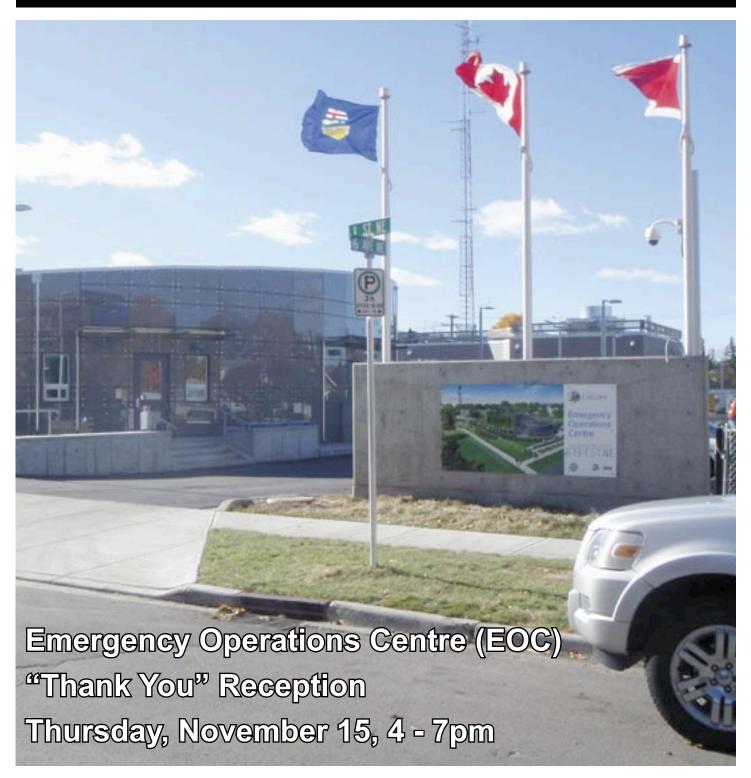
• The Crescent

NOVEMBER 2012



NEWSLETTER OF THE CRESCENT HEIGHTS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



MARKET DATA



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city of calgary	calgary single family	calgary con	do apartment	calgary condo to	wnhouse	total residential
Monthly	Sep-11	Sep-12	% change	Oct-11†	Oct-12†	% change
Total Sales	1,461	1,613	10.40%	667	776	16.34%
New Listings	3,202	2,680	-16.30%	1,337	1,238	-7.40%
Average Price	417,511	419,506	0.48%	411,403	436,390	6.07%
Active Listings	N/A	5,096	N/A	N/A	5,012	N/A
Pending Sales	N/A	258	N/A	N/A	279	N/A
Days on Market	50	45	-10.00%	53	45	-15.09%
Annual/YTD	2010	2011	% change	2011 YTD	2012 YTD	% change
Total Sales	17,218	18,497	7.43%	15,442	17,790	15.21%
New Listings	36,944	34,069	-7.78%	29,963	28,282	-5.61%
Average Price	409,885	414,388	1.10%	415,759	427,246	2.76%
Active Listings	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5,012	N/A
Pending Sales	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	279	N/A
Days on Market	44	48	9.09%	47	44	-6.38%
Daily/Weekly	Oct 15	Oct 14	Oct 13	Oct 9-15 /11	Oct 9-15 /1	2 % change
Total Sales	58	22	40	283	378	33.57%
New Listings	85	19	60	607	562	-7.41%
Average Price	461,794	423,919	477,382	422,864	451,913	6.87%
Active Listings	5,012	5,081	5,107	N/A	5,012	N/A
Pending Sales	279	269	255	N/A	279	N/A
Days on Market	41	57	35	54	42	-22.22%

[†] from first day of month to current day.

Please feel free to call or email for my personal forecast for 2013 and when the best time to sell is!



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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 chcaview@gmail.com

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

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President's Notebook

by John McDermid

It was off to St. Vlad's on a pleasant Sunday afternoon, to attend the Neighbour to Neighbour event on September 30th. "Connect with the Past; Create the Future" was this year's signature community gathering organized by the N2N group. I was there with four other presenters, my part being to deliver, but not quite do justice to, a made-to-order and lively (but for my delivery) account of the not-so-distant history of the Meredith Road / Edmonton Trail / Riverside area, now part of our home community of Crescent Heights. The presentation was brilliantly researched and prepared by Professor Z, well-known to regular readers of this newsletter. Also on hand with us to give short talks were Calgary Police Service Superintendent Katie McLellan, our beloved CLO Dom Laporte, the Calgary Drop-in and Rehabilitation Centre's Jordan Hamilton, and Ward 7 Alderman Druh Farrell. Wondrous food was provided by the Fiddler's Courtyard, Rocky's Sausage Haus and Roma Catering, and no one went away hungry. Indeed, precious few attendees went away without a door prize as well, as more than 36 local businesses furnished an array of prizes, coupons and gift cards with a value of over \$3,800.

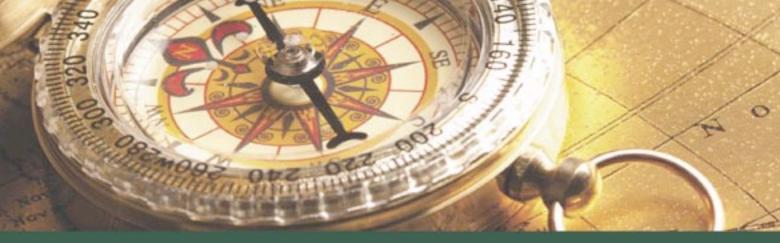
A special thank you to each of those local business for helping to make the event a success: A Touch of Italy, Albern Coins and Foreign Exchange, Auto Select, Boogie's Burgers, Bonasera Pizza and Sports Bar, BraTopia, Calgary Co-op, Calgary Cycle, Carino Japanese Bistro, Centre Street Pita, Cerezo Café, Dapper Dog Daycare and Grooming, DevaDave, Diner Deluxe, Domino's Pizza, Doggywood, Ducktoes Computer Services, El Charrito Taqueria, Fiddler's Courtyard, Gord's Running Store, Illusionz Barber Shop, Knibbe Automotive Service, Luke's Drug Mart, Quick Grow, Renfrew Auto Service, Rocky's Sausage Haus, Roma Catering, Shiraz Persian Cuisine, Shoppers Drug Mart, St. Vladimir's Cultural Centre, Starbuck's Edmonton Trail/Memorial Drive, Starbuck's Centre Street, Systems Hair Design, Tim Horton's, Tropical Corner, Under the Bridge Fashions and the Centre Street UPS Store. I think all might agree that this is a who's who of Crescent Heights businesses, and hope everyone will make a special effort to patronize these many local merchants that support our community.

Most gratifying in our outreach effort this year was the willingness of many merchants who supported our event last year to pitch in and contribute again for this year. As an added benefit, we extended our reach along the commercial corridors of Centre Street and Edmonton Trail well north of where we canvassed businesses last year, to amazing results. We have met new friends, built new relationships and bolstered the ranks of business members of the CHCA. Thanks to our core of N2N volunteers and event organizers: Adriana Boss, Marlene Foley, Tanja Harrison, Mike Hartley, Nora Kirkham, Jack Lawson, Leslie Marion and Christine Bennett. You are a delight to work with and thank you for your time, good humour and dedication to making our community a better a safer place in which to live.

In other news, lingering ill-feeling from what was genuinely thought to be an honest and principled difference of opinion as between the Rotary Park Planning Committee and CHCA persists. Seizing on our concern as to whether the removal of the existing fence and its replacement with a different one is a prudent and wise use of public funds, a reader writes to put CHCA to account for its stewardship of the public funds that pass through our coffers and into our community. The resident refers to our

- Continued on page 7

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CASH CHEQUE

President's Notebook cont. from page 3

plan to apply for a matching grant to help in funding an improved floor for the main floor of the hall. The inquiry focused on the relationship of CHCA funds and third party grant money, the dollars involved, and how we might come to favour the use of public funds for one project over another. So we are pleased to present the following account, which might well be of interest to other Crescent Heights residents who are unfamiliar with, but interested in, how our spending priorities are established and how we put our shoulders to the wheel to repair, maintain and sometimes upgrade certain elements of our community hall and lease site.

Although we have yet to finalize our specifications for the replacement floor with more "give", to better suit the changing needs of the fitness, yoga, dance, Tae Kwon Do groups and other active hall users, the eligible funding is from a matching grant: CHCA would provide half the estimated \$55K-\$65K and the grant program, through the Western Economic Diversification Fund, would provide the balance. Although our current floor is not that old, increased traffic has meant greater wear and tear, and the plain white tile over the concrete slab of the hall floor does not provide a very forgiving surface for the athletic and other uses to which our hall is increasingly put. We have been contemplating the upgrade for some time based on our active user groups' stated desire for an improved floor: one not guite so cold and hard. As for funding of projects that are within the purview of the community association, we make use of own resources (both restricted and unrestricted funds, as applicable), and try to tap into grant funding wherever we can and wherever there are eligible sources of funds, in order to stretch our limited resources and find extra leverage for every dollar spent.

Two principal drivers direct our decision making processes for spending public funds (which, as we define it, is every nickel that passes through CHCA coffers). Under the terms of our lease agreement with the city of Calgary, CHCA has a positive duty to repair and maintain our community hall, which is the principal asset of the CHCA. Our lease document and our current lifecycle study are a kind of Old and New Testament; they provide a road map and a year-over-year schedule for the repair and maintenance of the various elements of the community hall (heating, cooling, electrical, plumbing, as well as building envelope components). CHCA does not exercise much discretion in tackling the ongoing maintenance and repair of the hall; the lifecycle report very much sets the agenda, so it's not all beer and skittles. We pay our bills in a timely way and carry out such repairs and improvements as we are able, adjusting priorities as circumstances change and as planned and unplanned needs arise.

Our concerned reader went on to inquire how it was that CHCA tended to place priority on "a project that they personally favour?" The grim reality is that there is little personal favour involved in the replacement of the floor at the hall: the existing floor is not wearing well, due in part to increased traffic in our busy facility, and will need replacement soon. An eagle-eyed board member saw a funding opportunity to help us upgrade the floor to better serve the needs of our active user groups, so we are going for it, with half of our own funds, and half from the grant program (we hope). It is a project that seemed out of reach just a few years ago,

but now is within our grasp, grant willing.

Interested reader went on to curtly request a copies of the CHCA's audited financial statements for the past two years. We are always pleased and proud to share our audited financial statements with members of our community association. When inquiries about our finances arise, I am happy to rise on my hind legs and answer: for me, our annual Interview with the Auditor continues to be a yearly highlight of serving our community on a volunteer basis. Each year, as our audit nears completion, Treasurer Daniel Dang and I attend at the offices of the Federation of Calgary Communities and, under the scrutiny of our auditors, review the financial statements in draft, line by line, item by item. And each year for the past five or six years, it has been our great pleasure to respond to our auditor's inquiries, reaffirm our financial best practices developed over the last ten-plus years, put the finishing touches to the package and make it ready for sign-off and presentation to our membership at the Annual General Meeting. This year's audit wasn't quite ready for the AGM, but was finalized in the days following and is available to any members in good standing of CHCA who may wish to review the numbers. We have our last three years' audits (years ending 2009, 2010 and 2011) in .pdf format, and can make audited statements from earlier years available as well on hard copy.

The year-to-year progress in our financial practices is very satisfying: over the last ten years or so we see a steadily-improving financial picture for the organization. We emerged from a not-so-rosy financial position back then to our current position of robust financial health and sound financial practices. Our expense reports are without exception claims for out-ofpocket expenditures on behalf of CHCA: supplies for events such as the Stampede Breakfast and the AGM; similar out-of-pocket reimbursements for trades and contractors such as Benner Plumbing, Chinook Glass, Ultralite Doors, mostly service calls and repairs where one or another of our board members (usually me, it seems) covers the cost of a service call or repair bill, and then claims back the amount with receipts always attached. We always caution board members and other volunteers to save their receipts in a safe place, because anyone seeking to make an expense claim without a paper trail will have an uphill climb to a dry place if he or she can't produce the documentation. Not once in my years of attending our audit interviews has a single expense claim been queried or even commented upon. We learned our sound practices from a dark and distant past, but we learned them well.

As for CHCA's tapping in to grant funding, we may not have been as savvy as some other not-for-profit groups that have managed to develop excellent "grantsmanship" skills within their volunteer ranks. We are improving, however, and are becoming fleeter of foot and more nimble in moving to assemble grant applications with the required supporting documentation. In recent years CHCA has successfully made use of the City's Capital Conservation Grant program (always facility-based funding), as well as the Council Strategic Initiative Fund (for the Neighbour-to-Neighbour events) and provincial grant programs when the timing, need and our ability to assemble the necessary documentation have come together

- Continued on page 9



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President's Notebook cont. from page 7

in a timely way. Grant funding has been an enormous help in recent years in repainting the hall, inside and out, replacing weathered siding on the south and upper west sides of the hall, completely renovating our kitchen, replacing the roof and carrying out extensive electrical upgrades. A project for improving and enhancing the hall lighting is currently under way and will relieve us from the expensive and hard-to-source "metric" fluorescent tubes that have been bedeviling us in the main hall for several years now. Residents may rest assured that any grants we are eligible for and can position ourselves to apply for, we will pursue, but our spending decisions continue to be driven almost exclusively by our lifecycle report, the ebb and flow of our restricted and unrestricted funds, and the ongoing requirement of maintaining our community hall.

In addition, of course, we participate in fund-raising casinos under the auspices of the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission. Over time this has become one of the most important sources of revenue for CHCA. Although not a "grant" program per se, we have better informed ourselves over time as to the best way to structure our casino license applications, and now craft our approved use of proceeds requests in such a way as to allow us maximum flexibility under what continues to be a fairly restrictive use of proceeds regime. I would be remiss if I did not use this opportunity to again remind our regular casino volunteers of our next casino fundraising event, on March 20 and 21 of next year. We will be canvassing the community for volunteers to work eight hour shifts over the two days in the New Year. We hope you might be able to join us and help us generate juicy future revenues for the betterment of our community.

I hope this account of how we tend the store has been a reasonable snapshot of CHCA's financial maturation over the last decade: from a starting point of very scarce resources, we have worked diligently to build a stable fiscal foundation, hunkering down with our bookkeepers and auditors, transparent with our funders, our partners and our membership. Out of our annual audit Q&A, we adjust our policies and procedures to protect our community association from potential mischief and mistakes, and we fine tune our best practices. These habits of mind, acquired and developed over many years, inform our approach to proposals for the expenditure of any public moneys: "our own" or initiatives of the municipal, provincial or federal governments as they affect our community. Is it wanted? Is it needed? Is it prudent, and is it the best use of not-unlimited funds or other resources at the appropriate time? These principles have established our culture of prudent stewardship of the public purse in our community. These are the habits of mind that have us farting through silk.

A special "thank you" to

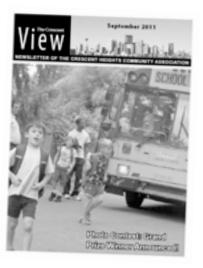
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much appreciated!

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 Stady at chcaview@gmail.com.

A Message from your Alderman - Druh Farrell

It's your transit. Tell us where you want to go!

City Council is embarking on an exciting new plan for Calgary Transit. RouteAhead, a long-term strategy for public transit over the next 30 years, will focus on making transit safe, convenient, comfortable, and efficient.

Last May, the RouteAhead team started talking to Calgarians at community events and on the engagement bus, a travelling version of the Ward 7 Bow to Bluff storefront. Citizens were asked what they like, what they'd like to see improved, and what direction they think Calgary Transit should take in the future. Over 4,000 people met with the team on the bus and at these events!

The RouteAhead team is using the public feedback, as well the vision and goals set out in PlanIt Calgary, to draft a 30-year strategy. The plan will cover all aspects of public transit including where best to invest limited resources. In September, Council supported the guiding principles for the strategy as well as the evaluation criteria for rapid transit projects.

Now, the team is gearing up for its next phase of public engagement - giving Calgarians an opportunity to see what is being proposed, and asking them to weigh in and confirm that RouteAhead is on the right track. The final presentation to Council will be at the Transportation and Transit Committee on December 12. Stay tuned to www.routeahead.ca, follow the progress on Twitter (@routeahead) and look for the engagement bus in Ward 7. I'm looking forward to seeing you on the RouteAhead bus!





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A Meredith Road History- Part One

by Professor Z

This month's offering has been excerpted from the historical portion of the N2N "Past and Future" gala held this past September 30th at St. Vladimir's Cultural Centre. The focus this year was on a part of Crescent Heights that doesn't often receive the attention that it deserves: the extreme southeast portion, which was the first part of our community to be settled. While never as genteel as the heights to the north and west, when it comes to "colorful", the Meredith Road area and environs have that covered in spades!

Here's just a sample: the Langevin brothels on 6th Street NE, the Gypsies living along the Bow River, the "speakeasy" in the basement of the Armour Block, the revival tent erected on 6th Street NE, attracting local residents of "colour", kids shooting crap outside the Beehive Confectionary, the Isle of Capri Supper Club with a bootlegger conveniently located next door, the burning of a Kaiser effigy on Tom Campbell Hill at the end of WW 1 (anyone nearby of German extraction received the message clearly, thanks!). And presiding over some of these diverse elements was no less a personage than the first Anglican Bishop of Calgary, William Cyprian Pinkham, who called Meredith Road home for almost ten years.

Where did the name Meredith come from, anyway? "What's in a Name?" by local author Donna Mae Humber suggests that it may have been lifted from the village of Meredith in Gloucester, England. Humber provides no proof of that, however. An 1891 Calgary map uses the name Meredith Street (not "Avenue"); after 1909 or so, the road was renamed 1st Avenue SE before later reverting to Meredith. Where Meredith Road jogs to the northwest (about where St. Vladimir's stands) was for a time called Riverside Boulevard. One block north, where Marsh Road now runs, was once called Berlin Street and then Centre Avenue SE, before later reappearing as Marsh Road NE.

A stroll down Meredith Road 100 years ago

We'll start at the top of the hill at 2nd Street and 1st Avenue NE. Before we begin our stroll, we'll stop to take in the vista from this historic viewpoint, where in 1875 the NWMP first looked upon the future site of Fort Calgary before descending and fording the Bow River.

But the year is now 1912 and off to the west we can see the old Centre Street Bridge, built in 1907 by investors holding land interests on the north side of the river. The bridge wouldn't survive the 1915 spring flood session however; that year, a section floated downstream with the City Commissioner and City Engineer aboard, both of whom were later rescued by the Fire Department by the Langevin Bridge. Another pedestrian wasn't as fortunate and drowned; perhaps his city taxes weren't current.

To the southeast, we can see the new steel Langevin Bridge, completed a few years ago. The imposing structure in the distance is the General Hospital, also completed in 1910, and a little closer in we can see the sandstone-clad Riverside School, another community focal point, completed in 1909. Nearer still and to the south of the school would be the Riverside Lumber Company and just to the east of that, the soon-to-be-

infamous Riverside Hotel. With the completion of the hospital and school and with all the other building activity going on, things were certainly looking up for this part of the 'hood in 1912!

As we begin walking down the rough dirt pathway in a southeasterly direction, we notice the three stately homes in the area; one of which was built by real estate investor Francis Beveridge and one by alderman Adoniram Samis, who would become City Commissioner in 1913. Our path will take us very close to Mr. Samis' palatial residence; not that he'll notice, as he's a very busy man. We'll walk on for about 150 feet before we come to the "Bishop's Court", the early residence of Bishop William Cyprian Pinkham and hence the site of many regular "high society" events hosted by his wife Jean and their daughters, the Misses Pinkham. Bishop's Court was located on what would later become the building site for St. Vladimir's.

A block to the north of where we're standing in 1912 stood the Riverside Steam Laundry, later to become Model Laundry.

Continuing down our path, a bit farther down the street from Bishop's Court and across the avenue would be the Riverside Ironworks (which was later purchased by Dominion Bridge); where Meredith meets 4th Street were the Armour and Reliance Blocks, both built in the 1910-1912 period. It's amazing both have managed to survive to this day.

Kitty corner to the Armour/Reliance buildings stands the brick-clad Poffenroth building, better known later on as the de Waal block. In 1912, a stable stood at the back of the building.

Were we to continue our Meredith Road perambulation by crossing 4th Street NE and continuing to 6th Street NE, we would come across the early home of pioneer George Clift King, a onetime member of the NWMP troop that established Fort Calgary in 1875. Not long after, in 1877, George became manager of Calgary's first store, the I.G. Baker Trading Company's local trading post; he later served as Calgary mayor and for many years thereafter as city postmaster.

Surrounding communities and their development

The west section of Meredith Road was originally part of the original Mount Pleasant district, bounded by Edmonton Trail on the east to Rotary Park on the west, and running north to 8th Avenue NE. A hundred years ago, Mount Pleasant was considered middle class, and many of the residents of Scottish, English or Irish descent were involved in construction, real estate or the agricultural industry. The CPR was also a significant employer of local residents there. Mount Pleasant was absorbed into the Crescent Heights community sometime in the 1950's; the 70's and 80's saw the beginning of much higher densities in the vicinity with the construction of new apartment buildings to the south and the east, followed on their heels by condominium developments. After a hiatus of twenty years or so, there's been a recent resurgence of condo development in the area. The area just north of Meredith Road has until recently stubbornly resisted gentrification, but there are signs that the winds of change are finally a-blowin' in the area; the Dragonfly co-housing development is one of those signs.

The Riverside area, south of Centre Avenue and extending to the river, first developed around the Langevin Bridge and early occupants were predominantly ethnic Germans fleeing Russia; accordingly the area was known as "Germantown" for many years. Although located closer to the city than Bridgeland, annexed in 1907, Riverside wasn't annexed until 1910, possibly because of the influence of the CPR in advancing Bridgeland's cause earlier on (or was it because City Hall didn't want to deal with the thorny issue of the Langevin brothels?).

To the north of Riverside, Bridgeland was developed by the CPR as a suburb for the working class. A hundred years ago, it was peopled not only by Italians, but by eastern Europeans: Poles, Hungarians and Czechs. Many Bridgeland residents were CPR workers; indeed, over 40% of Canadian CPR workers in 1900 were of Italian origin. While there was certainly an Italian presence in Bridgeland early on, immigration to Canada virtually ceased in 1927 due to both the restrictive policies of both the Italian Fascist government and the Canadian government, as the latter felt that a typical southern European didn't fit their model of an ideal Canadian

- Continued on page 13





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

Thank You!

The Neighbour to Neighbour (N2N) group would like to thank all of our event sponsors. Please make a special effort to patronize these businesses that support our community:

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Tropical Corner

Under the Bridge Fashions

Centre Street UPS Store

Meredith Road cont. from page 11

citizen. After WW 2 however, immigration resumed, and Bridgeland was a natural jumping-off point locally. Many Italian-Calgarians subsequently moved to newer districts in the northwest, with the result that the Italian population in Bridgeland is at present comparatively quite low.

Although Bridgeland and Riverside have diverse origins, the two communities first came together as early as 1908, when the Bridgeland-Riverside Community Association was first founded, and ties have strengthened ever since. For many years, the General Hospital was an overarching influence in the area; since its demise in 1998, the construction of a number of multi-family units on the old General Hospital site together with the appearance of numerous new single family dwellings have given the region a completely different "feel" than once prevailed.

The Meredith Road area's early history: some miscellaneous tidbits In 1875, prior to their establishing a fort at Calgary, the NWMP's "F" Troop arrived at the brow of the hill at about 1st Avenue and 2nd Street NE, and then descended what would later be called Meredith Road to ford the Bow. To quote NWMP corporal George Clift King: "Never will I forget the sight that met our eyes - the confluence of the two winding rivers with their wooded banks, the verdant valley and beyond, the wide expanse of green plain that stretched itself in homage to the distant blue mountains.... we descended the hill to the river ford - near where Langevin Bridge is today.....". One of King's first residences in Calgary was on 6th Street NE, not far from where it meets Meredith Road.

Later that same year, the Calgary-Edmonton Trail was first "blazed" by Reverend John McDougall and his brother David as an addendum to their 1873 Edmonton-Morley Trail route; by 1881, Calgary-Edmonton Royal Mail delivery on the Trail had begun, with passenger stagecoach service starting a year later. The section of Edmonton Trail between 2nd Avenue NE and the top of the hill was later called "Hay Hill" due to the residue left when farmers and others with haycarts used the road to access markets across the Langevin Bridge.

In 1892, the first ethnic Germans (Volgas from Jagodnaya Polyana) began inhabiting the Langevin Bridge area; a later wave from Russia (the Alexandorf region in the Caucasus) would follow in the early 1900s.

In the early 1900's as well, the "Langevin Ladies" were open for business; the brothel area hub was at 6th Street and McDougall Road. The Riverside area was well known by 1902 as "Germantown". Some early street names reflect this: Berlin Street, Kaiser Street and Dresden Street. The area to the east of Edmonton Trail to 6th Street NE between 4th and 6th Avenues was known as "Little Italy", although an Italian presence in the area would become much more predominant after WW II. When the Riverside area was annexed in 1910, the Langevin Ladies moved shop to the Nose Creek valley to the east, preferring to continue their trade under NWMP surveillance versus that of the Calgary Police Department. By some accounts, members of both forces were known to avail themselves of the personal services on offer there!

In February 1916, the Riverside Hotel was torched by a rioting mob of

soldiers and civilians due to the suspected ownership of the property by a German. Although this had once been true, at the time of the riot the hotel was owned by an Englishman residing in the town of Blackie and leased by him to a francophone Canadian. The interior of the hotel was completely destroyed and all the windows broken; the damage estimate was \$10,000, a significant sum in those days.

In the next issue, we'll delve into some former and current residents' memories of area happenings over the years.

Wild Rose United Church Fall Events

Wild Rose United Church's Annual Turkey Dinner November 3rd, sittings are at 5:00pm and 6:30pm. Please call the church office at 403-277-5576 for tickets.



Calling all crafters and home businesses, Wild Rose United Church is hosting a Christmas Craft Sale on

November 10th. We will be renting tables for \$25. Please call 403-630-5944 if you would like to rent a table.

Our Minister Linda Hunter is retiring. Wild Rose will be hosting a Retirement Party November 24th at 5:30pm and this is a family event. Tickets are \$20 and this includes a full dinner and entertainment. Please contact the church office at 403-277-5576 to purchase your tickets.

Fostering safe communities...

With the onset of winter and impending snow and ice concerns, please consider the safety of older adults, those with mobility issues, parents wheeling strollers or walking with young children and our service providers.

- Property owners are responsible for clearing all snow and ice from adjacent sidewalks within 24 hours of the snow being deposited.
- Sidewalks must be cleared down to the bare concrete.
- Snow from private property cannot be put onto a road or boulevard.
- For hard to remove ice, take a container to a fire hall or Roads depot for a sand and salt mixture.
- Keep extension cords and other obstructions off the sidewalk.
- Help to ensure everyone's safety this winter!

Support your community!
Buy your membership today.
Membership form on page 22.

Crescent Heights Rotary Park Letter

October 1, 2012

To: The Board of Directors of Crescent Heights Community Association
The City of Calgary Parks Department
The office of Druh Farrell, Alderman Ward 7
The Crescent View

RE: Rotary Park

As a long time resident of the community and a planner by profession, I appreciate that inner city communities such as ours experience development pressure and complex issues that are not always easily solved. Having attended meetings and written and sent in my concerns and comments regarding the issues in Rotary Park, I eagerly awaited The Crescent View, hoping to see some accounting of the results of the Community Involvement Process that was underway in July. We did not receive that, instead we received the "Notebook" from the CHCA President. This article does reflect Mr. McDermids opinions and offers some general findings, but only in a very biased way. He even goes so far as to describe the existing fence as an "effective and attractive protective perimeter". This is a matter of personal opinion and not one I share.

I am relieved to hear that the community is at least in agreement over the removal of the large asphalt "pathways" that sprang up across the field south of the playground and eagerly await those pathways being removed as promised months ago. The splash park and its surrounding fence are another matter.

As CHCA President, it certainly is fine for Mr. McDermid to express his opinion, but what is of considerable more importance is that the opinions of the Community are heard. Because of this I had requested a copy of the results that the City gathered from our Community directly from Mr. Stevens. I have since received a response to my inquiry and excerpts of that response are included below.

In response to the flyer and the email, we received 103 responses from residents who attended the CHCA's pancake breakfast and from email from citizens who received the flyer or otherwise heard about the proposal to introduce the new fence design. The results were as follows:

- About 60% of respondents were favourable to the fence design proposed in the flyer
- About 30% of respondents were either not favourable to the new design or did not want the current fence removed
- About 10% provided responses that did not make it clear which solution they preferred

In addition to the City's process, residents and park users also expressed their opinions through two other methods. A condominium association adjacent to the park contacted the Ward 7 office with a letter indicating that the board passed a motion against any changes to the fence because they had concerns about, among other things, noise from the park after hours. We were also made aware of a petition that was circulated at the splash park in late July and contained approximately 50-60 signatures from concerned parents against the proposed changes.

Please note that 30% of respondents EITHER did not approve the proposed fence design OR did not want the existing fence removed. This suggests that not even the full 30% were against having it removed. It was not clarified in this response if there was more information on the above described petition. I have no way of knowing what the petition said, whether it offered the design alternatives or simply the removal of the fence. In addition it would be hard to assess whether those who signed it were community members or persons from elsewhere in the City who were using the facilities. As rate payers in the community, the condo owners are certainly welcome to comment on a community initiative, but their overall vote is not relevant in my opinion. A vote implies that there were members both for and against the proposal. Each of those opinions should be considered, but in the same way as the survey was counted, with individual submissions. Another unknown is how many condominium owners are represented in this group; five, ten, twenty?

All things considered, I believe that the City's results from the formal survey show a significant majority supporting the removal of the existing fence and replacement with the proposed fence. There was never going to be one hundred percent support for one approach or another, but a 60 to 30 (or less) percent result is still a fairly clear mandate to both the Community Association and the City. I am not sure why the CHCA has arrived at an opposing decision, and I have seen no compelling argument being brought forward to support their position.

For the purposes of understanding how it is that a Community arrived at such a place that we have to collectively decide on how, where, and why we have to revise completed capital projects in our park, I think it is valid to look back.

First we underwent the consultation process involved in the Emergency Response Centre. Here, as I understood it, we were advised that we would have a structure and grounds that would integrate with the neighboring Lawn Bowling facility and Rotary Park. There was to be a flow through these areas that would mitigate the presence of this facility. To some degree it is difficult to assess the success of this endeavor since the original plans seem to have been altered and there is a considerable increase in hard surfaces around the buildings. In addition, the ERC is still not complete. Lastly, any flow through is now virtually impossible with the existing fence.

Secondly, the splash park began construction. To the best of my knowledge, the community at large was never consulted in this project. When construction began I looked through the newsletter expecting some kind of explanation, but saw none and eventually I stopped one of the construction people working on the project who kindly explained what they were doing and even showed me the plans. I had no objection to a splash park, I had raised my children with frequent visits to the wading pool during its life time and felt lucky to have such a great asset in our community. I was uncomfortable that no mention of it was ever made in the newsletter or that there had been no community consultation.

Once the fence was introduced, my feelings about the splash park

were very different. I know that my displeasure in a jail-like fence with locking gates around a portion of our park is shared by other residents and apparently approximately 60 people in our community (60% of 103 responses) felt it was worthy of their efforts to express this concern as well. I cannot know why other community members object to the fence, but my reasons are as follows:

- 1. The fence and locking gates means that a significant portion of our park has been effectively removed from the general usage area of the park. From September to May that portion of the park is closed as well as evenings through the summer. Patrons can't sit on the park bench or the picnic tables in the enclosure or more importantly, stroll through the area. 2. The design for the emergency response centre showed a flow through to the park and wading pool which has now been turned into a narrow corridor of useless space which does not fit with the vision the community was sold initially (a further reduction of our usable space). In addition the evolving landscaping on the south side of that facility appears to offer some nice seating for families enjoying either the playground or splash park.
- 3. The existing fence prevents the flow of children and their parents between the playground, the splash park, the open play field to the south, and the seasonal washrooms. As a parent who used this facility with great frequency at one time I found it very useful to establish myself between the assets so both my children could move freely through the area, either separately or together, while I watched over them.

With reference to Mr. McDermid's article in the *View* there are four particular issues I want to identify:

- 1. He seems to ignore the fact that many (approximately twice the number of respondents to the survey) would like the fence removed and cites capital costs as being one of the concerning issues. These were capital expenses that were incurred without community approval. The Community was never consulted as to whether they wanted a \$70,000 fence in our park that eliminated a sizable amount of the park for general use.
- 2. He also cites the needs and wants of the condominium owners across the street from the park. The splash park was a wading pool before this and the owners of those condos bought property fully knowing the public nature of the land across the street. In no way is it the responsibility of the community to change public lands to suit the desires of this small group.
- 3. He also mentions the petition (and again in this month's *Crescent View*) which was not formally provided or administered. Is safety a concern of those parents? I am not certain what their issues are, but a fence does not mean that children should be unsupervised. A fence would not be necessary to avoid accidental drowning, this is not a concern in a splash park and probably the major reason the City has abandoned wading pools for splash parks. Are they concerned with road access? The proposed fence would also address this, and it would even be a possible scenario to leave the fence along the east edge as is.
- 4. Lastly, the issue of protecting the resource is brought up. Certainly it is relevant and important that any of the elements in Rotary Park be protected. This includes the vegetation (which seems to be the most under attack) and the facilities. Unfortunately vandalism is a fact of life that can target both public and private property. Though a six foot high fence will certainly reduce that possibility, there are examples of facilities in Calgary that have no such fencing and have fared well (the Eau Claire splash park). In my opinion and based on the basic premises of CPTED (Crime

Prevention Through Environmental Design), I believe that concerns over the safety of the area and its resources can be addressed in a much less invasive manner.

CPTED makes recommendations on how environmental design can help reduce crime. Their principles include natural access control which guides people through spaces through the placement of entrances, exits, fences, landscaping and lighting. Another principle is natural surveillance which outlines the importance of visibility through such elements as lighting. In addition to those principles, CPTED suggests that "Encouraging activities in public spaces that are intended for use by residents and other legitimate users discourages criminal acts". In other words, by having it used, it discourages it's mis-use.

A far less expensive and imposing approach could have been increased and sensitively placed lighting. That combined with the proposed new fence design would contribute to a usable, safe and attractive resource. Basically it appears that the City, with or without the support of the Community Association, has made some large scale decisions about our Park and its facilities without first consulting with the Community at large. Those decisions and the costs that were incurred should not be the responsibility of the Community. In turn, the CHCA is making decisions on the Communities behalf that contravene the stated preferences of the respondents.

I would request that the Association and the City make the following changes to their approach in our community:

- to keep us informed of proposed capital expenses in advance of them being implemented so we have an opportunity to respond;
- to inform us of results of community surveys in as unbiased a way as possible; and
- when the Community is consulted and more than half of the official responses either support or deny a proposal, the Association should follow the majority decision, not their own personal feelings. Sincerely, Simonetta A.

Crescent Heights Affordable Housing Development

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

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

EOC Reception

The City of Calgary thanks the residents of Crescent Heights for their patience during construction and commissioning of the new Emergency Operations Centre. Please join us at a "thank you" reception on Thursday, November 15, 2012, from 4pm to 7pm at the EOC (673 - 1st Street NE).

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Older adults can book an appointment to meet with a lawyer by calling our intake line at **(403) 234-9266**. Our office is located at **100, 840** – **7th Avenue SW**. Eligibility for free legal services from Calgary Legal Guidance is based on annual income.

Speak Up For Those Who Are Silenced

Family Violence Prevention Month

It is hard to know what to do? What happens in their relationship is their business, right? Will I be meddling if I say anything or call for help?

So often the victims of domestic violence, including children, are silenced and they do need your help. You could be the person that makes the difference and stop the cycle of abuse.

This November's Family Violence Prevention Month campaign encourages Albertans to call the Family Violence Info Line at 403-310-1818 and help those affected by family violence. The 24-hour line is toll-free, available in 170 languages and available seven days a week.

Let's encourage a community standard in which family violence and bullying are wrong. Learn more about abuse, what can you do, warning signs, and where to get help. Information & resources can be found at www.familyviolence.alberta.ca.

How to Report to the Police

- Family violence can be very dangerous situations. Call the police. Do not engage in the situation.
- Family violence comes in many forms. It is very important if you suspect someone is in need of help to report it to the police. Even reporting at a later date, after the incident, what you know or suspect is beneficial. Never underestimate the value of your information.

Depending on the urgency, choose the method that best suits the situation:

911 - Emergencies or crimes in progress **403-266-1234** - All other crimes must be reported by calling the non-emergency line at 403-266-1234.

The Calgary Police Service encourages Calgarians to report all crimes.



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CHCA Community Hall Activities and Events

November Community Calendar

06	CHCA Traffic & Planning Meeting 7-10pm
13	CHCA Board Meeting 7pm
20	CHCA Traffic & Planning Meeting 7-10pm
27	CHCA Traffic & Planning Meeting 7-10pm

November at the Hall

SUNDAYS: Pentecostal Church Public Service 10am – noon

MONDAYS: Fitness Class 5-7pm, Call Lana 403-999-5373

Dance and Fitness 7:30 – 9:30pm.

WEDNESDAYS: Fitness Class 6:30-7:15am, Call Lana 403-999-5373

CHCA Playgroup 10 – 11:30am For info call Stacie 403-670-6872

Tai Chi 7:30 - 9:30pm

THURSDAYS: Fitness Class 5:30-8pm

For info call Lana 403-999-5373

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

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

Join our *Crescent View* enRoute Challenge!

Take a pic at school, at work, around town, with family, with friends, with a celebrity... just about anywhere!
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The Crescent View at PAJOS Fish & Chips in Steveston, British Columbia! - Photo by Michael W.



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LOCAL AREA CRAFT SALES

St Mark's Parish Fall Bazaar

Nov 10, 9:30am - 3:30pm, Baking, crafts, jewelery, Tea room, huge white elephant and more. **5552 Madigan Dr. NE**

Renfrew Comm. Association Flea Market Saturday Nov. 10, 10am to 3pm 811 Radford Road NE. For more information contact Linda at 403.277.3626

Annual Holiday Craft Fair: Sunday, Nov. 18 from 10am - 2pm. 6021 Madigan Drive NE Marlborough Park Community Association All table rentals proceeds to the Marlborough Park Preschool. Info to register as a vendor, contact the MPCA office at 403-248-1775.

Christmas Craft and Bake Sale - vendors, raffles, Santa, kid's area, etc. Proceeds to Canadian Cancer Society's Relay For Life Sat Nov 24 10am-5pm/Sun Nov 25 10am-4pm Highland Park Comm Ctr, 3716 - 2 St. NW

At the Bridgeland - Riverside Comm. Hall 917 Centre Avenue NE, www.brcacalgary.org November 17 - Christmas Craft Show November 24 - Calgary Clay Arts Craft Show Dec. 8 - What the Craft? Christmas Show

Marlborough Comm. Christmas Craft Sale Saturday, Nov. 24, 9:30am to 3:30pm. Over 60 tables of unique handcrafted gifts, decorations and goodies! 636 Marlborough Way NE.

Xmas Craft Sale: Nov. 17, 10am to 4pm Rundle Community Hall: 2409 - 50 St. NE Info or vendor info please contact wendy_ scales@hotmail.com or rumbles@shaw.ca

10th Annual Community Craft Sale 10am-3pm, Nov 17. Crossroads Comm Ctr. 1803 14 Avenue NE. Crafts and gifts for all your holiday needs!

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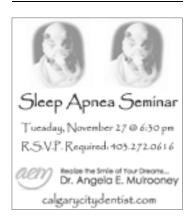


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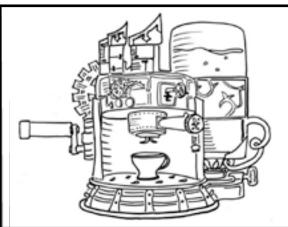
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life? Before you go ahead and buy that special someone a pet, consider a gift certificate instead!

Since cats and dogs are like people in that they all have unique personalities and needs, we suggest that you purchase a gift certificate from Animal &Bylaw Services. With gift certificates, the recipients can choose a pet that they and any other members of the household feel comfortable with. They enable the beneficiaries to choose cats or dogs that will fit with their lifestyle.

Potential pet owners need to find a pet that is the right size, whose activity level and personality complements the family's and whose needs can be met in terms of time and costs.

All the cats and dogs for adoption at The City of Calgary Animal Services Centre have been vetchecked, spayed or neutered, have received their first set of vaccinations (excluding rabies), are licensed and have a microchip. Animal & Bylaw Services' gift certificates come in any denomination and can also be used for licensing fees.

If you choose to buy a gift certificate toward the purchase of a pet elsewhere, ensure that the provider is reputable and treats its animals humanely. There are many reliable rescue organisations offering cats and dogs for adoption in Calgary.

For more information on our gift certificates or adopting an animal, contact 311, visit calgary.ca/ animalservices or visit the Animal Services Centre at 2201 Portland Street S.E., during regular business hours.



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Off the Shelf

Book Review by Judith Umbach

Townie

by Andre Dubus III

Andre Dubus III grew up on the wrong side of the tracks, and "townie" was the insulting nickname whispered by college students when he tried to participate in the mainstream. His autobiography, Townie, is a personal exploration of how he was able to rid himself of destructive emotional responses from his adolescence while honestly embracing the foundations of his own life.

Andre had potentially good parents who neglected their children through emotional laziness, cold despair, and near-addiction to drinking. His father was a college professor and well-known writer. His mother was a social worker who helped other people's kids improve their lot. Meanwhile her own children grew up without a proper home (meals, bedtimes, supervision) and estranged from their father.

Frustrated with his self-image as a skinny weak boy, Andre turned to self-taught body-building. Clearly a success for the first time with his training, he added boxing skills. As his abilities blossomed, he conquered his weak-boy inner self by beating up those who had beaten him, and then those who threatened to beat him, and gradually those who might beat him or others. His salvation probably was that he wanted to keep his body healthy enough to fight, thus drugs and weapons were no attraction to him.

Obviously bright, Andre did get into the college where his father taught. But his father liked the violent side of this son, plus he treated him more like a drinking buddy, having long forfeited his right to give fatherly advice. After a couple of years, Andre quits college because he cannot see the point. Through his twenties, Andre's search for a "point", combined with his interest in philosophy and the arts, keeps him moving away from the violence of his hometown. Better than any textbook, his introspection shows why it is so difficult to avoid relapsing into familiar behaviours - why he cannot flee psychological triggers just by changing environments.

Now Andre Dubus III is a respected author in his own right. (His novel, House of Sand and Fog was made into a movie and was a selection in Oprah's Book Club.) The scenes in Townie are vivid - full of action, tension, smells, and sounds. For those of us never driven by violence, this is a lesson in its awful attraction.

Support your Community!

Buy Your Membership Today

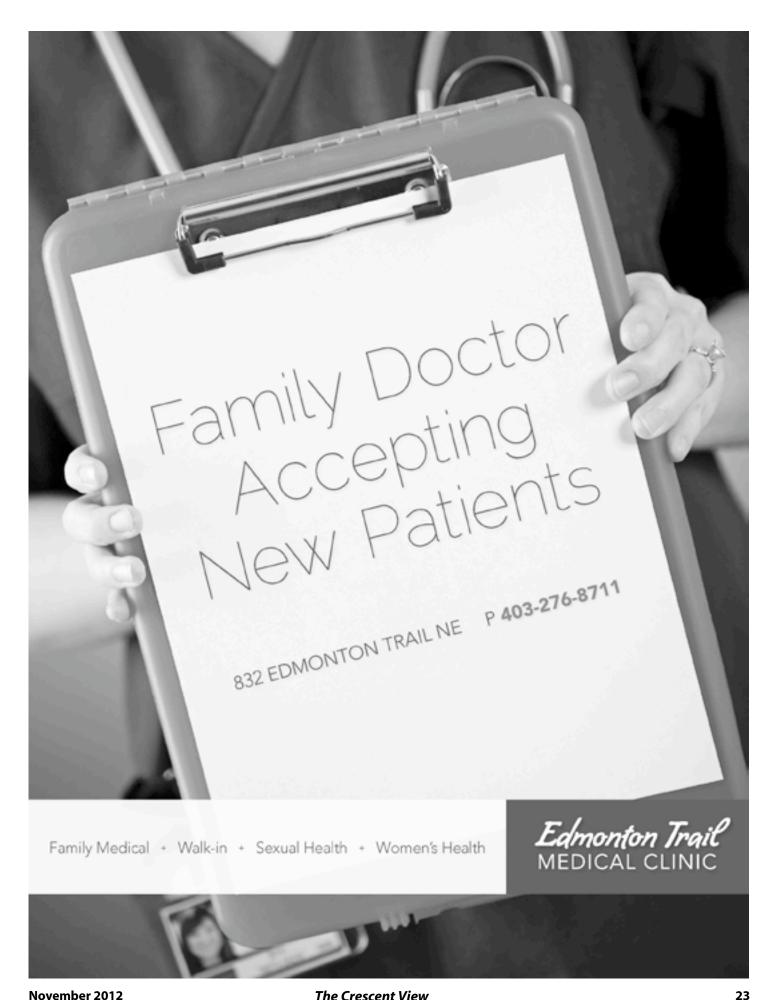
Crescent Heights Community Association Mambarchin Annlication Form

□ New Membership
□ Renewal

Please mail this form with your cheque to:

Membersing	Application	C.n.C.A. 1101 - 2nd Street NW
Voting (Residents)		Calgary, Alberta T2M 2V7
☐ Single (\$10)	☐ Household (\$20)	☐ Senior (\$5/per person)
Non-Voting (Business	and Non-Residents)	
☐ Associate (\$20)	☐ Business (\$50)	
Names :		
Address:		Postal Code:
Phone :		mail:
☐ Yes. Send Me Commu	nity Fmails	

Date _____ Amount Enclosed \$ _____



CRESCENT HEIGHTS NEWS

REAL ESTATE



CRESCENT HEIGHTS Market Report

Curious about current market conditions?

Here is an example of how much people love living in Crescent Heights: I just listed a place on 7 Avenue a couple of weeks ago (end of September) and after doing a broker's open house and mail out flyers, it received multiple offers. The property was sold in just 11 days! If you're thinking of selling, give me a call. I'd love to talk to you.

HOMES LISTED & SOLD BY THOMAS KEEPER



306 11 AVE NE \$425,000



317 7 AVE NE



73 REGAL PARK NE



310 11 AVE NE \$427,900



333 9 AVE NE



521 5 ST NI



337 7 AVE NE



312 7 AVE NE



209, 532 5 AVE NE

call THOMAS KEEPER today 403.542.8084