

● The Crescent View

NEWSLETTER OF THE CRESCENT HEIGHTS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

September 2011



Photo Contest: Grand
Prize Winner Announced!



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CALGARY HOUSING MARKET ON THE ROAD TO RECOVERY

Market improvements driven by clients looking for value

Calgary, August 2, 2011 – According to figures released today by CREB® (Calgary Real Estate Board), residential sales continue to trend towards recovery. After the first seven months of the year, single family and condominium sales totaled 11,798, a 5 per cent increase over the previous year. While the improvements signal market recovery, overall sales levels remain 17 per cent below the 10-year average for this period.

“The recent rise in average days on market, especially in the single family sector, shows that while properly priced homes are selling quickly, over-priced listings remain on the market for a longer period of time. Improving market conditions may have signaled some sellers to be overly optimistic regarding pricing, resulting in a disconnect between seller and buyer expectations,” says Sano Stante, president of CREB®.

Single family sales for July 2011 were 1,153, with a total of 8,380 sales for the first seven months of 2011, an 8 per cent increase over the same period last year. Meanwhile, year-to-date listings continue to remain lower than last year, resulting in inventories trending lower than last year as well. Overall months of supply remain around four months within a balanced range.

“A good selection of housing inventory, combined with positive economic fundamentals, is encouraging buyers into the market,” says Stante. “Buyers are still quite value conscious, and in the current market are able to take advantage of the range of selection in a stable price environment.”

Condominium sales continued to bounce back this month. July 2011 condominium sales total 453, a 14 per cent rise over last year, while year-to-date sales remain 3 per cent lower than the same period in 2010.

“Excess supply and lower demand have negatively impacted the condominium market over the past year,” says Stante. “Nevertheless, the recent pickup in sales, combined with fewer new listings, has gradually reduced inventory levels of condominiums, lowering the month’s supply of inventory from over six months last year to just above four months in July 2011.”

The average price of single family homes in July 2011 was \$455,849 and the median price \$409,000, similar to levels recorded in July of last year. Condominium prices also remained at levels similar to the previous year.

“Interest rates will likely remain low for the remainder of the year. This factor, combined with relatively stable housing prices and wage growth, will help support affordability levels and promote a healthy housing market in Calgary,” Stante concludes.



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Crescent Heights Community Association

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

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**To join the Community and
Block Watch email list contact Penny Smith
at 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 elizhancoc@shaw.ca

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

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President's Notebook

by John McDermid

Shocked and Appalled

Please mark your calendars for the afternoon of Sunday, October 23. On that day from 2:00 to 5:00 PM the Crescent Heights Community Association and many concerned residents (some formerly shocked and appalled) will host a Neighbour to Neighbour Resource Fair. It's a gathering designed to allow Crescent Heights residents to get to know our neighbours and learn more about the place in which we work, live and play. Many of you will recall a Safety Fair held last October at the Calgary Italian Club. This event was convened in response to safety concerns and unwelcome activities in the south-south-east corner of our community. There was speculation, well founded I think, that various initiatives to improve the quality of life in the downtown core and the East Village were beginning to bear fruit in the form of driving some undesirable individuals and activities into our community. A group of highly motivated and energized residents of Meredith Road condominiums and adjacent multi-unit buildings did a wonderful job of engaging key agencies and authorities to monitor and respond to the changing situation. As a result, many of our new Meredith Road friends report that the situation is much improved over the last 18 months.

So it's time to expand and reprise last year's event with Neighbour to Neighbour. I'm writing about it now because last year we weren't able to promote the event as well as we would have wished, and this year's will be much broader in scope, better funded, and will engage more agencies and local merchants in order to show residents exactly what resources are available to us, right here on our doorstep. There will be keynote speakers, though none long winded, very possibly tasty snacks, and almost certainly door prizes. So plan to come down to the lovely St. Vladimir's Cultural Centre at 404 Meredith Road NE on October 23rd. There is ample parking in the tiered lots off Meredith Road, but it's also an interesting stroll down to St. Vlad's through the varied terrain of a colourful corner of our community. Also, if you are interested in helping out in the planning phase or on the day of the event, contact me at 403-277-8653 and we'll find you something interesting to do, perhaps something that could even involve a fluorescent vest.

Disgusted

It was with a little melancholy that I collected the following hissing epistle on the very eve of this year's CHCA Stampede Breakfast on July 17. I was visiting the hall to collect our last few membership renewals, take delivery of our rental griddles for the next day's breakfast and check on the secure storage of our stock of Real Maple Syrup, when this arrived:

CALGARY STAMPEDE TRADITION

For those of you who are not aware of the Calgary Stampede Tradition.

On Stampede week all through out the city there are FREE Stampede Breakfasts.

Please note the word FREE, It is a time where all citizens including the ones who have no means of entertainment can participate in a little fun. To see the Crescent Heights Community advertising in community newsletters a charge, and a high one at that. Makes myself and fellow neighbours embarrassed to live this community. Are we broke? Are we greedy? Do we think of others less

- Continued on page 5

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**CASH
CHEQUE**

President's Notebook cont. from page 3

fortunate? Why are we the community to break a tradition. If we have to start charging for a Stampede Breakfast why have one? Do you see Renfrew charging? Bridgeland charging? People are all saying is the Crescent Community broke or are they just a greedy association. Very, very sad.

*Yours truly,
Disgusted*

By way of reply, and with apologies to the great singer-songwriter John Prine, we offer the following:

Disgusted, Disgusted: you have no complaint,
You are what you are and you ain't what you ain't
So listen up buster and listen up good
Stop wishing for bad luck and knockin' on wood!

That is to say, while we must acknowledge that charging non-members of the community association is an anomaly, and may well be something we should revisit, the background to charging a nominal admission fee goes back to the origins of our annual breakfast some ten years ago. At that time there was a changing of the guard in progress. The CHCA board as it was composed in 2001 was a new broom with new energy but precious few resources. The community association was not in robust financial health and the new board wanted to do something to rebuild our community and, more importantly, to build bridges and form new bonds with neighbours. It was out of the question to be able to fund a stampede breakfast, but, the thinking then went, perhaps if we charged a nominal fee, we could make the event free to CHCA members and thus deliver a palpable benefit to community association membership. At this time, my wife and I had lived in the neighbourhood for more than twenty years and had always renewed our membership to the CHCA when reminded to do so, but our membership had probably lapsed more times than it was renewed over the years. The objective of the admission fee for non-members was principally to cover costs, and the first few events built upon prior successes, so that some five years later, the CHCA Stampede Breakfast had become our signature membership development event. Even this year, the proceeds of about \$1,300 (of which all but about \$299 was from new and renewal memberships) just about covered our costs. We'll provide a profit-and-loss statement once all the invoices are in and the bills paid, but we appreciate Disgusted's input as always, and we welcome other Crescent Heights residents' comments as well. Tell us what you think: as an organization have we turned the corner and should no longer charge for breakfast, or should we continue to make our breakfast, with premium sausage and real maple syrup, the annual occasion at which members renew their community association memberships and enjoy the benefit of a good breakfast with family, friends and neighbours as a benefit of re-upping? You can let us know your thoughts at your convenience at chcaboard@hotmail.com. You needn't be anonymous or be Disgusted.

Summer in Rotary Park

So by the time we read this in the September View the summer of 2011

will almost have come and gone. It was a delight to see the new water park / splash pad open in Rotary Park near the end of June, and in the ensuing warm days of July and August it was a similar delight to see so many families make squealing use of the new facility. Final thanks are due to former MP Jim Prentice, whose efforts more than a year ago resulted in the announcement of the project to replace our aging, infirm and non-compliant wading pool. Congratulations also to our friends at the Rotary Park Lawn Bowls Club, whose lovely new clubhouse facility has also opened this summer to host competitive events as well as fun evening leagues, which continue to draw local residents as never before. Dare I mention that my own team, the mighty Myrmidons, is currently locked in a savage battle for second place in the Inglewood Fraternity of Bowls and Cups? As much as I would prefer to bowl here at home in Rotary Park, we continue to make the pilgrimage to Inglewood each Wednesday evening in summer, for wonderful dinners, two games of bowls and refreshing frosty beverages. And, not infrequently, murderous hail. Our boots continue to be thunder.

This summer we also welcome home Tim Edwards, our Rink Boss, who has just completed a lengthy work sojourn in Portugal. It was a treat to see Tim at the Breakfast in July and see him already eyeballing the state of the grass in the hockey rink. Wonderful to have you home again, Tim, but it will be a few months yet before you and your crew start putting water down, at least most of us hope so.

We are also planning and hoping to revive another near-tradition that has dropped off in recent years. In different forms over the last decade we have periodically organized and hosted an autumn evening event, sometimes kids-oriented, other times more frosty-beverage-oriented, with foods of a grilled, hissing and sizzling kind. All of a crisp autumn night. Watch this space and/or join our community e-mail list by way of our pal smithpenny@shaw.ca and we'll keep you updated as our planning for the event continues in September for an afternoon-or-evening in October. Let us know if you have suggestions. And yes, we'll probably charge a couple of bucks, but CHCA members will have a distinct advantage, and a membership, which has its advantages, will be entirely available to all.

Newsletter Editorial Deadlines

The Crescent View is published ten times per year.

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

The July/August issue is combined into one publication and so is the December/January issue. The deadlines for these two issues are June 10 and November 10 respectively.

Please email your articles or event listings, as an attachment in MS Word form, to Elizabeth Hancock at elizahancock@shaw.ca.

Community Photo Contest Great Success!

Congratulations to all the winners and many thanks to all who entered the community photo contest. There were many wonderful photos entered and picking the winners was very difficult!

Your community association and your community newsletter publisher, Ellis-Evans Design Ltd, each contributed to a community prize pool. A prize of \$75 was awarded for first place and \$25 for second place in your community.

Ten different communities participated in the contest and a single Grand Prize winner was selected by the publisher from all entries received. A \$250 Gift Card to Best Buy was donated by the publisher as the Grand Prize.

We hope to have another Community Photo Contest with even better prizes next year, probably running from May to November. Look for more information in your April 2012 newsletters.

*Leo Smith, Publisher
Ellis-Evans Design Ltd.*

2011 Community Photo Contest Grand Prize Winner



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Ramona J.
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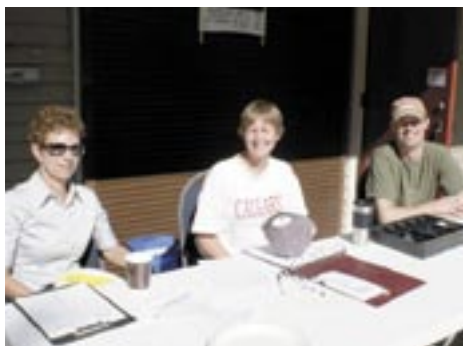
2011 CHCA Stampede Breakfast

by Anne Underwood

With the variable weather we've experienced this year, the CHCA Board was thrilled with the sunshine we had for the annual Stampede Breakfast hosted on Sunday, July 11th. Over 300 community members attended and filled their plates with pancakes and sausages – I'm sure the real maple syrup our President, John, picks up is a big part of the draw. We had a good turnout from our political representatives: Alderman Druh Farrell mingled with the crowds while MLA David Swann faithfully flipped pancakes – he's pretty darn good – almost as good as Board members Dan and Dan who have things down to a fine art. Between the two Dans and John (whose Stampede attire always includes his kilt – yet another draw!) our pancake and sausage line is one of the most efficient in the city. Our new MP Michelle Rempel stopped by to check out the event – her first year of dealing with many, many pancake breakfasts.



Garden's Grace, our local coffee shop located on Edmonton Trail, generously brewed and donated their excellent coffee. Despite their providing additional amounts this year we once again ran out just before the end of the breakfast! Next year we'll have more coffee available but will also be asking those with their own thermal mugs to come back a second time rather than filling to the brim the first time! (Great for sustainability – not so good for making sure everyone else gets a cup.)



Blueswak, a great local blues band, provided wonderful, lively toe-tapping music through the whole event. Once again, the ponies from Griffin Valley Ranch were a huge hit. Everyone loves those ponies and they were kept busy from the moment they arrived until wrap up around 11:00. We had a good supply of hobby horses as well – thanks to former Board member George who cuts the cardboard bases from scavenged cardboard! Anne and family now have assembly down to a fine art. The City of Calgary sent a fire truck which always attracts a good crowd. This year they headed out with sirens blazing, pleasing everyone enormously.



"Tattooing" provided courtesy of City Parks & Recreation by "Carnivals at Heart" was a great success this year, with even the occasional adult getting a tattoo. A long line-up through the entire event kept Carnivals at Heart busy. Quick too, once a particular image was decided on!



Thanks to our faithful membership volunteers, Jonathon and Alison, and their assistant this year, Diane, memberships were renewed and the number of folks attending recorded. I haven't seen any of them since the event but you can probably spot them in the community by their tans – they uncomplainingly faced into the sun for a couple of hours. Next year we'll have to provide them with some shelter!

This event was supported by many volunteers with the spouses and family of CHCA Board members due for extra special thanks – they always cheerfully show up to this Board sponsored event and give a hand wherever it is needed. Thanks again Laurie, Mike, David, Astrid and Dave's significant other! Other volunteers assisted with set-up and manning the food and drink tables, taking photos, and tear down. A big round of thanks to Grant, Jerrod, Elsie, Diane and Viqui for helping to make this event possible.

We hope you all had a great time at the 2011 Stampede Breakfast and look forward to seeing you at our next event – we are hoping to have something this fall in October. Keep your eyes peeled for posted and emailed notices. And of course we'll see you all again next year in July!

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It Takes a Village... Crescent Heights Babysitting Co-op

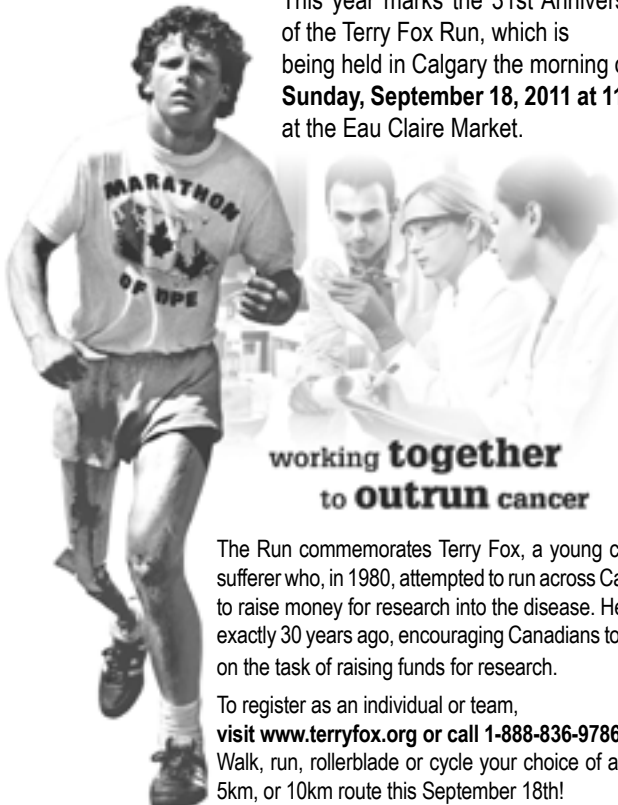


It's hard to believe that fall is suddenly upon us. With children returning to school and trying to get back into the swing of our routines, we can often find ourselves stuck for childcare. That's where the Babysitting Co-op can come in handy! This past year, the Babysitting Co-op gained some new members and are always looking for a few more.

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.

Terry Fox Run Call For Participation

This year marks the 31st Anniversary of the Terry Fox Run, which is being held in Calgary the morning of **Sunday, September 18, 2011 at 11am** at the Eau Claire Market.



The Run commemorates Terry Fox, a young cancer sufferer who, in 1980, attempted to run across Canada to raise money for research into the disease. He died exactly 30 years ago, encouraging Canadians to carry on the task of raising funds for research.

To register as an individual or team, visit www.terryfox.org or call 1-888-836-9786. Walk, run, rollerblade or cycle your choice of a 1km, 5km, or 10km route this September 18th!

How it works:

- Using a system of chits, members arrange and exchange babysitting amongst themselves on an as needed basis.
- Moms (and dads!) can attend the once-a-month informal evening meeting (sans kids) to get to know one another. Meetings are held 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.

And voila! Your own local Mary Poppins(es) can give you a few hours to yourself.

If you would like to see if joining the Babysitting Co-op is a venue for you, information on the September meeting (date and place), can be obtained from Robin at 403-276 8610.

A special "thank you" to
Dave Dearborn and Judy McIvor
for helping to deliver *The Crescent View*.
Your volunteer efforts are very much appreciated!

HOUSE FOR SALE!

231 - 4TH AVE NE • CRESCENT HEIGHTS

\$725,000 Listing on MLS begins Sept 1, 2011



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Meet Your Neighbors Over a Friendly Game of Bridge



Does a couple of hours of Coffee Table Bridge with fellow Crescent Heights residents followed by a social time appeal to you? We're looking to start regular games at the community hall without the stress and competitiveness of Contract Bridge. All levels of players are welcome.

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The atmosphere will be relaxed with players rotating to meet others in the neighborhood. This initiative is supported by the Board of the CHCA and the cost to community members would be minimal.

We are looking for suggestions and ideas and help with the organizing and nothing firm is currently in place.

If you're willing to give this a try and provide input as it progresses, please contact Judy at 403-230-0057 or: judy_mcivor@shaw.ca

EAST CALGARY SCOUT GROUP & MARLBOROUGH PARK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (MPCA)

6021 Madigan Dr. N.E., Calgary, AB T2A 5G9 Phone: (403) 248-1775 Office Hrs: 9-5pm Mon-Fri

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Sat, September 24, 2011 • MPCA Gym and Activity Room

\$5.00/per entry

Public viewing 11:00 am-2pm (FREE for everyone to stop by, enter a draw and take a look)

Limited space - so enter early

Age Groups: 2-5 yr (Duple/Lego) 6-8 yr 9-12 yr 13-17 yr Adult

Categories: ► Buildings & Structure ► Animals & Figures ► Vehicle & Transportation ► Creative Invention

****All Lego creations must be dropped off to MPCA Hall on Friday, September 23, 2011 between 6-9pm**

Concession will be open on Saturday serving coffee, muffin, hotdogs, chips, pop, candy (cash only)

Contest rules:

- Request full contest rules and entry forms by e-mail at marlpark@shaw.ca
- No kits please - all entries must be original creations
- Entry forms also available the MPCA office

Back to School, Back to You!

By Susan Cullen

As summer slips away, the leaves on the trees begin to change, the kids go back to school, and moms everywhere breath a sigh of relief as they settle into their new routine. Whether you are a mom who is working inside or outside the home, take the opportunity to once again re-connect with yourself and see what changes you want to make in your life.

As a mom, it is very easy to 'lose' yourself in the busy-ness of family life. Managing the household, organizing kids' schedules, making sure the pantry and fridge are always full; our job as 'mother' is never ending. Let's face it, who among us doesn't keep a mental count of the number of toilet paper rolls left in the cupboard! Really!



So, with the kids back at school, the new routine established, it's a perfect time to re-connect with yourself. But how? I have a few suggestions. First, as you begin to create the new schedule, be sure to carve out some time that is just for you. Second, ask yourself a few questions.

1. "What is the most important thing I could do for myself?" As moms, it seems the first thing to get thrown overboard when life gets busy is time for our own restorative activities. Could it be more exercise? A healthier diet? More sleep? Meditation?

2. "What do I need to change to bring my life into a better balance?" Even though your life is never going to be in perfect balance, ask yourself if there are specific areas you know need addressing. Here are some life areas to consider: health, community, relationships, financial, or spiritual. When we, as mothers, are out of balance, the whole house seems to become out of balance too. I'm sure you've heard it many times before, "put on your own oxygen mask before assisting others". There is great wisdom in this rule!

3. "What/who can support me in this change." We humans are social creatures and creatures of habit. These two factors combine to make 'change' challenging, even if it's a good change. One of the most potent ways to counteract this is through support. In coaching we call it "creating the social architecture" to support ourselves. I suggest starting with friends and family. Ask for help when you need it. Ask a friend to check up on you and see, week by week, if you're still on track. Remind yourself daily why you are making the change.

My final piece of advice is to change one thing at a time. I've seen people get completely frustrated with the state of their lives and try to change many things at once. This strategy almost certainly results in failure. Instead, choose the most important change you want to make and focus just on that. Take small 'baby steps' and ask, what is one thing I could do today to help me create this change in my life".

It's Time To Renew Your Residential Parking Permits

This is a reminder that Residential Parking Zone M permits expire October 31st, 2011. You may obtain your year 2011/2012 permits beginning September 1st from the Calgary Parking Authority. Your permits may be renewed in one of the following ways:

1. The permit may be picked up at our office at the address listed below. The bylaw requires that you present a valid ALBERTA vehicle registration for each vehicle requiring a permit, showing the correct address within the restricted zone as well as a copy of some other proof of address, such as a cable or utility bill.

PLEASE DON'T FORGET YOUR VEHICLE REGISTRATION!

2. If you wish, you may mail or fax a photocopy of your entire valid vehicle registration(s) along with a copy of some other proof of address, such as a cable or utility bill (Drivers' license does not fax well). We will mail your permit to you. See address and fax number below. Be sure to allow enough time for mailing.

IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO RENEW YOUR PERMITS IN A TIMELY MANNER IN ORDER TO AVOID RECEIVING A PARKING VIOLATION.
CALGARY PARKING AUTHORITY

620 – 9 Avenue SW
Calgary, AB T2P 1L5
Phone: (403) 537-7000
Fax: (403) 537-7001
Business Hours: 8:00am-4:15pm Monday-Friday

Calgary's Emergency Operations Centre Update

The construction of the future home for City of Calgary's Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) located at 637-1 Street N.E. is continuing. The deconstruction of the original building and the development of the parking lot and the security fencing for the facility will begin at the end of August 2011.

Currently, occupation of the building is scheduled for the first quarter of 2012 and site landscaping is set for completion by the second quarter of 2012.

Construction progress will be communicated quarterly through these public notices until further notice.

If residents have questions or concerns, please call 311. The safety of residents and minimal impact to the community remain as The City of Calgary's priority. Thank you for your patience.

CRESCENT HEIGHTS REAL ESTATE

 Presented by **THOMAS KEEPER**

Calgary's #1 Realtor for Century 21 in 2010

INNER-CITY

135 10 Avenue NW - Crescent Heights \$599,900



4 Bedrooms
2.5 Baths
1520 ft²

422 Regal Park NE - Renfrew \$224,900



2 Bedrooms
1 Bath
799 ft²

111 16 Street NW - Hillhurst \$799,900



3 Bedrooms
3.5 Baths
2499 ft²

403, 1059 5 Avenue NW - Sunnyside \$337,900



2 Bedrooms
1 Bath
1033 ft²

FEATURED PROPERTIES

2610 30 Street SW - Killarney

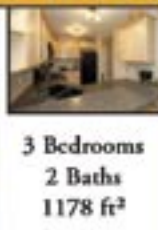
\$674,900



4 Bedrooms
3.5 Baths
1746 ft²

139, 52 Glamis Green SW - Glamorgan

\$284,900



3 Bedrooms
2 Baths
1178 ft²

2723 Edenvold Heights NW - Edgemont

\$274,900



2 Bedrooms
2 Baths
936 ft²

204, 59 Glamis Drive SW - Glamorgan

\$269,000



1 Bdrm + loft
1 Bath
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Classes for kids ages 3+, teens, and adults! Parent&Tot classes also available.

Pulse is a brand new dance studio focusing on promoting and educating dancers about the techniques and history of all dance styles associated to Hip Hop.
www.pulsestudios.ca
info@pulsestudios.ca
403.452.2846
2nd Floor 110 10 AVE NW



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- Classes incorporate music and movement, instruments, books and sign language
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99% of Kindermusik parents
would recommend
the program to
other parents.

Source: November 2005 Online Study by Harris Interactive

We're in the neighbourhood. Call today.

Kindermusik with Miss Pam

403-457-4126

Classes held at Renfrew Community Hall
811 Radford Road NE

<http://web.me.com/placusta/>

Join us

**Have
fun**



**Keep
active**

**at
CueSteps
Round Dance Club**

- learn waltz, two-step, foxtrot, jive and Latin dances
- meet new friends
- casual atmosphere

Where: Winston Heights Community Centre
520 - 27th Avenue NE

When: Weekly lessons start Sept 18/19

**Top notch Instruction/cueing
by Ron and Donna Baba**

For further information please contact:

Ron Nieman at 403 - 851 - 1581

Janice Frank at 403 - 279 - 3771

or visit

www.squaredancecalgary.com

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to our family oriented dental clinic. Our goal is to provide you with outstanding dental care in a warm and friendly environment. We welcome people of all ages, with wide ranging dental needs.

“ At our dental office we care about our patients as people. We work hard to make sure you and your family are comfortable with us and happy with your experience. ”

Dr. Laura Brescia, D.D.S., B.Sc.



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www.BridgelandDentalCare.com

Classes Start September 12, 2011

Free Trial Class*
for ages 3 to adult
No Experience Required!

Ballet, Jazz, Contemporary, Hip Hop, Musical Theatre, Yoga, Pilates,
Piano Lessons, Kindermusic, Adult Classes and more!!

SPACE IS LIMITED! Register TODAY
by calling **403-245-4346**

Passion Joy Dance

208, 1217 Centre St NW • Ph: 403-245-4346
balletclassiquemethusela@hotmail.com
www.balletclassiquemethusela.com

**No cash value*



Tom Pecek and Associates

General Dentistry

Our clinic is recently under new ownership, and Dr. Tom Pecek and our team look forward to meeting residents of the Crescent Heights/Bridgeland community! We strive to provide personalized, quality care to all our clients, and to empower them to make informed decisions about their oral health.

- Flexible Evening and Weekend Appointments Available
- Direct Billing to your Insurance Company (you pay only the difference)
- New Patients and Emergencies Welcome
- Complimentary Consultations (implants, cosmetics, orthodontics, 2nd opinions)
- Languages Spoken Including English, Cantonese, Mandarin, Vietnamese
- Free Parking

We look forward to meeting you!

Tom Pecek And Associates

#5, 1217 Centre St NW

Tel 403.230.2288 Fax 403.230.8800

Mondays to Fridays 9:00am - 7:00pm

Saturdays 9:00am - 5:00pm Sundays & Holidays - Closed

www.pecekandassociates.com

Ward 7 Update

Calgary was an exciting place to be this summer and I hope you had a chance to enjoy the city's many festivals.

The first year of this term has gone by quickly, and your new Council has accomplished much. With the support of my colleagues, I brought forward several matters that will benefit Ward 7 residents and Calgary as a whole. Some of these include a new suburban development levy to better reflect the cost of growth, resulting in a more equitable funding model for established communities, a comprehensive Cycling Strategy that will make getting around town safer and easier for everyone, a Plain Language Policy to eliminate jargon and improve communication with City Hall, and the funding and site location for a new main library. It has been a busy year!

I would like to congratulate the Ward 7 groups who are celebrating major milestones. Cheers to Triwood Community Association for 50 years of service, the Golden Age Club 60th Anniversary, and the Calgary Drop-In Centre for 50 years of helping Calgarians in need. Terrific new playgrounds were installed in West Hillhurst and Hillhurst/Sunnyside, and Dalhousie has big plans in the works. Highwood unveiled their community mural, and new splash pads opened in Cambrian Heights and Crescent Heights in time for the kids to cool down this summer. I'm thrilled with the number of new community gardens and orchards in the Ward and we are looking forward to a big harvest this fall!

Sincerely, Druh Farrell

**Need
some
help?**

**Check the
Classifieds Ads
on page 20!**



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 and you will see The Crescent View PDF underneath the Block Watch Logo.



**Alberta Health
Services**

*Emergency
Medical
Services*

Back to school safety



Alberta Health Services EMS would like to remind parents and students of some basic road safety tips as streets become busier with the return of the school year. Pedestrians and motorists each have an important role to play- road safety is a shared responsibility.

Motorists

- Avoid talking on cell phones, texting, or any other behavior that diverts your attention away from driving.
- Give right of way to pedestrians who have activated overhead crossing lights or who are waiting to cross from a street corner.
- Remember it is illegal to pass vehicles, other than those that are parked, in school zones or playground zones during posted hours.

Around school buses

- Flashing amber lights mean a bus is slowing down to stop. Motorists should do likewise.
- No matter which direction you are coming from, STOP when approaching a school bus with activated flashing red lights - unless the bus is on the opposite side of a divided highway from you.
- Driver courtesy goes a long way. By simply being alert and cautious when approaching a school bus, you are contributing to school bus safety.

Pedestrians

- Cross only at marked crosswalks or street corners that have clear visibility from all directions.
- Make eye contact with all drivers before crossing the street.
- When activating overhead crossing lights, pause before stepping off the curb to ensure motorists in both directions have come to a complete stop.
- Stay within the crosswalk lines until fully clear of the road way.
- Obey pedestrian lights at intersections. Cross the street only when you see the 'walk' sign and only when all cars have come to a complete stop.
- If you are with young children or pets, hold your child's hand firmly and keep a solid grip on leashes when crossing.
- Remember: children learn by observing you. By teaching them safe crossing habits as early as possible you can reduce the chance your child may be involved in a preventable auto/pedestrian collision.

www.albertahealthservices.ca

Area Event and Resource Guide

Community

TUXEDO PARK

Tuxedo Park Community Association

Hall: 202 29 Avenue NE

Ph: 403-277-8689

Newsletter email: sam@cherubconsulting.com

Craft Nights at Tuxedo Park

Second Wednesday of the month, 7 to 10pm in the upper hall at the community centre. You can sit uninterrupted and work on your craft. 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. Hope to see you there with your craft!

Guiding Program in your Area

WINSTON HEIGHTS AND TUXEDO COMMUNITY GIRL GUIDES OF CANADA UNITS WILL BE HOLDING THEIR ANNUAL REGISTRATION ON MONDAY SEPTEMBER 12 AT WINSTON HEIGHTS COMMUNITY HALL FROM 7 to 8:30pm. Joining us is easy! girlguides.ca/join_us 1-800-565-8111

UPCOMING 2011 EVENTS - at the hall

August 27/28 Dog Agility Trials
September 16 Community Supper - Pork Chops
September 24/25 Community Garage Sale
October 21 Community Supper - Chili'n Bread Bowl
October 31 Halloween Candy Give-Out
November 18 Community Supper - Roast Pork
November 27 Volunteer Supper by Invitation
December 3 Breakfast With Santa
December 9 Community Supper - Turkey

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.

CRESCENT HEIGHTS

Crescent Heights Community Association

Hall: 1101 - 2nd Street NW

Hall Rentals: Call 403-804-5600

Newsletter email: elizhancoc@shaw.ca

Crescent Heights Babysitting Co-op

Meetings held monthly. Contact Robin 403-276-8610

Crescent Hts. High School Football Program Bottle Drive - Please save your empties and help support our program. Sat. Sept 10 from 10 am to noon. We'll pick-up at your front or back door. Thereafter, every third Saturday, drop-off bottles at the high school NW parking lot from 10:00am - 12:00pm. Questions? Please call 403-277-4743 or email debkot@hotmail.com

Coffee Table Bridge We're soliciting feedback to see if there's enough interest to organize regular games at the Community Hall. Please contact Judy at 403-230-0057 or judy_mcivior@shaw.ca

Possibilities Project - caring for the spirit through art

Wild Rose United Church has opened up an Art Gallery in our church facility. Artists from the Drop-In Centre invite you to visit any weekday morning from 9am to noon over the summer months. The Gallery is also open on Sundays from 11am to 1pm. Coffee is always on around here, so you can pick up a coffee and spend as much time as you like viewing the artwork of our DI friends. As well, all art pieces are for sale.

Crescent Heights Playgroup - Wednesdays 10am -11:30am

Crescent Heights Community Hall. Community membership required. Children at any age welcome - babies included. 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

Newsletter email: highlandparkeditor@gmail.com

Community Clean-Up Sept 24, 9am to 1:59pm

3716 - 2 Street NW

104 Centre Street Church Scout Group - Bottle Drive

We would like to hold two bottle drives in your community the first would be September 24 and the second January 14 from 9am - noon. For more information please call Doug at 403-275-3931 or e-mail: scouterdoug.tryon@gmail.com

Canadian Blood Services

Donor Clinic Location: 3716 - 2 Street NW - Highland Park Hall. The next clinics will be held on October 22 and January 28, 2012 from 9am to 1pm. It takes less than an hour from start to finish.

RENFREW

Renfrew Community Association

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

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

Newsletter: newsletter@renfrewcommunity.ca

Renfrew Bingo - The little hall with the big payouts!

Saturday and Monday evenings. Nickel Games at 6:10pm, regular games at 6:50pm, Satellite at 8:45pm. Concession open.

811 Radford Road NE

Renfrew Community Pub (Social Room)

Most Fridays from 7pm until close. Non-members welcome - be our guest. Free pool, free shuffleboard, free foosball.

Renfrew 50+ Club - 1318 Regal Crescent NE

Daily events and activities. Contact Tina Wilding at 276-4747 or email renfrew50club@shaw.ca for more information.

Community Bottle Drop-off: Sat, Sept 24, 10am - noon at the hall. Don't throw your returnables away! Donate them to the RCA and to worthy community causes! Drop-off only.

Mobile Skateboard Park (for ages 6-16): This RCA sponsored, city-run program will run September 26-30, 3:30-6pm daily, in the parking lot of the Renfrew Aquatic and Fitness Centre. No entry fee to skate at the park but signed waivers are required for all participants prior to using the park and a helmet must be worn by all participants. For more information call 3-1-1 or visit Calgary.ca/skateparks

Jellybean Dance 7-9pm, main hall, Grades 1-6 welcome.

Dates TBA, please check our see website.

Renfrew Curling League Registration:

Friday September 16, 7-9pm at the hall. **Cost:** \$220

This is a recreational mixed curling league. 48 player cap with priority given to alumni and Renfrew residents. We curl Saturdays at 12:30. Call Guy at 403.230.7076 for more information.

Open Renfrew Community Dance 9pm Friday, September 30

No cover, everyone welcome! Music starts at 9pm. Adults only.

Deerfoot Indoor Soccer Registration Party

Saturday, September 10th from 11am-3pm. Free BBQ, games, soccer skills, prizes to won. Join us for the fun!

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: cmccnews50@yahoo.com

CMCA and Memorial FC Indoor Soccer Registration!

Sat. Aug 27, 1 to 3pm; Thurs. Sept 1, 7 to 9pm; Thurs. Sept 8, 7 to 9pm

CMCA Centre - 636 Marlborough Way NE

More info? Phone Peter at 403-272-0462.

JELLY BEAN DANCE: Sept 23, \$3 ADMISSION, AGES 12 AND UNDER

(Parent supervision advised for younger children)

POP, HOTDOGS & CANDY FOR SALE. LOTS OF DANCE CONTESTS

DOOR PRIZES. PARENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Bingo at the Bingo Barn Volunteers needed:

Please call Marg at 273-7952.

Girl Guides of Canada - Registration on-going, open to all girls aged 5 - 17yrs. Guiding is open to everyone - not just girls, we have plenty of openings for women of all ages! Join us today! Contact Jan McCaghren at 403-219-0533 for information on units in your area.

Scouting - Scouting is for Boys and Girls ages 5 and up.

The East Calgary Scout Group covers 4 areas (Penbrooke, Marlborough, Marlborough Park and Forest Heights and surrounding areas).

MARLBOROUGH PARK

Marlborough Park Community Association

Hall: 6021 Madigan Drive NE

Hall Rentals: Call 403-248-1775

Newsletter email: marlpark@shaw.ca

Blood Services : The Canadian Blood Services will be in the Marlborough Park Community Centre gymnasium on Friday Sept 16th from 3 to 8pm.

ZUMBA - We are once again offering classes. Six week session for \$50.00 starting on September 27. Call the hall for information. Hope to see you there.

JELLY BEAN DANCE: OCTOBER 21, 2011

HALLOWEEN PARTY!

Make sure to watch for exciting details in our next newsletter regarding FAMILY HALLOWEEN PARTY taking place October 28th in the evening at the Community Centre.

1st Annual Lego Contest: September 24 at the hall

Sponsored by the East Calgary Scout Group. All age groups are invited to participate in the contest. Bring in your Lego creations (2 per person) in the following categories: Animals and Figures, Transportation and Vehicles, Buildings and Structures, Creative Inventions

Marlborough Park PreSchool:

On-going Registration. Please call Monica at 403-235-2996.

Loma Seniors Wednesday afternoons at 1pm. Please call Tony at 403-273-4534 for more information.

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

Get involved!

Connections

Area Event and Resource Guide

WINSTON HTS - MOUNTVIEW

Winston Hts - Mountview Community Association
Hall: 520 - 27 Avenue NE

Hall Rentals: Call 403-276-5474

Email hallmanager@winstonheights.ca

Newsletter email: newsletter@winstonheights.ca

Volunteers Needed!

Hockey Rink Boards - WHMCA Rink Committee is looking for volunteers to paint and repair the rink boards at a work bee in early September. Many hands make light work! Refreshments and snacks will be available. Please contact Stacy Nephin for dates and details at 403-276-3798 or email sjnephin@shaw.ca.

Centennial Garden Party - The Garden committee requires eight to 10 volunteers to assist with the Centennial Garden Party on Sunday, September 18. They need help with decorating, catering and cleaning up. If you are interested in lending a hand please contact Yvette DuBois at 403-698-1075 or yvd.dubois@gmail.com.

2nd Annual Community Pancake Breakfast - Assistance is requested for the 'Neighbour' Video Premiere and 2nd Annual Community Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, October 1st. If you can help out please contact Darlene at 403-230-8395 or dbrobb@telus.net.

WHMV Community Group Exercise Options

Cardio and Strength in Tempo and/or Yoga. Classes are led by Certified Trainers. Twelve sessions in each discipline beginning mid- to late-September. Times and days will be determined by response.

WHMCA Members - \$120

Non-Members - \$144

(Minimum registration - eight people) Pre-registration is required.

For details / registration call Lenore at 403-276-3798 or lpeaton@shaw.ca. All sessions will be held at the Winston Heights - Mountview Community Hall at 520 - 27 Avenue N.E.

GIRL GUIDES OF CANADA

WINSTON HEIGHTS AND TUXEDO COMMUNITY GIRL GUIDES OF CANADA UNITS WILL BE HOLDING THEIR ANNUAL REGISTRATION ON MONDAY SEPTEMBER 12 AT WINSTON HEIGHTS COMMUNITY HALL FROM 7 to 8:30pm. Joining us is easy! girlguides.ca/join_us 1-800-565-8111

RUNDLE

Rundle Community Association

Hall: 2409 - 50 St. NE

Hall Rentals: Call 403-280-4752

Newsletter email: rumbles@shaw.ca

Summit Pub - Rundle's best kept secret! Now serving pizza!

Now booking smaller parties and summer out-door BBQs.

The Summit Pub also offers pool tables, dart boards, as well as cribbage games on Tuesday and euche on Thursdays. Wing night is still on Wednesdays. Families are welcome!

Rundle Scouting - 2011/2012 registration Sept 7 at the hall.

Beavers: Ages 5 - 7, Cubs: Ages 8 - 10, Scouts: Ages 11 - 14,

Venturers: Ages 14 - 17, Rovers: Ages 18 - 26, Leaders: 21+

The 719 N Properties Scout Group relies on donations of cans and bottles, which is used to offset the cost of running the program. If you would like to donate yours, please contact us at 403-285-6682.

Rundle Guiding - 2011/2012 registration Sept 7 at the hall.

MOUNT PLEASANT

Mount Pleasant Community Association

Hall: 602 - 22nd Avenue NW

Hall Rentals: Call 403-282-1314 or email:

hallrentals@mpca.ca

Newsletter email: publicity@mpca.ca

Book Club - 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7pm in the Lower Hall

September 13 book is *The Forgotten Garden* by Kate Morton. For more info e-mail lohanlon@telus.net or call Linda at (403) 289-8390.

Mount Pleasant is turning 100!

Mount Pleasant is celebrating it's centennial in 2012. We need a group of people who will design, organize and execute activities to commemorate the last 100 years. Please contact Ingrid at specialerevents@mpca.ca no later than September 30th, 2011.

CROSSROADS

Crossroads Community Association

Hall: 1803 14 Avenue NE Ph: 403-277-6201

Hall Rentals: Call Marlene at 403-277-6201

Newsletter email: convenor.editor@gmail.com

Crossroads Programs Registration: Sept 7, 6:30 to 9pm

Scouts, Guides, Indoor Soccer and more. Please call for info.

Alex Heath Bus: Mobile Health Services - Doctor, Nurse, Outreach Worker. Come check out this great new service on Wednesdays, from 10am to 1pm at Vista Heights School 2411 Vermillion Street NE. Call (403) 689-9196 for questions or an appointment.

Playground Rebuild Projects

Vista Heights Playground: September 15, 16 and 17th. Sponsored by Kiwanis in partnership with Parks Foundation, Crossroads Community Association, Blockwatch, ESG Daycare & Shell Canada. A BBQ is tentatively booked for Sat. afternoon. Volunteers are required to help with the build. Please contact Tara Pasveer at 403-606-6034.

Mayland Heights: Deerfoot Athletic Playground, Sept. 29th & 30th Parks Foundation in Partnership with ATB and Crossroads Community are coming together to replace the Deerfoot Athletic Playground in Mayland Heights (Playground by baseball diamonds off Deerfoot). If interested in volunteering, please contact Tara Pasveer at 403-290-5420

CROSSROADS SOAPBOX RACES! There is much enthusiasm around Crossroads about hosting the first Soapbox Races, but we still need more bodies to help with this event. More information on the event and how you can help out can be found on the new Soapbox Races Facebook Group <http://on.fb.me/lubZM3>. You can also call or email the OC.

CROSSROADS COMMUNITY CLEAN UP Sept. 24, from 9am to 1pm

Clean up gets bigger and better, but your help with this event is greatly needed! VOLUNTEER POSITIONS: Drivers and Trucks - Lunch Crew - Free Store - Green Space Clean up - Loading Packer Trucks - Breakfast Crew - Traffic - Clothing Department

CROSSROADS (cont)

BRING ON THE ADVENTURE! SCOUTING OPPORTUNITIES

For more information please call James or Marilyn at 403-207-0272.

Canadian Tire Money: We are collecting Canadian Tire Money to help purchase equipment for our July 2011 Scout Trip to Vancouver Island. If you would like to donate please call 403-207-0272.

Cookbooks: The Crossroads 36 Scouts are raising money for our July 2011 Scout Trip to Vancouver Island, as a fundraiser we created a cookbook that we are now selling. The cookbook is \$10 and contains favorite recipes from our families to yours. Please call 403-207-0272 if you are interested in purchasing a cookbook.

Crossroads 50 Plus Club: 6:45pm at the Crossroads Community Centre.

Join us for fun times and meet your neighbours. For information call 403-277-6201 or visit our website at: www.crossroads50plusclub.com

Deerfoot Indoor Soccer Registration

Crossroads Community Centre, 1803 - 14 Avenue NE

Wednesday, September 7th from 6:30 to 9:00pm

Crossroads Annual Summer Festival - August 26/27

August 26, 1 to 4pm at the hall

August 27, 1 to 4pm at Vista Heights Elementary field

BRIDGELAND-RIVERSIDE

Bridgeland Riverside Community Association

Hall: 917 Centre Avenue NE

Ph: 403-263-5755, Hall email: hall@brcacalgary.org

Newsletter email: newsletter@brcacalgary.org

Visit our web site at: www.brcacalgary.org for a complete listing of programs and classes.

Bridgeland Riverside Playgroup: We will be meeting Wednesdays from 10am to Noon at the Gateway International Church, 235-8A St NE. For more information please email: events@brcacalgary.org.

October 1st: Community Clean Up and Pub

Visit our web site for more details

Women's Centre - The Women's Centre is an information and resource centre for women in Bridgeland. We are open to any woman. We are run by women and we are a safe space for women.

Fall Skateboard Program - Sept 12 - 16, 3 pm - 6 pm

917 Centre Ave NE in parking lot. City of Calgary program for skateboarding and in-line skating. No entry fee to skate at the park but signed waivers are required for all participants prior to using the park and a helmet must be worn by all participants.

For more information call 3-1-1 or visit Calgary.ca/skateparks

GARDENING WORKSHOP Sunday, September 11, 2 to 4pm

Hall Multi-Purpose Room - Topic: "Putting your Garden to Bed". To make the most out of these workshops seating will be limited so sign up early!

Support your community!

You can make
a BIG difference!



MERGER ANNOUNCEMENT

Great news...Bob Dawe has merged his Real Estate business with Ken Eddy/Glenn Herring Real Estate Group also at RE/MAX Real Estate Central!

This merger will give you the advantage of having three experts to help you with all your Real Estate needs.

Inner-city properties such as yours will be one of the teams major focuses due to the uniqueness and extensive degree of expertise needed to market your home and to advise you on the purchasing side.

Bob, Ken and Glenn are also co-owners of Red Cap Corner Centre, located in Mount Pleasant on the corner of 4th St and 25th Ave NW, enabling them to stay on top of the local market for your benefit.

Call Bob, Ken or Glenn today at 403-276-SOLD (7653)



Deerfoot Soccer

*Join our Deerfoot family
and you'll never walk alone!*

2011/12 Indoor Soccer Season Register Now!

Season runs from October to early March.

To Register:

1. Visit our website at www.deerfootsoccer.com to register online.
A major credit card is required. or
2. Visit us on the following dates if you wish to pay in person by cheque or cash:

Crossroads Community Centre, 1803 - 14 Avenue NE

Wednesday, September 7th from 6:30 to 9:00pm

Renfrew Community Hall, 811 Radford Road NE

Saturday, September 10th from 10am to 2pm

Renfrew only: **free BBQ, games, soccer skills,
prizes to won.** Join us for the fun.

Volunteers: We are a non-profit 100% volunteer organization. There are many opportunities for committed parents to get involved. We even offer discounts to those willing to commit their time. For more information or general inquires contact us at info@deerfootsoccer.com or come out to our general meetings to get involved. **You won't regret it!**

Deerfoot Soccer Association
www.deerfootsoccer.com



Calgary's
lowest fees
AND more
technical
training!

Please see Website for Pricing!

U6 Mixed Recreational
(born 2006 or later)

U8 Mixed Recreational
(born 2004, 2005 or later)

U10 Boys Developmental
(born 2002, 2003 or later)

U10 Girls Developmental
(born 2002, 2003 or later)

U12 Boys Competitive
(born 2000, 2001 or later)

U12 Girls Competitive
(born 2000, 2001 or later)

U14 Boys Competitive
(born 1998, 1999 or later)

U14 Girls Competitive
(born 1998, 1999 or later)

U16 Boys Competitive
(born 1996, 1997 or later)

U16 Girls Competitive
(born 1996, 1997 or later)

U18 Boys Competitive
(born 1994, 1995 or later)

U18 Girls Competitive
(born 1994, 1995 or later)



The Best Pet Ever!

Immortalize your pet in print! It's FREE!

E-mail a pic to ellisevansdesign@shaw.ca and include a short message (50-75 words) explaining just why your pet is the best ever.

We'll place your nomination in the newsletter and your pet will be famous!

Also, if your pet is nominated you could win a **FREE PRIZE PACKAGE** courtesy of **DOGGYWOOD!** Please include a phone number or email address to receive your prize package.

"Luigi"



Best Pet Ever Nominee!

I adopted this adorable, little, seven years-old rescue dog from Los Angeles. His name is Luigi and he is the sweetest little thing. He does not shake, bark, or whine (unfortunately does not give kisses - hopefully I can break him of that bad habit!) I met Luigi over three weeks ago at an adopt-a-thon and fell in love with him right away. I passed the home study on the weekend and Luigi came to live with me on Sunday evening. He weighs 3 1/2 lbs (so tiny) and unfortunately has had most of his teeth pulled because they were in such bad shape. That is why the tongue is pretty much always hanging out!

He does still have a couple of teeth so is able to eat without any difficulty (well at least not too much). He was in foster care for three years but no one wanted to adopt him so they sent him to Calgary search of a new Mom - and now that's me! There is no information on the first four years of his life so I have no idea of his whole little life story. Every dog deserves a loving home!

Arlene S.

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Off the Shelf

Book Review by Judith Umbach

Burning Bright by Tracy Chevalier

Tracy Chevalier's earlier novel, *Girl with a Pearl Earring*, drew us into the studio of Johannes Vermeer through the story of the household maid. With *Burning Bright*, Chevalier lets us glimpse the poetic genius of William Blake through the eyes of the children next door.



Chevalier's strength is in recreating the social times underlying the plots of her novels. In another of her novels, *Falling Angels*, she lets the reader feel the confusion and passion of the Suffragist movement in London. Consistently, her approach is to focus the action of the novel on fictional peripheral characters who interact with the historical figures. In this way she helps us feel the ebb and flow of intention that most people would feel at now famous moments in time.

Jem and Maggie, the principle characters in *Burning Bright*, are particularly charming. Jem's Dorset village family has moved to London where he immediately encounters Maggie, the daughter of a washerwoman and a low-level wheeler-dealer. A skilled craftsman and carpenter, Jem's father prevails upon the owner of the Astley circus to honour a lighthearted promise to employ him. The ensuing culture clash of individual family members leads us into the highlights and lowlights of not-quite-slum life south of the Westminster Bridge.

Next door to Jem's family's rented rooms is the mysterious home of William Blake and his wife. Naturally, the children are drawn to the overgrown garden, the press in the front room, and the gossip about Blake's national allegiances. When not helping their parents at work or hanging around the circus, they gradually make themselves known to the friendly Blakes. Through these interactions, the reader is gently informed about the poet's sympathies with the French Revolutionaries, his thoughts about art originating in the artist's mind, and his empathy for children – the innocents in a harsh world.

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* Results from statistically valid survey distributed to all of my clients. Greater than 35% participation rate.

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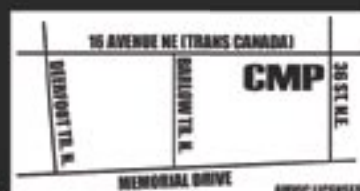


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