

# The Mission STATEMENT

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CLIFF BUNGALOW - MISSION COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

[www.cliffbungalowmission.com](http://www.cliffbungalowmission.com)

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2011



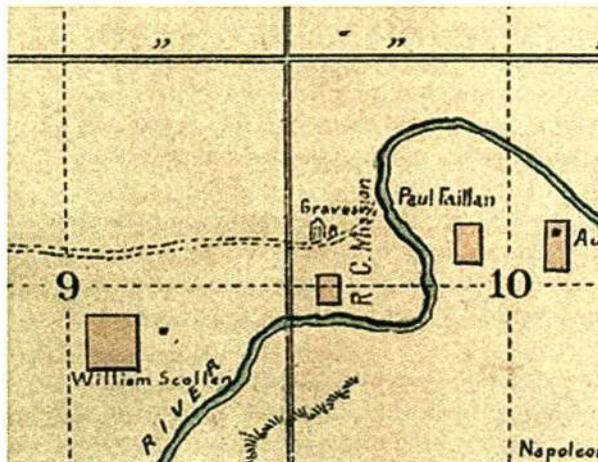
## CLIFF BUNGALOW-MISSION, A GRIDIRON COMMUNITY OR HOW THE WEST WAS WAFFLED

BY MARILYN WILLIAMS

LIKE MOST OF Western Canada, Calgary was settled using the Dominion Land Survey under the Dominion Lands Act, instituted by the federal government in 1872. Canada had acquired the Northwest Territories and Manitoba with the purchase of Rupert's Land from the Hudson's Bay Company just a few years before. The land policy is based on a system of townships. Every township is divided into 36 sections, each about one-mile square, and every section is divided into 4 square parcels called quarter sections roughly 1/2 mile per side. Quarter sections were suitable for agriculture, transportation and resource development. They also could be subdivided into urban lots. A simple nickname for this system is gridiron, a variation of the word griddle dating back to the 14th century, and later used to describe anything with a grid pattern.

Even-numbered sections were available for homesteaders for a \$10 fee, provided that within three years 30 acres were cultivated and a permanent dwelling - even a sod hut - was constructed. In 1884 the Oblate fathers successfully petitioned for land in Section 10 (Township 24, Range 1, West of the 5th Meridian), and had their land surveyed into urban lots later that same year. In 1899 their land was incorporated as the Village of Rouleauville, and was annexed by the City in 1907 to become today's community of Mission.

Odd-numbered sections were normally used for railway land-grants, except 11 and 29 which were reserved for school boards to use, trade for more suitable land, or sell to fund initial school construction. Rail-



EARLY SETTLEMENT IN CLIFF BUNGALOW-MISSION [LINE BETWEEN SECTIONS 9 AND 10 BECAME BROADWAY (NOW 4TH STREET)]

TAKEN FROM JASON NESS, A HERITAGE CONSERVATION STRATEGY FOR CLIFF BUNGALOW-MISSION. CREDITS: PLAN OF TOWNSHIP NO.24, RANGE 1, WEST OF FIFTH MERIDIAN, BY THE DOMINION LANDS OFFICE, OTTAWA, 1883. GLENBOW ARCHIVES.

ways were considered critical to settling the Prairies and the government granted them large tracts of land as an incentive. All railways were eligible, although after the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) was granted 25 million acres for its first Ontario-Pacific line, odd sections were often referred to as "CPR sections". Between 1880 and 1930, the CPR was the biggest town planner in Canada. Cliff Bungalow is part of section 9, which was granted to the Canadian Pacific Railway in 1883. Separate areas of the community were developed by the CPR in 1905 and 1910 and by Western Canada College (now Western Canada High School) in 1912.

The population of the Prairies grew slowly at first, reaching 150,000 when the CP Railway was completed in 1885. Land policy finally became effective after 1896, when Clifford Sifton, Minister of the Interior, streamlined bureaucracy. He targeted and actively recruited hardy settlers from Europe and North America -

a population increase of 2 million people by 1914.

Gridiron communities can appear monotonous when developing large tracts of flat terrain. But the older neighbourhoods in Calgary, where the grid system is superimposed on a topology of deep escarpments and meandering river valleys, are lovely and varied. Mission and Cliff Bungalow have been enhanced by adopting influences of other town planning movements (such as the City Beautiful movement) using city tree plantings and larger front gardens along residential streets. An important advantage of gridiron communities is that there are many choices of routes and views for pedestrians. The next time you walk in the neighbourhood, remember to notice how walkable the streets are, and let them remind you of the efficient survey system that developed the Canadian West. ☘

ROGER MARLER WILL RETURN WITH  
"INVENTORY OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS"

# HELLO READERS!

BY SARAH HBEICHI

I AM SO DELIGHTED to be the new editor for The Statement! Thank you to all those who made it out to the AGM in November and helped elect a new Board; please make note of the changes. Look out for some great articles this issue, there is sure to be something for everyone. I welcome your articles, comments, questions and letters; email or snail mail will do. Pay attention to the newsletter deadlines and keep in mind that issues of The Mission Statement come out six times a year.

Signing off, to all my neighbours and friends, Happy New Year! I hope you enjoyed the holidays.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED Community Casino June 4 and 5

Volunteers are needed for the community casino being held on June 4 and 5, a Saturday and Sunday. This is the largest fund raising activity that is available to the community. We only have the opportunity to work casinos about every one and one half years. The funds are used to pay for rent, utilities, and maintenance of our community centre. These funds are also used to publish and deliver the newsletter and for special projects such as our heritage plaque program and other heritage projects

We need to fill 40 volunteer shifts. If you can, please volunteer for both days or two shifts. You do not have to be experienced in working casinos. We have professional advisors and many community residents and volunteers have helped us with many casinos over the years. It's fun and easy!

There are two shifts a day, one from late morning to around supertime. This is followed by an evening shift to closing time. In addition, there is a late shift (starts around 10 pm) of people who count all the money from the gaming tables.

We pay for your food and there are snacks and non-alcoholic beverages. When not busy, you can read, watch a video, do homework, discuss world or local affairs, etc. We also pay for babysitting if you require it. We can provide a ride to and from Cash Casino (Blackfoot Trail) where our event is located. Casinos are smoke free, so you will not have to worry about smoke.

While you may not know if you are available, we need you to sign a volunteer form ASAP so we can submit your form along with our final submission to Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission prior to the casino. We can adjust to your schedule closer to the casino dates.

To obtain a form or submit questions, please contact Bob Lang, CBMCA President, at 229-2762 or rvlang@aol.com. Please help your community, and volunteer!

*The Crime and Safety Committee was unable to submit a report for this issue; however, if you have any crime or safety concerns, please email Travis Oslanski at cbmca.crime@gmail.com.*

*If you have something to say to your fellow community residents, we want to hear from you. Please write. Submissions may be edited for length and clarity, should be no longer than 600 words, and must be signed by the author.*

*The Mission Statement is not currently taking ads; however, if you would like to be put on a list and notified when we are accepting ads again, please phone 245-9587 or email ballot@shaw.ca.*



## THE MISSION STATEMENT

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2011

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# AGM NOTES

BY BOB LANG

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

It was a cold evening on November 24th, the date of our Annual General Meeting, more like the end of January. Nevertheless many people attended and celebrated our community. We have a great community with many great people and occasionally we need to celebrate that fact. Of course we have lots of challenges but overall we have much to celebrate.

Everyone who attended introduced themselves so people could get to know each other better and feel they could go up to someone and start a conversation. Most also identified all the things they are involved in the community. Even the reports presented at the meeting illustrated some of the good things that are happening in the community. They also identified some of things that will be happening in 2011.

We also celebrated the wonderful contributions of three of our long-term members. Leslie Evans, Executive Director of the Federation of Calgary Communities, presented Toole Peet Community Hero Awards to Georgina Jameson, Sharon Cirankewitch and Bill Longstaff. Georgina has been involved with the Community Association for many years. She also has been involved with the Community Garden since its beginning and in recent years has been the Community Garden Coordinator. Sharon is a member of the Environment Committee and was instrumental in organizing this year's first Community Cleanup held on September 11th. She also was part of the 26th Avenue Promenade project. Bill Longstaff has been involved in so many ways including serving on the Board as Secretary. He was a key player on the 26th Avenue Promenade project. He is a key player of the Heritage Committee and started the Heritage Plaque program. He is also a key player of the Newsletter Committee. So congratulations to these three great volunteers. Without their contributions, our community would be less that it is.

## COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION BOARD

An important part of the Annual General Meeting is the election of the Board for the next year. Some people are continuing in their previous roles and some people are either returning or are new to the Board.

The following are continuing in their previous role: myself as President, Jan Pugh as Vice President, Natasha Pashak as Development Director, Mark Mycyk as Environment Director, Bil Hetherington as Social Director and Ron Singer and Howard Zarvie as Directors at Large. Changing her role is Sarah Hbeichi who becomes the new Newsletter Editor. Returning to the Board is Marilyn Williams as Heritage Director and Rick Williams as Director at Large. New to the Board are Sheri Lynn Moore who



GEORGINA JAMESON, MARK MYCYK, MARILYN WILLIAMS AT THE AGM  
PHOTO BY EILISH HIEBERT

will be Secretary, Travis Oslanski who will be Crime and Safety Director and Angela McKinnon who will be a Director at Large.

## A BIG THANK YOU TO RETIRING DIRECTORS

Four people have stepped down from the Board. Jana Lait stepped down from being Secretary. She was previously Treasurer. She is going to be teaching in the evenings next year. Gavin Carscallen stepped down from being Treasurer. He is articling with a legal firm and if you know anything about articling, it is very time consuming. James Brooks is stepping down from being Crime and Safety Director. He is very busy with his business and being a single parent. Kim Munchrath stepped down from being Newsletter Editor in October. Thank you to all for your contributions to the community. You will be missed. I hope you will continue to be involved in some way.

## TREASURER NEEDED

With Gavin Carscallen stepping down from being Treasurer we have a big hole to fill. This is a very important position and I hope someone reading this will consider exploring taking it on. We do have bookkeeping services so you do not have to do that sometimes-onerous job. Nevertheless, you would need to keep the Board updated on our financial position and how we are doing relative to our budget.

If someone would like to explore taking on this role, please e-mail me at [rclang@aol.com](mailto:rclang@aol.com) and we can arrange to get together and discuss this.

## SPECIAL THANKS TO SAFEWAY AND PURPLE PERK

Those who attend the AGM were able to literally feast on the great spread provided by our local Safeway. There were many varieties of wonderful sandwiches made with special breads and buns. So a big thank you to Safeway for doing this.

We also need to thank the Purple Perk for contributing their outstanding coffee. They have done this for our AGM several years. The Perk as locals call it is a favorite place to meet and talk. ☺

# SOCIAL COMMITTEE ENTERS ITS SECOND YEAR WITH A BANG

BIL HETHERINGTON, SOCIAL COMMITTEE DIRECTOR

**YES FOLKS**, it's our second year already and we've come a long way. The movie nights have been a success and the committee is now focusing on creating more value and dialogue around our selections so that those who come down to the community centre on a Sunday night leave full of inspiration, ideas and new friends. This includes inviting speakers and CBMCA committee members to create a conversation around the films we screen. Big thanks to Gerald and Sharon at the Arusha Centre, Ron Joe, Holly Lywin, Anja Andersson, Howard Zarvie, Bob Lang, Jeannette Sullivan and all our guests for creating such a great film series.

Our seasonal events have been a blast. Our first annual Summer Bash was a huge success. We hosted a flea market at the community centre as well as a barbecue complete with children's games, face-painting, a beer garden and a whole lot of fun. We partnered with Brian Mahoney's office of Remax Real Estate professionals where people could come down to the hall, check out the activities there and grab a map of real estate open houses, a Fountains of Mission open house, and plenty of garage sales in Cliff Bungalow-Mission. Thanks to all of our volunteers and vendors with special thanks to Eilish Hiebert, Natasha Pashak, Paul Varga, Holly Lywin and Ron for helping to create such a magnificent community celebration.

Our first annual Christmas Craft Sale was also a huge success with an excess of 15 tables of crafts and goodies of all kinds, just in time for Christmas. Big thanks to Holly Lywin for spearheading this great event.

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### JANUARY 30TH, 2010 FILM:

#### THE YES MEN FIX THE WORLD

The Yes Men Fix the World is a true story about two gonzo political activists who pose as top executives of giant companies, lie their way into big business conferences, and pull off the world's most outrageous pranks. Armed with little more than cheap thrift-store suits, the Yes Men infiltrate the halls of power and turn corporate greed into raucous comedy.

### FEB 27TH, 2010 FILM: THE TURNING POINT

The Findhorn Ecovillage in Scotland has made a short film intended to inspire and empower Transition Initiatives with a story of people succeeding in translating their dreams to reality, and the role of community in doing so. The film features inspiring commentary from Joanna Macy, Richard Heinberg, Rob Hopkins and Dorothy Maclean, among others.



EVAN WOOLLEY, HOLLY LYWIN, RON JOE, BIL, ANJA ANDERSSON, AND JEANNETTE SULLIVAN AFTER THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE SOCIAL COMMITTEE AT THE SHIP AND ANCHOR.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF BIL HETHERINGTON

### MARCH 5TH, 2010: WINTER FORMAL

From 8 pm until 11 pm, the CBMCA Social Committee will host a winter formal where people can come down to the hall for some libations, dance, snack, and celebrate our wonderful community. More details on this event to follow.

### MARCH 27TH, 2010 FILM: FRESH

Fresh celebrates the farmers, thinkers and business people across America who are re-inventing our food system. Each has witnessed the rapid transformation of our agriculture into an industrial model and confronted the consequences: food contamination, environmental pollution, depletion of natural resources, and morbid obesity. Forging healthier, sustainable alternatives, they offer a practical vision for a future of our food and our planet.

### APRIL 24TH, 2010 FILM: YOU NEVER BIKE ALONE

This documentary looks at the development of vibrant bike culture in Vancouver and how the city's self-propelled population are mobilizing to promote the bicycle as a viable form of transport. You Never Bike Alone shows how the foundations for today's burgeoning bike scene in the city was set in the early nineties when cyclists risked arrest by cycling en masse to publicize unsafe road conditions and rides of the mid-Nineties which were sometimes characterized by arrests.

If you have an idea or would like to get involved, please email [cbmca.social@gmail.com](mailto:cbmca.social@gmail.com), join our facebook group, and keep an eye on our web site: [www.cliffbungalowmission.com](http://www.cliffbungalowmission.com).

# EXCITING NEW IDEAS SPAWNED AT CBMCA MOVIE NIGHTS!

BY EILISH HIEBERT

SOMETHING QUITE WONDERFUL happened at the screening of 'Transitions' — a movie about a UK-initiated grassroots environmental movement — at CBMCA's November 2010 last-Sunday-of-the-month movie night! A group of about 20 people, most of them inspirational young neighbours, had a circle discussion that was beautifully facilitated by Greg Powell from the Pembina Institute. The discussion got so exciting that nobody felt like going home. There is a real energy and an inspiration for action among this group. A natural continuing physical place for this energy appears to be at the regular Sunday 7 pm movie nights — next one January 30 2011, if you're interested in joining this momentum please join us!

These movie nights are only one of the many events run by the CBMCA Social Committee, which includes Bil Hetherington, Veronica, Ron, Holly, and other members. So far, all of the movies they have shown have been thought provoking and consciousness-raising. They are even more of a treat considering many of them would be difficult to find in regular theatres or video stores. Ron operates CBMCA's lovely new DVD player, LCD projector, and screen. "Transitions" was the first movie to include a discussion afterwards, in which Greg (the facilitator) had us move into a more intimate circle setting. Also featured were Calgary's Arusha Centre's Transition efforts. Part of our animated discussion dealt with how to work on consciousness-raising about our oil and gas dependency, as well as climate change in Calgary's unique culture — we agreed that we need to get away from 'us-them' mentality; we're all in this together. A few oil and gas sector workers were enlightening about approaches. Discussion also included:

the economy (many were interested in the 'Calgary dollars' program), education (one young enthusiastic educator was inspiring about this), food production (growth and success of Community gardening in inner-city, including our own garden), and government (one member is avidly interested in engaging local politicians).

E-mails were exchanged, facebook contact discussed ... if you want to join in this group, please come January 30, 2011 to movie night at the community hall. ☺



## Cliff Bungalow-Mission Jazz Series Now in its 2nd Season

If you hadn't noticed yet, Cliff Bungalow-Mission is running its own jazz series. If you are a community member and a jazz lover you'll find that this concert series is about the best jazz deal in town—and right on your doorstep! Where else will you be able to enjoy an evening of jazz for only \$10 (the general public pays \$15)?

This monthly series of concerts features some of Calgary's best jazz musicians/ensembles, while providing an ideal opportunity to enjoy a relaxing evening. The concerts are conducted in the quiet listening and family friendly environment of the Cliff Bungalow-Mission community hall, and take place on the first Wednesday of every month. Each two-hour performance starts at 8 pm so everybody can get a good night sleep and be rested the next morning. Coffee, tea, and other beverages are served. Tickets are sold at the door. Call 403-650-7695 for more info or visit [www.cliffbungalowmission.com](http://www.cliffbungalowmission.com) for up to date details.

### 2011 concert schedule:

**January 5:** Deb Rasmussen group

**February 2:** Jon McCaslin quartet

**March 2:** Andrea Petry group

**April 6:** Bow Djangos

**May 4:** Gerry Hébert: the aftermarket project

**June 1:** Jazz Winds quintet

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# PROMENADE UPDATE

BY EILISH HIEBERT

HOPE YOU'RE ALL enjoying our finally-completed, beautiful historic Promenade. Garbage crews are now clearing containers regularly, and winter snow removal ensures we can walk/bike/move along it all winter. Starting in April, we have monthly community environment events planned along the Promenade, beginning with a celebration of 2011 Earth Day on Sunday April 17th, 2:00-4:00 p.m. In early May we would love you to come out for the riverbank cleanup, and May 29th, we hope to have an environment presence on the Promenade for Lilac Festival. Keep an eye on The Mission Statement for further event dates through till next Fall. If you'd like to take City Adopt-a-Park training in the spring and join the existing team adopting the Promenade, please e-mail [bmca.environment@gmail.com](mailto:bmca.environment@gmail.com). If you would like to see our community-produced 18-minute DVD on the process involved in this 4-5 year project, the link is [gallery.me.com/eilishiebert#100027](http://gallery.me.com/eilishiebert#100027) ☛

The CBMCA Social Committee Presents:

## Acoustic Music Jams

Jan. 29th and Feb. 26th 2010 2-4 pm  
Cliff Bungalow-Mission  
Community Association hall,  
2201 Cliff St. SW  
(Access from 5 St. & 22nd Ave SW)

Enjoy singing?

Or playing an instrument?

Ever sang or played your heart out until your family begged you to stop?

Then our monthly jam sessions are the thing for you! There is no age or skill limit! Just bring along an instrument, or simply your voice along with a desire to listen and tap your feet. We also have a multitude of percussion instruments to choose from. Whether you lead or follow is up to you, although it is a good idea to bring along a few copies of a song you are familiar with so the rest of us can join in. It can be blues, bluegrass, folk, rock, or any other genre you enjoy. So please come on down and share some music! Refreshments served!

**We hope you'll drop in and join us on the last Saturday of each month. For further info please call Megan at 403-244-2208**

# BE AN ANGEL!



FOR SOME, the first snowfall of the year is a welcome event. For older adults who are living in their own homes, the first snowfall brings worries of slipping and falling. They need your help keeping their sidewalks shovelled, ice-free . . . and safe.

You can help by becoming a Snow Angel. Snow Angels adopt a neighbour's sidewalk and help keep the walkway clear of ice and snow all winter. You don't even have to register for any program. You just pick up a shovel and go. Your efforts can prevent slips and falls while ensuring older adults' avoid hurting themselves shovelling this winter.

The Snow Angels campaign was initiated by The City of Calgary as a way to respond to the growing older population affected by icy sidewalks. The City asks those older adults and others whose sidewalks are "adopted" to send their story to the City and officially recognize their Snow Angel. They can nominate their Snow Angel by calling 311 or filling out an online form at [www.calgary.ca](http://www.calgary.ca) and following the links to 311 online. All nominated Snow Angels are entered into a draw for prizes and are also recognized by the Mayor.

The City of Calgary reminds residents and businesses the Streets Bylaw requires sidewalks adjacent to property to be cleared of snow and ice down to pavement within 24 hours after a snowfall. This time limit can add stress to those older adults and other people with health conditions who are physically unable to shovel their snow.

For more information on the Snow Angel Campaign or if you would like to develop a more organized snow clearing program in your community, call The City of Calgary Seniors Services Division at (403) 974-3112 or 311. ☛

## Shoveling for Safety

The City of Calgary Animal & Bylaw Services would like to remind Calgarians that under Street Bylaw 20M88, snow from private sidewalks cannot be shovelled on to the street. Snow must be piled on the homeowner's property. Piling snow from private property onto city streets creates numerous safety hazards. Children may see these snow piles as fun places to play, increasing the risk that they may slip and fall into traffic. Additionally, these snow piles can impede the flow of traffic, block the vision of drivers and hinder the collection of Blue Cart recycling bins and Black Cart garbage bins.

To access the Street Bylaw, report a bylaw infraction, or for more information about snow and ice removal, please call 311 or visit [calgary.ca/animalservices](http://calgary.ca/animalservices).

**Animal & Bylaw Services  
Partnering with Calgarians  
[www.calgary.ca/animalservices](http://www.calgary.ca/animalservices)**

# ARMADILLO IS THE NEW WATERING HOLE ACROSS FROM THE HOLE

BY JIM BOWMAN

THE RESTAURANT SPACE at 2005B-4 Street SW has been many things: a pie-and-coffee shop, a Dutch pannekoek house, a Mexican-American taqueria, and a Greek taverna. Now it is Armadillo Watering Hole.

Named after a small bony-plated mammal distantly related to the anteater and the sloth, Armadillo is a bar with a vaguely Mexican theme. The interior has been painted in subdued olive green and royal blue, with a cartoonish mural of an armadillo on one wall. The Dutch plate rail near the ceiling and the Mexican ceramic tile floor remain. There are new high-backed black artificial-leather upholstered seats, which are rather comfortable.

The room feels rather spare, but it may eventually become more homey as the new owners continue to decorate it with advertiques. The high ceiling and hard floor give it an echoey ambiance, which makes one feel conspicuous unless the pub is at least half-full. There are three TV monitors for watching sports, and the background music ranges from heavy metal to the more mellow country-folk singer Lucinda Williams.

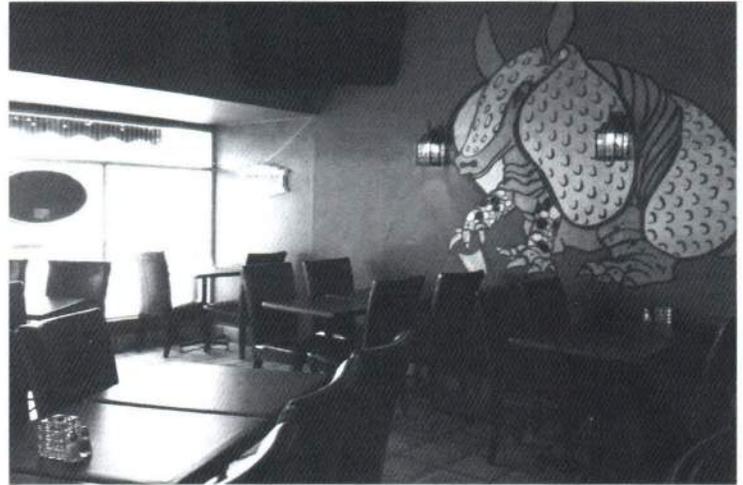
I visited Armadillo three times in recent weeks, and was warmly greeted by the enthusiastic server Mindi. I was surprised to find that they don't carry Big Rock products, at least at the moment, but there is a choice of about ten beers, all under \$7. Like the taco restaurant that was there about ten years ago, Garcia's, the bar seems to specialize in tequilas and Mexican-style cocktails such as margaritas.

The food selections are mostly lunch-sized meals or bar snacks. Prices are reasonable, all under \$12. Sandwiches come with a choice of soup, fries, potato skins, or salad. One day I tried the daily special, a hot hamburger sandwich with homemade mushroom gravy, and had homemade chicken vegetable soup on the side. I thought the soup and the gravy were both a little too salty, but the hamburger patty seemed to be hand-formed from fresh meat, and was tasty and filling.

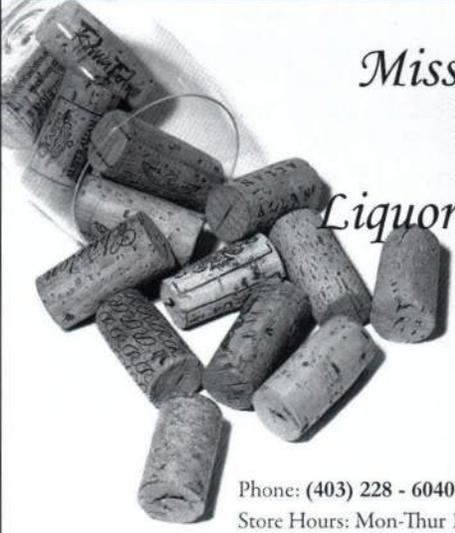
Another time I tried the grilled pulled pork and cheese sandwich, with potato skins. The pork was doused with a sweet-tasting commercial barbecue sauce, and the cheese consisted of two incompletely-melted processed cheese slices. It was kind of an odd combination of flavors. The pork would have been better had it been flavored with a homemade rub or sauce added during the slow-cooking. And processed cheese?! It's just not the real thing! The potato skins, ten or so slices from baked potatoes, were tasty and healthful, though. They came with a small dish of sour cream and chives for dipping.

Hankering for something Tex-Mex, I came back for lunch a third time to try the chili con carne. There are a thousand different ways to make chili, and here it's fairly simple – just ground beef, beans, a few mushrooms, and a mildly spicy gravy – no tomatoes, onions, or peppers. It came with a slice of grilled Texas toast.

While I enjoyed lunching at Armadillo, the experience wasn't sufficiently delightful or memorable to make me want



to become a "regular". It could be improved by stocking some more distinctive beers such as Big Rock and Okanagan Springs products. The chef is to be commended for making some things from scratch, but I'd like to see the cuisine venture beyond typical western Canadian pub grub and into more authentic Mexican or Mexican-American dishes such as quesadillas, burritos, or enchiladas. ☺



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# LOVE THOSE TREES

PHOTO AND STORY BY NANCY TICE

SUPPOSE THE CITY of Calgary possessed an asset that was able to increase property values, reduce energy consumption, and decrease health care costs while also adding beauty to the urban environment.

Suppose that asset produces oxygen, sequesters carbon, traps airborne particulate pollutants, moderates heating and cooling costs, reduces the peak flow of storm water, cools hot summer air temperatures, creates successful commercial districts, calms motor vehicle traffic, increases pedestrian activity, reduces crime, muffles urban noise, provides privacy, screens unattractive views, and softens the hard-edge urban environment.

Suppose the same asset also improves human health by lowering blood pressure, reducing stress, anxiety and depression, strengthening the immune system, and decreasing aggression while also providing a lasting relationship with beauty and nature.

Research evidence is mounting up which strongly suggests that the urban forest is an enormously valuable asset. The myriad benefits which trees provide to us indicate that the urban forest is much more than a nice-to-have extra. It is my impression that the Urban Forestry division of Parks already operates on a shoe string budget. It is Urban Forestry which is responsible for planning, planting and maintaining Calgary's public urban forest which includes our beloved public boulevard street trees. It is difficult to think of any other municipal asset which provides the community with such an extensive assortment of returns on investment than the urban forest. To get more of this good stuff we need to support adequate funding for Urban Forestry instead of a budget cut.

Since most of the benefits accruing to a community from the urban forest are supplied by mature tree canopy, it is never too soon to plant trees. Indeed, arborists often say the best time to plant a tree was yesterday. The sooner a sapling is planted the sooner it begins to fulfill its potential asset value. A healthy, public urban forest requires continuity in long term planning, and in adequate long term investment. Anything less would be "penny-wise, pound foolish" as my mother liked to describe short-sighted budget decisions.

The print media have lately been full of articles about the positive relationship between access to nature and human health. The articles have referred to numerous studies, most of them originating from the U.S.A., various Scandinavian countries, and Japan. Ongoing debate is likely to focus on how the evidence is quantified. A fascinating book about some of these issues is *Last Child in the Woods* by Richard Louv who coined the term "nature deficit disorder."

Healing gardens associated with hospitals, the horticultural therapy profession, schoolyard naturalization programs, and the increasing interest in community gardening all speak to a renewed desire to benefit from a connection with nature. Apparently, the digital age is not yet long enough to overcome the many thousands of years during which a successful relationship with the natural world determined human survival. The urban forest allows most of us to enjoy a daily connection with nature.



LARGE ELM TREES ARE A BEAUTIFUL AMENITY ALONG THE 24 AVE. PUBLIC BOULEVARD.

On the subject of natural beauty, the extended warmth of the autumn season brought the most spectacular leaf colour we'd seen in years. Large portions of the inner city escaped a killing frost until late November allowing an extended season for some gardeners. The combination of colourful gardens and green turf grass with a background of vibrant tree and shrub leaf colours was a terrific reason for long walks through the community and along the river valley. ☺



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## PARKS BILL “COULD HAVE BEEN DISASTROUS”

REPORT FROM DAVE TAYLOR, M.L.A.

THE CANADIAN PARKS & Wilderness Society called Bill 29 the worst conservation bill in Canada’s history. It would have replaced current protection with one catch-all “park” category. The minister would have decided the level of protection and would have the authority to permit recreational, tourism or even industrial development inside any park including wilderness areas. It would have removed the certainty of long-term protection established 38 years ago when the Lougheed government passed the Wilderness Areas Amendment Act.

The government capitulated on Bill 29 because conservation groups informed and mobilized the public, helping me and my colleagues in the opposition parties work together to stop this bill. We didn’t have the votes to defeat the bill, but we had the people behind us.

The battle lasted a little less than three weeks – even though there was a near total lack of public awareness of Bill 29 when we began. The Minister pulled the bill and promised to amend and resubmit it next year after some meaningful public consultation.

Special thanks to the Sierra Club, Alberta Wilderness Association, Provincial Parks Stewards Association, Canadian Parks & Wilderness Society, and the Federation of Alberta Naturalists for leading the campaign on the conservation group side. Our parks escaped a restructuring that could have been disastrous. ☛

## CENTRE CITY CONGRESS STAKEHOLDERS THINK BIG

REPORT FROM ALDERMAN JOHN MAR

THE CENTRE CITY CONGRESS was held recently with over 300 stakeholders — from architects, artists, residents and faith-based organizations to developers, landowners, business owners and BRZs.

Many local presenters (including Calgary Municipal Land Corporation’s Chris Ollenberger, The Core’s Mike Mehak and The Mustard Seed’s Diana Schwenk) shared the thrilling projects and programs that are transforming our inner city. It offered an excellent chance to see the progress we’re collectively making in the Centre City to make it a more liveable, caring and thriving place.

The keynote speaker was Brian Payne, president of the Central Indiana Community Foundation. Brian shared a story of the Indianapolis Cultural Trail, an innovative urban greenway — referred to by many as the biggest, boldest and most beautiful urban bicycle and pedestrian pathway in the world — that brought together private and public dollars and connected the entire community. Check out the Centre City blog at [centrecitytalk.com](http://centrecitytalk.com) for more.

I look forward to continuing to work for a more liveable, caring and thriving core.

If I can be of assistance on any civic matter do not hesitate to contact my office by phone (403) 268-2430, fax (403) 269-3823 or at [www.calgary.ca/alderman/ward8](http://www.calgary.ca/alderman/ward8). I pledge to be an accessible, responsive, and strong advocate for the people of Ward 8. ☛

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The Reading Foundation  
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“ CBMCA exists to provide leadership, support and resources to protect and enhance the unique and diverse natural, architectural, historic and social environment of the community. ”

# Community Calendar

All events are at the Community Hall (2201 Cliff Street SW) unless otherwise noted.

## Jazz Concerts

First Wednesday of the month at 8 pm (doors open at 7)

January 5 – Deb Rasmussen Group

February 2 – Jon McCaslin Quartet

March 2 – Andrea Petry Group

For more details,

see the announcement on Page 5

## Acoustic Jams

Last Saturday of the month, 2-4 pm

January 29

February 26

For more details,

see the announcement on Page 6

## Movie Night

Last Sunday of the month at 7 pm

January 30 – The Yes Men Fix the World

February 27 – The Turning Point

For more details, see the

Social Committee report on Page 4

## Winter Formal

March 5

For more details,

see the Social Committee

report on Page 4

## Casino volunteer opportunity

June 4-5

For more details,

see the notice on Page 2

## Deadline for Mission Statement submissions

First Wednesday of every second month

Next deadline is February 2

Email to editor.cbmca@hotmail.com



## Memorial Park LIBRARY

1221 2nd Street SW

[www.calgarypubliclibrary.com](http://www.calgarypubliclibrary.com)

General Inquiries 403-260-2600  
Program Registration 403-260-2620

10 am - 5 pm Monday,  
Friday, & Saturday  
noon - 8 pm Tuesday,  
Wednesday, & Thursday  
noon - 5 pm Sundays  
(mid-Sept to mid-May)

OCTOBER 2010

### ESL Conversation Club (Intermediate)

Practice your English listening and speaking skills, and learn about the Library's many resources.

Mondays Jan. 31 to Mar. 28

2:30-4:30pm

Registration required

### Spanish Conversation Club

Join volunteer coaches and practice Spanish speaking and listening skills through conversational exercises. This program is for learners with intermediate Spanish language skills.

Ages 16 and up

Wednesdays Feb. 2 to Mar. 23

6:00-7:30pm

Registration required

### City of Destiny: A Revisionist History Drop-In French Storytime with Alliance Francaise

Join facilitators from Alliance Francaise for stories, songs, and activities in French. Histoires, comptines, et activites en francais

Last Saturday of each month Jan.

29, Feb. 26, Mar. 26, and Apr. 30

10:30-11:00am Ages 2-5 with a parent/caregiver

11:15-11:45am Ages 6 and up

Register for programs by phone at 403-260-2620, online at

[www.calgarypubliclibrary.com](http://www.calgarypubliclibrary.com), or in person at any Library branch. A valid Calgary Public Library card in your name is required to attend all programs.



CLIFF BUNGALOW-MISSION COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

## MEMBERSHIP FORM



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 FAMILY (\$10)     ASSOCIATE

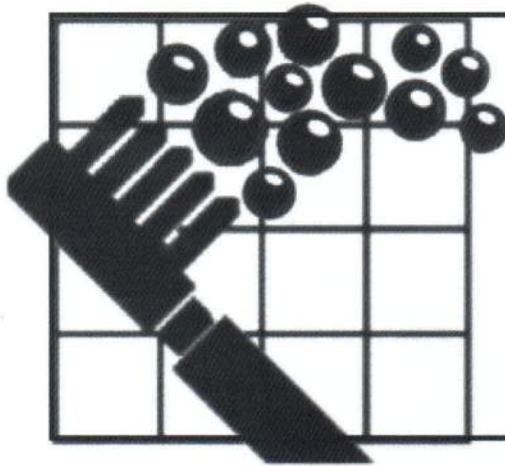
*NOTE: MEMBERSHIPS ARE VALID UNTIL THE NEXT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING*

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It creates happiness in the home, fosters good will in a business,  
and is the countersign of friendship.  
It brings rest to the weary, cheer to the discouraged, sunshine to the sad,  
and it is nature's best antidote for trouble.  
Yet it cannot be bought, begged, borrowed, or stolen, for it is something  
that is of no earthly value to anyone until it is given away!  
If someone is too tired to give you a smile, give them one of yours.  
As none needs a smile so much as those who have none to give.

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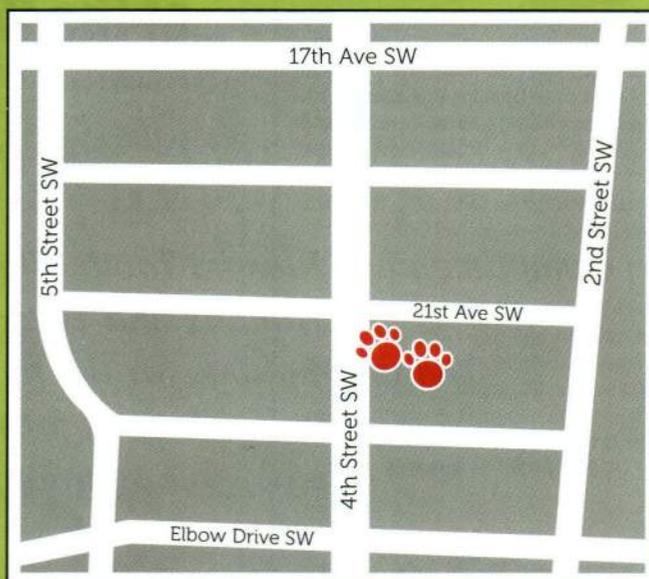
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