



Spring 2009

Erlton e-NEWS

President's Message - Jon Walters

jon.walters@shaw.ca

Welcome to our first 2009 Erlton Community newsletter. We were tempted to call it the Spring edition, but that might be a bit on the hopeful side yet....

The largest development project on the books for Erlton – the Anthem Properties development at 25th and Macleod Trail – is moving through the consultation phase. The consultants for the project displayed for the ECA in November some rudimentary plans for the site, including some of the basic massing and initial ideas for traffic flow. The ECA has requested both from Anthem and the City any and all updates to plans so that we might effectively communicate them to the community and seek out all comments as quickly as is possible.

At the regular January meeting, the ECA hosted Alderman Joe Ceci and City traffic design staff. This was the third meeting specifically addressing the ECA's concern as to eastbound traffic on 25th Avenue circumventing the Macleod Trail intersection by using the avenues to the south; these avenues, specifically 27th and 28th Avenues, are in the opinion of the ECA being misused as detours by commuter traffic. That use is posing safety risks to the local residents. Still, the City was not prepared to propose any solutions in regards to our concerns, although staff did agree to move forward on a process that would examine options put forward by the ECA. We will report back on the City's technical and consultative requirements as they are known.

The Talisman Centre is moving forward on the final facili-

ty designs to be implemented while the roof is being replaced in 2010. Some of the discretionary capital items may result in long term operation savings and the Board is hopeful that some combination of construction savings and grants may yet fund these items.

One of the reasons parking supply gets short during peak use times is the use of the Talisman parking lot by drivers not using the facility. The problem is getting to the point where persons signed up for programs cannot find parking at all or must battle with other legitimate users for spaces. The obvious problem time is during Flames games and onsite staff are doing everything they can to suppress this misuse. However, a growing problem is coming from overnight parking; these vehicles often show up right after work and take up stalls all night long. The Talisman Centre would very much appreciate it if any Erlton residents using the lot while not using the Centre would utilize other available parking options so that persons paying to use the facility can park and make programs on time. Let's be good neighbours!

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we hope you enjoy the newsletter. Please feel free to send us your constructive comments and ideas anytime.

Regards,
Jon Walters
President
Erlton Community Association



We are going green!

The Erlton Gazette will continue to be published three times a year: fall, winter and spring. Between issues, we hope to improve communication within our neighbourhood through e-news editions. Please share this with neighbours who may not be on our distributions list.

Questions? ErltonGazette@shaw.ca



42nd ANNUAL PATHWAY & RIVER CLEAN-UP

Sunday, May 3rd, 2009

Meet at the Talisman Centre
[North Entrance] @ 10:00 A.M. at
the Registration table.

Equipment and supplies will be provided and a lunch for the volunteers will be held following the clean-up.

PATHWAY & RIVER CLEAN-UP VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

"The Pathway & River Clean-up is an annual special event who's goal is to remove all the litter that accumulates along our riverbanks and pathways over the winter months. In addition to being an eyesore, the garbage can be potentially deadly to Calgary's wildlife."

Benefits of Volunteering:

- Help to make Calgary a cleaner city and promote the stewardship ethic among Calgarians.

Associated Risks:

- Possible hazardous litter such as glass and discarded needles.
- Close proximity to waterways and rocky shoreline.

Qualifications:

- Age 12 years and older.
- Youth ages 12 - 16 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.
- Physically fit and willingness to get dirty.

Thank you in advance for your participation and help.

Jack Peace



Just prior to our November Annual General Meeting (AGM), we had a presentation from Anthem, the developer of the large condo project proposed along Macleod Trail, North of 25th Avenue. Jon Walters' column provides the details.

As the result of our recent AGM, we have a slightly smaller Planning and Development committee for 2009. All seven members, however, have served in the past, so the experience factor is high.

Our community and neighbour appeals against the two three-story triplexes proposed at 23 & 27 - 31st Avenue SW was unsuccessful, and very disappointing. The only bright spot was the elimination of the patio located directly under the neighbour's bedroom windows. The appeal transcript is available here: <http://www.calgary.ca/docgallery/BU/sdab/decisions/2008-0247.pdf>

While it's never pleasant to lose any appeal, this one was particularly unsettling, with a number of errors in both the transcript and in the appeal board's logic. We have given this feedback to the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board in the hope that things will improve.

- Page 7, the paragraph dealing with Section 549(5) - the eaves is only 2 INCHES from the property line, not 2 FEET. Our appeal submission document provides the correct dimension.
- Page 22, reason 8, quotes Section 2.1.3.2 of the Erlton Area Redevelopment Plan (ARP). This section relates to development in NORTH Erlton, not in SOUTH Erlton where this project is proposed.
- Page 22, reason 12, the Board found the Erlton ARP to have an expectation of larger buildings surrounding the subject site at the end of 31 Street. The project is actually at the end of 31 Avenue, and nowhere in our ARP is this expectation of larger buildings surrounding the subject site, expressed.
- Page 24, reason 22. It is physically impossible for the 75-foot wide lot to support the By-law requirements for the mandated widths of all the parking stall and garbage / recycling space. A bylaw relaxation WILL be required.



As the result of this appeal, we are also making efforts via the Federation of Calgary Communities (FCC) to affect changes to some sections of the Land Use Bylaw.

The single family home proposed at 2605 Erlton Street SW (George and Shirley Hughes' former property) was recently approved. The only issue with this development, since resolved, was the front yard setback. Recent activity there indicates that demolition and construction may soon

occur. We welcome Steve McAvoy and his wife to our community.

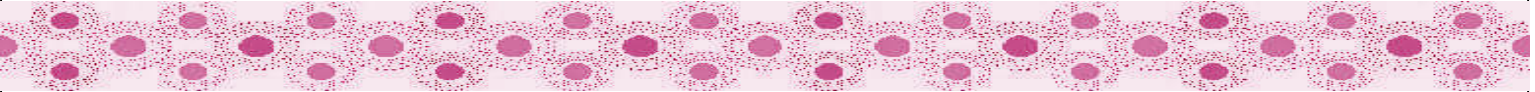
The saga of the twin towers on the North bank of the Elbow River in Mission continues. At our January 13th community meeting, the members unanimously endorsed a motion asking Alderman Ceci to take action to insist on an updated Flood Way / Flood Plain study prior to Planning making any decision with respect to this development. We are the first community downstream from this project, and will thus be directly affected by the flood water diversion as the result of the raised foundation being built in the flood way.



We stand by our commitment to ensure that anyone immediately affected by a new development is notified, has the opportunity to comment, and an equal opportunity to attend and participate in our committee meetings where it's discussed. With this in mind, our executive is proposing a number of amendments to our bylaws to ensure that this commitment to openness and fairness, among other changes, is binding on future incumbents.

Please ensure that we have your current email address on our membership file. It will result in timely notification of items that directly affect YOU. Please contact Shirine Lund at endo_sl@telus.net to update your membership profile.

In closing, please feel free to contact me if you have any planning or development questions, or have an item that you'd like placed on the agenda at a community meeting. We look forward to your participa-



Come join us for the FREE 2009 Seniors Housing Forum

Date: Saturday, May 2nd, 2009
Time: from 9:30 am - 2:15 pm
Where: Mount Royal College
FREE Parking!

Register Early! Space is Limited!

To Register:

Contact Ayda at 403-705-3230

or email: housing@kerbycentre.com

Good morning everyone,

I just wanted to take this opportunity to quickly introduce myself. My name is Dave Pascut and I'm the new CRC for the Erlton CA. I'm new to the CRC role, but have a number of years working with community associations through my work with Scouts Canada.

I am hoping to come to your next CA meeting and meet you all in person. If I can have the date, time and location confirmed for your next meeting, I would really appreciate it.

Thank you very much for your time and I am looking forward to working with you and your CA.

Thanks!

Dave Pascut, B.RS
Community Recreation Coordinator
Community & Neighbourhood Services - West
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COMMUNITY FORUMS ON PUBLIC ART

The City of Calgary Public Art Program wants to hear from you! Five community forums, one in each quadrant as well as in the Centre City, are being held in mid-February to encourage and solicit your thoughts and perspective on future public art initiatives in your community and throughout the city.

A short presentation of selected public art projects in neighborhoods and urban areas will be followed by a discussion on:

What values, commonalities, aspirations and unique features of your community deserve acknowledgement and/or celebration?

What anchors your community? Where do people tend to gather? What are the landmarks or locations you would take a visitor to see?

What public art have you seen or experienced that you especially liked? What about it made it successful?

Light refreshments will be served - all are welcome. For the forum date, time and location nearest to you, as well as other ways to provide input, please visit www.calgary.ca/publicart.



Youth Road Trip

Come Join 60 other youth from across Calgary on an Exciting Road Trip. One Saturday per month you have the opportunity to try something new and make amazing new friends.

Free Saturday Afternoon Program
Ages 12 - 16

January 31st - Skating
February 21st - Cross Country Skiing
March 28th - Rock Climbing

This is a free program, but registration is required.

Please Contact Ben at 620-6907 to register and for bus pick up locations

Travel All City 9 - 12 year olds

Come join up to 60 other 9 - 12 year olds from around Calgary and participate in amazing activities and opportunities!

****NEW REGISTRATION****

Call 403-268-3800 and use the course codes below to register.

March 14: Skating Trip
(Course #234623)

April 18: Storybook Theatre
(Course #234624)

FREE SATURDAY PROGRAM!

Registration deadlines are in effect.

For more information and registration call 403-268-3800.

www.calgary.ca/cns



Call for Submissions!

Once again we are calling for submissions for community stories to be published in the Calgary Real Estate News. Through a partnership with the Calgary Real Estate Board The Federation of Calgary Communities has been given a page in their publication in the Calgary Real Estate News. We this page to promote Community Associations, community events and the Value of Community life. I have attached some examples of past pages we have produced.



So if you would like to highlight any of your communities achievements or events please send me the event as well as a person that we can have one of our writers contact.

Thank you and have a nice day.

Brendan Murray
communityrelations@calgarycommunities.com

For the record ...

I would like to share my opinions and reasons behind decisions that Council is making that affect both Ward 9 and the City overall. I hope to give a deeper insight into City matters and my position on issues - some that are controversial and may not always be reported accurately in the mainstream news.

First up - the pedestrian bridges over the Bow River which City Council approved in September 2008. While many people have shared their delight about the project with me, others have been critical of this decision on the basis of cost and timing. I stand behind Council's approval and this is why...

City Council has approved a budget of \$25 million for the plans for two pedestrian bridges and the construction of one. The bridge built by the City of Calgary will span the Bow River just west of Prince's Island. The

second bridge, near the Zoo, just west of St George's Island, will be built at a later date, at the expense of the Calgary Municipal Land Corporation (CMLC).

Some misinformation has circulated with respect to realistic costs of building a pedestrian bridge. While the City's most recently constructed pedestrian road overpasses might have cost as little as \$5 million to build, research conducted by City Administration indicates that building a basic pedestrian bridge over the Bow River would cost approximately \$18 million. The expenditure of an additional \$6 million will produce a bridge that will be beyond functional, and will make a beautiful, unique, lasting addition to the City.

As to the question of where the funding will come from, the provincial government's ten-year funding initiative - the Municipal Sustainability Initiative - will cover the entire cost of the project. Planning will be

(Continued on page 8)



gin in 2009, and construction of the first bridge will be begun in 2010 and completed in 2011.

The City's Transportation Infrastructure Investment Plan (TIIP) was carefully formulated on the basis of priorities established by Council, and reinforced by the City's annual Citizens Survey. Among those priorities was support for sustainable transportation options for Calgarians. The most sustainable forms of transportation are walking and cycling. With more people using their own power, we have fewer emissions, less pollution, and less congestion on our roads. By investing in the infrastructure to enable walking and cycling as both leisure activities and a means of commuting, we take Calgary one step closer to sustainability. And we all know this is becoming increasingly more important.

As Alderman for Ward 9, I represent 13 communities as far-reaching as Erin Woods to the east, Winston Heights/Mountview to the north, and Milligan/Ogden to the south and many industrial areas -- all covering a vast amount of road networks. I must balance the call for effective roadways with the need for pedestrian and bicycle pathways.

Some constituents have phoned to tell me that because of current economic uncertainty, this is not the time to spend money beyond what is absolutely necessary. I believe that the pedestrian bridges are necessary. Approximately 17,000 people use downtown pedestrian bridges daily and that number is expected to increase significantly over the coming years. As well, recessions can be very good times to pursue capital projects because not only does the cost of materials often drop, but capital projects also create jobs. For these reasons, I think the timing of this project is excellent.

There is every likelihood that we will be facing a very different economic reality in 2011 and will be pleased to have a stunning new bridge over the Bow River.

I am delighted that Santiago Calatrava has been commissioned to design the bridges. He is the world's pre-eminent architect of pedestrian bridges and I have every confidence that he is going to render a spectacular design that will add something new and beautiful to our city. I firmly believe that the new bridges will contribute significantly to Calgary's greatness in many ways.

There is a full length article on this issue at www.joececi.ca, please check it out and send me an email joe.ceci@calgary.ca or phone 403-268-2430 with your comments or questions. I respond to all constituent emails or phone calls and look forward to discussing these issues with you. I also meet with your Community Presidents on a quarterly basis to keep informed on what's happening in your neighbourhoods and to share information from City Hall.

This paid advertisement will run in upcoming publications of community newsletters, for ideas and content for future articles please contact Joe.

Talisman Centre
for sport and wellness

25
years
1983 - 2008

Summer 2008

GO online at
www.talismancentre.com
or call **403-233-8393**

The first day of spring is one thing, and the first spring day is another. The difference between them is sometimes as great as a month..
~Henry Van Dyke

Community News & Announcements



There are several events coming up in March that may be of interest to you and your community/group/colleagues. Some require registration. This email has been sent to CA presidents, planning, traffic, environment and heritage representatives and CA newsletter editors, and also to Partners In Planning participants. You may have received this email more than once; please feel free to share this information.

Below is information on:

- Plan It Calgary - March 9 to 14
- Upcoming Partners In Planning courses

MARCH 9 TO 14 - Plan It Calgary March Open House Series

Plan it Calgary will be hosting five open houses in March to provide the public an opportunity to learn more about the Draft Municipal Development Plan and Calgary Transportation Plan. Please make sure your community association sends representatives to the open houses and is paying attention to this important city-wide plan in March. Consultation closes in mid-April and the plan will go to Calgary Planning Commission and Council later in the spring.

Central South

March 9, 2009

Carriage House Inn
9030 Macleod Trail SE

4:00 - 8:00 pm, with presentations at 4:30 and 7:00

North West

March 10, 2009

Best Western - Village Park Inn
1804 Crowchild Trail NW

4:00 - 8:00 pm, with presentations at 4:30 and 7:00

South East

March 11, 2009

Glenmore Inn
2720 Glenmore Trail SE

4:00 - 8:00 pm, with presentations at 4:30 and 7:00

North East

March 12, 2009

Coast Plaza Hotel
1316-33 Street NE

4:00 - 8:00 pm, with presentations at 4:30 and 7:00

Inner City

March 14, 2009

Telus Convention Centre

11:00 am - 3:00 pm, with presentations at 11:30 am and 2:00 pm

For those unable to attend, information including presentation material and other Open House material will be available at www.calgary.ca/planit on March 9, 2009.

PARTNERS IN PLANNING

The Partners in Planning course on Plan It originally scheduled for February 28 has been cancelled. We'll let you know when/if it is re-scheduled. The next PIP course is on April 4, an elective on Traffic and Transportation. For information go to www.calgarycommunities.com > Workshops and Events.

Regards,
Bob van Wegen,
Community Planner
244-4111



Get involved with youth in your neighbourhoods. Joe meets the students studying science and nature in Centenary Park.

For the Record

As Alderman for Ward 9, I am concerned about youth, and particularly those youth most susceptible to falling for the attractions of gang life. We know that gangs are a growing problem which many Canadian cities are struggling to address right now, and unfortunately, Calgary is no exception.

My views on this matter as an Alderman, are necessarily influenced by my background as a social worker. While I fully endorse law enforcement and think that it is crucial that the police continue

to track, monitor, investigate and apprehend gang members involved in criminal activity, I also know that intervening before vulnerable youth get involved with gang activity in the first place is the most effective long-term means of stopping gangs.

While I understand and share the wish to see gangs disappear from our streets immediately, this is not something that can be legislated or enforced into place. We must continue to police, of course, but to actually prevent gangs from gaining a foothold among youth is where we can really have an impact. When vulnerable youth are helped to build positive self-images, gain skills, and envision a future full of promise for themselves, the empty promises of gang life hold no appeal. This, I firmly believe, is where we have to begin.

City Council recently unanimously supported an initiative called 'Critical Hours' which seeks to keep vulnerable pre-adolescents and adolescents occupied with constructive activities between 3 & 6 pm when they might otherwise be unsupervised and inclined to get involved with activities and people better avoided.

That's just one thing the City is doing, but there are a lot of things we can all do. We can all get involved with young people. Even getting involved with one young person in your community makes a difference. For more information about this issue and ideas about what we can all do, please visit my website: www.joececi.ca

Join us at a Monthly Meeting

The Erlton Community Association meets the second Tuesday of every month at 7 pm at the Talisman Centre...

Watch for the notice boards on the corners of Erlton St. & 25th Ave SW and Erlton St. & Mission Rd.!



Erlton *The Community* *and its Association*



The Erlton Gazette is published several times a year by the ECA. Contributions are always welcome. Please send them to the Editor at:

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Not a Member Yet? Erlton Community Association Membership Application

Just fill out this form, include \$5 per person and mail it to:

**Erlton Community Association
2804 Erlton Street SW
Calgary, AB, T2S 2W5**

Name(s)

Address

Telephone

E-mail

There is no winter without snow, no spring without sunshine, and no happiness without companions.

~ Korean Proverb