$65 for CHCA.

Every little bit helps of course, especially right now with a number of major initiatives in the works for improvements and upgrades to our pretty little community hall. The facility is busier than ever thanks to the efforts of Marlene Zaharichuk, but the wear and tear is starting to show. We have enlisted the services of a project manager well acquainted with the ongoing lifecycle issues facing community associations and their facilities, and we will be pursuing an aggressive upgrade and repair schedule over the coming months. A special thanks to returning board member Dan Shield, who has spearheaded the plan. The upgrades and repairs come at an opportune time, with the City's second round of Capital Conservation Grants just rolling out for 2010.

It may be that it is important for us as a facility operator to set a good example for other buildings in the community. Like the larger City in which we live, ours is an extremely diverse community. It is both culturally and economically diverse, with some of the most expensive and expansive homes in the city, as well very modest homes, the tiny bungalow perhaps being one of the more predominant housing forms here in Crescent Heights. Equally diverse is the range of condition in which we find many homes. I have

- Continued on page 5



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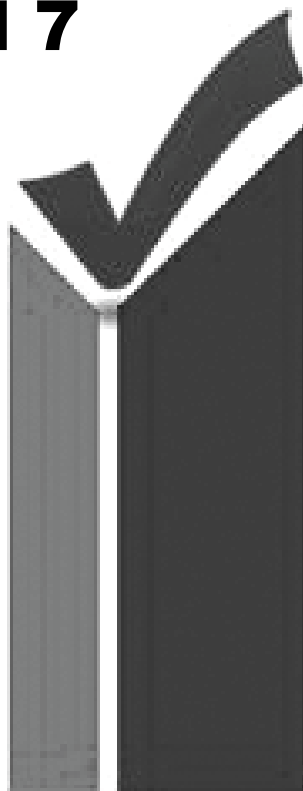
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**WARD 7**

# President's Notebook, cont. from page 3

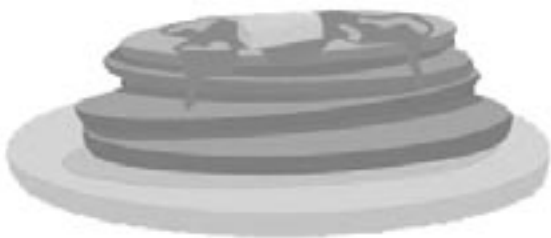
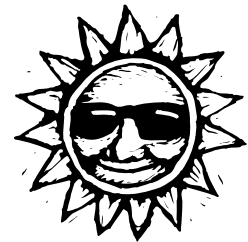
no quarrel with many seniors in our community who are on fixed incomes and perhaps cannot keep always ahead of the curve on upkeep, maintenance and repairs (I only hope they are ever vigilant in respect of making sure they hire reputable contractors as and when they tackle repair work). My quarrel is rather with the s\*\*t-heel slum landlords who seem to hold an unhealthy proportion of the substandard housing stock in our community. Just as President Obama wondered aloud about whose ass to kick in relation to the gulf oil spill, it would be nice to pierce a few flimsy corporate veils, get behind the numbered companies controlling rental properties in such wretched condition and do some kicking right here in our home community. I have been delivering the *Crescent View* to an expanding route for the last several years, and the bad properties seldom get better until they either become uninhabitable or come under the wrecking ball for redevelopment, or both. On the very same block face can be an impressive newer infill home or duplex, a jewel-

box bungalow upgraded several times over its 60- to 80-year life, and an original home left to deteriorate and become an unsightly mess, much to the chagrin of neighbours. I have had conversations with Crescent Heights residents in various parts of the community who express frustration at the stated of nearby rental properties. Typical issues that tend to have a cumulative effect when seen together are uncut grass, the lawn and garden a sea of weeds, vehicles and parts of vehicles, furniture and parts of furniture filling the yard. Enough to make even a Myrmidon weep. There are remedies, although they can take some time to take effect. A call to 3-1-1 with the particulars of the property in question, plus a calm and rational demeanour, can result in By-law Services taking action to compel property owners to clean the joint up. Meanwhile let's hope that no properties in our community deteriorate to the point of the one in Forest Lawn, where the Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods program recently compelled the closure and barricading of a house lost to

drugs and prostitution. A little vigilance can go a long way.

Remember that any CHCA member who wishes to have a copy of the 2009 audited financial statements can obtain a copy by emailing CHCA at [chcaboard@hotmail.com](mailto:chcaboard@hotmail.com) or call me at 277-8653 and we can provide either a hard copy or pdf version of the 2009 financials.

This is our July/August combined issue of the *View*, so we won't be back on your doorstep or found at your favorite coffee shop until September. We wish everyone a warm and happy summer and a safe one, especially if summer travels are part of your plans. Woof woof.



Crescent Heights Baptist Church

## ANNUAL STAMPEDE BREAKFAST

Saturday, July 10th

9:00 – 11:00am

1212 – 1st Street NW

Everyone welcome and the cost is FREE!

A special “thank you” to

**Colleen & Andrew Cole**

for helping to deliver

*The Crescent View*.

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very much appreciated!

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# 2010 Crescent Heights Community Stampede Breakfast

## The ponies are coming; the ponies are coming!

Don't forget our annual community Stampede Breakfast - it's on Sunday, July 11th from 9 - 11 am at the community hall. There's going to be music, a great breakfast and lots of socializing with all your neighbours.

Don't forget to bring your own cutlery as we strive to reduce our environmental footprint.

Please ensure that your membership is up-to-date and, if it isn't, please contact Jonathan and Alison Martin at [curmudgeon9@shaw.ca](mailto:curmudgeon9@shaw.ca) to renew it; you'll get those flapjacks with a minimum wait!

Looking forward to seeing you!



## Rosedale Playschool - Farewell Mrs. Michelle!

Our beloved Program Director and Lead Teacher Mrs. Michelle Goulet Barteaux will be leaving Rosedale Playschool at the end of the school year to expand her family and further her own education. Mrs. Michelle began teaching at our playschool eight years ago as the Assistant Teacher and moved up the ranks to make the school what it is today. Her play-based learning approach has given so many children the start that they need for success in elementary school and beyond. Mrs. Michelle was instrumental



in the 2008 move to the Wild Rose United Church and the school would probably not have survived the transition without her commitment and vision. On behalf of all the parents at Rosedale Playschool, we wish her the best and thank her for the amazing one-of-a-kind experience that she has given to all of our children.

With Mrs. Michelle's departure, we are excited to have Mrs. Rachel as our new Program Director and Lead Teacher for both the morning and afternoon programs. And a big welcome back to Mrs. Els who returns to her Assistant Teacher role after a year in Holland.

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Program currently runs Wednesday evenings starting at 6:30.





# The Village of Crescent Heights

by Professor Z

This coming New Years Day, local residents will have an extra reason to celebrate. For it was on January 1, 1911 that the tiny village of Crescent Heights (population 1000 or so) officially became part of the rapidly-expanding city of Calgary (population 43000).

Unlike the experience of Bowness (1911-1964) or even that of Forest Lawn (1935-1961), Crescent Heights' existence as a separate municipal entity was far more short-lived.

Development of the village of Crescent Heights began in 1906 when entrepreneur Archibald J. McArthur purchased two adjacent quarter sections running from the section line road allowance (16th Avenue North) down to the Bow River. The western edge of McArthur's property was 4th Street NW and the eastern edge was 1st Street NE. The quarter section due north of these lands was owned by realtor John F. Mitchell, who subdivided his property about the same time under the district name of Balmoral. McArthur resold one acre parcels to speculators from 1906 to 1910, most of whom in turn subdivided their parcels into fourteen 25 foot building lots. Much of the residential building activity occurred between 16th Avenue and 12th Avenue and it was common for homebuyers to purchase two lots; a house would be constructed on one and the second lot would be held for eventual resale.

By the end of 1907, the city of Calgary had already annexed lands south of 8th Avenue North, including the south-eastern part of what now comprises Crescent Heights, known then as Mount Pleasant. That same area was already proving to be a magnet for investors due to its proximity to Edmonton Trail and thereby to the Langevin Bridge. To counteract this advantage, McArthur together with John Mitchell and others who owned real estate in the area formed a company to construct a bridge across the Bow River with a service road leading up the hill to 1st St NW. With a proximal link to downtown Calgary now in place, residential building activity on McArthur's north quarter section began to escalate, and in December 1907, area residents met in the local Baptist church and decided to form a village as well as a school district. A petition so requesting was dispatched to Edmonton in March 1908 and village status received official sanction, to be effective May 1, 1908. Village boundaries were 8th Avenue on the south and 24th Avenue on the north- thus encompassing the Balmoral area- while 4 St NW formed the western edge and 1st St NE the eastern edge. The village had the ability to tax property and to borrow for local improvements, and the three person village council was comprised of those with significant land holdings in the area. Village councillors for the most part did double duty on the school board.

The first decade of the twentieth century brought with it an increasing demand for city services like electricity, light and water. Although the village of Crescent Heights was then suburban in character, its residents began to demand services for which the community's tax base was ill-equipped to provide. As a consequence, the village council, during its short tenure,

became involved in attempting to "piggyback" on the same improvements being undertaken by the city to the south. These attempts often fell on deaf ears as Calgary was then engaged to capacity in extending those same services to its own taxpayers.



So what was the attraction about living in a suburb relatively far-removed from the downtown? As the November 16, 1907 Morning Albertan put it, "The advantages of Crescent Heights as a favourite residential suburb are...its pure air, its altitude of 120 feet above the business section of the city, and its healthy location for families". Add to that cheaper lot prices and the quiet imposed by the surrounding acres of vacant land, and one might see the appeal. Even with the 1916 completion of the second Centre Street Bridge, and prior to the arrival of the streetcar however, the village would have been considered too remote by downtown office workers, many of whom could have easily walked to work from their nearby homes in SW Calgary. In the early years, the village thus tended to have fewer office workers and-likely due to the building activity in the area- a higher proportion of construction tradesmen than might be seen in more established Calgary neighbourhoods.

The "Main Street" of the village of Crescent Heights then was undoubtedly 16th Avenue, and the heart would have been its intersection with 1st Street NW. At that location stood the Post Office and a general store, both located across the street from the Fire Hall and kitty-corner to the Methodist Church. Also close by was the two storey wood-frame Crescent Heights Public School, located on the site of the present-day Balmoral School. South of 16th Avenue on 1st Street NW, a small professional district emerged, with an architect, doctor, and real estate agent in practice there. Although the village patriarch A.J. McArthur also resided on 1st Street NW, his house was located on what is now the parking lot

- Continued on page 11

## THE CRESCENT VIEW

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## Finding a family physician

by Laura Lushington

Are you in need of a family doctor?

The Calgary Foothills Primary Care Network (PCN) has a service that can help.

Created in May 2009, the Calgary Foothills PCN web registry is designed to address the health needs of people in northwest Calgary and Cochrane without a family doctor and provide them with increased access to health care services in the community.

The secure online form is one step towards assisting thousands of people without a family doctor. While the ultimate goal is to find a doctor for those who register, the PCN also uses the information collected to plan and offer other health services specific to those residing in northwest Calgary and Cochrane. Depending on your health needs, the PCN may offer programs or services of benefit to you while you wait for a family doctor to become available.

Information collected includes how long and why people don't have a family doctor, what medical resources people use to stay healthy, and what (if any) chronic conditions need attention.

The web registry form is available online at [www.cfpcn.ca](http://www.cfpcn.ca) by clicking on the Need A Doctor link. Those without Internet access or are unable to complete the online form can contact the PCN at 403-284-3726.

Calgary Foothills Primary Care Network is an arrangement between a group of family physicians and Alberta Health Services - Calgary to provide primary care services to patients living in northwest Calgary and Cochrane. For more information on the programs offered through the PCN, visit [www.cfpcn.ca](http://www.cfpcn.ca).

## Newsletter Editorial Deadlines

There are new deadlines for submitting articles/events to *The Crescent View*.

*The Crescent View* is published ten times per year. The July/August issue is combined as well as the December/January issue. August 2nd is the deadline for the September 2010 issue.

Other than September, articles/events for the Crescent Heights newsletter are now due on the 10th day of each month. Please email your articles, as an attachment in word document form, to Elizabeth Hancock at [elizhancock@shaw.ca](mailto:elizhancock@shaw.ca).



# Village of Crescent Heights, cont from page 9

for the LDS church, just south of the 8th Avenue village boundary line.

Although the village council had a frustrating time dealing with city officials regarding municipal service extensions to the area, it managed to accomplish a fair bit during its abbreviated existence. In 1909, two fire engines were purchased, and Fire Hall construction was completed that same year. The latter building-photo attached- was also initially used as a police precinct and town meeting hall; it stood until 1973 when it was demolished to make way for... a parking lot. (That might explain why Joni Mitchell is warming up on the sidelines!) In addition to the Fire Hall, councillors would have also been involved with construction of the public school just mentioned. The village also assisted with the cost of the service road running from the Centre Street Bridge to 1st Street NW.

Crescent Heights village engaged a constable (one of the councillors) to keep order and to ensure that local dogs were licensed. The constable's sole remuneration was initially a percentage of the licence fees he collected; stray dogs and other wandering animals- most often livestock- were housed in a pound built at the rear of the Fire Hall. Other preoccupations for councillors in 1908 and 1909 included discussions regarding possible mergers with the adjoining communities of Rosedale, West Mount Pleasant and Regal Terrace; as well, the village toyed with the possibility of requesting an upgrade from "village" to "town" status.

Less than two years after officially attaining village status, council met to discuss possible annexation by the city of Calgary, and a petition requesting same was sent to the city in concert with Rosedale and a few other nearby communities in 1909. Given that fact, it's not a stretch to suggest that area residents may have realized that one of the key benefits of becoming a village in the first place was that the resulting municipal structure might provide them with a collective bargaining advantage when the time came to negotiate annexation terms with the city.

Insofar as the 1909 annexation petition by Crescent Heights' residents was concerned, deliberations proceeded with glacial speed since Calgary at that time was considering annexation on a much larger scale; the ensuing Greater Calgary Bill wasn't therefore passed by the provincial government until late in 1910 with an effective date of January 1st the next year. The 1910 city expansion proved to be a massive land grab, and resulted in the extension of Calgary's northern border from 8th Avenue North to what is now McKnight Boulevard. With two World Wars and a Depression still to intervene, it would not be until 1951 that the city would again feel it necessary to expand its territory.

References: Crescent Heights Village minutes and sundry correspondence-Calgary Corporate Archives; The Village and the City-Eric Gormley (unpublished; Glenbow Archives); Alberta Registries-Land Titles

Photo credit: Glenbow Archives NA-4462-15

**Thanks to James G. Ingold  
and Karine Rietjens for the  
recent donations to the  
community association.**

**Your support is greatly appreciated!**



The *Crescent View* is published ten times a year and is available for pick-up at Gardens' Grace on Edmonton Trail, as well as The Urban Baker, Boogies Burgers, Subway, Joshua Tree, Crescent Heights Convenience, Second Cup on Centre Street, Center Convenience, Just-In Liquor, Peter Pan Convenience Store, Lamda Centre, New Asian Market, Video Game Trader and St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Orthodox Church.

The *Crescent View* is delivered by volunteers to all households but it is very hard to deliver to condominiums or apartments due to building access, etc. If you would like to have enough copies for units in your condo or apartment building, please contact our distribution manager Penny Smith at [smithpenny@shaw.ca](mailto:smithpenny@shaw.ca).

## We're on the Web!



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

# Greening Up - Proliferating Permaculture!

by L. Burton-Scheer

'Tis a wonderful season for walking! As I stroll along the streets of our community, it's refreshing to note the brilliant diversity of inhabitants revealed through the personalities of the vibrant homes and yards! A rise in the number of 'sustainable' landscapes is easily observable and points up a shift of public attention to the value and practices of 'permaculture'.

What is permaculture? Permaculture is actually a design science: a system of 'sustainable culture' often related to agricultural practices. First envisioned by Austrian Sepp Holzer, the permaculture concept has evolved and been championed by ecologists Bill Mollison and David Holmgren.

Although Calgarians are situated in a climatically challenging region, many are looking for ways to embrace the principles of permaculture, which hinge on three basic ethics: value the earth, value each other, share fairly. Issuing from these values is a systematic method of

agriculture driven by twelve principles, and primarily characterized by: minimized workload, wastes used as resources, increased yields, and ultimately, restoration of the environment. The reason for this is that permaculture embodies the stability and resilience of a natural ecosystem. Using nature as a model, a human design for a sustainable landscape is developed. Sound like fun? Many people are beginning to think so!

A 'permacultural' home environment might look something like this:

Vegetation is planned and occurs in layers rather than just 'plots'. These are called food forests. Beneficial relationships between plants (called guilds), not only attract helpful animals and limit pests, but allow mutually valuable interactions as one species provides for the needs of another. For example, one type of plant may restore nutrients to the soil that its neighbour will use. Similarly, that plant may provide shade for one needing less sunlight.

Compost is used for replenishing and creating soil, and other plant waste, such as grass and shrub clippings can be turned into mulch for protective and moisture retaining ground cover. Plants typically serve more than one function, such as providing food as well as medicine, decoration, barriers, or insect and other pest repellants. Entrances to the home are bordered by the plants that are used most often inside. There is a system of water catchments and distribution. Paths follow landscape features or skirt use areas. Borders may be indistinct as one area connects and flows into another. Yields are shared and traded among the growing network of people who are discovering this emerging design science. And a great side benefit of this sustainable design system is that people begin to value their yards and communities as places that are not only meet their needs, but actually give back to the earth!

Some might worry that due to our short growing

- Continued on page 14





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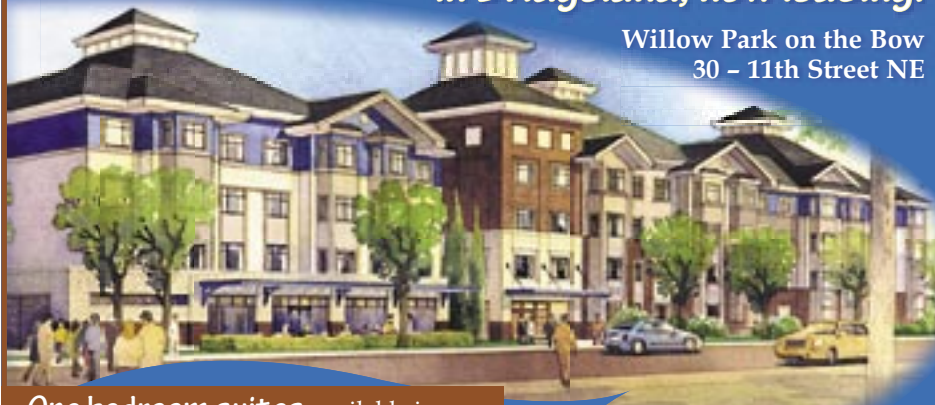
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## Greening Up,

cont from page 12.

season, permaculture in Calgary would be difficult to sustain, or even an impossibility. But with careful planning, and by starting with small, manageable changes, transformation of our living spaces into 'living places' can begin to become a reality. Permaculture can even begin in a single container! As well, there are local people who have the knowledge and experience to help.

If you would like to learn more about aspects of permaculture, contact local experts, or access available classes and resources, perhaps you can visit one or more of the following websites: [permaculturecalgary.com](http://permaculturecalgary.com), [jadeecology.com](http://jadeecology.com) or [greenpeople.org](http://greenpeople.org).

There are also numerous images and videos available on the web from which to glean ideas.

'Permaculture' – it's just a positively permeable plan!

Great things come in small packages ... and schools are no different.

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# Wanted! (Preferrably Alive)

Did you know that every month, it takes a small volunteer army to deliver The Crescent View to your doorstep? Please join the army!

Right now we are looking to fill four positions:

**NE Distribution Coordinator:** this position involves someone who has access to a vehicle to deliver bundles of the newsletter to individual carriers in the NE on a monthly basis (excluding August and January). This takes about one hour per month.

**Newsletter Carrier:** this position involves someone to hand deliver the newsletter to houses and apartments on one side of 3rd Ave and the other side of 4th Avenue in the NE, between 2nd Street and Edmonton Trail. This takes approximately 30 minutes per month (excluding August and January).

**Another Newsletter Carrier:** involves someone to hand deliver the newsletter to houses and apartments on 2nd and 3rd Avenues from 3rd to 4th Street, 3rd and 4th Avenues between 3rd and 4th Street and 4th Street from 2nd Ave to Memorial Drive. This takes approximately one hour per month (excluding August and January).

**Photographer:** looking for someone to take the photograph for the front cover of the newsletter and possibly attend some community events to take pictures.

## Spring Plant Exchange

We don't seem to think that we have had much of a spring this year; however on the morning of last year's spring plant exchange there was snow on the ground. This year's exchange day was a definite improvement! In fact, it was inspirational for gardeners, given the cool, damp weather we had had so far. The sun was shining and you actually couldn't wait to get into the garden with some nice new perennials!

When the Parks & Gardens committee members (Sharon Anderson-Marr, Jennifer Pannett, Penny Smith, Laurie Stretch and Wanda Weber) arrived to set up the tables, several gardeners had already arrived with their plants, primed to begin trading! Gardeners, note for future plant exchanges: arrive as early as possible! Anxious horticulturalists were practically snatching plants from one another. A few late arrivals were disappointed to find little left.

In addition to the very useful items such as lily-of-the-valley & columbine, there were some unusual specimens, for example a beautiful ligularia with leaves burgundy on the underside and an alpine clematis which flourishes with minimal sunlight. One individual was beginning a brand new garden and came away with loads of plants and lots of great suggestions for her new start.

Approximately 50 people participated and seemed to enjoy swapping plants and stories and generally socializing. Another exchange is planned for Sunday, September 12th so please mark your calendars.

**July/August 2010**

Have you ever heard of the expression: 20% of the people are doing 80% of the work? Well, this is certainly true of the volunteers in Crescent Heights.

At this very moment, our environment director is also a newsletter carrier and recently he joined the team that started the initiative for a community garden. Our communications director is another carrier and recently assumed the role of distribution manger. The parks director is not only a newsletter carrier, but she is also the distribution coordinator for the NW, and helps with and leads the Garden Tour, Plant Exchange, Christmas Party and Stampede Breakfast. Our treasurer also doubles as the business liaison and is currently pursuing the possibility of a BRZ for Crescent Heights. The manager of hall operations also delivers the newsletter and the playgroup coordinator is very active with community garden initiative. And last but not least, the president of the CHCA, on top of all the presidential duties, also runs the Block Watch Program, acts as lead person for the annual River Clean-up and he delivers the largest number of newsletters. We love you John! Oops, I almost forgot about the casino volunteers - well, a large portion of them are listed above.

If you can help us change the odds, then please contact Penny Smith at [smithpenny@shaw.ca](mailto:smithpenny@shaw.ca). Photographers please contact Elizabeth at: [elizhancock@shaw.ca](mailto:elizhancock@shaw.ca) or 403-245-3331.

## Crescent Heights Playgroup

Is your toddler bored with playschool out and most of their activities closed for summer? Are you looking to get out into the nice weather and meet other moms with your baby? Playgroup is open all July. We will be closing for August, but back-up and running September 8, 2010.

The playgroup's aim is to provide caregiver/parent supervised unstructured free play for pre-school aged kiddos (0-4 years). We love to see babies and encourage moms to come for some social time; even if their babes are not 'playing'. There is a great variety in languages and cultures in the group and new members are ALWAYS welcome. The group isn't just about play; it also gives both moms and caregivers a chance to see other adults and get to know the community.

When: Wednesday 10am -11:30am – CLOSED FOR AUGUST

Where: At the Crescent Heights Community Hall. When the weather is nice the playgroup takes it outside to the park, but will still be open for indoor play as well.

Cost: FREE to Community Members and Associate Crescent Heights Members (folks outside Crescent Height are welcome to join for 20\$/year)

Who: Parent and/or Caregiver with any number of children at any age – babies included. What to Bring: There are toys and books at the Hall, so just bring yourselves, indoor shoes for running, and snacks for your kids.

Questions? Contact Stacie Banks at 403-670-6872 or [stacie\\_banks@yahoo.ca](mailto:stacie_banks@yahoo.ca)

# Area Event and Resource Guide

# Community

## BRIDGELAND-RIVERSIDE

**Bridgeland Riverside Community Association**  
**Hall: 917 Centre Avenue NE** Ph: 403-263-5755  
 Newsletter email: newsletter@brcacalgary.org  
 Visit our web site at: [www.brcacalgary.org](http://www.brcacalgary.org) for a complete listing of programs and classes.

### Community Clean-Up and Beautification Day!

Saturday, August 7th, 10am to noon. Rain or shine.  
 Meeting Point - BR Community Garden (intersection of Centre Ave & 11 Street NE)

All clean up supplies & equipment will be provided. Refreshments to follow at meeting point. Come out, meet neighbours & help clean up your neighbourhood. Everyone welcome - bring your friends!

**Bridgeland Riverside Playgroup:** We meet 3rd Friday of each month. The playgroup runs from 9:30-11am. Participation is free, but current BRCA membership required..

Summer schedule: July 16 and Sept 17 at 9St / Centre Ave playground (next to BRCA Hall).

Aug 20 at 9A St / 4 Ave playground.

For more information please email: info@brcacalgary.org.

### Bridgeland Riverside Walking Group

Get out. Get active, Get connected! To participate or for more information contact: bridgelandrunwalk@gmail.com

### Bridgeland Riverside: Past and Present Scavenger Hunt

**Saturday, July 24th - Time and Location TBA**

Learn more about the interesting, vibrant history of Bridgeland-Riverside during this interactive, family-friendly scavenger hunt.

### Lawnchair Theatre - free!

**Thursday, August 26, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm**

**Bridgeland - Centre Ave East and 7A St NE**

Bring your lawn chair and enjoy great snacks and live entertainment for the entire family!

### BRCA Fundraising Casino - Volunteers needed!

Thursday, August 19 and Friday, August 20 at the Stampede Casino. As usual, we will require a lot of volunteers, but this event is so important to the community, as proceeds from these two days support many worthwhile projects in Bridgeland-Riverside throughout the year. If you're available to help, please email casino@brcacalgary.org or phone Matt at 403-618-7833.

### FREE STAMPEDE BREAKFAST!

Sunday, July 18th, 9:00-11:30a.m. At: La Brezza Parking Lot  
 EVERYONE WELCOME! Face Painting and Balloons for Kids!

### Pooch Pancake Breakfast at Doggywood!

Serving Pooch Pancakes for pets only! Sunday, July 11 from 12 - 3 pm.  
 616 - 1st Avenue NE. Call 403-229-DOGS for more info.

## TUXEDO PARK

### Tuxedo Park Community Association

**Hall: 202 29 Avenue NE**

Ph: 403-277-8689

Newsletter email: sam@cherubconsulting.com

### Programs at Tuxedo Park

A variety of programs and courses take place at the hall, please call or visit the hall for more information.

### CRAFT NIGHTS AT TUXEDO PARK COMMUNITY HALL!

Second Wednesday of the month, from 6:30 to 10pm.

There is no fee for the evening, but we ask that you purchase a current community membership (\$5 for singles, \$10 for families), which are available at the hall.

## TUXEDO PARK (cont)

### UPCOMING 2010 EVENTS - at the hall

Jul ..... No TPCA Community Meeting in July  
 Jul 01 ..... **TPCA Canada Day Breakfast**  
 Jul 16 ..... Community Supper, Steak Pot luck - no charge  
 Aug ..... No TPCA Community Meeting in August  
 Aug 13 ..... Community Supper, Cold Plate  
 Aug 28 & 29 ..... Dog Agility Trials  
 Sep 09 ..... TPCA Community Meeting  
 Sep 10 ..... Community Supper, Roast Pork  
 Oct 08 ..... Community Supper, Cornish Hen  
 Oct 14 ..... TPCA Community Meeting  
 Oct 23 ..... **Octoberfest**  
 Oct 31 ..... Halloween Candy Bag give out - lower floor

**NOTE:** Community supper is at 6pm and costs \$14 per person, children 6 years old and younger - \$7 each.

**Our events are open to everyone: members, residents, family and friends of Tuxedo Park both in and outside our community.**  
 For more information please call Kelly at 277-4723 or Bev at 277-8689.

### Guiding Program in your Area

Please contact Sandra Williams at 403-295-3840

or email: sandra\_williams@shaw.ca

## CRESCENT HEIGHTS

### Crescent Heights Community Association

**Hall: 1101 - 2nd Street NW**

Hall Rentals: Call 403-804-5600

Newsletter email: elizhancock@shaw.ca

### Annual Community Stampede Breakfast - Sunday, July 11th

At the community hall from 9 to 11am. Amazing food, music, children's activities. **Free to CHCA members!**

Non-members \$5 for adults, \$3 for children.

### Crescent Heights Baptist Church Annual Stampede Breakfast

Saturday, July 10th, 9:00 - 11:00am

1212 - 1st Street NW

Everyone welcome and the cost is FREE!

### Crescent Heights Playgroup

When: Wednesday 10am - 11:30am - CLOSED FOR AUGUST.

Playgroup is open all July. We will be closing for August, but back-up and running September 8, 2010.

Where: At the Crescent Heights Community Hall.

Cost: FREE to Community Members & Associate Crescent Heights

Members (folks outside Crescent Heights are welcome to join for 20\$/year)

Who: Parent and/or Caregiver with any number of children at any age - babies included.

What to Bring: Just bring yourselves, indoor shoes for running, and snacks for your kids.

Contact Stacie Banks at 403-670-6872 or stacie\_banks@yahoo.ca

## HIGHLAND PARK

### Highland Park Community Association

**Hall: 3716 - 2nd Street NW**

Hall Rentals: Call 403-276-6969

### Highland in the Park! Join us for this Free Outdoor Playgroup

Highland Park Community Centre

Tuesday Mornings - 10:30 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.

Dates: July 6, July 20, August 10, August 24

Weather permitting! Please call Margo at 403-714-7994 if you are concerned about the weather or would like more information.

## HIGHLAND PARK (cont)

### Bobby Chan Seniors Table Tennis Club:

Highland Park Community Hall. Phone: 403-295-9553 or 403-860-9838. 2010 memberships now available. Welcome to everyone!  
 Daily Admission Fee: \$3 for member and \$6 for drop in.

### Highland Park is 100 this year - Come out and celebrate!

Highland Park Community Centre, 3716 - 2 St. N.W.

Family Movie Night at Highland Park - Wed. July 21

5:30 pm - BBQ and Activities

6:30 pm - Short program (for the really young)

7:00 pm - Feature film: Ratatouille

If you know you will be coming, please help us plan for food/refreshments by calling Lesley at 403-275-6666 ext. 222 to register.  
 If you decide to drop by at the last minute, that's okay too!

### Calgary Weekend Fair: Highland Park Community Centre

Saturdays - July 3, August 21, Sept 18. Hours: 10am to 4pm

Free admission, free parking. For more info or to book a table please call: 403-207-4086 or go to [www.calgarymarket.net](http://www.calgarymarket.net)

### Scouting and Guiding Registration Information

**Scouts:** <http://chinook.scouts.ca/> or phone: 403-283-4993

or email: [Chinook@scouts.ca](mailto:Chinook@scouts.ca)

**Guides:** <http://www.calgarygirlguides.com/index.html>

Phone: 403-283-8348 or email: [ginfo@calgarygirlguides.com](mailto:ginfo@calgarygirlguides.com)

### Seniors' Luncheons: Noon at the hall.

Be sure to put the following Mondays on your calendar for 2010: Sept 20th, Oct 18th, Nov 15th, Dec 13th. **Time: 12:00 noon. Cost \$5.00/person for members, \$10.00/person for non-members.** Please contact Anne Klempa (403) 277-3388 to confirm your attendance.

## RENFREW

### Renfrew Community Association

**Hall: 811 Radford Road NE** Ph: 403-230-7055

Hall Rentals: Call 403-230-7055 and leave message.

Newsletter email: [mail@renfrewcommunity.ca](mailto:mail@renfrewcommunity.ca)

### Renfrew Bingo - The little hall with the big payouts!

**Saturday and Monday evenings. Closed July 10th.**

Nickel Games at 6:20pm, regular games at 7:05pm.

Concession open. 811 Radford Road NE

**July 17 - Customer Appreciation - Free Dinner**

**Aug 14 - Customer Appreciation - Free Dinner**

### Renfrew Stampede Day - It's famous! Saturday, July 10th

**For the family:**

9 to 11am: **Free pancake breakfast**, live music, good times.

9am to 1pm: **Stampede Show 'n Shine** - coolest cars in Calgary!

10am to 1pm: **Kid's Carnival**. Mega fun fun for kids of all ages,

11am to 1pm: **Renfrew Stampede Cantina** - Wide assortment of snacks and 'dawks' (Spolumbo's Sausages).

**For the adults:**

3pm to midnight: **Renfrew Stampede Beer Gardens**. No cover!

Live music, cantina food, adult beverages, horseshoe tournament, Jail 'n Bail, adult games, "Stake yer Claim", fun, fun and more fun!

3 to 11pm: **Renfrew Stampede Cantina** - Wide assortment of snacks and 'dawks' (Spolumbo's Sausages).

### FREE Summer Drop-In Programming for kids!

Renfrew Community, 828 8th Ave NE

**Stay n' Play: 10:00 - 12:00 p.m. (3 - 5 years of age)** NOTE: Adult /guardian must accompany children in the Stay n' Play program

**Park n' Play: 10:00 - 3:30 p.m. (6 - 12 years of age)**

Join in the summer fun with games, crafts and other amazing activities led by City of Calgary staff.

# Connections

## Area Event and Resource Guide

### RENFREW (cont)

#### **Renfrew 50 Plus Club - 1918 Regal Crescent NE**

Daily events and activities. Contact Tina Wilding at 276-4747 or email renfrew50club@shaw.ca for more information. You don't have to live in Renfrew to attend.

#### **Renfrew Tiny Tots Playgroup**

We break for the summer after Thursday, June 24th and we will resume again in September. Renfrew Community Center, 811 Radford Road NE Call Leora at 403-269-1356 or email rca-tinytots@hotmail.com.

**Renfrew Community Pub (Social Room)** Most Fridays from 7pm until close. Non-members welcome - be our guest. Free pool, free shuffleboard, free darts! Family friendly, parent-supervised children welcome until 9pm.

### MARLBOROUGH

#### **Calgary Marlborough Community Association**

**Hall: 636 Marlborough Way NE** Ph: 403-273-5894  
Hall Rentals: Call 403-273-5894 or email calmarca@telus.net  
Newsletter email: cmcnews50@yahoo.com

#### **YAHOO! Free Stampede Breakfast 636 Marlborough Way NE**

July 17, 9 am to 11 am. Put on your dancing boots and bring your hat and sunglasses! Fun and Games for the Kids, Live Music Pancakes and Sausages, Juice and Coffee. Look forward to seeing ya'll there!

#### **WANTED CASINO VOLUNTEERS**

Thursday, July 22 & Friday, July 23 at the Blackfoot Casino. Day or evening shifts are available. Call Cathy @403-235-5659. No experience needed and we guarantee you will have a fun time!

#### **Marlborough Movie Night: Family Event August 20 (tentative)**

Bring your lawn chairs and blanket, if the weather is wet/cold, we will hold it inside the community centre. Watch our web: www.marlboroughca.ca for more information.

#### **INDOOR SOCCER REGISTRATION: CMCA and MEMORIAL FC**

WHEN: SATURDAY, AUGUST 28, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

WHERE: Calgary Marlborough Community Centre (Upstairs)

ON-LINE REGISTRATIONS: WWW.MARLBOROUGHCA.CA FOR DETAILS

QUESTIONS: PHONE PETER AT 272-0462

**Jam Session:** July 24 and August 28 in the Lounge (Fireside Room)

#### **Bingo at the Bingo Barn Volunteers needed:**

Please call Marg at 273-7952.

#### **Attention Seniors 55 and Older**

We have a fun league looking for you, the league is on Wednesdays @ 10am at the Deerfoot Bowling Alley in the Deerfoot Mall N.E, located at the back entrance near the food fair. We sure would like you to join us. Eva Zapotichny 403-276-4302.

### MARLBOROUGH PARK

#### **Marlborough Park Community Association**

**Hall: 6021 Madigan Drive NE**

Hall Rentals: Call 403-248-1775

Newsletter email: marlpark@shaw.ca

#### **STAMPEDE BREAKFAST - JULY 11, 2010**

From 8:00am To 10:00am

#### **FALL AND WINTER PROGRAM REGISTRATION**

SEPTEMBER 8, 2010 FROM 6:00 TO 8:00pm

Scouts. Girl Guides, Eastview Basketball

Indoor Soccer: Registration 6:00 to 7:30pm

### MARLBOROUGH PARK (cont)

#### **FREE SUMMER PROGRAMS FOR KIDS - JULY 5 - JULY 9**

**PARK N' PLAY** For ages 6 to 12 - 10am - 3:30pm

**STAY N' PLAY** For ages 3 to 5 - 10am - noon

Stay n' Play is a free outdoor drop-in program. Join in the fun with games, crafts and other activities. Children must be accompanied by an adult/guardian.

#### **Marlborough Park PreSchool**

Ongoing Registration. Please call Tara at 403-235-2996

#### **Canadian Blood Services**

In the MPCA gym on Saturday, August 7th from 9am to 2pm.

#### **Bingo Schedule for Volunteers:**

Saturday, July 24 Afternoon Event

Saturday, August 2 Evening Event

Sunday, August 22 Evening Event

Sunday, September 5 Evening Event

**If you can help please call Denyse at 403-248-5931 or the hall at 403-248-1775.**

#### **Drop-in Tai Chi**

Drop-in Tai Chi is held at the Marlborough Park Community Centre every Tuesday from 9:15 to 10:15am.

### WINSTON HTS - MOUNTVIEW

#### **Winston Hts - Mountview Community Association**

**Hall: 520 - 27 Avenue NE**

Hall Rentals: Call 403-277-2433

Email hallmanager@winstonheights.ca

Newsletter email: newsletter@winstonheights.ca

#### **Stampede BBQ**

On July 10th, at the WHMV Community Centre. Cocktail hour starts at 6pm followed by dinner at 7pm. Then the real fun begins when the dance starts at 9pm! So tell your neighbours, grab your darlin' and come down for a real barnburner! Tickets can be purchased from Lara at (403) 837-846. Prices are \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members.

#### **Centennial Garden First Anniversary Open Tea Party**

September 12th, 2010 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Come out and celebrate this important anniversary while enjoying some relaxing time together with friends and family.. A master gardener will be on site to answer questions regarding plants in the garden. Light refreshments will be served.

**On-going garden tour event -** July 15, August 19, September 16, October 2. Free with registration and begin at 6:45 p.m. They will be outdoors in the garden and led by Sue Fulkert; weather permitting.

**Visit our web site at: [www.winstonheights.ca](http://www.winstonheights.ca) for a complete listing of programs and classes.**

### MOUNT PLEASANT

#### **Mount Pleasant Community Association**

**Hall: 602 - 22nd Avenue NW**

Hall Rentals: Call 403-282-1314

Newsletter email: publicity@mpca.ca

#### **Pleasant Times - Upper Hall, 602 22 Ave. NW**

**Adults-only gathering.** Meets 2nd Wednesday of each month for conversation and activities. July 14, August 11, and September 8.

#### **Road trip to Calgary Zoo, Wednesday, July 14**

**Road trip to Trochu Arboretum and Gardens Friday, August 20th**  
Seats for both trips are limited so e-mail membership@mpca.ca or call Linda at (403) 289-8390 today to reserve your spots. The trips are open to all adults, whether you've been a Pleasant Times regular or not.

### MOUNT PLEASANT (cont)

#### **Mount Pleasant Outdoor Pool - Now open!**

The pool offers swimming lessons in the mornings, and public swim in the afternoons and evenings. Looking for a private party? The pool can be booked for just you! Mount Pleasant will also be hosting several memorable special events this year, including the pancake breakfast and two family pool parties. Stay tuned to the pool website, or ask at the pool for more details. Admission prices have not increased.

#### **Summer Day in the Park**

Annual Mount Pleasant Summer Day in the Park is August 28.

#### **Family Pool Party - Dates: July 10 and August 7**

Where: Mount Pleasant Pool - 2310 6st NW

Cost: Regular Pool Admission

#### **Lawnchair Theater - Date: July 8**

Where: Confederation Park 10th Street NW, behind the flags

Time: 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm. Cost: Free

#### **Charity Garage Sale - Sunday, August 22, 9am to 2pm**

At Foster's Garden Chapel - 3220 - 4th Street NW

Table rentals \$20 (proceeds to charity). Call Cyndy at 403-297-0888 for table rentals or more information.

Hotdog / Hamburger sale proceeds to Buchanan Elementary School!

### CROSSROADS

#### **Crossroads Community Association**

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Hall Rentals: Call Marlene at 403-277-6201

Newsletter email: convenor.editor@gmail.com

#### **FREE SUMMER OUTDOOR PROGRAMS FOR KIDS - August 16 - 20**

At the CCA hall: 1803 - 14 Avenue N.E.

**PARK N' PLAY** For ages 6 to 12 - 10am - 3:30pm

**STAY N' PLAY** For ages 3 to 5 - 10am - noon

Stay n' Play is a free outdoor drop-in program. Join in the fun with games, crafts and other activities. Children must be accompanied by an adult/guardian.

#### **Bingo Fundraisers: Bingo Barn, 10 - 1107 33rd St NE**

Saturday, July 10 from 8:30 to 11:15 am or 10:45 am to 3:15 pm

Friday, Aug. 6 from 4:45 to 9:30 pm or 9:30 pm to 1:30 am

Saturday, Aug. 21 from 8:30 to 11:15 am or 10:45 am to 3:15 pm

**If you can help out for these bingos, please call Sandy at 403-277-0841 or Ann at 403-276-1716.**

#### **Crossroads Preschool Summer Camps**

The following summer camps are designed to provide social interaction, physical development, intellectual challenges, creative opportunities, and a whole lot of fun! Each themed camp will include games, crafts, snacks, cooking and physical fitness. All camps are from 1:30 to 4 pm. The cost is \$105, and six spots are available for each.

**FAIRYTALES:** July 19 to 23- **SUPERHEROES:** July 26 to 30

**HAWAIIAN HULLABALOO:** Aug. 16 to 20

**WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE:** Aug. 23 to 27

**Crossroads 50 Plus Club:** 6:45pm at the Crossroads Community Centre. Join us for fun times and meet your neighbours. For information call Lorna at 277-7710 or Anne at 276-1716 or visit our website at: [www.crossroads50plusclub.com](http://www.crossroads50plusclub.com)

#### **BRING ON THE ADVENTURE!**

Crossroads 36 Scouts registration night is on Sept. 1 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. For more information please call James or Marilyn at 403-207-0272.

#### **GIRL GUIDES OF CANADA**

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# Crescent Heights Community Garden

## *Location, Location, Location!*

The Crescent Heights Community Garden is to be located just west of the North Hill Community Curling Club, in the large triangular area to the east of the path and playground.



The reasons this site was chosen:

- It does not interfere with the current area activities (i.e. skating, tennis, baseball, basket ball, the playground, and foot traffic).
- We can irrigate the garden from the Community Hall.
- It is a large area with lots of sunlight and foot traffic to deter vandalism.
- We would like to see our community children involved and therefore proximity to the playground was considered a bonus.

Here are some of the steps we will be taking in June to ensure that this site is a location everyone can buy-in on (hopefully, they will be completed by the time you read this):

1. We need to contract a City of Calgary approved contractor to do the irrigation from the hall to the site, across City of Calgary land.
2. Now that we have resolved how we are getting water to the site; the neighbours need to be consulted and their concerns addressed. At this point only a few neighbours know informally about the site and the feedback is all positive.
3. The Crescent Heights Community Association lease needs to be extended to the land in question for insurance coverage and increased design flexibility.
4. The community garden network – those who showed interest in the project and wanted to stay informed – will be informed.
5. Then the community at large will be informed through The View (right now) and a public meeting - TBD.

Stay-tuned as we work our way through the logistics of applying to the City of Calgary for community garden approval. In the meantime we have been building our garden plan and addressing some of the over-arching issues related to both design and garden philosophy. Thus far we have decided:

- The garden will be organic - herbicide and pesticide free.
- The plots will be raised beds, due to the low soil quality in the area. The lumber will be untreated cedar, as it lasts a while and weathers nicely.
- Irrigation will be run from the Community Hall.

- There will be a child-friendly area.
- The garden is to be a public gathering place, welcoming the entire community.
- Events will occur in or near the garden to involve the community at large, not just those renting plots.
- We hope to have some wheelchair-accessible plots with easy access from a HandiBus drop-off point. This may not happen in the first phase of the project, but if there is interest could be built into the expansion plans. Please contact us if you are looking for a plot and have mobility issues.

There are a number of design, budgeting, planning, and application issues still to work through. These are not small items and include:

- Garden layout and walkway materials
- Engaging a landscape architect to help with the design
- Construction methods and dates
- Funding and plot rental fees
- Community building, events, and philanthropy
- Code of conduct
- Beautification initiatives

Under the guidance of Gael Blackhall at the Calgary Horticultural Society we have been gathering information, looking at other community gardens, and starting to design the garden itself.

You may be asking again:

*Is the Crescent Heights Community Garden a Go?* Not for this growing season. We have a site, the planning team is meeting regularly, and there are even more interested individuals looking to donate their time. Approval is still needed from both the City and neighbours, so keep your fingers crossed.

What can you do to help?

1. Let us know what you want out of your community garden. What is important to you and what will make you an active plot gardener? This information is essential to ensuring that the future users and the community are happy with their garden.
2. Like to play with layout and design? We are currently looking at the design elements of the site and would love to see as much input as possible from future users.
3. We are still looking for committed organizers. Even if you can't commit to all of the meetings let us know what element of the garden you would like to help plan and we can delegate a few tasks your way.
4. We are still looking to get everyone who would like to be involved on our e-mail list. From those who want a plot when it is done, to those who want to help with the construction, and those who want to play a larger roll. We promise not to spam the group with frequent e-mails, limiting it mainly to the monthly newsletter. We will also not use your information for anything beyond the community garden initiative.

If you would like to be on the mailing list, would like to contribute to design discussions, or would like more information contact Stacie Banks at [stacie\\_banks@yahoo.ca](mailto:stacie_banks@yahoo.ca) or call 403-670-6872.

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# Backyard Play Safety



With summer fast approaching Alberta Health Services EMS would like to encourage parents to ensure their backyard play areas are made safe. Direct supervision is the best method to reduce the chance of injury. It is also prudent to ensure play equipment in your yard is suitable for the age and skill of the children using it. Don't forget to check the equipment often and repair any worn or broken parts. Set up play equipment on 8 to 12 inches of a shock-absorbing surface such as sand, wood chips, or pea gravel. Grass will not adequately cushion a fall.

## Water hazards

- Ensure all backyard swimming pools are fenced. The fence should be at least 1.5 metres (5 feet) high and have a self-latching, self-closing, lockable gate.
- Drowning is the leading cause of unintentional injury-related death among children ages one to four.
- Children can drown in just a few centimetres of water if it covers their mouth and nose.

## Lawn and garden tools

- Keep young children away from outdoor power equipment. Serious burns may result from touching hot engine surfaces.
- Ensure that all tools, fuel, chemicals, and other hazardous substances are stored in a secure, locked area. A simple latch may not be sufficient.

## Insect bites and stings

- Minimize the risk of attracting insects by not wearing strong perfumes or scented lotions.
- Avoid wearing brightly coloured clothing outdoors.
- Destroy or re-locate hives and nests situated near your home.
- To avoid a bite in case of accidentally stepping on a stinging insect always ensure you child wears shoes or sandals.
- If your child has received an 'EpiPenJr' prescription from your physician (for serious anaphylactic emergencies only) ensure they understand when and how to use it.
- If your child experiences a severe reaction to an insect sting, seek medical attention or call 9-1-1.



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# Off the Shelf

Book Review by Judith Umbach

## ***Wolf Hall* by Hilary Mantel**

If the Booker prize-winning novel, *Wolf Hall*, were a video, its style would be that of a police TV drama. Scenes are short, visual and close-up. Background information is delivered in flash-backs. Tension and terror make the heart beat faster. The plot unwinds from the justified paranoia of the characters.

*Wolf Hall* is set in what we thought was the familiar time of Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn. Author Hilary Mantel overturns our complaisant vision gained from the many "costume drama" we have seen. Hers is a gritty, mean, manipulative world where loyalty is paramount and nobody can be trusted.

Our principal guide is Thomas Cromwell. His patron is Cardinal Wolsey, who is on the wrong side of Anne Boleyn's ambition when Henry VIII postulates that he was never married to Katherine, his wife of over twenty years. A lawyer, Thomas is wealthy by dint of his own street smarts, gained literally in the gutter. But what is wealth when the kingdom hangs by the thread of ecclesiastical law?

Our "video" of Thomas Cromwell is "shot" entirely in close-ups, almost depriving us of full-body views, although Anne Boleyn's irritated voice



tells us that Cromwell always dresses in black. During Anne's lavish coronation, he muses silently (as usual), that he could never retire from business. "Because what is there, but affairs?" A little later, he tells his protégé, "Memory... A huge filing system, in which are recorded ... the details of people who have cut across me." Cromwell becomes the supreme organizer and fixer in the realm.

While set in the early sixteenth century, *Wolf Hall* is as contemporary as the current woes of Britain's political parties, or Canada's minority parliament for that matter. Courtiers blunder and are banished, only to be reinstated after sufficient groveling. Smart politicians weave their way through truth, daring and deniability. All favours that flow from the king irrigate the economy through endless tributaries of power and influence.

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