

The Mission STATEMENT

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CLIFF BUNGALOW - MISSION COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

www.cliffbungalowmission.com

MAY / JUNE 2011



ST. MARY'S AWARDED HERITAGE PLAQUE

BY BILL LONGSTAFF



CBMCA HERITAGE COMMITTEE MEMBER NADDINE MADELL-MORGAN
PRESENTS THE HERITAGE PLAQUE TO FATHER GREG COUPAL

CLIFF BUNGALOW-MISSION Community Association, under its Heritage Recognition Program, has awarded a heritage plaque to St. Mary's Cathedral.

St. Mary's represents the long association of the Catholic Church with our community. Fathers Constantine Scollen and Leon Doucet moved Notre Dame de la Paix (Our Lady of Peace), the first mission in southern Alberta, to this area in 1875. A new building for the mission was erected on what is now the grounds of the Sacred Heart Convent. This building was later given to the Sisters, Faithful Companions of Jesus, and the foundation was laid for a new church on the present site. The church was completed in 1889. Ultimately, the structure proved unsound and had to be demolished in 1955.

The current church was completed and consecrated in 1957. It was designed

by well-known Calgary artist and architect Maxwell Bates, and became the most notable work of his architectural career. Built in modern gothic style of steel and reinforced concrete, clad in light-coloured brick, with a 16-foot statue of the Virgin Mary with Child above the front doors, and standing grandly at the head of 1st Street SW, it is perhaps the most impressive structure in our community.

In addition to St. Mary's, a plaque was awarded to Holy Angels School, sister to our community hall on Cliff Street and currently the home of The City of Calgary Arts & Culture Division. Holy Angels, like St. Mary's, reflects the Catholic contribution to Calgary's history. By the early part of the last century, St. Mary's School on 2nd Street was bursting at the seams, so in 1919 the Separate School Board built Holy

Angels on land donated by the C.P.R. The architect was probably J.E. Burrell. An extension designed by William Stanley Bates, father to Maxwell, was added in 1929.

Like Cliff Bungalow School, now the home of our community hall, Holy Angels is constructed of dark, rough-surfaced brick, reflecting the popularity of rustic materials typical of the Craftsman movement of the time. The design was intended to allow bungalow schools to blend in with their communities. The Separate School District closed the school and sold it to The City of Calgary in 1971.

The community association's Heritage Recognition Program was established to help the association fulfil its mandate "to provide leadership, support and resources to protect and enhance the unique and diverse natural, architectural, historic and social environment of the community." The association encourages community residents to participate directly in the program by nominating their own home, or any other site they consider to be of historical value, for community heritage recognition. Proposals are considered by the Heritage Committee. Unlike provincial or municipal designation, no legal obligation to maintain the site is imposed on the owner. The nominator should, nonetheless, attempt to obtain the owner's approval.

Nominations may be made by any resident of Cliff Bungalow-Mission. Sites may be human-made or natural. If you have a site in mind or just any questions about the program, contact Naddine Madell-Morgan (630-5722 or naddinemadell@shaw.ca) or Marilyn Williams (246-3878 or marilynwilliams@shaw.ca). ☛

EDITORIAL

FIRST AND FOREMOST, I would like to extend my deepest apologies to Eilish Hiebert, one of our most well respected and well loved members of this community; she tirelessly dedicates her time and volunteered efforts towards improving our neighbourhood, recently with the promenade project, the Environment Committee, and has consistently contributed enjoyable articles towards this newsletter. Her most recent article titled "Mission Philanthropists' Life Exemplifies Calgary" which was published on the cover of our March/April issue did not acknowledge Eilish Hiebert. On behalf of myself and the newsletter committee I am extremely sorry that this error occurred and I promise to be more diligent in my editing for future submissions. Eilish, your contributions to this community and The Mission Statement never go unacknowledged. Your work and commitment to the community association is very much appreciated, and I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank you.

Second, it is with mixed emotions that I regret to inform our readers of Bill Longstaff's departure from the committee. The existence of The Mission Statement would not have occurred without Bill's volunteered commitment. His contributions have made it what it is today and for that I thank him; I especially thank his efforts with newsletter advertising and the relationships he has garnered with our community businesses. I am sad to see him leave; he will be missed by the committee dearly. Please join me in wishing Bill good luck with his endeavours and other community commitments.

On a happier note, enjoy this issue! I'm excited to reveal our upcoming events, new and re-occurring alike. I have a feeling the summer is going to be incredible so please do not take these opportunities for granted. Get out and discover how awesome the residents of Cliff Bungalow-Mission are!

— Sarah Hbeichi, CBMCA Newsletter Editor

LETTER

THE BLOSSOMING OF a new summer always brings hope and enthusiasm for a better season than the one before. Better weather. Better results in our gardens. Perhaps a better year on the golf course.

For the summer and fall of 2011 I hope that we will see the return of good taste to the merchants and property owners of 4th Street, and not a sequel to The Summer of the Plastic Plants. I will wish for the triumph of effort over laziness, pride of place over indifference, and a flourishing of the generous impulse that drives many of us to make our properties beautiful not just for ourselves but for all who pass by.

It would likely be frowned upon for me to call out by name those businesses that last summer took the no-effort, low-cost, who-gives-a-hoot approach to their slice of the public realm. But most of us know who they are. Most of us have noticed, on some level, that these merchants don't want to make the effort for us – for their customers, for the community, or for the city as a whole.

And these are, to a large degree, the flagship businesses on Fourth. A perennially jam-packed and otherwise well-appointed coffee shop. A high-end market and restaurant. A successful pub/restaurant franchise. These guys can afford to do better than hanging baskets of vividly fake flowers and pots of dirty and faded silk plants. These businesses are the face of 4th Street and they should be leading the way, not setting the bad and apathetic example.

Recent trips to Paris – where it would be scandalous for a business owner to display faux flowers – have only served to highlight the callous and neglectful attitude these merchants bring to our neighbourhood. They insult us with their lack of regard and shirk their duty to their fellow merchants. Perhaps the managers of the 4th Street Business Revitalization Zone can do something to restore some pride to a street that has become a pale vestige of what it once was.

— Rob Jobst



THE MISSION STATEMENT

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COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION FEATURED ON CBC RADIO

BY BOB LANG

DURING FEBRUARY, CBC Radio did a series on community associations that were in different stages of their lifecycle. Typically, communities go through a lifecycle and this is reflected to some extent in their community associations. Cliff Bungalow-Mission was profiled as an example of a thriving community association. Mark Mycyk, our Environment Director, was interviewed in a segment that aired on February 8th. At the time of writing this, that interview was still available online if you would like to listen to it. Here is the link:

<http://bit.ly/Mycyk-cbc>

Hats off to Mark for doing a great job on the interview and hats off to the community for helping to make our community association a success story.

MOVIE NIGHTS ARE MORE THAN JUST MOVIES

The popularity of our movie nights is growing. It has great movies, freshly popped popcorn and cold pop. But there is more that attracts people. It is the opportunity to meet other community people and more importantly the opportunity to talk about our community. After all recent movies, we have rearranged the chairs into a circle and had a facilitated discussion. After the recent movie "Fresh", the group had a discussion about a possible new community garden on the west side of the community. There already is a very popular community garden in Aberhart Park on the 200 block of 24th Avenue. Attendees also found out about the new Meet Our Neighbours Day which is every Monday starting at 7 pm. These are great examples of the community building that goes on at the Movie Nights. Congratulations to the Social Committee for organizing events like these.

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION BOARD

At our February 23rd Board meeting, we appointed Trafford Crump as Treasurer, Jody Rechenmacher as Secretary and Emily Pong as Director at Large.

We have just learned that Jody is moving to Vancouver for work reasons. We knew this up front but as things were uncertain, we benefited from Jody's contributions while she was here. She also has been part of the Social Committee. Thanks Jody for all you have done for the community.

At the time of writing, we are looking for someone to fill the secretary position and role. If you have an interest in exploring this, please e-mail me at rvlang@aol.com.

THANKS FOR THE SKATING RINK, RICK AND HOWARD

At the time of writing, the temperature is still struggling to get up to normal, the legacy of a tough winter. However, the winter was good for one thing, our skating rink. Howard Zarvie got it started using my snow blower. He also got us a new hose. The old one was full of holes that caused no end of troubles. Then Rick Williams took up the finishing and maintenance of the rink. So this year we had an excellent rink thanks to Rick, Howard and the winter.

VANDALS DAMAGE SANDWICH BOARDS

On or before April 6th, vandals damaged one of our sandwich boards that we use to advertise community events. Located at 4th and 22nd, these are an important means to let community residents know what is happening in the community. In the past, they have just removed the posters but this time they removed all the screws on the hinge. This being a very public location, I am sure someone saw it being done. If you see such vandalism taking place, call the police and take a picture if you can.

LILAC FESTIVAL

Sunday, May 29th is the date of this year's Lilac Festival. The Community Table will be near 21st Avenue SW, so please drop by and have a chat. Let's hope the weather is warmer this year. ☺

ADVERTISE in the Mission Statement

Email advertising copy as a pdf to:
editor.cbmca@hotmail.com

Mail cheque payable to CBMCA to:

Newsletter Editor
Cliff Bungalow-Mission Community
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462, 1919B-4th Street SW
Calgary AB T2S 1W4



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(effective 1 January 2011)

	1 issue:	1 year (6 issues):
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Quarter page:	\$148	\$720
Half page:	\$244	\$1,175

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- Submission deadline:
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- For information call (403) 541-1575

Ads are accepted from businesses and other organizations within the community or in close proximity or from Calgary-based cultural organizations.

DEVELOPMENT SCENE HEATING UP IN 2011

BY ROB JOBST AND NATASHA PASHAK

MULTI-RESIDENTIAL, 123-139 26 AVENUE (DP2010-4942)

As reported in the last Mission Statement, Leduc Properties has proposed a revised plan for the properties at 123-139 26 Avenue SW. This site is currently occupied by a small house (next to "Goose Park") and a complex with two low-rise apartment blocks and a 7-storey tower. Originally slated for a pair of high-end condo towers prior to the recession, the new proposal calls for a single 27-unit tower and 11 three-storey townhouses. Clad in glass, stone and wood siding, and designed by the architecture firm Dialogue, this proposal is a better fit for the community than the previous iteration. This project does not yet have a development permit and we will keep you up-to-date as this proposal works its way through the approvals process.

ADDITION TO COMMERCIAL BLOCK, 1812 4 STREET SW (DP2010-4745)

At our February meeting the Development Committee also saw plans for a proposed 1-floor, 1,267 sq. ft. addition to the commercial block at 1812 4th Street SW (known to many as the Academy Medical Building and current home to Rare Method and Renfrew Furs). The addition would occupy the sunken outdoor space on the south side of the building and would house the Diana Paul Gallery. The committee's overall perception was that the proposed structure would be an attractive addition to the streetscape and would add a desirable business to the 4th Street retail scene. Our comments to the City were largely about the quantity and nature of the gallery's signage, which would be in excess of what is allowed under the City's Land Use bylaw.

RENOVATIONS TO EXISTING COMMERCIAL BUILDING, 1915 4 STREET SW (DP2011-0758)

At our March meeting we were shown two more proposals from Leduc Properties, the first being an extensive redesign of the strip mall at 1915 4th Street which currently houses Great Canadian Bagel, the UPS Store, Busy B Cleaners and Rigby Insurance. If approved the plan will see the "re-cladding and re-tenanting" of the property, which would be an aesthetic benefit to the community but likely mean the loss of those businesses, unfortunately. The redesign by Eleven Eleven Architects/McKinley Burkart would give a much more modern and upscale appearance to the building while, they say, giving a nod to the "historic look of the community" through the use of stone and brick, as well as the addition of skylights. There are also plans to soften the appearance of the 4th Street parking area through the use of landscap-

ing. The committee had no objections to this application and the developer intends to begin work soon after receiving a development permit.

OFFICE/RETAIL DEVELOPMENT, 2203 4TH STREET

At long last a serious proposal has emerged for the empty lot at the corner of 4th Street and 22nd Avenue. Most residents would know this lot as the former home of the much-missed With The Times magazine shop and Urban Barn. Leduc - again! - has proposed to build a 4-storey, 36,000 sq. ft. office building with retail shops at ground level. One of the interesting components of this proposal is the possibility for larger shops that would, rather than sprawling across the main floor (and deadening the streetscape), continue on a second level. Eleven Eleven Architects/McKinley Burkart make considerable effort to respect the neighbouring Aberdeen and Lister blocks with a neo-traditional design that includes many "historical elements" and a primarily brick cladding. The top floor steps back to reduce the massing of the structure and is treated with more "modernity" than the rest of the building. This looks to be a thoughtfully designed project and could be, if built, a great addition to the community. The DP application is forthcoming. ☺



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BRING ON SUMMER!

BY **BIL HETHERINGTON**,
SOCIAL COMMITTEE DIRECTOR

WE'VE HAD SOME great events so far in 2011. Movie nights have been drawing around 35 people per event AND we had our first Cliff Bungalow-Mission Winter Formal. Dr. Z and the Boyz provided excellent entertainment and it was a great time.

As many of you know, the overarching goal of the CBMCA Social Committee is to turn our community hall into a bumping ground where people can meet their neighbors, get engaged and have fun. We are very happy to see more and more people getting involved in the community and to see our community hall providing vibrancy to the community. Often community associations can be stuffy affairs or a place where the same people meet, talking about the same things, fighting the same battles. Well, the Social Committee is bringing new blood into the community. And we want you to come introduce yourself at the following event:

UPCOMING EVENTS:

MAY 15TH MOVIE NIGHT WITH ENGINEERS

WITHOUT BORDERS: BLACK GOLD

Multinational coffee companies now rule our shopping malls and supermarkets and dominate the industry worth over \$80 billion, making coffee the most valuable trading commodity in the world after oil. But while we continue to pay for our lattes and cappuccinos, the price paid to coffee farmers remains so low that many have been forced to abandon their coffee fields.

Nowhere is this paradox more evident than in Ethiopia, the birthplace of coffee. Black Gold tells the story of Tadesse Meskela, one man on a mission to save his 74,000 struggling coffee farmers from bankruptcy. As his farmers strive to harvest some of the highest quality coffee beans on the international market, Tadesse travels the world in an attempt to find buyers willing to pay a fair price. ☛

Bil Heatherington is stepping down as the Social Director. If you are interested in filling this wonderful role as a Board member and community leader contact Bob Lang, CBMCA President. This is a great opportunity to make a difference in your community, to get out and meet your neighbours!

The CBMCA Social Committee Presents:

Acoustic Music Jams

May 28, 2 to 4 pm
June 25, 10 am to Noon

Cliff Bungalow-Mission Community Association Hall,
2201 Cliff St. SW (one block west 5 St. & 22nd Ave SW)

Do you enjoy singing or playing an instrument? Have you ever sung 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 limit 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 music! Refreshments served!

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PAYING TRIBUTE TO NUNS AND NIGHTINGALES

PHOTO AND STORY BY KENDRA HOROSKO

IN THE MIDDLE of the night on January 30, 1891, four Sisters of Charity—members of the Grey Nuns of Montreal—arrived at the train station in downtown Calgary after a nine day journey. Two years earlier the Sisters of Charity of Montreal had agreed to help establish a much-needed hospital at the Mission of Notre Dame de la Paix. The four women who arrived that dark January night experienced a rude introduction to the harsh prairie winter as they hiked up their skirts and walked through the snow to the Sacred Heart Convent, where they spent the night. Their courage and fortitude is admirable, and Calgarians owe much to them, for these four women founded what would become an important institution for Calgary and the Cliff Bungalow-Mission community, the Holy Cross Hospital and its School of Nursing.

In 2007, the centennial anniversary of the first graduating class of nursing students at the Holy Cross, the Alumni Association decided that the time had come to honour the four brave Grey Nuns who came from Montreal in 1891, and the 2,409 students who graduated from the School of Nursing at Holy Cross Hospital between 1907 and 1979. In commemoration, a bronze sculpture depicting a Grey Nun and a Holy Cross graduate in traditional uniform will be unveiled September 25th, 2011. The sculpture will be situated on the northwest side of the historical 1929 wing of the hospital, and face onto 2nd Street SW.

This project was not taken lightly by commissioned sculptor Don Begg and his wife Shirley of Studio West in Cochrane. Historical accuracy is of utmost importance to the Beggs, who conducted extensive research on the topic before beginning the sculpture. To ensure accurate detail in the finished product, the duo read extensively on the topic, borrowed uniforms from past graduates, and even made



DON AND SHIRLEY BEGG

two trips to Winnipeg to learn more about the Grey Nuns. The Beggs' attention to detail can be seen right down to researching the precise pattern and stitching in the nuns' habits and the specific way their shoes had to be laced. Don and Shirley found that even the five pins used to hold the headpiece in place were significant, representing the five wounds of Christ. Taking this degree of care and interest in their work, the Beggs' finished sculpture is sure to be a magnificent tribute.

Student life at the Holy Cross is remembered fondly by several women who attended in the 1950's. Life in the residences was full of laughter, but also involved a lot of hard work. In addition to challenging classes, students were required to work 8 - 12 hour shifts at the hospital. Living in residences proved to be a valuable support system, however, as whenever one was discouraged by the workload there would always be another student there to provide encouragement. As one graduate from the class of 1958 recalls, "We worked hard, but we had fun."

Despite many changes over the years to both the physical building and the internal structure of the hospital, the Holy Cross Hospital has been at the core of our neighbourhood since the initial four patient facility opened in 1891. As Shirley summed it up, "I don't think I knew a family who didn't have someone born in the Holy." It is time to honour the many students who graced the halls of the Holy Cross Hospital, and, of course, the Grey Nuns who selflessly cared for the health of Calgarians and the rest of the province.

The Alumni Association is still in need of donations to fund this project. To make a contribution please contact Barbara Nesselbeck by phone 403-252-7356 or e-mail nesselbeck@telusplanet.net. ☎



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SLOPE STABILIZATION PROJECT DELAYED

BY MARK MYCYK

IT'S TIME FOR another update from the "Green Team". We have been busy the last few months focusing on our key priorities this year, namely, the slope stabilization project, new garden initiative and multi-family dwelling recycling.

First, the stabilization of "The Cliff" behind the Community Centre is a City project that seems to be stuck in the planning stages. I spoke to the engineer responsible in early March and he indicated that the contract had not been awarded to a contractor yet. The work is obviously postponed until this step is cleared and it was even more surprising that the City could not give me a timeline on when the project might start. I understand that there might be a lack of funds for the work. I guess time will tell if it happens this year or not.

Second, the new garden initiative is still in the early planning stages. The Green Team has met with other communities trying to implement gardens and members of the Calgary Horticultural Society to discuss ideas and next steps. So far, we have identified three potential locations for the new garden: (1) green space just south of the Community Centre on Cliff Street; (2) the former playground area south of the Holy Angels School on Cliff Street; and (3) Triangle Park (3 blocks south of the Community Centre).

Next steps include studying the effects of shade on these proposed locations as well as polling community residents within direct site-line of these locations. We are also interested in hearing your thoughts on the new garden initiative. Please email the Green Team at cbmca.environment@gmail.com to submit your ideas or send a letter to our general mail box. This project is another example of community-building so we value your comments and guidance at this early development stage in the project. Here are just a few of the things we should be thinking of early in the project:

Why should we have another garden? There is a waiting list of interested people who want to grow their own food, connect with nature, get out of the house, build community, and learn from others.

What should it look like in five years? The garden design should consider accessibility for all, intergenerational programming, growing items for the local community or the general public, permaculture design, artwork, beekeeping, etc.

Whatever the final garden design looks like, it should meet the desires of the residents who use it and benefit from it. There will be a general meeting for all community residents who are interested in hearing more about the garden initiative. Mark your calendar for June 13, 7 pm at the Community Centre at 2201 Cliff Street. Bring your questions and ideas!

There will also be a vermiculture (worm composting) workshop held at the community hall on June 25, 2-4 pm.

Third, I want to mention that the City has recently released studies and initiatives to push the idea of recycling for multi-family dwellings forward. This is positive news and we have expressed willingness to implement it soon. If you share our desire for better recycling options for multi-family dwellings in our community, please let the City and our alderman know by phoning 311.

Finally, by the time this article is published, we will have had another successful pathway and river clean-up event which is our dual recognition of Earth Day and maintenance of our cherished Elbow River. Thank-you everyone who joined in the clean-up and social event this year. We hope to see more come out next year! ☘

Vermiculture Workshop

Join us at the
CMBCA Community Hall,
2201 Cliff St. SW,
on June 25, 2011 from 2-4pm.

Calgary Horticultural Society volunteer and master composter Bert Einsiedel will give a practical demonstration on how to compost indoors and outdoors using worms. Worm composting or vermiculture is a year-round process of turning vegetable and fruit waste from the kitchen into worm castings and compost. Bert will demonstrate how to prepare an aerated plastic worm bin with bedding, food, moisture, and red wiggler worms. He will describe techniques for "harvesting" worm castings and various ways of applying the rich soil conditioner to the garden and house plants.

Bert grows vegetables at the University of Calgary Campus Community Garden. He volunteers for Green Calgary and the Community Garden Resource Network.

Cliff Bungalow - Mission Community Cleanup

September 11, 2010
9:00 am – 2:00 pm

WHAT IS A COMMUNITY CLEANUP?

The City of Calgary is providing two packer trucks. Residents can bring unwanted household goods and yard waste (things that might otherwise fill your basement, yard, street, or alley) to the pickup site. We will also have an electronics recycling company on-site.

WHERE SHOULD YOU BRING YOUR STUFF?

The cleanup will take place in the parking lot of Holy Angels School at 2105 Cliff St. No items will be received after 1:45 p.m.

WHAT TO LEAVE AT HOME (items not accepted)

Tires • Large-Scale Furniture • Propane Tanks
Metals • Household Chemicals • Home Appliances
Paint • Car Batteries • Microwaves • Liquids

If you have questions or want to volunteer email the green team at cbmca.environment@gmail.com or consult the Cliff Bungalow Mission Community Association Website: www.cliffbungalowmission.com

See you at 2105 Cliff St (Enter off Royal Ave). If you have a few extra minutes, stick around and enjoy a coffee with your neighbours!

A TASTE OF SPRING

STORY AND PHOTO BY NANCY TICE



BACK IN MARCH, the vernal equinox, or 'calendar spring' as it's more often known in Calgary, was a chilly gray day followed by a week of snowy gloom. It was the lack of sunshine that tended to create a low mood. Welcome signs of spring were the sound of Canada geese arguing over prime nesting sites on neighbouring roofs, and the sight of chickadees choosing the bird house where they will raise this year's nestlings.

Another boost to the spirit was the opportunity to see the film "Fresh" which was screened on the March 27th movie night hosted by our community association. An indictment of the massive, factory farm agricultural practices which have become the North American standard, the film offers hope by also highlighting more holistic, conservation-oriented methods of food production based on a much smaller scale, family farm model. Older viewers would have noticed a 'back to the future' vibe since the latter model was reminiscent of pre-1950's farming in so many areas of the U.S.A. and Canada. Back in the day, cows were wandering around eating grass, milk was delivered door-to-door in glass bottles from the local dairy, and locally raised fruit and vegetables became available as they ripened in season. Several of the smaller scale food producers were an inspiration in their devotion to healthy food production methods. Intelligent, good-humoured people with an excellent understanding of land stewardship, these farmers work with a deep respect for their land and the animals they raise. An intensive, 3 acre, organic farm in urban Baltimore belies the fiction that urban land is unproductive unless it is covered by cars or buildings. Many of the positive ideals expressed in the film fit in well with the potential for creating a new, second community garden in Cliff Bungalow-Mission. Watch for more information in this newsletter.

As of this writing I'm still wondering how long it will take the mountain of snow out front to melt, and how much accumulated litter the thaw will reveal. It's time for some outdoor spring cleaning in advance of

the Lilac Festival, if possible. Eager gardeners are itching to set out some early containers. The photo shows a lovely display of pansies in Mission last year which looked wonderful all season due to the chilly summer weather. Cool season annuals such as pansies are a good choice for an early planting since they prefer cool temperatures. They will easily withstand a late spring frost, or that sudden last snow flurry. Gardeners might consider growing container salad since many edible greens are also cool season plants with ornamental value. For example, a packet of Mesclun mix seeds sown in the same container as pansies will produce leaves in a range of colours and textures. They may be eaten (along with the roots) as tiny micro-greens or allowed to grow larger leaves. The pansies will provide a colourful garnish since their flowers are edible.

I recall reading somewhere that the rocket scientist Werner von Braun once said, "Research is what I'm doing when I don't know what I'm doing." And that is also a fair description of some of my vegetable gardening activities. We can all grow a bit of food when we are able to successfully match the right plant with the type of growing conditions we're able to provide. This year I'll try adding seeds for "Red Streaks" mustard greens to the front porch containers where I don't usually grow food. Wish me luck. ☘



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LE CHIEN CHAUD CONTINUES TO BRING IN SATISFIED CUSTOMERS

STORY AND PHOTO BY JIM BOWMAN

"THIS IS THE-best hot dog I've ever had, and I've travelled all over the world!" exclaimed Mark, a customer who overheard my interview with Jane and Bob Steckle at Le Chien Chaud Gourmet Hot Dogs, No. 3, 2015 - 4th Street.

Jane and Bob, now 64 and 70 respectively, launched a new business concept at an age when most people would be thinking about retirement - a remarkable testament to their enthusiasm, drive, management skills, and creativity. Le Chien Chaud started as a stall at the old Calgary Farmers' Market, and has been a fixture on 4th Street for six years now. They also do catering, and annually purvey their wares to the masses at the Calgary Stampede and the Calgary Folk Festival. They have a detailed plan to expand into a franchise business, but so far have not identified potential franchisees able to meet their exacting standards of quality.

In the offing is a rebranding and change of name to Fat City Franks (you heard it here first!). But the retro ambience will not change. The tidy six-table diner with its checkered linoleum floor has something of a 1950s art moderne appearance, like its location, the Tivoli Theatre building. As a history buff, I'm fascinated by the display of memorabilia, ads, and photos extolling the culinary virtues and the glorious history of the humble hot dog. Apparently it has been endorsed by personalities as diverse as Eleanor Roosevelt and Fidel Castro.

The store is now open seven days a week, until 8 pm on weekdays. Many of the customers are regulars, and it has the feel of a community meeting place. When Jane and Bob are off-duty, the young staff is attentive and competent. Background music is provided by whatever radio station is preferred by the staff.

The menu is fairly straight-forward. There's a choice of five different types of sausage: pork-and-beef, all-beef, buffalo, bratwurst, and vegetarian, priced at \$5.89 to \$6.95 regardless of the dressings chosen. The thirteen styles of dressings



THE MEDITERRANEAN, ONLY ONE OF THE MANY TASTY VARIETIES OF HOT DOGS TO ENJOY AT LE CHIEN CHAUD

include some created by the Steckles, some suggested by customers, and some which replicate regional hot dog styles. In alphabetical order, they are: breakfast, Canadian, Chicago, Chilean completo, Coney Island, French, German, Italian, kids', Mediterranean, Mexican, San Antonio black bean chili, and Ukrainian. There are also specials which change monthly. The buns used are firm, crusty, and likely to hold even the soggiest of dressings.

In addition, there's a large selection of complimentary condiments: ketchups, mustards, relishes, and chutney, some of them made in-house, as well as chopped onions and sliced peppers. For side dishes, there's a choice of packaged potato chips, or smallish cups of home-made coleslaw or potato salad. The nostalgic desserts include home-made cookies, butter tarts, and milkshakes.

I have to point out that hot dogs are not the healthiest of meals. They are high in nitrates, nitrites, sodium, and fat. Many of the dressing ingredients and side dishes at Le Chien Chaud include fresh and nutritious vegetables, but that doesn't offset the dubious nutritional value and possible long-term health risk of the cured meats commonly used in hot dogs. But Jane Steckle assures me that their sausages contain "prime quality meat" and none of the mechanically deboned meat that has a particularly dodgy reputation in some circles.

For those budgeting \$10 or less for a meal, Le Chien Chaud offers a relatively nutritious, tasty, interesting, and friendly alternative to many of the industrialized fast-food outlets in the city. It is definitely an asset of the 'Hood. ☐

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MAY - JUNE 2011

Writing in the Works 4

Five Calgary writers read from books which are in progress, soon to be published, and on the prowl for publishers. Featuring Susan Calder, Leslie Gavel, Lori Hahnel, Naomi K. Lewis and Inge Trueman, with MC Rona Altrows. Sat. May 14 1:30-3:30pm

E-books: A Library On the Go

Are you curious about e-books? Library staff demonstrate how to download an e-book using OverDrive. Sat. May 14 10:30-11:30am
Registration required

Incidents in the Life of Markus Paul by David Adams Richards

Join us for the launch of a new work of fiction by this award-winning author. Searing, brilliant, and tension-filled, this new novel is a foreboding tale about truth, lies, and justice. Wed. May 18 7:00 - 8:30pm

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 June 1 to July 20 6:00 - 7:30pm

2011 TD Summer Reading Club

Join us as we kick off Splash! Celebrate Summer, the 2011 TD Summer Reading Club. Drop in for a scavenger hunt and other fun activities. Collect your activity booklet from your local Library branch and read all summer to win great prizes! Sat. June 18 10:00am - 4:00pm

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

Community Calendar

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

Lilac Festival
May 29: 4th Street

Jazz Concerts
May 4: Gerry Hebert: The Aftermarket
Project at 8 pm (doors open 7:30 pm)
June 1: Jazz Winds Quintet at 8 pm
(doors open 7:30 pm)

Acoustic Jams
May 28, 2-4 pm
June 25, 10-noon (note time change)

Movie Nights
May 17: Black Gold, 7 pm, group
discussion to follow.
We break for the summer and resume
on September 25

Community Pot Lucks
Every second Saturday
of the month 6-9 pm
Free for all community members
and \$5 for non-members.
Bring a food starter, main dish, salad
or dessert to share. Bring your own
cutlery and plate.

Meet Our Neighbour Day
Weekly on Mondays, 7 pm
Meet at the SW Corner of 4th St
& 22nd Ave SW

Summer Fair
August 27: Garage Sale, Flea Market,
Community Barbecue

Environment Committee Events
June 13: Meeting on
New Community Garden, 7pm
June 25: Workshop on
Composting, 2 pm
September 10: Community Clean Up
September 11:
Community Garden Party
June 25: Vermiculture Workshop 2-4pm

Promenade
We have decided to cancel all
scheduled Promenade events for
2011, due to uncertainty of our
relationship with its status. We
apologize for any inconvenience
which may have been caused by no-
tices of planned Promenade events
published in previous newsletters.

**Crime and Safety
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Every first Tuesday of the month
If you are interested, email
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**Deadline for
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**Federation of Calgary Communities
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WE NEED YOU!

The Federation is celebrating its 50th Anniversary this year, and in celebration a magazine will be published. The magazine will be filled with stories, photos, and quotes of neighbourhood life in Calgary over the past 50 years. We want YOU to fill the magazine with your memories of growing up in this great city!

Focus groups for each decade have been set up at the Federation's office. Be a part of it and sign up for your decade focus group today at www.calgarycommunities.com in our workshops and events section.

If you have any questions please contact Rebecca Dakin at (403) 244-4111 ext. 204

Pets in the 'Hood

Photos by Janice Michaud



Tank is a handsome four-year-old English Bulldog who loves chewing treats. He is frequently seen walking throughout Mission.



Kaycee is a 13-year old Yorkie-Poodle cross who frequents the park regularly. Bright-eyed and full of spunk, Kaycee is usually out with her buddy, Gidget.



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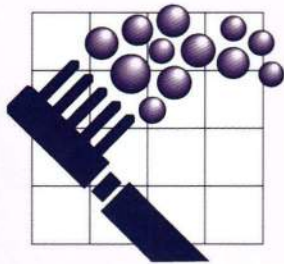
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