



# Erlton

Spring 2011

# GAZETTE

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

## President's Message - Andrew Spark

Hello Fellow Erlton Community Residents,

First of all, I hope that you and your families are having a great start to the 2011 year, and have survived the long cold winter.

I wanted to take a moment to officially introduce myself. My name is Andrew Sparke and I am your new President of the Erlton Community Association. This will be my third year on the executive board, as I have served for the preceding two years as the Vice President.

One of my main objectives this year is largely focused on bringing our community closer together through a few social events, starting with our River Clean-up BBQ on May 1st, as well as by having more communication from the ECA along with feed back from you.

I would like to take a moment to put a big thank-you out to Bob Lang CBMCA President and the Cliff Bungalow / Mission Community Association for being so generous with their time and space every month, by allowing us to hold our

meetings at their community hall while our home at the Talisman Centre was under construction. It has also given us the opportunity to establish a good relationship with them, one which I hope we maintain for years to come.

Cliff Bungalow / Mission has a social committee that hosts a Jazz night 8pm the first Wednesday of the month, a Movie night 7pm the last Sunday of the month, as well as Acoustic Music Jams 2pm the last Saturday of the month. All of which we have an open invitation to attend. They also have invited us to attend and participate in any of the other events that they put on, including BBQ's and Community Garage sales. I strongly recommend that you show our support and thanks by taking advantage of these events and participating in them.

This leads me to our second joint project with CBMCA which is, allowing them to install an "entering" community sign for them on our side of the bridge, and in return allowing us an opportunity to put

up a "entering" community sign for Erlton on the reverse side if we wish.

Our new Alderman for Ward 9, Gian-Carlo Carra and his staff, deserve recognition and thanks for their time, dedication and commitment to our community. They have attended all our monthly meetings bringing us information straight from their office and City Hall, and taking our voice right back. This is your opportunity monthly to have direct dialog and immediate feedback with your Alderman and his office.

The largest development issue that will affect our entire community this year, (as well as Parkhill and Rideau Roxboro) is the Mission Road Main Street Initiative. You may already be aware of this Initiative and even have participated in the initial meeting back at the end of January in the Holiday Inn. If you were unable to attend, and haven't heard about this, I will outline the proposed project and process.

(continued on page 2)

**As part of City Council's Commitment to working with Citizens to shape our City, please join Councillor Gian-Carlo Carra and the Ward 9 Team for an Our City, Our Budget, Our Future Conversation.**

Saturday, May 14, 2-4pm

Bridgeland/Riverside Community Hall (917 Centre Ave. N.E.) Children welcome.

Please RSVP to Lindsay Luhnau at 403-268-5330 or [ward09@calgary.ca](mailto:ward09@calgary.ca)

(continued from page 1...)

Initially the land owners along Mission Road in the first two blocks off Macleod Trail, had applied for rezoning of the land for the intention of higher density. The communities of Parkhill, Erlton, and Rideau Roxboro opposed this for numerous reasons. Thanks to our newly elected Ward 9 Alderman Gian-Carlo Carra (an Urban Planner by profession), who was able to stop the process that was underway by talking with the land owners and the communities. He then proposed a new process that will involve all parties including; the surrounding communities, land owners, city utilities, and city planners. Everyone will have a chance to have input on how this land could be developed, and by participating together at the same time will produce an outcome that will best benefit all in the immediate future as well as with foresight for years to come.

The city has an "innovation fund" which Gian-Carlo has been given access to, which makes proceeding with this proposal possible. In addition to the above parties, they will also be hiring outside experts to analyze logistics and give their findings to be added into the mix. This process is anticipated to take place around June this year, and we will keep you posted with information as it becomes available.

The Mission Road Main Street Initiative is a pilot project. This process and the possible outcome could potentially change the way the City of Calgary does it's development. Therefore, your involvement will help shape the future in our community, but may also change the future for our whole City! This makes the project and your involvement that much more

important.

Last year's River Clean up was another success, organized again by Jack and Yvonne Peace. Together with Cliff Bungalow/Mission we had a turnout of 27 volunteers, who helped make it the success it was. So, on behalf of the communities, a big thank you to all of the Volunteers for your help. We are also grateful to Purple Perk on 4th street for donating the coffee that fueled this event.

This Year the 44th annual River Clean up is on Sunday May 1st, with an alternate date of Sunday May 15th incase of extreme weather. With your help, we hope to increase the number of volunteers and possibly even double them.

The River Clean up will be held on the South side of the Talisman Centre, and will start at 9:30am for registration with a morning snack, then runs from 10:00am until 1:00pm. After all our hard work, there will be a BBQ for the volunteers and the community at large. We welcome everyone, and their families to at least come down and say hello at the BBQ, even if you are unable to volunteer.

Last year was our second year running our community "Stampede Parking", which was an even bigger success than the first year! First and foremost because of all our amazing 37 volunteers which were lead again by Jack and Yvonne Peace taking care of all logistics in and around the parking lot, and along with Shirine Lund who also dedicated many hours coordinating and contacting all the volunteers for their shifts. Because of all that hard work, coordination, and enjoyment with your fellow neighbors, we came together as a com-

munity and made \$12,000.00 for our Community Association. A job very well done everyone!

This is our main fundraising activity, and it allows us to undertake activities to keep our community alive and vibrant. If we are asked by Chinook Collage again this year, we hope to repeat our success by asking all of you volunteer again, and with the addition of some new faces.

We hosted a Stampede Parking volunteer thank you dinner at Ed's in September, which almost half the volunteers were able to attend. This year we would like to have a BBQ that would involve the volunteers as well as the whole community.

I encourage you to contact me at 403.461.6461 with your input, ideas and concerns. We reach out to the best of our abilities and are working to improve, however we need you to do the same in order to make our already great community an even better one.

Warmest Regards,  
Andrew Sparke  
President

**Now online!**  
[www.erltoncommunity.com](http://www.erltoncommunity.com)

**Three volunteers are needed to help us with the BBQ following the 44th annual pathway and river clean up.**

**Please sign up to help your community.**

**Date: May 1, 2011**  
**Time: Noon-3:00 PM**

**Contact Shirine Lund**  
**ECA Membership Rep.**  
**(403)-708-9578**  
**endo\_sl@telus.net**



Thanks to Jack Peace for keeping our surrounding parks and escarpment clean. Enjoy your walks in them and help keeping them clean. **Call 311** if sighting Coyote as this is how City of Calgary keeps track of Coyotes traffic and takes action if needed.

## Erlton's Got Talent & Classifieds

Feel free to advertise your business in Erlton, arts and crafts work, etc. in the next issue of Erlton Newsletter.

### Afghan Blankets for Sale

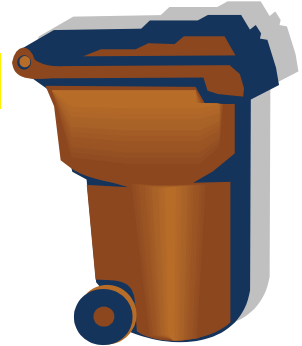
Adult afghan sizes: 48 X 72 or 54 X 72.  
The prices vary on the size. \$125 to \$295.  
Baby afghan size: 36 X 46 price: \$65 to \$95.  
Call Yvonne Peace at 403-264-1244



## trash talk

### Black Carts Are Coming Soon! Delivery Schedule – By Neighbourhood

Erlton	June 6 - 18
Highland Park	May 16 - 28
Manchester	June 6 - 18
Rideau Park	June 6 - 18
Roxboro	June 6 - 18



In your stroll through the community you will notice new homes on 56 – 31st Avenue SW (semi detached), 60-31 Ave. S.W. (semi detached). The former received our community support in the design, front façade, exterior finish, height, setback, and rear projections being compatible to the adjacent single family home. The latter was initially proposed as a multi residential development, one building with three units and later was downsized to a low density residential semi-detached duplex development. The close co-operation of the developer, the adjacent property owners and the ECA Planning and Development committee resulted in the final plans. The developer was praised "It is also great to see a developer that listens to and addresses the concerns of the community." And

the duplex was declared as "an asset to Erlton with scale, privacy consideration to the nearby properties, and massing that is more in context to the neighborhood and recent developments"

The ECA Planning and Development committee has collaborated with the Cliff Bungalow-Mission Community Association and the Rideau Roxboro Community Association regarding a Multi-Residential Development at 135 – 26th Avenue SW. address. Initially the plan was for two towers containing 79 units and later became one tower containing 27 units, with 11 townhouses at ground level grouped around it. Our community is downstream from this development site and would be impacted by re-directed floodwater from any major development at the river's edge. Our position is to wait for

the results of a hydraulic study conducted by City of Calgary Water Resources and the Province of Alberta before making any decision.

Our community along with Parkhill, Rideau and Roxboro has been actively involved with the Mission Road Visioning Workshop led by our consular (Alderman) Gian-Carlo Carra and City of Calgary representatives. The goal was to determine community receptiveness to the idea of a larger, more creative site specific planning process for the redevelopment along Mission Road.

If you are interested in taking part in the planning and development of the Erlton community, please do not hesitate to contact Bill Fischer at (403-266-2842).

## Membership Committee - Shirine Lund, Chairperson

We are proud to announce that our membership head count stands at 120, largest in the history of ECA. This could not have been achieved without the help of the membership committee members, S. Predika, R. McLean, B. Fischer, D. Parkinson-McCabe, A. Fillier and P. Kim. My thanks go to each and everyone of them for their time and hard work. Out of this 120 members we have 91 e-mail addresses that we have reached out electronically for information distribution. With our newsletter we are hoping to reach out to the remaining 29 that have no e-mails and to our non-members to keep them informed about our community. Please pass on the information to your neighbours if they happen to be uninformed.

In 2010 Stampede week, Chinook Collage invited ECA to manage

their parking lot and keep the proceeds minus expenses for the community. With the generous help of Jack and Yvonne Peace at the helm and thirty seven other volunteers from our community we managed to complete the task and bring approximately 12,000 \$ into our bank account. Afterwards we organized a volunteer appreciation evening and invited the volunteers to Ed's restaurant that is owned by one of our community members. We got a first class deal with in our budget at the Ed's and everyone had a great time. We would like to take up the task this year if approached by Chinook Collage and convince Jack and Yvonne Peace to take the lead positions and help us as they have done in the past.

Last Halloween, one of our members, A. Fillier volunteered to orga-

nize a group of community children and parents to go trick or treat with wonderful costumes. This was greatly received and appreciated by our community through their kind e-mails to A. Fillier.

An upcoming event for our community is the 44th annual pathway and river clean-up scheduled for May 1, 2011 with an alternate date of May 15th 2011 in case river is high. Along with Talisman Centre and perhaps other neighbouring community we are hoping to organize a BBQ to be followed. Details will be sent out to you shortly and request for volunteers will be made.

If you are interested in participating or providing input in the Membership/volunteers activities of the Erlton community, please do not hesitate to contact Shirine Lund at (403-708-9578).

Rideau Roxboro Community Association Would like to share with Erlton Community members the opportunity to purchase a sport membership and use our tennis, sport court and skating facilities. (Rideau Roxboro Community members also pay a sport membership fee in addition to their annual community dues). Tennis lessons are offered to Children as well as adults, times and details are coming later in April.

For lessons contact:  
Andrea Hopps  
tennis@rideauroxboro.com  
To purchase a membership, email  
name and address to:  
Kenna Windle  
membership@rideauroxboro.com

Erlton, this month has been all about spending our tax dollars. The big news was that the Provincial Government, which has traditionally taken 50% of the property tax that the City collects, surprisingly decided to give its urban municipalities a couple of percentage points back, supposedly forever. Under Calgary's current tax rate, that amounts to an extra \$42 million a year that we could either use, or that we could refund to citizens – which would work out to around \$30ish per property, per year. Along with the majority of my colleagues, I voted to keep the money in the City's coffers and I want to use this month's report to explain exactly why. I also want to invite you to a workshop I'm holding on Saturday, May 14 that will help us determine how the City should best spend our money on an ongoing basis. But first I want to talk about why Council decided to keep the money.

Calgary is not in a good position financially, and it is generally possible to split our financial issues into three categories:

**1. The Big Picture:** Only around \$0.08 of every tax dollar that is taken out of our City by the three levels of government makes its way back to Calgary. We are basically funding the rest of the province and country while we sink ourselves in debt.

**2. The Fundamental Issue:** For the last 65 years, along with the

rest of the continent, Calgary has pursued a form of growth that is fiscally unsustainable. We're now realizing that the automobile-scaled city has more tax-dependent infrastructure than tax-generating structure to support it. Unless we make some significant changes to how we grow, the more we grow, the more we dig ourselves deeper into debt.

**3. The Little Things:** Most apparently and maddeningly (but also least significantly), there is no doubt that the City could be way more efficient and effective in its operations. Without a clear commitment to a different kind of City, it's hard to commit to running the City we have any differently.

The Provincial Government's decision to cede some of its tax haul from Calgary to the City is a direct result of the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association's lobbying (I am a board member of AUMA), as well as clear advocacy from Mayor Nenshi on behalf of Calgarians. Calgary has billions of dollars (seriously, billions) worth of maintenance and new projects vital to Calgarians' safe and effective use (and basic enjoyment) of our City that have no funding source – that are effectively waiting for a hand-out of our own money from a higher level of government. So when the Provincial Government decided to give us a tiny little bit of our own money back to use on things we desperately need, it should come as no surprise that

City Council voted overwhelmingly to keep the money. We're using it to help us build fire halls we need, and cultural and recreation facilities we should have.

This, of course, in no way solves the financial troubles this City has found itself in. In order to really address the problems at hand, significant institutional and systemic changes are needed, and building great neighbourhoods are at the heart of this change. Over the course of the next few years, I will speak more about why I believe that if we organized our government around the neighbourhood, we could develop a system that is considerably more efficient, fair, and sustainable (including how we are taxed).

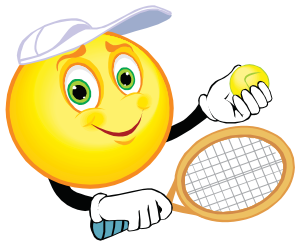
I would love to hear your thoughts on taxes, core City services, and opportunities for effective fiscal change on May 14th, as I lead a Ward 9 public discussion on how you think next year's budget will look as part of the Our City, Our Budget, Our Future public engagement process.

Ward 9 Councillor Gian-Carlo Carra  
p. 403.268.5330  
e. ward09@calgary.ca



# Ward 9 TV

[www.rabbitview.com/gian-carlo-carra](http://www.rabbitview.com/gian-carlo-carra)



Rideau Roxboro Community Association invites children in surrounding communities to participate in our kids tennis lessons. These lessons are open to everyone, a sports membership is not required.

**Kids Lessons - \$50 - Ages 5 to 15**

Wednesdays (May 4 to June 22 @ 4:00, 5:00, 6:00, or 7:00 pm (depending on # of children and ages). Class times will be finalized on Tuesday May 3rd. Please include children's ages when registering. Instructors: To be finalized, but most likely Alex Mezei, Cory Shannon and Mila Mezei. All experience levels welcome.

Interested? Please email Andrea Hoppps: **tennis@rideauroxboro.com**

**Adult Match Play - Co-ed Doubles**

Intermediate (membership required)  
Tuesday evenings 7PM - starts May 10th  
Interested? Please email Andrea Hoppps: **tennis@rideauroxboro.com**

**Sports Memberships:**  
**\$50 single, \$75 family**

Use of sport court, tennis courts and skating rinks. To sign up, email Kenna Windle:

**membership@rideauroxboro.com**

Members will receive the codes for entering the sport and tennis courts and emails with information about happenings at the courts and rinks.

**Volunteer Needed**

We are looking for someone to takeover the maintenance aspects of the tennis courts. The job isn't too onerous, here is what is involved:

- Net setup and take down in April and October
- Coordinating maintenance and upgrades with Tomko Sports Systems, our general contractor (annual power wash, replacement nets, squeegies, etc as needed, fence repairs, surface repairs)
- Change the code on the locks, if necessary.
- Arrange annual hedge trimming with Arborist.

Interested? Please email Andrea Hoppps: **tennis@rideauroxboro.com**



**Pathway & River Clean Up & BBQ**

Join your community for the 44th annual pathway and river clean up on **May 1 from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM.**  
(In case of bad weather or high river, the alternate date, **May 15, 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM.**)

ECA is inviting you to a BBQ and a community gathering following the Pathway and River Clean up. This event will be held near Talisman Centre at around 1:00 PM.

If you wish to sign up in advance either in person at the Front Desk or online at: **info@talismancentre.com.** Otherwise you will be received by ECA reception tables by the south entrance to Talisman Centre. Check **www.talismancentre.com** for details.

**Erlton**

*The Community & its Association*

The Erlton Gazette is published several times a year by the Erlton Community Association. Contributions are always welcome and can be sent to: **ErltonGazette@shaw.ca**

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**www.ErltonCommunity.com**