

St. Andrews Heights Community Newsletter



April 2009

President's Report by Liz Murray

March 23rd, 2009

www.standrewsheights.ca

Did you know we have a number of snow angels and other **volunteers in the community** that go around on a regular basis and help make the community a better place to live? I want to recognize all the people that do the little (and sometimes big) things like clear a neighbour's walk, pick up garbage on the toboggan hill and in other park spaces, pick up an extra poop at the off-leash area, call about a burned out street light, etc. All the little things add up to make a big difference and the community appreciates your efforts.

Over the last few months, our community has been the recipient of some questionable flyers delivered to mailboxes. These flyers contain offensive material and are now being investigated by **City Police**. If you receive a flyer like this, please contact police at 403-266-1234 and do not call the contact numbers on the flyer. We will hopefully have a new Community Liaison Officer soon who will deal with this.

The City is doing a **survey of the off-leash parks**. You are encouraged to fill out the survey whether you use the parks or not. You can do this on-line at www.calgary.ca/offleashsurvey.

Are you interested in helping remove some of the non-native plant species that are taking over the ridge along Toronto Crescent? If so, give me a call at 403-282-8309 or e-mail me at president@standrewsheights.ca and we'll see if we can get enough people to work with the City through the **Weeders of the Wild** program to remove them.

We need new Board members starting in June. If you've ever thought about getting more involved in the community, here's your chance. We also love to see new community members get involved. Please call me if you can help.

Nuria Harrison will be organizing the community clean up once again this year. This usually happens fairly early in May so watch for the date in the next newsletter.

The next meetings of the Community Executive are at 7 pm on April 27th and May 25th. The AGM is scheduled for Monday June 22nd. All community members are welcome.

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The deadline for submissions for the May issue of the St. Andrews Heights Community Newsletter is: April 24th, 2009

Delivered nine times a year, September through December, and February through June, to over 400 homes.

Please direct all requests to the Editor: newsletter@standrewsheights.ca, or Gwen at 289-0625 or mail to: St. Andrews Heights Community Association 2504 – 13 Ave NW Calgary, AB T2N 1L8

Community Executive 2007-08

President	Liz Murray	282-8309
Past President	Guy McLaughlin	284-0554
Treasurer	Gitte Julien	282-2795
Secretary	Michael Fuchs	282-5246
VP Sports	Adev Ahluwalia	284-4110
VP Facilities	Doug Connery	282-3540
VP Comm & Events	Pia Blum	284-2526
VP Seniors	vacant	
	VP Planning—	
Non-Residential	Liz Murray	282-8309
Residential	Adev Ahluwalia	284-4110
Hall Rentals	Heather McQuay	288-1022
Newsletter	Gwen Schaefer	
	newsletter@standrewsheights.ca	
Policing Officer	vacant	
Hall Telephone		282-5211
Webmaster	Jeffrey Schaefer	
	webmaster@standrewsheights.ca	

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- Large items, houses for sale or rent \$25.00



PROPERTY ASSESSMENTS AND TAXES

Residents of Toronto Crescent will be meeting with Alderman Druh Farrell on April 8th to discuss problems with property assessments and taxes. Other St Andrews Heights residents with interests or concerns in this area are welcome to sit in. Please call David at 289-6609 or Bill at 282-8526 for details.

About half the residents of Toronto Crescent appealed their 2008 assessments, an extraordinarily high number. And all the remaining residents who missed the deadline signed a petition in support. This occurred because our assessments shot up an average 71% over 2007 (the average for St Andrews Heights as a whole was 7%). Many of us felt that this was about double what was warranted by the few sales on the street.

It appears that the city assessors had assumed that the massive rise in property values in 2005 had continued through 2006 and 2007 while sales actually indicate that prices had stabilized by 2006 and have headed slightly downhill since then.

The Assessment Review Board, in August 2008, ruled in favor of about one-third of the appeals using a rather simplistic analysis that assumes our homes have no value, only our land, thus favouring the smaller lots. The city, despite winning two-thirds of the appeals, then appealed its losses to the provincial government. By the time you read this, a number of Toronto Crescent residents will have appeared before the Municipal Government Board to argue their case a second time, some who won the first time and were dragged back by the city, and some who lost who wanted a second opportunity to argue their case.

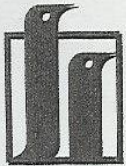
We will not be asking Druh Farrell to interfere in the workings of the various appeal boards, but we feel that the city assessors, for reasons we don't understand, are being far too aggressive in their assessments on our street. For all

Property Assessments and Taxes (continued from page 3)

we know this problem may also exist in other areas. We think that market value assessments should be based on sales data, not on complex and secret algorithms that the city claims to have, and mixing data from our neighbourhood with areas like Briar Hill that are actually quite different, rather than a simple and conservative analysis based on local sales.

Again, if you would like to sit in on this meeting, please call David or Bill. To keep the meeting on focus, if you have concerns about issues other than property assessments or taxes, please contact the alderman's office for a separate meeting.

- David Crowe (2636 Toronto Crescent)

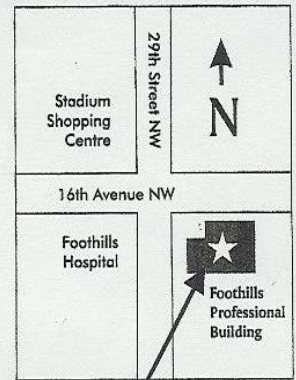
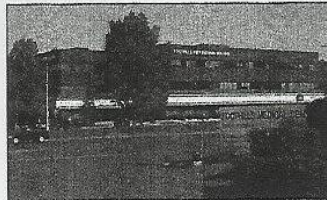


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JANE'S WALK

Join St. Andrews Heights neighbours on an easy walking loop around our community celebrating the life of Jane Jacobs, livable community and urban activist. Jane's Walk is a free, multi-city, community-based series of urban walking tours, led by volunteer guides. Inspired by Jane Jacobs and her grassroots approach to city-building, the walks help put people in touch with their environment and with each other, bridging social and geographic gaps and creating a space for cities to discover themselves. 2009 marks the third year for these walks. In 2008, walks were hosted in 141 neighbourhoods in eleven Canadian cities – Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Guelph, London, Toronto, Thornbury, Ottawa, Charlottetown and Halifax – plus Salt Lake City Utah.

Date: Saturday, May 2, 2009

Time: 9:00- 10:00 a.m.

Meeting place: Front door of St Andrew's Heights Community Hall,
2504 13 Avenue NW

Likely walking route will be the perimeter loop – crest of the toboggan hill, St. Andrews Place, escarpment along Toronto Crescent, Hamilton Street and return to our community hall. Children and leashed dogs welcome. Walk will proceed rain, snow or shine.

Please bring along your St. Andrews stories to share with others throughout our walk:

- Natural history lore
- Cultural history tidbits
- Photos
- Best neighbour stories.

Walk convener: Jeff Gruttz, 20 yr. resident of St. Andrews Heights who advocates in his work and volunteer life for doorstep accessible walking and cycling opportunities that create foundations for building healthy, livable communities.

For more information on Jane's Walk see <http://www.janeswalk.net/>

Weeders of the Wild volunteer role

Invasive plant species consist of weeds, trees, shrubs and even flowers. They are harmful to Calgary's natural environment because they displace native plants, reduce diversity, disrupt ecosystems and cost taxpayers money. A new Invasive Plant Management Plan was implemented to address the 100-plus invasive plant species identified in Calgary parks.

We are looking for volunteers to join Weeders of the Wild and help reduce the number of invasive plants in our parks and green spaces.

What do Weeders of the Wild volunteers do?

Volunteers help eliminate invasive weeds in Calgary's natural environment parks. Volunteers may work alone or in groups to tackle weeds that are best eliminated by hand pulling. In addition, they assist by mapping other sites that require treatment.

Participants are provided with training and the necessary equipment for their role. Benefits include a proactive approach to controlling invasive species, protecting our natural environments, meeting other volunteers with the same interests, and it's a great way to stay fit!

Natural Areas Adopt-a-Park

Simple steps everyone can take at home and in your community:

- ✱ Hand-pull weeds in your yard before they go to seed.
- ✱ Do not dig up plants from the wild/natural areas as this practice exposes bare soil, and leaves the area open to invasive weeds.
- ✱ Dispose of weeds and yard waste appropriately (i.e. don't dump yard waste or compost in natural areas).
- ✱ When going on out-of-city trips, watch for vegetation that may be hitching a ride. Boats, vehicles, trailers, and hiking/camping equipment are all conduits for foreign plant materials.
- ✱ Dispose of burrs that attach themselves to your pets or your clothes.
- ✱ Share your knowledge with your neighbour.
- ✱ Support local weed control efforts.

To learn more about controlling and preventing invasive plant species in your gardens and yard at home, please call 3-1-1 or email the Healthy Yards Program at healthyyards@calgary.ca

Maury's Yard Care Ltd.

Is now booking for the following landscaping services in your community!

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Call (403) 629-YARD (9273) or email MYC@live.ca



"Over 20 satisfied customers in the St-Andrews Heights community in 08 "

FREE ESTIMATES

I'VE JUST LISTED ANOTHER HOUSE IN OUR COMMUNITY!

Perhaps you have friends or relatives interested in living in our beautiful neighborhood. If so, I would be pleased to give you the first opportunity to choose your new neighbors. Please call me to arrange a showing.

Great location in St. Andrews Heights at 2624, 11 AVE NW.

This beautiful 1200+ sq ft bungalow has 3 bedrooms on the main floor and 2 additional bedrooms in the basement. The house is well maintained and shows all of the original woodwork and built-in cabinets. The main floor has an open concept, kitchen - dining room and living room. The big picture window in the living room gives you a great view of the beautifully landscaped backyard with mature trees and nice shrubs. The property is enclosed with a new maintenance free white fence. The single oversized garage is conveniently attached to the house, a rare find in St. Andrews Heights. This house has a lot of potential! Come and see for yourself or call for more information.



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**SPEAKER'S SERIES 2009****LEARN SOMETHING NEW**

Each year, the Friends of Fish Creek host guest speakers on a variety of topics relevant to the Park and the surrounding community. We are delighted to offer an informative and exciting series for 2009.

Presentations take place each month in the theatre at the **Fish Creek Public Library - 3rd Floor**

11161 Bonaventure Dr. SE, on the east side of South Centre Mall and beside the Safeway, from

7:00 pm to 8:00 pm (Doors open at 6:45 pm, so please come a little early). An elevator is available for those needing assistance. These events are free for Friends' members and \$5.00 for non-members. Because of the interest in the Speaker's Series program, patrons will now be asked to register for each presentation by contacting the Friends at **403-238-3841** or info@friendsoffishcreek.org.

Thursday, April 23, 2009

***Bats*, presented Joanna Coleman**

For the past three summers, while most Calgarians were sleeping soundly, Joanna Coleman was usually wide awake, working in some of southwestern Alberta's most beautiful places and experiencing the night in a way very few people have. Joanna studies the effects of urbanization on bats using various techniques like recording the echolocation calls of bats as they navigate in the dark and find their insect prey. Joanna also captured bats in nets, and used radio-tracking technology to compare city bats with their country cousins. Because Fish Creek runs from one end of the city of Calgary to the other, and many bats live along its length, Fish Creek Provincial Park has been a crucial location to collect data about these fascinating nocturnal mammals. This program is suitable for adults and young adults.

Thursday, May 28, 2009

***Spring Babies and Unwelcome Guests*, presented by the Alberta Institute for Wildlife Conservation**

Come learn about the baby animals you may come across this spring in Fish Creek Provincial Park and in the city. Now that Fish Creek is completely surrounded by urban development, it is important to learn how to respect your "wild" neighbours who live in and around the Park. Learn how to deter problematic local wildlife that may include coyotes, skunk, foxes, raccoons, magpies, squirrels, weasels and deer. Mari-

gold, the striped skunk, will be at the presentation as an educational ambassador. She is a gentle and harmless mammal, who acts as a symbol of the great work done by the Alberta Institute for Wildlife Conservation.

Open House

Sunday, April 26, 2009

1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Bow Valley Ranch Visitor Centre

Fish Creek Provincial Park

Vision, Variety, Volunteers!

Help the Friends of Fish Creek kick off spring and summer 2009 at the fourth Annual Open House. Come learn about the variety of programs, courses, activities and events we have planned for the spring and summer. Information about Wildlife Monitoring, Water Quality testing and Park Watch will be available. Volunteer sign-up sheets will be available for The Bow River Clean-Up, Trail Care, and the 11th Annual Purge-the-Spurge in June.

See You at the Open House !



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- Local St. Andrews Heights references provided on request.

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Homebound Readers

Customers who are unable to visit the library due to illness or disability can arrange to have a library volunteer regularly select, deliver and exchange materials. This free service is available to customers who live in their homes, continuing care centres, auxiliary hospitals, or seniors' residences. To arrange homebound library service call (403) 260-2702.

New Eco-Friendly Bags

The Calgary Public Library is playing their part in helping to make us a plastic bag free world - our rich purple eco-friendly bags can be purchased for \$1.25 at any of our locations.

WINTER PROGRAMS 2009

Programs are FREE with a library card.

Register in person, by calling 260-2620 or online at www.calgarypubliclibrary.com

Be Water Wise Outside

Learn how to design your yard for water conservation. Plant lists and sample garden plans will be provided. Co-sponsored by the City of Calgary Water Services.

Saturday, April 18

2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

CyberSeniors

Learn how to use a mouse, search the Internet, use e-mail, and about the components of a computer.

Ages 50 and up

Wednesdays, April 8 to April 29

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Baby Storytime

Enjoy age-appropriate songs, rhymes, and stories; and learn ways to share books and language with babies.

Ages 6 to 23 months with a parent/caregiver

Tuesday April 7 to April 21

10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

At *your* Library





Join Barbara Coloroso an internationally recognized speaker and author in the areas of parenting, teaching, school discipline and non-violent conflict resolution as she explains bullying; a problem that affects 1 in 7 children in Alberta. Barbara will be presenting at the First Alliance Church 12345 40 street SE, April 20, 2009; Doors open at 6:30pm.

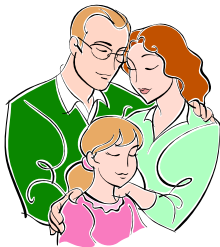
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For tickets visit www.calgarycommunities.com

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Home-Start in Calgary, is looking for volunteers who are Moms, Grandma's or individuals with parenting experience to visit young families. The time commitment is about three to four hours a week. Training will be provided. Make a difference to a young family.

Home-Start is an International program that is running in 16 countries throughout the world. It originally came from Great Britain, and has been supporting families in their homes for over 34 years. For more information please call Marion @ 571-0516 (if you live in the North) or Dee @ 717-2678 (if you live in the south).

Community Events

Keep Fit Classes - Mondays and Wednesdays 7-8pm in the school gym. Call Karen (403 289 -7820)

Art Group - Wednesdays from 1 to 3:30 pm at the Community Hall. Information (403-282-7395)

Tennis Registration

Tennis Registration will be Tuesday April 14th at 1347 Hamilton Street across from the Community Hall. Please bring your St. Andrews Heights Community Membership Card. Contact Gisela Durlacher at 403-282-0848 if you have any questions.

A color version of the newsletter is available on the SAH website!
www.standrewsheights.ca



WHEN?

Saturday, April 25th 2009, 10am to 4pm

WHERE?

TELUS World of Science, 701-11th St. SW

PRICE?

Workshops free with general admission.
Booths free to public in front lobby.

QUESTIONS?

Visit www.calgaryscience.ca for more information. Workshop registration opens March 20th - to register please call 403-268-8302.