



Erlton

GAZETTE

Spring 2013

President's Message - Kirt van der Woude

Dear residents of Erlton:

Welcome to 'spring' in Calgary, and your 2013 ECA Spring Newsletter!

It's been a busy few months since the ECA's 2012 AGM, and your community association has been hard at work on a number of fronts. We have made it a priority this year to focus on a few key initiatives to 'bring the ECA to the next level', making our community association more relevant, effective and transparent – with the ultimate goal of becoming a better advocate for Erlton, and you, its residents.

A few months ago, you may recall completing a survey on what's important to you and how the ECA can work to make the community a better place. Using the results of this survey, we have developed a strategic plan for the ECA. This plan will be used to guide the ECA's activities in support of priorities and objectives that you – the residents of Erlton – have identified as important and relevant. A summary of the survey results and the newly minted strategic plan are both available on our website.

The launch of our long-awaited website – erltoncommunity.com – has to be our most visible recent initiative. This website greatly enhances our ability to communicate with the community, and provides a central source of informa-

tion and a forum for issues critical to Erlton. We will continue to add to the website, and I encourage you to check it out for yourself!

We have also devoted efforts to making key ECA activities more effective and transparent. For our meetings, detailed agendas are now consistently distributed in advance, and comprehensive minutes recorded. These and other documents, such as development files, are now being posted to our website for easy access by all. This greatly improves how effective we are at keeping you informed.

An informed community is an engaged community, and I am pleased to report a significant increase in attendance at our past few monthly meetings, attributable in no small part to these efforts.

The ECA also continues to represent Erlton through our regular, ongoing activities, such as reviewing developments and advocating for the interests of our community wherever necessary.

It's been a busy past few months for development in the neighbourhood, and thus for our Development Committee. There are a number of active residential permit applications and a major condo planned for Mission Road. While there are no recent updates regarding the Anthem Development, it remains on track for sod-

turning in North Erlton later this year. For more detail on development activity in the community, please see page 2.

With the spring thaw picking up speed, our neighbourhood parks will soon see more and more use. The ECA is again participating in the City's annual Pathway and River Cleanup on Sunday, May 5th, and we will be cleaning the parks and riverbank along our side of the Elbow River. I encourage you to come out and join us in making the parks of our inner-city gem of a neighbourhood clean for us to enjoy this summer.

Finally, thank you to our Board of Directors for the significant personal time and effort they continue to invest in our community, to our committee members for their participation and input, and to all of our members who make time to attend our monthly meetings and stay informed.

I encourage all Erlton residents to both join the ECA, and consider participating in our activities – whatever your interests and availability. I or any of our Board of Directors would be more than happy to discuss how you can contribute!

Best Regards,
Kirt van der Woude

Executive changes at our Annual General Meeting in November finally allowed us to kick-start some long-dormant projects. One of these is our community's web site.

In addition to a vast amount of other useful information, you'll find a Planning and Development page. It details Erlton's Planning Vision, and lists current development projects in Erlton, some past developments, and a lot of other useful planning information. All the details of each project are there if you're interested. We'll do our utmost to ensure that the information is kept up to date.

Keeping things up-to-date will also allow for shorter newsletter columns from me, since most of the past column content has been a review of development projects and any appeal results since the last newsletter. Now you can see it all in nearly real-time, at your convenience.

Another result from last fall's AGM was the resurrection of our Traffic committee. Jeremy Yawney heads it. He can be reached at: jeremy.yawney@gmail.com. Jeremy developed the recent community-wide survey to determine Erlton's traffic and parking issues, along with potential solu-

tions. You should see the survey results soon. Meanwhile, please contact him if you have any traffic or parking issues to discuss, or want to volunteer your services.

In closing, I encourage each of you to continue to bring your ideas and questions to our monthly community meetings. Every one of us has our money and lifestyle invested in our community, so we should take an active role in looking after both.

Please call or email if you have an item of any kind that you'd like placed on the agenda for a community meeting.

Bill Fischer

Spring in Calgary - Prepared by Parks Environmental & Education Initiatives

Spring in Calgary is short lived, sporadic and one of the toughest seasons for all residents (including humans). Many plants and animals wake up or come back only to meet a spring snow storm. Regardless of the "nature" of the season, there are several things Calgarians can look forward to during spring.

Migrating birds are coming back. Few Calgarians realize that we are one of the hot spots for returning birds. Calgary is in the midst of three migration routes, has ample breeding habitat and hosts a colourful array of birds from warblers to waterfowl. Any Calgary park, especially those with trees or water, can be an important stop-over for birds heading further north. Parks of note are Ralph Klein Park, which last year had thousands of swans stop by. Confluence Park is an excellent place for red-wing blackbirds and the secretive sora (a small chicken-like wetland bird).

Crocuses are one of the first signs of spring on the grassland. While this plant may look delicate, it is extremely hardy and can often be found under a spring snow. Tom Campbell's Hill and the south side of Nose Hill Park are good locations to spot crocuses.

While most people think that robins are the first bird back, at the Inglewood Bird Sanctuary we look forward to the arrival of gulls (ring-billed, California and herring gulls) in the beginning of March.

(Continued on page 6...)



N. Nicholson



Survey Highlights:

66% of you said you're very interested in what is going on in Erlton

61% of you said you actively used and enjoyed the pathways

55% of you said you actively used and enjoyed park spaces in the area

Earlier this year, the ECA asked our residents for their perspectives on our community. 38 of you responded, representing 28% of our membership. Results made it clear our residents are proud and passionate about our neighbourhood.

When asked about where the ECA should focus its energy over the next few years, 26% indicated initiatives or projects relating to parks and playgrounds would add the most value to the community. This was tied as a top focus area, along with a continued focus on the community's planning and development.

Residents also indicated there is a sense of community in Erlton, with many mentioning being surrounded by friendly neighbours. In fact, respondents stated they know, on

average, residents in nine of the homes surrounding theirs.

When asked where the ECA could improve on existing initiatives, two areas stood out: communications and social events. We've taken the first steps on the communication front with the launch of our website.

We're also looking at hosting a social event later this year, so stay tuned! We thank every one who responded, your input will help us ensure we're meeting your priorities.

Natalie Kwadrans

Interested in
community statistics?
<http://tinyurl.com/erltonstats>

Practise PUPPY! - Prepared by Parks Environmental & Education Initiatives

Here's the real scoop on poop!

Calgarians love their parks and green spaces and are enthusiastic about keeping them healthy and sustainable. One area we can all improve upon is picking up after our pets, either as individuals out walking our dogs or by participating in an organized clean-up event. The City of Calgary Parks provides an opportunity for Calgarians to chip in through the PUPPY (Pick Up Pooch's Poo Yourself) program. Visit calgary.ca/parks for more information about PUPPY.

In general, there are a lot of misconceptions about the effect of dog waste on our environment. Many folks believe that dog waste is not harmful to the environment because it is natural and will

break-down, returning harmlessly to the soil. This assumption is inaccurate. Here are several 'dirty facts' about dog poop and its detrimental impact to our natural environment:

- Dog waste is not good fertilizer! It's toxic to your lawn. The high nutrient concentration in pet waste will burn and discolour the grass creating 'hot spots'.
- You may not live near water, but un-scooped pet waste from your yard is washed into storm drains and is the leading contributor to storm water contamination.
- Pet waste can spread parasites including ringworm, tapeworm and salmonella. These parasite eggs can linger for years! When a human comes in contact with the soil – they risk infection.

- Pet waste is teeming with E. Coli and other harmful bacteria including fecal coli form, which causes serious illness in humans. There are 23 million fecal coli form bacteria in a single gram of pet waste!
- Dog poop often contains roundworm larvae. If a human ingests roundworm larvae, damage to the brain, lungs, kidneys, liver, heart or eyes can occur.
- Dog poop doesn't "wash away" or disappear. Bacteria and larvae can last for years! So if you're not disposing of your dog's waste, you're putting your family, dog and water supply at risk.
- Dog waste can attract coyotes, mice and parasites.

(Continued on page 6...)

Happy spring to my neighbours in Erlton. I'm going to talk about two big things - community leadership and the redevelopment of Erlton.

There is a renaissance taking place in Community Associations across Ward 9. In some communities this transition has been difficult or even acrimonious. In Erlton, it seems to have been a slow-motion transition but something's clicked recently and I'm extremely excited by the collaboration between long-time and new leadership that is energizing your Community Association Board. With private sector activity beginning to implement the vision of the Mission Road Main Street Innovation Project on the south end of Erlton, Anthem is gearing up to fill in the last couple blocks of Erlton's Lindsay Park neighbourhood in the north, and tons of infill redevelopment pressure in central Erlton.

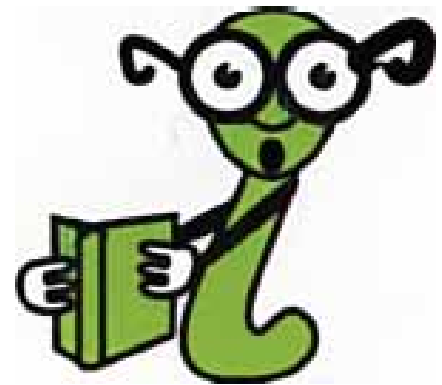
At last month's meeting, the first development permit for Mission Road was a major topic of discussion and I was able to give an

update on how many of the community's concerns are being addressed by the proponents. I'm very pleased, as the proposal is a great first step towards achieving the vibrant seam between Erlton and Parkhill that is fundamental to the Charrette vision. Expect a vibrant, adaptable, mixed-use frontage along Mission Road and 34th Avenue SW, a mix of unit types, and the start of a pedestrian mews that will run parallel to Mission Road. Following the meeting, I've responded to a couple of emails from residents who are concerned about the project's failure to exactly replicate the Charrette Vision. My response is a paraphrasing of one of Mayor Nenshi's favourite sayings; it would be tragically short-sighted if we sacrificed the good [especially at this stage in the redevelopment of Mission Road] in pursuit of perfection. I look forward to continuing this discussion with your CA as Mission Road evolves and Anthem comes online.

On a personal note, and in my spare time, I'm looking forward to

a spring, summer, and fall of knocking on your doors and asking for your continued support in this October's Municipal Election. Don't hesitate to contact your Team Ward 9 if we can be of any service.

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



Got a Bookworm in the House?

Mark your calendars for June 7-9 and June 14-16, 2013 for the 11th Annual charity Book Sale at the Crossroads Market (1235 26 Ave SE). Money raised goes to the Servants Anonymous Society and the Calgary Herald Raise-a-Reader programs.

Donations of books can be made to various fire halls later in May. If you are unable to deliver your donations to a fire hall, please contact Bonnie at: treasurer@erltoncommunity.com or 403-266-2842 and you can drop them off at my home. Watch the Calgary Herald for more details.

Send us your photos!

Have any photos of Erlton that you'd like to see on our new website?

Send them to secretary@erltoncommunity.com and we'll try to find a home for them.

LINDSAY'S ESTATE – “a History of Erlton and Parkview” can now be viewed on ECA's website <http://erltoncommunity.com/background>

Please contact Bonnie at treasurer@erltoncommunity.com or 403-266-2842 if you would like to purchase a paper copy for \$20 - 3 copies are available.



Please mark your calendar for the 46th Annual Pathway & River Clean-Up



When: May 5, 2013, 10:00 AM-1:00 PM

Where: Lindsay Park (meet at tent below south entrance of Talisman Centre)

(Note children 12-16 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian and younger children can enjoy the playgrounds with one parent while the other is cleaning.)

Once again Talisman Energy, Good Earth and Spolumbo's are sponsoring and Talisman Centre, the ECA, Cliff Bungalow-Mission (CBMCA), Lindsay Park, (LPCA) and Rideau-Roxboro (RRCA) are hosting a morning coffee with muffins and a BBQ during the clean-up.

Join your community for this good cause, meet your neighbours and enjoy a delicious Good Earth coffee and muffins, and Spolumbo's BBQ sausage on a bun plus trimmings. Gloves and garbage picks will be available at the site but if you have bring along as supplies are limited. See you there!

Membership Committee - Shirine Lund, Chairperson

Our current membership head count is 135, which constitutes over 60% of total south Erlton residents. Amongst Calgary communities the ECA has one of the highest membership rates and our approach and methodology have been solicited by other communities. Our method is organic; basically knocking at every door to ensure no one is missed. We will also follow up with telephone calls and e-mails to secure a convenient time to meet and renew membership. This is a two month team effort and my sincere thanks go to D. Parkinson McCabe, A. Jubb, B. Fischer, R. McLean, S. Predika, P. Kim and M. Grace. If you see them

on your street please thank them, as without their help we could not achieve such high membership numbers.

Our membership fee hike (\$10 per person) survey received overwhelming support from members and will be implemented at the start of the membership drive in August. Seniors (65+) shall remain free of charge unless they choose to pay. The new fee allows the board to balance the budget on annual basis without heavy reliance on the community's savings account.

I am happy to report that attendance at our monthly community

meetings has improved substantially. Your participation and feedback are key factors to a successful community association. Keep up the good work and encourage your neighbours to join you, particularly as weather improves.

We are now looking for volunteers to help us with the River Clean-Up on May 5th, 2013 that will be followed by a BBQ sponsored by Talisman Energy. Please come and meet your community members, partake in clean-up of Lindsay Park/ Elbow River banks that we so enjoy and have a delicious BBQ luncheon. I hope to see you there.

Shirine Lund

Not a Member Yet?

Help us sustain a vibrant and active neighbourhood. Our community needs your input. Please make sure your voice is heard and become a member today.

Fill out this form, include \$5 per member and mail to:

**Erlton Community Association
Attn: Shirine Lund, Membership Chairperson
2804 Erlton Street SW
Calgary, AB T2S 2W5**

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

- A pile of dog waste can take a year or more to fully breakdown due to preservatives commonly used in dog food.

- Pet waste is classified as a dangerous pollutant. It's in the same category as toxic chemicals and oil. What can you do? Practise PUPPY!

- Always have pet waste baggies with you when walking your dog. Pick up your pet's waste by:

1. Placing your hand inside the

clean, empty bag

2. Grabbing the waste

3. Turning the bag inside out, close.

4. Dispose the bag properly as soon as you can.

- Organize a community cleanup in your favourite off-leash area or park. Contact us to find out how! parksvolunteers@calgary.ca

Information regarding the rules for picking up dog poop can be found

in the Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw. Please visit: calgary.ca/animalservices.

We can all do our part to help keep Calgary beautiful, green and healthy! So get out there, enjoy the warm spring weather, and

remember that un-scooped dog waste is not part of our green and healthy future!

Spring in Calgary

(Continued from page 2)

Spring is a time of change, especially in wardrobe. Watch out for mammals as they lose their winter coats. Weasels (found in riparian areas like Edworthy Park, Weaselhead, Inglewood Bird Sanctuary) and jackrabbits (all over the city) start to change from white to brown.

Every time the weather warms, new growth can be spotted. Head out to Douglas Fir Trail, Griffith Woods or Edworthy Park to see new growth on the spruce. The smell of balsam poplar buds can be found at Bowmont Park and Inglewood Bird Sanctuary.

Richardson's ground squirrels can be seen popping their head above ground at the end of April. The first ground squirrels that we see are the males. The females and young are still in the underground den until May.

All of Calgary's parks come alive with bird songs as the males try to find their mate. Listen for "Hey Sweetie" from the black-capped chickadees, and the "wick wick wick wick" of the northern flickers in most Calgary parks.



Remember to take advantage of those warm sunny days during spring just like nature does.

To learn more about nature, take part in a Parks public education program. Visit calgary.ca/parks for more information.



We moved to Erlton in July of 2012. Ever since, we've loved our new home and the neighbourhood. We love the how closer we are to downtown, Mission and the many parks in the Elbow valley. It had been a while since either of us had lived in a place where we know all our immediate neighbours, who immediately made us feel welcome.

Barely one year ago, however, we didn't even know about Erlton.

In mid-2011, Michael had moved in with then-girlfriend Natalie and an engagement was not too far in the distant future. Natalie owned a townhouse in McKenzie Towne, and while he wasn't thrilled about living in the 'burbs, he was definitely excited about this new chapter in his life.

When we decided to move in, we had already talked about buying a place closer to town. In the interim, Natalie didn't have to worry about commuting since she worked from home. Michael, however, had to commute and had opted to take the bus in to help us save for our new house. At the end of the day, how hard could it be? Lesson learned: harder than we thought!

Michael had always lived in the inner city and spending two hours on the bus (there and back) and

eight plus hours at work, drained him so much he would come home not in the best of moods. Then there were the all-too-regular traffic jams that could easily make the return trip an hour-and-a-half or more.

We kept having to remind ourselves we would be moving to the city, in order to keep him from going crazy on those long winter nights, crammed on the 117 McKenzie Towne Express (Michael's emphasis).

Fortunately, we had a few friends in McKenzie Towne, a couple of which took the bus in or back from the core. But eventually even they would start driving or getting jobs in the south. The area itself was quite nice with the McKenzie Towne High Street being a welcome change from the suburban plainness of other communities.

By the spring of 2012, Natalie had had enough with Michael's 'commute grumpiness' –it was time to move. We managed to get her townhouse ready to sell. Thankfully, the house sold relatively quickly –apparently people were still interested in living in the deep south.

We already had a pretty good idea of what we wanted and instructed our realtor to find a single, detached house within a 4 kilometer

radius of downtown. It seems like we looked everywhere: Crescent Heights, Hillhurst, Ramsay and Inglewood. And then there was Erlton. We knew it, but mostly for the Talisman Centre, the cemeteries and the big Shaw building on the hill. When we saw the house, we knew it was for us and put in an offer that night. The rest is history.

Seven months later we know we made the right choice. We were so excited to be here that both of us joined the ECA executive.

As for our friends and former neighbours in McKenzie Towne, we feel for them. The area continues to lack a lot of services and infrastructure we take for granted in Erlton. Schools are few and far between; the Deerfoot continues to be plagued with gridlock for lack of sufficient transit options –All issues that the City will have to address over the next few years, but solutions are still far away.

In January, we added two more to our family by picking up a couple of Jack Russells –Murano and his smaller brother Kaslo. You'll see us walking around, me with a smile on my face as I walk to and from work in under 30 minutes or Natalie taking the dogs to the off-leash by the Elbow. Make sure you say hi!

Michael Kwadrans

Parks and Pathways

We look forward to a beautiful spring and summer along our Elbow River Valley. It is time to get out on foot or bikes to enjoy all of our outdoor urban areas.

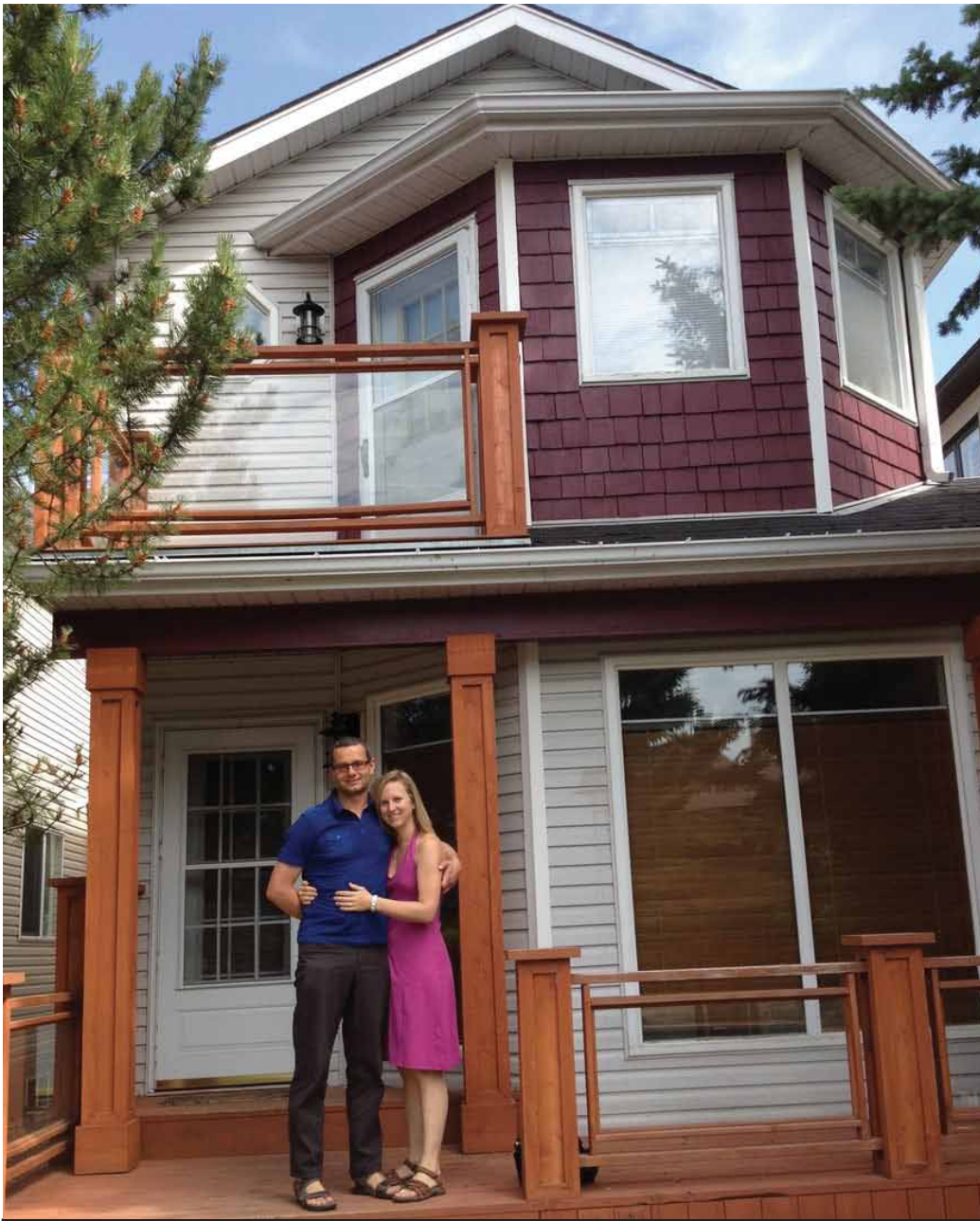
ECA Parks and Recreation welcomes your comments and suggestions at parks@erltoncommunity.com

The City of Calgary is undertaking a Redevelopment Plan for Stanley Park

Have your say about one of our neighbourhood parks.

Take a survey and participate in discussions online:

<http://tinyurl.com/stanleypk>



Welcome to Erlton Natalie, Michael, Murano and Kaslo!

NOW and THEN

I am starting a grassroots history of Erlton, including old photos of the neighbourhood, houses, and their views. I have a few pictures of houses that no longer exist and their replacements.

I am also interested in news articles or reminiscences from you or relatives who may or may not still live in Erlton. As I was talking to people about the history book on Erlton I heard some interesting tales.

If you have anything you would like to share, please contact Bonnie Fischer at 403-266-2842 or treasurer@erltoncommunity.com. I can scan the information and return the originals or you can e-mail me directly.

Erlton Classifieds

Greeting cards for sale made from my water color paintings. Landscapes and flowers are the main themes. Prices: One card \$2.50, five cards \$2.25 each, 10 cards \$2.00 each. Please contact Jackie @ 403-243-6530.

Do you want an afghan for yourself or as a gift? I can crochet or knit them in any size or colour. Lapghan, baby and teen/adult. Please call Yvonne Peace @ 403-264-1244 or vonsp@shaw.ca.

Erlton

The Community & its Association

The Erlton Gazette is published several times a year by the Erlton Community Association. Contributions are always welcome.

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