



MOUNT ROYAL COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

2317, 10 Street SW, T2T3G7

NOVEMBER • DECEMBER 2008

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:

Hello neighbours. At the time of writing this newsletter submission, several interesting events are center stage in the world of politics and finance. Last night, the Conservatives were sent back to Ottawa with a stronger, albeit minority government. Obama has a nine point lead over McCain, banks around the world are desperately fragile, world markets are....hurting, oil trades this morning at \$75 and NG is holding slightly above \$6. Arguably, these events may create unwanted distraction or uncertainty for some of us in Mount Royal. Yet, through these challenging times, many of you will find comfort, stability and a sense of worth in taking the time and effort to volunteer on some level. I'm sure others will take comfort simply by taking a trip to Holt's but, you're probably not my target group!

This is my last President's letter, and I'll be blunt, I need your help. We have a few spots open on the board for Directors this year; the most important in my mind is the Communications Director. Without this person (whoever you are) we are faced with the prospect of dropping this in-house newsletter, that you are reading right now. Jane Keyser and her committee members Fran Cormack and Carolyn Munnoch have fostered the newsletter's well being for the past few years and would like to pass the tasks to new volunteers. I would like to thank Jane for taking on one of the most time consuming positions on the board. She has done a fantastic job as editor, accounts receivable, and manager of delivery. If you know someone who would be interested in helping next year's Executive, newsletter, continued commitment to the newsletter-please let me know.

I'm not sure how the rest of the Board will fill out in the next month but, I believe we will have a few vacant positions needing people like you who care about the direction of our community. The reality is that Mount Royal is a great community, but like many great things rich with history, Mount Royal Community Association needs constant care to keep it in good working order. I believe that front and center for our

(con't on page 3)

Special Events:

- Annual General Meeting Nov. 12
- Progressive Dinner Nov. 15
- Family Holiday Party Dec. 14

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MOUNT ROYAL COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

2317 10 Street SW, Calgary, T2T 3G7

Bylaw Bulletin

www.calgary.ca/animalservices

SHOVEL THIS SNOW!

With the arrival of winter and the accompanying snow and ice, the issue of personal safety is paramount in everyone's mind. After a snowfall, Animal & Bylaw Services receives hundreds of complaints about sidewalks that haven't been shoveled.

Seniors, handicapped persons, young mothers with strollers and even dog walkers find it difficult to navigate the sidewalks when they become treacherous. Service providers such as mail carriers, meter readers and delivery people also find their work to be more of a challenge. Taking the time to clear the snow and keeping extension cords from crossing the sidewalks help to combat the icy surfaces and ensure everyone's safety. It is also part of being a good neighbour!

Snow and ice removal is regulated under the **Streets Bylaw 20M88**. Property owners are responsible for clearing all sidewalks adjacent to their property **within 24 hours** of the snow being deposited. In the case of rental properties, the owner is ultimately responsible for removing all snow and ice from sidewalks, regardless of whether or not they live at the residence. It is important that landlords and tenants communicate and work together to ensure that sidewalks are cleared. Remember that snow cannot be shoveled from your property onto the street.

Sidewalks must be cleared down to the bare concrete. With the freeze and thaw that comes from our welcomed chinooks, ice can form quickly. For icy spots that are difficult to clear, we recommend that homeowners purchase commercial ice-melting products or take a container to the nearest fire hall to pick up a sand and salt mixture. Failure to remove snow and ice may result in the City removing it at the owner's expense.

Be a respectful and thoughtful neighbour. Shovel your snow and encourage others do the same. It helps keep everyone safe.

To access the Streets Bylaw, go to **calgary.ca** and search **bylaws**. To report a bylaw infraction, call 3-1-1.

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For Advertising, Inquiries or Submissions;
Contact newsletter@mountroyalstation.ca

Ad submissions are included at the discretion of the
Communications Director. All ads **MUST** be submitted in jpeg, eps,
tiff, PDF or ai files. **MICROSOFT WORD DOCUMENTS ARE
NOT ACCEPTABLE!**

NEXT ISSUE (JANUARY • FEBRUARY)

Deadline for Submission – DECEMBER 12, 2008

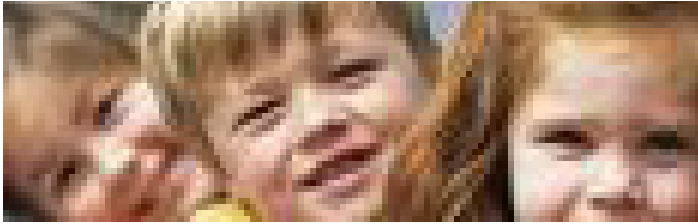
Advertising Rates (Prepayment Required)

\$50	business card	3.6" w x 2" h
\$75	1/4 page	3.6" w x 4.5" h
\$300	1/2 page	7.6" w x 4.5" h

Mount Royal Community News is published bi-monthly.



THE CITY OF
CALGARY
ANIMAL & BYLAW SERVICES



BABYSITTING SERVICES

- Caroline..... 244-6955
 - Babysitters certificate
- Hanna..... 244-8432
 - Babysitting certificate
- Kristen..... 244-4373
 - Red Cross Babysitter's Card
- Tom..... 245-5283
 - Babysitting certificate

Like to add your name to the Babysitting Services list? EMAIL the Communications Director newsletter@mountroyalstation.com

FIVE LINES FREE

BUY-SELL-TRADE-RENT

Deadline for January • February issue is December 12th. E-mail your "Five Lines Free" to newsletter@mountroyalstation.ca

Newsletter/Communications Director Wanted

If you have a keen interest in being a part of the Mount Royal Community Association and ensuring that we deliver a community newsletter, this position is for you. Please contact newsletter@mountroyalstation or call jane 403 243-0474 if you have an interest.

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE CON'T:

community has to be monitoring, and controlling the petty crime that occurs more than it should, and the frequent acts of vandalism that we seem to endure. We will seek to add a new Director to the MRCA executive in an effort to enhance community safety.

I hope you'll come out to acknowledge the contributions of your current board and cheer on next year's as well.

All the Best,

Gerry Erlam
President

Host Houses NEEDED FOR THE 2008 PROGRESSIVE DINNER

The Progressive Dinner is on for the 15th of Nov. 2008 and it is time to open your door and seat your neighbours at your dining room table! We are looking for 15 host houses for this year's event and if you have never hosted before, please give it a try. It is a lot of fun, there is no pressure to turn out a Cordon Bleu menu, and it is because of the generous hosts that the Progressive Dinner is possible. So, please consider hosting this year. Of course, previous hosts are also most welcome! For more information, please e-mail Jane Perry at janeperry@shaw.ca or call 244-4188



NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

In accordance with the bylaws of the Mount Royal Community Association, you are hereby notified that the Annual General Meeting of the Association will take place on Wednesday, November 12th 2008 at 7:30 pm at the Mount Royal Community Station, 2317 10th Street SW. The agenda on the 12th will include the following:

1. The approval of the minutes of the previous AGM.
2. President's report of the activities of 2007/08.
3. The Treasurer's report and the presentation of the Audited Financial Statements
4. Nomination of Officers for the 2008/09 term.
5. Election of Officers for the 2008/09 term.
6. Appointment of Auditors for the ensuing year.
7. Seek the general membership's approval (by vote) to amend current bylaws to include "Director of Community Safety" and "Director of Communication."
8. Other business of the Association

The MRCA requires constant feedback and vision from the general members of the community in order to function properly. Accordingly, I hope to see my friends and neighbours come together on the 12th to encourage, guide, support and validate the work that the MRCA executive and countless community volunteers undertake.

Kind regards,

Gerry Erlam,

President

CRIME & SAFETY UPDATE-- WHAT ARE WE DOING TO ADDRESS YOUR CONCERNS

As you may recall, during my election campaign, I recognized Safety as an emerging issue in Ward 8. In response, I called for 400 new Police Officers for Calgary and earlier this month Calgary City Council approved a re-allocation of \$25,000,000 to recruit, train and equip an additional 201 new Police Officers over the next three years.

The Province thus far has committed to fund 100 new police officers (over three years), and is in the process of examining the need for additional funding through Crime Reduction and Safe Communities Task Force.

In addition, October 1st marked the first day of the Safe Communities and Neighbourhoods Act (SCAN). The Act was implemented by the Provincial Government to help curb targeted activities in neighborhoods and communities. The Act allows the Provincial Government to give residents a way to register complaints and to put an end to illegal activities that adversely affect or harm a neighborhood.

As more and more communities in Calgary have witnessed, our law enforcement agencies are seeing an increase in drug and prostitution-related criminal activity. The Safer Communities and Neighborhoods Act promotes peaceful communities and neighborhoods by increasing public safety. The legislation is designed to improve community safety by targeting and, if necessary, shutting down residential and commercial buildings and land which are habitually used for illegal activities such as producing, selling or using illegal drugs, as well as prostitution.

This legislation is just one more step that will provide our police forces the support they need to begin the battle against these types of crimes, and as a government, we will work with them as they put residents first and continue to focus on public safety issues.

If there's a suspicious property in your neighborhood, do not investigate it yourself or approach the occupants. Please call our Alberta Sheriffs SCAN teams immediately, toll free at 1-866-960-SCAN (7226).

In other related news, a deployment Center has just opened and will serve as a base for Calgary Transit's Public Safety and Enforcement Officers. The office will be located in the TELUS Convention Centre space on the C-Train platform and will enable police and Transit peace officers to work together daily, while developing integrated policing solutions designed to enhance public safety. This will help combat crime and social disorder in the downtown core and help maintain public safety in the area.

During the pilot project, the office will be open for general public inquiries from 8 a.m. to 1 a.m. on weekdays and from 4 p.m. to 1 a.m. on weekends.

If I can be of assistance on any civic matter do not hesitate to contact my office by phone (403) 268-2430, fax (403) 269-3823 or at www.calgary.ca/alderman/ward8.

I pledge to be an accessible, responsive, and strong advocate for the people of Ward 8.

John Mar, Alderman Ward 8

MOUNT ROYAL SCHOOL



Welcome back to another school year! We hope that everyone had a wonderful summer and is looking forward to a great year. Our school opened smoothly and students are quickly settling in. The soccer season is now over but the volleyball season is well underway. Our hope is that all students participate in activities outside of their classes to enrich their school experience and we offer several opportunities for students to do this. Our Terry Fox run was a great event and we are pleased with the participation and citizenship demonstrated by Mount Royal students. Our School Council meets the last Monday of each month (except December, June) and we encourage all parents to attend.

5



Responsible Citizens: The future of our communities

Pat Cochrane, Trustee Wards 8 & 9

"How wonderful it is that nobody needs to wait a single moment before starting to improve the world." [Frank, Anne](#) German-Jewish Teenager (1929-1945)

The CBE's mission is "Educating tomorrow's citizens today" and we have taken to heart the idea of a truly well rounded education. We know that school can teach students about more than science, math and language skills, so we adopted the Ends statements. One of the Ends statements is with respect to citizenship – each student will be a responsible citizen in his or her local, national or global communities.

Today's students are taught to be aware of local, national and global issues affecting different people in their own community and throughout the world and how they can have a positive impact on the lives of others.

The concept of being a responsible citizen is ambiguous; however there are several connections between being a responsible citizen and being an educated person. A responsible citizen is an informed and involved person who learns about an issue, considers both sides of the situation and thinks critically about his or her opinion. Our world is comprised of many different types of communities including school, sports, hobbies, neighborhood and cyber.

The CBE is teaching the students about citizenship through an initiative called CBEglobalconnect, which allows students and teachers to share their perspectives with people from around the world, and learn how they can make a difference.

An excellent example of citizenship shown by CBE students and teachers was the Global Human Rights Fair held at Falconridge School. Students explored human rights issues based on questions from Programme Internationale including:

1. What are basic human rights?
2. How does access to basic human rights affect our quality of life?
3. What is the impact on quality of life when basic human rights are denied?
4. What is our role in advocating for universal human rights?

Following their research, each student designed a presentation for the Global Fair, based on an article he or she chose from the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The students presented their work using a variety of mediums and were able to teach students in other grades along with visitors from the CBE, UNICEF and Alberta Learning about human rights.

For more information on our Ends statements please visit our website at <http://www.cbe.ab.ca/Trustees/ends/default.asp>. You can also learn more about CBEglobalconnect at <http://www.cbeglobalconnect.ca/>. If you have any comments or concerns, I would be happy to hear from you. Please contact me at pjcochrane@cbe.ab.ca or give me a call at 403-294-8123.



Calgary Board of Education

INFORMATION ABOUT POSTED RESTAURANT INSPECTIONS

The Calgary Health Region restaurant inspection database was created under direction of the Alberta Minister of Health.

The database allows the general public to search a restaurant's most recent health inspection reports in order to make better informed decisions about where to eat.

All restaurant health inspections, of the type listed below and conducted after January 1, 2008 will be included in the database. However, only the five most recent health inspections will be displayed under a food facility at any one time.

If a facility exceeds the maximum acceptable level of risk for continued operation or if the operator fails to correct or eliminate the hazards identified, the Public Health Inspector as an Executive Officer has the discretion to order the facility closed.

Types of Inspections:

1. Initial / Approval - an inspection of a facility performed prior to its opening to determine if the facility is in a condition capable of being operated in compliance with applicable legislation.
2. Monitoring / Routine - an inspection of a facility performed at relatively consistent intervals and intended to determine compliance with applicable regulatory requirements.
3. Follow-up / Re-inspection - an inspection of a facility performed to determine if non-compliant conditions noted on a previous inspection have been corrected.
4. Demand / Complaint - an inspection of a facility performed in response to a complaint received from the public or another agency alleging the existence of a non-compliant condition or a nuisance condition.

Login to the website www.calgaryhealthregion.ca and click on Restaurant Inspections.



CLO

(community liason officer)
for Mount Royal.

Residents should contact Cst Courte, District 2
567-6200
for police issues,
vandalism etc.

MOUNT ROYAL INFORMATION

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION BOUNDARIES

- North** 17 Avenue
East College Lane; Royal Avenue; Hope Street (both sides); Earl Gray Crescent; Ridge between Earl Gray Crescent and 29 Avenue
South Council Way; 10 Street; Premier Way; 8 Street (both sides)
West 14 Street

CRIME STATISTICS:

LOWER MOUNT ROYAL													
	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	
Year	07	07	07	07	07	08	08	08	08	08	08	08	
ASSAULT	3	2	2	0	1	2	1	2	3	4	1	0	
STREET ROBBERIES	1	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	
COMMERCIAL ROBBERIES	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	1	
BREAK AND ENTER - HOUSE	2	1	1	0	1	0	3	0	0	3	1	3	
- SHOP	0	2	1	0	4	2	2	0	2	0	1	0	
- OTHER	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
THEFT OF VEHICLE	2	4	3	6	2	2	3	3	4	7	3	10	
- FROM VEHICLE	7	13	12	8	7	4	2	7	5	13	10	8	
MISCHIEF	4	7	3	8	5	3	1	2	4	4	8	1	
Crime Rate: 2006 2007													
Person Crimes (per thousand population):												13	8

UPPER MOUNT ROYAL													
	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	
Year	07	07	07	07	07	08	08	08	08	08	08	08	
ASSAULT	0	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
STREET ROBBERIES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
COMMERCIAL ROBBERIES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
BREAK AND ENTER - HOUSE	1	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	
- SHOP	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
- OTHER	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
THEFT OF VEHICLE	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	2	1	0	1	1	
- FROM VEHICLE	1	7	1	0	0	1	0	8	3	5	2	2	
MISCHIEF	1	0	3	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	7	0	
Crime Rate: 2006 2007													
Person Crimes (per thousand population):												0	3
Property Crimes (per thousand population):												26	22

IMAGINE A DINNER WHERE YOU ARE ASKED TO PUT ON A BLINDFOLD BEFORE YOU START EATING.



IN/Sight – Dining in the Dark was an overwhelming success and raised over \$100,000 for The Foundation Fighting Blindness; a non-profit research group dedicated to developing a cure for inherited forms of blindness.

Is there a cure for blindness? Not right now. Yet there is hope. And that comes in the form of successful preliminary clinical trials in gene therapy in which a patient was given a new lease on sight. (for more information on this amazing breakthrough, visit www.ffb.ca)

This hope is what motivates Dagmar Jamieson to host fundraisers in support of this ground-breaking research. Why now? Dagmar is blind and started to lose her sight when she was 13. For years doctors told her nothing could be done. She wouldn't accept the diagnosis, which eventually led her to Dr. Ian MacDonald and The Foundation Fighting Blindness. Her goal is to bring awareness to this hope with her own exciting brand of fundraising. And there are many reasons for hope. One of these amazing breakthroughs, has recently taken a young Toronto man from 10% sight to now being able to see the sky, leaves on the trees and his girlfriend's face for the first time.

In January, the Calgary Golf & Country Club was the setting for HypnoVision2008 – which raised over \$80,000. Not stopping there, Dagmar focused her dynamic energies onto this next event; In/Sight Dining In The Dark.

On October 2, 2008 at Hotel Arts, 175 guests were blindfolded and treated to a multisensory dining experience. Working as a team, Hotel Arts chef, Duncan Ly, and wine merchants BIN 905's, Geoff Last, paired an award winning meal with specialty wines. (please visit www.insightdininginthedark.com to see the wine list and dinner menu).

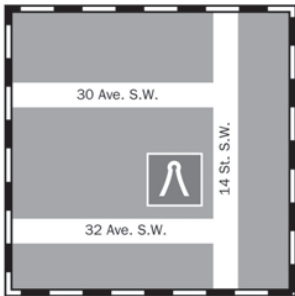
After 'The Reveal', where guests were introduced to what they were eating and drinking, the next portion of the evening unfolded where guests were blindfolded once again. A live performance of the play "Fade to Light", written specifically for the event by the award-winning playwright, and Calgary Herald columnist, Eugene Stickland, was presented and enthusiastically received by this blindfolded audience. Calling it a poetic meditation on the nature of vision, Eugene created something to be heard, and not seen.

IN/Sight – Dining in the Dark was a huge success and the uniqueness of the experience kept guests enthralled the whole night. The scientists who had just arrived in Calgary to attend the annual symposium on October 3 & 4, 2008 were guests of honor at the event, mingling and shedding light in the world of science that is quietly doing so much to give us the cures that will make a huge difference in our own lives.

The funds raised will be used for research in Western Canada dedicated to developing cures for inherited forms of blindness, some of them expressing themselves in our mature and senior years, such as Macular Degeneration (AMD).

For more information please contact dagmarsevents@shaw.ca





Alexander Calhoun Library

3223 – 14 Street SW

Hours:

Monday - Thursday
Friday & Saturday
Sundays (mid-Sept to mid-May)

10 a.m. – 9 p.m.
10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
12:00 – 5 p.m.

Telephone: 260-2600



All Libraries will be closed on November 11th, to observe Remembrance Day.

Library programs are free with your current library card. Registration can be done online @ calgarypubliclibrary.com, by phone @ 403-260-2620, or in person at any branch.

Adult Programs at Calhoun: Tai Chi for Seniors

The benefits of this gentle and effective approach to natural good health and well-being will be introduced in this program. Presented by the Taiost Tai Chi Society.

Ages 50 and up
Wednesday, Nov 19
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Beyond Delicious Whole Foods: Cookie and Muffin Recipes

Connie Blacha shows how to create tasty homemade treats using grain flours, fruit juice, organic sweeteners, and natural butter.

Monday, Nov 17
7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Children's Programs at Calhoun: On the Loose with Dr Seuss!

The troupe from Calgary Young People's Theatre is back with 45 zany minutes in the crazy world of Dr. Seuss! Join us for this free performance, exclusively at Calgary Public Library.

Ages 5 to 11
Friday, Nov 21
1:30 - 2:15 p.m.

Snowflakes and Stories

Join us for stories, rhymes, and songs celebrating winter!

Ages 2 to 5 with parent/caregiver
Monday, December 1st
10:15 - 10:45am
No registration required

The W. R. Castell Central Library has NEW opening hours!

Monday to Thursday 9 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Friday & Saturday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Sunday: Noon – 5 p.m.
All branches remain the same.



COLD WEATHER TIPS FOR CATS

- Jorinda Rankin



Calgarians need no reminder that winter is upon us. Of course animal rescue groups do not advocate cats as outdoor pets but, if your cat goes outside, there are things you can do to ensure a little “field trip” into the tundra will not result in tragedy. These tips will also help protect any other outdoor or stray animals exposed to the dangers of winter.

Be careful with antifreeze. It is a tantalizing but lethal treat for outdoor, stray or roaming cats.

When cats have nowhere warm to go, they often crawl up into a warm car or truck engine. During the winter, make it a habit to pound on each side of the hood of your vehicle before starting it up in case a cat crawled in to try to stay warm.

If your cat has any food or water bowls outside, make sure the water isn't frozen. As well, don't use metal bowls in the winter. A cat's warm tongue will not adhere to ceramic bowls in cold weather.

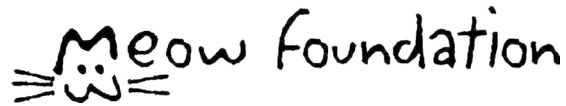
If your cat goes out at all increase his or her food intake: being outside depletes energy and they'll need a healthy fat layer to be comfortable. A cat that spends any time indoors has less hair and softer paw pads than they need to face cold temperatures.

Make sure your cat does not stay out for long and, even if trips outside are brief, prepare a box with some blankets or other insulating material for your cat to crawl into to conserve body heat. The mercury doesn't have to dip very far below zero for frostbite and hypothermia to become very real threats and a simple box may save your cat's ears and feet.

The best advice cat owners can take is to keep cats indoors during the winter months. If it is too cold for you to do more outside than run from the car to heated buildings, it is definitely too cold for your cat.

The MEOW Foundation is a no-kill cat rescue charity operating in the Calgary area. MEOW has helped thousands of homeless cats since 2000.

www.meowfoundation.com (403) 230-6033



AN EXCERPT FROM MOUNT ROYAL COMMUNITY HISTORY.

The full document is available on the Mount Royal Community Website.

“A Brief History of Mount Royal Prehistory

Calgary's location at the confluence of the Bow and Elbow is no accident. The spot had seen human traffic for hundreds of years. The Blackfoot Trail is not just an expressway, but the name given by fur traders and explorers to the traditional route of the Blackfoot Confederacy between the Oldman River and Fort Edmonton. The future site of Calgary was a good place to ford the Bow River, and the trail passed right through the area and up along Nose Creek.⁹ The promontory known as Nose Hill got its name from a Siksika or Blackfoot legend, and ancient campsites have been found throughout modern Calgary. In 1968, an extensive butchering site was discovered when the foundation of the building that houses Mona Lisa Art Supply on 7th Street SW near 17th Avenue was being excavated. Buffalo bones and primitive stone implements were found.¹⁰ Archaeologists believe that it was a popular and well-used area for the bison hunting. This conjecture creates the romantic spectacle of a herd of buffalo being stampeded to their doom down the north slopes of Mount Royal. In actuality, researchers concluded that the buffalo were more likely ambushed as they moved through a shallow draw or stream course at the base of the hill. But it is clear that humans have had a presence in the area for hundreds, even thousands of years.

Within historic memory, natives camped in the lee

of Mount Royal, continuing an age-old practice, moving up the Elbow valley each season. | | Up to three hundred years ago, the area around Calgary was controlled by the Blood Band of the Blackfoot Confederacy, then passed under control of the Blackfoot themselves.¹² The base of the hill and the coulees on the hillside made good campsites, with brush for cover and for fires and plentiful small game. When the Oblate Fathers, a missionary order of the Catholic Church, established a log mission in 1875 along the Elbow near the site of the Holy Cross Hospital, natives would come to the Elbow Valley to visit. They would camp nearby, and some old-timers claimed they could remember tepees set up where the Glencoe Club now stands on Elbow Drive.

We can imagine the brow of the hill would have served as a fine overlook for bands travelling through the area. Blackfoot braves on horseback may have stood there, surveying the valley beneath them as they approached the confluence of the Bow and Elbow Rivers.

The Oblates were followed by the Northwest Mounted Police in 1875, who built their fort beside the Bow and Elbow. The arrival of the Mounties did not change the area much at first. A small hamlet of tents and shacks sprang up east of the Elbow River by the fort, and a handful of settlers like Sam Livingston and John Glenn squatted on land nearby. It was the arrival of the Canadian Pacific Railway that altered the landscape forever. The immense undertaking of building a transcontinental railroad was partially funded by a generous land grant in the Northwest Territories, which at that time included all of Alberta, Saskatchewan and most of Manitoba. The railway was assigned the odd numbered sections of land in each township north and south of the rail line as it snaked across the prairie. The corporation could then recoup its outlay by selling their property to prospective homesteaders or exploiting any natural resources it might find. The land grant gave the CPR unprecedented power over the urban development of the west.¹³ By placing stations and divisional points on its sections of land, the company essentially dictated where towns would be placed along the line. The CPR would survey a town site and then make a handsome profit selling lots. The course of history for Regina, Medicine Hat, Calgary and innumerable smaller centres was determined by

the railway. In the case of Calgary, the CPR bypassed the small hamlet east of the Elbow by announcing in early 1884 that the station would be on the west side of the river in Section Fifteen of Town Site Twenty Four. Literally overnight, Calgary was moved by the railroad's dictate. Offered a rebate on lot purchases if buildings were erected by March, the residents of Calgary spent the winter of 1884 skidding most of their shacks and modest frame buildings across the Elbow and near the station.

As cities like Calgary expanded, they eventually encroached on other sections held by the CPR. Although the railway sold off much of their land to homesteaders, it cannily held on to sections near growing towns, banking on their much greater value as commercial or residential lots. Section Nine, which encompassed Mount Royal, Lower Mount Royal, Cliff-Bungalow and a small part of Elbow Park, sat empty as the southern limits of Calgary crept closer around the turn of the century. The CPR was patient. For fifteen years after Calgary incorporated in 1884, the city had grown very slowly and only had about 4,000 people in 1901, only a few hundred more than ten years previously. Not long afterward, the Liberal government of Sir Wilfrid Laurier brought in new immigration policies, actively soliciting farmers from Europe and the United States to come fill Canada's empty interior. This effort soon bore fruit, and as homesteaders poured onto the prairies, Calgary began an amazing ten year boom, its population growing tenfold from just over 4,000 to over 44,000 in the 1911 census.¹⁴ The city fathers firmly believed the latter number was too low; their own census claimed over 60,000 residents for the city! Calgary – like every other town on the prairies – was going to be the next Chicago of the West, or at least the next Winnipeg. In any case, the city was growing by leaps and bounds. Real estate prices, fuelled by speculation, spiralled upwards, and the section of land lying southwest of the city - in CPR hands - became very valuable. As it turned out, the company had special plans for the area, Calgary's first elite residential community, Mount Royal. Shortly before the boom picked up steam, a young doctor from England approached the Canadian Pacific in search of some property. Dr. Ernest Wills was a specialist in tuberculosis and other lung diseases, and he was interested in setting up a sanatorium in Calgary. According to medical wisdom

of the day, a cool, dry climate such as found in vicinity of the foothills of Alberta was ideal for sufferers of lung ailments. More than a few of the city's early residents came west at the behest of their doctors. Wills arrived in Alberta in 1903, coming up from Colorado where he had practised for several years. He persuaded the CPR to sell him ten acres in the middle of section nine, set back from the brow of the hillside.

Well removed from the little city, which still had not reached 17th Avenue, the acreage was for all intents and purposes in the countryside. A substantial manse was built as a sanatorium and also a home for Wills and his family, with special canvass tents serving as summertime "chalets". Part of the cure included sleeping in these breezy quarters, sometimes from spring to fall. Unfortunately the young doctor met an untimely end soon after opening his new facility. In the habit of riding his bicycle to and from his downtown office, Wills had a terrific crash on the morning of September 21st, 1904.¹⁶ Found later that evening by a worker at the sanatorium, Wills did not recover from his massive head injuries, dying the next day. Mrs. Wills, left a widow, sold the sanatorium to another doctor, Richard Morrison, eponymous with the street in today's

Mount Royal. Mrs Wills had tried to sell off her ten acres as lots, but had little luck.¹⁷ In 1909, Morrison, his property now in the middle of the CPR's new subdivision of Mount Royal, subdivided the sanatorium grounds as Plan 304V and sold it off. The sanatorium itself remained at 2305 Morrison Street as the Calgary Convalescent Home until 1932, when it moved down to the old Honens home on Royal Avenue. The lots of Plan 304V remained an interesting anomaly in the precincts of Mount Royal, not conforming to the design of the rest of the neighbourhood, with a simple grid of lots on either side of Morrison Street.

By 1906, only two short years after giving Wills his acreage, the Canadian Pacific took a serious look at the potential of Section Nine as a residential area. At some point, CPR management decided not just to subdivide the area into lots but also make it an upscale neighbourhood, catering to a well-to-do clientele. Although we don't know who exactly decided on this course of action, it was likely done on the recommendation of J. Lonsdale Doupe. As the chief surveyor for the CPR western region, Doupe was a major figure in the development of Mount Royal.

To find out more interesting information on Mount Royal please visit our website.

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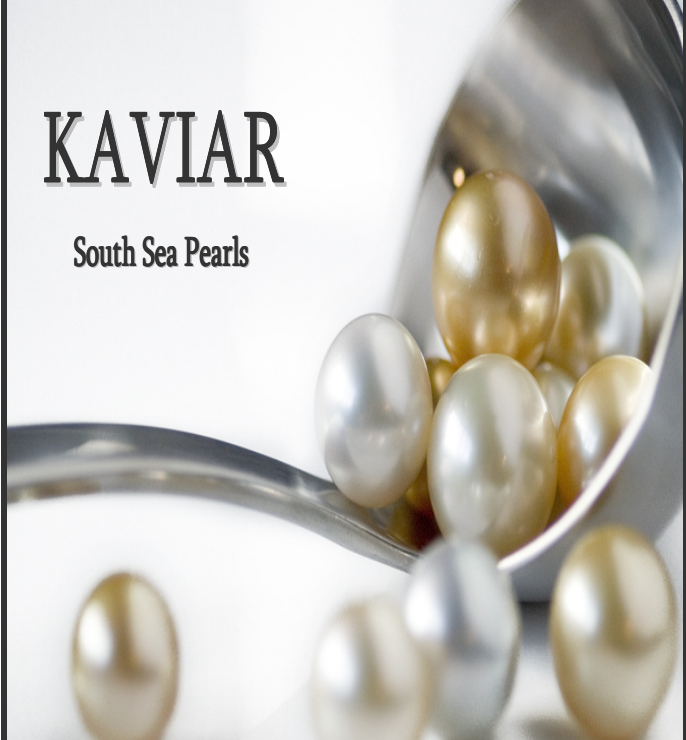
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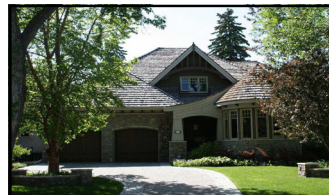
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