# CRESCENT view

THE OFFICIAL CRESCENT HEIGHTS COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER





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# **Newsletter Deadline**

The Crescent View is published 12 times per year. The submission deadline is 6:00 pm on the fifth of each month for the following month.

For example, to be published in the June issue, the deadline is May 5.

Please email your articles or event listings, as an attachment in MS Word form, to the editor at: newsletter@crescentheightsyyc.ca.

Digital photos that are community related are always welcome as an attachment to the email and be sure to send a caption and/or the names of people who are in the photo. The requirements are 250 KB for a smaller picture and 1-3 MB for a larger (full-page) picture.

### **Editor:**

Elizabeth Stady Email: newsletter@crescentheightsyyc.ca.

# Vision, Mission, Values

### Vision

We are a vibrant inner-city community with engaged and connected residents.

### Mission

Crescent Heights Community Association works with residents, members and stakeholders to improve the quality of life for its residents by:

- Developing and enhancing community enjoyment, safety, connection and belonging and;
- Advocating on behalf of the community.

### **Values**

- We value integrity and transparency in our communication with all stakeholders.
- We value a sustainable future.
- We value diversity of our residents.
- We value inclusivity and compassion as we work to build community.
- We value the contributions our volunteers make to build a strong sense of community.
- We value community engagement through the arts and support local artists.
- We value protecting and enhancing our public spaces, forests and historic resources.

# **CHCA Board of Directors**

We are always looking for people to join our core group of volunteers. It's a great way to learn/exercise leadership skills and a great way to build and connect your community. If you're interested, then go to our Volunteer page and send us a message.

The Board meets at 7:00 pm every fourth Tuesday of the month and all CHCA members are welcome. If you are planning to attend, please send an email to secretary@crescentheightsyyc.ca at least 24 hours before the meeting.

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Newsletter Editor	Elizabeth Stady

# SCAN HERE TO VIEW ADDITIONAL CRESCENT HEIGHTS CONTENT News, Events, Crime Real Estate Statistics Statistics Output Output



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# Seniors' Fitness is Back!

Our Monday morning Seniors' Fitness class resumed on March 6 after an almost three-year COVID Hiatus. Many of our regulars have returned and a few spots are still available. Participants must be fully vaccinated and be members of the Crescent Heights Community Association. Our instructor, Pat Harding, is back with us and crueler than ever. Join us on Mondays from 10:30 to 11:30 am at the community hall.





## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hello Crescent Heights,

They're back! Those wonderful flowers that you see all over Crescent Heights. Thanks to our many flower gardeners, evening walks in our neighbourhood are very enjoyable.

As referred to in previous View articles, the installation of the hall's new HVAC system will commence in mid-June and be completed by mid-July. This project will not interfere with any scheduled events at the hall.

The Stampede Breakfast volunteers have assembled a delightful number of activities for July 16. Mark it on you calendar. It is free for members, and non-members pay five dollars. More information is available in this View and in our e-blasts. All CHCA members receive our E-blasts. You can sign up for the E-blast either by emailing communications@crescentheightsyyc.ca or by clicking on membership on our website.

If you wish to help your community as a volunteer or Director, just email me at president@crescentheightsyyc. ca. Youth and diversity are highly desired.



MUST BRING IN COUPON TO USE. EXPIRES JUNE 30, 2023.





# Featuring live music

The Tim Williams Trio - Winner of the Memphis Blues Challenge

- Become a CHCA member and get a free breakfast. Non-members pay \$5.00
- Members have a chance to win two weekend passes to the Calgary International Blues Festival coming in early August 2023
- Pony rides, face painting, kids crafts, activities and prizes

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! Contact: pancakes@crescentheightsyyc.ca
See lots of fun jobs at http://crescentheightsyyc.ca





# **Mini Galleries Exhibition**

CHCA's Mini Galleries are pleased to welcome the Alberta Craft Council with their art exhibition "Conversations with Nature" in July and August.

Join us for the launch and art walk at the Rotary Park to learn more and meet the artists. Saturday, July 15 at 1:00 pm. Walking tour will start at gallery #1, adjacent to the parking lot on the SE corner of Centre St N and 7 Ave NE.



# Rotary Park **Drinking Fountain Fundraiser!**

A fountain for our K9 & human park goers

What: Public drinking water fountain

Who: For dogs & humans!

Where: Crescent Heights Rotary Park off-leash area

**How:** With your support/donation

Donate Today : use the QR CODE to donate online



### OR

Write a cheque payable to: Crescent Heights Community Association

send to: 1101 - 2 St NW, Calgary AB T2M-2V7 **Attn:** Humaira Palibroda

Get Involved and Grow





# **Laneway Garden Challenge**

Let's make our laneways an extension of our homes. Let's make them beautiful!

"Life without beauty is only half lived"

# Answer the challenge to beautify our laneways!

Imagine our laneways as welcoming spaces with flowers in bloom and creative urban plantings. Imagine what can grow ... on that patch of grass, or that pile of dirt. Between those cracks in stone and concrete, or maybe within a repurposed cast-off. Do it yourself or work with your neighbours! Inspire all of us and post your photos and ideas on our community Facebook

# Suggestions for durable plants

Day lilies (sun or shade), poppies (sun), rhubarb (sun or part sun), holly hocks (sun), mint (sun or shade), wildflowers (sun). So, when you're out and about picking up some plants for your garden, pick up an extra few and add some beauty to your laneway!

## Weeds. Weeds! Weeds!

Getting rid of our resident weeds is next to impossible, but let's try to keep those pesky invaders like the creeping bellflowers/bluebells from spreading more.

A few easy tips for week management:

- 1. mow/cut down regularly;
- add non-invasive plantings in abundance to squeeze weeds out;
- 3. pull weeds when the soil is wet;
- 4. take off the flower tops/seed heads.



A friendly message from your

Crescent Heights Community Association
Transportation, Planning and Mobility Committee
marie@crescentheightsyyc.ca or doug@crescentheightsyyc.ca





# Making the Case for Little Libraries

by Rob Ward

I will always remember the first time I encountered a little library in front of a small cottage down in Sunnyside years ago. There was just something quite magical about its miniature construction and what it had to offer passersby just like me. Inviting and intimate, it stopped me in my tracks. After marvelling at the idea, I ventured forth and opened the door. I took a book that appealed to me and tucked it into my coat and continued my aimless ramble.

What was it that was so very special? Was it the generosity of the homeowner who took the time and trouble to build this little library? Was it an encounter with simple kindness that offered such a treasure to complete strangers? I'm not sure. But the idea has certainly caught on and the movement continues to expand. There is a few dozen in Crescent Heights that I know of and likely many more on streets that I don't frequent.

I was inspired to take up the cause myself a couple of years ago. There is a flowering crab apple tree on our boulevard that beckoned. The branches splayed out at just the right height but was there enough room to slip in a library there? After some thinking and a few sketches, I made a crude cardboard model to place in the crook of those two branches. In order to fit it would have to be small and the form of the tree dictated an unusual shape. I didn't want the tree to be harmed in any way, so the design had to be such that no mechanical fasteners were used, and nothing penetrated the trees protective bark.

I also wanted the final piece to blend in with the tree and be anything but obvious. Something that a keen eye might discover the second time passed.

The final solution is, in fact, an angular form composed of two nesting clamshells. Each of these has in inner watertight chamber with three little shelves. Each clamshell was pushed in from either side of the crook in the branches. Once nested snuggly they we fastened with screws to each other, not to the tree. The door includes a Perspex window and another at the back to let light in. The tin roof was the final element to keep the rain and snow off.

The day after I installed it a neighbour came to the door and gushed about how much he likes it and what it did for our street. It put a smile on my face and that feeling is repeated each time I see someone do a double take and go and have a look or take a picture, or even a book. Some of our neighbours take glee in restocking the shelves and I have even slipped out myself to see what's on offer today!

# Who Cares About Our Heritage Assets? Your Planning Committee Wants to Know

by Brenda Erskine, CHCA Planning Committee

CHCA's planning committee has reviewed five applications for Land Use Bylaw amendments on corner lots so far this year. Four of the five are in Heritage Guidelines Areas, as defined by city planning (see map). If these Land Use amendments are approved by City Council, the existing pre-1945 character homes/cottage bungalows on these lots will be replaced with 4-unit row houses, up to 11 meters high, possibly with secondary suites in the basement.

If City Council denies the applicants, the existing bylaw allows the developer to build a duplex or semi-detached on the lot, maximum 10 meters high. Each unit, not including the secondary suites, requires 1.5 parking spaces.

Whatever the developer decides to build, it must comply with the city's Heritage Area Guidelines, which provide guidance on setback from the street, massing, and other design elements to ensure the new building reflects the existing character of homes in the area.

# The Planning Committee Wants to Know What You Think

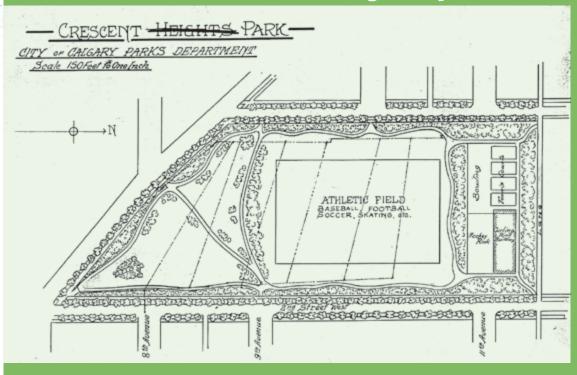
Is it important to preserve (as much as possible) the "character homes" in Crescent Heights? If yes, why?

Or should we acknowledge that every community changes with the housing needs of the city, and replacing single-family with multifamily homes is the best way to ensure as many people as possible have an opportunity to live in our community? If yes, should there be a limit on how many multifamily homes our community should support?

Send your comments to planning @ crescentheightsyyc.ca. We're listening!



# **Crescent Park Celebrating 100 years!**



This year, Crescent Park has reached a milestone. It's a true testament to the enduring value ofpublic spaces that offer recreational opportunities and aesthetic beauty for communities. Thepark's thoughtful design and attention to detail in creating distinct areas for different uses is a greatexample of how parks can be both functional and visually appealing.

It's also great to see that many of the park's recreational components have remained in use for acentury, providing generations of residents with opportunities for fun and fitness. A communityhistoric resource, Crescent Park's heritage value lies in the planting design of the park with the openand ornamental

areas along with the recreation offerings. The dense planting around the perimeterof the 3 areas of the park is reminiscent of the 1920's and 30's park design. The divisions created 3rooms in the park which purposefully kept dust, noise and wind out of the park while people insideenjoyed the park.

As Crescent Park celebrates its 100th anniversary, it's important to reflect on the memories and experiences it has provided for countless people over the years. Public parks like this are trulyinvaluable to the social and cultural fabric of communities, and we should cherish and protect themfor future generations to enjoy.



Humaira Palibroda parks@crescentheightsyyc.ca

**Get Involved and Grow!** 

# **CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY**

by Stephanie Ho Lem, CHCA Director - Environment, Climate Change, and Sustainability

"The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it."

- Robert Swan

Earth Day came and went - what is Earth Day and what does it mean to you?

Prior to 1970, there were no legal or regulatory mechanisms to protect our environment. In spring 1970, US senator Gaylord Nelson created Earth Day as a way to force this issue onto the national agenda. In the same year, twenty million Americans demonstrated in different U.S. cities for a healthier environment. Then on December 2, 1970, Congress authorized the creation of a new federal agency to tackle environmental issues, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. What followed was the Environmental Protection Act, the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act.

Every year on April 22, for one day, more than a billion people celebrate Earth Day to show support for environmental protection and inspire appreciation of the environment. It came and went but are we doing enough to protect planet Earth?

Planet Earth deserves more respect, and with climate change things are getting worse, more than we could have imagined. In a recent Herald article, they said, "Unwillingness to sacrifice is ruining the planet". The author asks, "Would you give up your SUV for a hybrid vehicle, forgo the annual Hawaii holiday for a camping trip, eat less or no meat, take public transit instead of driving, shop less, switch off lights and the computer, forego the purchase of or turn down the AC?"

Every day we see and hear of "increasingly frequent, unpredictable, and punishing droughts, storms, floods, and hurricanes, yet sacrifice is still mostly out of the question. It seems the only thing we're truly prepared to give up is the future."

### Sources:

- Calgary Herald "Little to Praise on Earth Day" Nicholas Read
- earthday.org
- epa.gov

*Please note that the content provided is for informational* purposes.

stephanie@crescentheightsyyc.ca



# Off the Shelf

# BOOK REVIEW BY JUDITH UMBACH

I Am China by Xiaolu Guo

Iona Kirkpatrick is a translator of Chinese into English. She receives a bundle of papers smuggled out of China through a publisher. Affected by the emotional, intellectual, and physical turmoil revealed in the smuggled diaries and writings, Iona develops into a vulnerable emotional person. The papers shape I Am China, by contemporary Chinese author Xiaolu Guo.

Punk rocker, Kublai Jian, tried to lead an impossible life as a literary freedom fighter in authoritarian modern China. Deng Mu was his adoring fan who for a time pierced his fiery idealism.

Iona is plunged into the story of Jian and Mu. The notes and diaries are full of drama and emotions, but the order and narrative are missing. Each page is a random puzzle-piece in an important story. We are drawn into the mystery as Iona muses on possible connections.

Her internet searches are fruitless. Probably, she considers, because of censorship of Chinese sites. The publisher who gave her the bundle has no information: however, he is anxious to have the materials formed into a book, which could find an avid literary market.

Slowly, she begins to see that Kublai Jian was a political radical who used his platform as a punk rocker to call for widespread freedom. He and Mu fell in love and eventually had a son. But Mu was extremely unhappy because Jian would not give up his ideology of freedom to give his family a quiet, safe life. He saw everything as political, and she saw life as a compromise. Already fractured, their relationship shattered when Jian was arrested on stage during one of his raucous concerts. He disappeared, and predictably re-surfaced in a political prison labour camp. Then he disappeared again, this time unpredictably re-surfacing in another country altogether.

Mu finds her own voice and almost accidently became a slam poet. She and Jian despair of seeing each other ever again, but their love remained, torturing both of them with the need to record their lives. In her London flat, Iona buries herself in the unintended puzzle and absorbs these deep emotions, melting her self-defences, and opening her soul to a different way of living.



# **New Parking Guidelines**

For the new fee structure and to apply for a parking permit, visit https://www.calgaryparking.com/parkingpermits.

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