



November 2004

The MayBel

Mayfair Bel-Aire Community Association

Upcoming Events:

- Mayfair/Bel-aire Community Association Annual General Meeting Nov 24, 7pm Christopher Robin School
- Winterfestival, Malibu Park, January 30, 2005



highlights:

- Community beautification 2
- EMS Safety Tips 3
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Annual General Meeting to be Held Nov 24th

Notice to the members of Mayfair Bel-Aire Community Association of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, November 24th, 2004

Christopher Robin School Gymnasium, 1011 Beverly Blvd. SW

For the following purposes, namely:

1. To approve the Minutes of the 2003 AGM
2. Calgary Police Services - Chris Woodward
3. Alderman Barry Erskine
4. Year Ending Financial Statements and Auditor Appointment
5. Membership Report
6. Election of directors for ensuing year, Volunteering
7. Interchange update
8. Beautification and Branding - survey results and plan
9. Events Summary
10. Christopher Robin School, Green Spaces and Sports
11. New Business

The MBCA Board of Directors

Allison Sutton/Mark Smith-Presidents

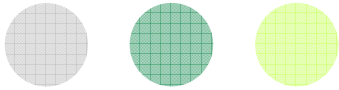
Winterfestival 2005

We will be holding our annual Winterfestival at Malibu Park on Sunday January 30th. We require a few volunteers to help new community members Natalie and Dave Shields execute this event. Please contact Natalie at 253-0795 if you can help out with setup, as "hotdog chef", etc.



Stampede Breakfast 2004

Thank you very much to all of the volunteers who helped out at this year's Stampede Breakfast. As you can see from the photos, this year's breakfast was a great success.



For a community to be whole and healthy, it must be based on people's love and concern for each other.

-Millard Fuller

WELCOME! We are very happy to announce the following community volunteers joining our board:

Odile Sargent will be taking on the role of director and Events Coordinator for the community. Odile will also be serving on the board as a director.

Bruce Williams will be working on our Interchange Committee and will be serving as a director.

Natalie Shields has joined the board as Vice President, as well as taking on coordination of the Winterfestival!

Kathy Benham will be serving as a director and taking on Membership.

Dan Baxter will be coordinating Residential Development as a director on the board.

Thank you for stepping forward and taking on these roles!



Last year's casino raised over \$60,000 for the community, which must be used for capital investments. The branding and beautification committee will be deciding how to allocate some of these dollars.

Volunteer Positions Available

We are seeking individuals to volunteer for the following positions:

Website Coordinator to maintain our website at www.maybel.org.

Sports/Clubs Coordinator to update website and newsletter editors of neighbourhood sports teams schedules, sign-up dates, Scouting events, etc.

Casino Volunteer Coordinator to manage approximately 40 volunteers for our upcoming casino in 2005. Last year's casino raised over \$60,000 for the community. This is a great opportunity to make your mark by helping us leave a legacy in our community!

Street Captain Coordinator for Mayfair to contact Mayfair street captains when information needs to be passed along to the community.

Welcoming Committee: we would like someone to work with the board to send a welcome letter/package to new community members.

Evening with Neighbours Host, to open up their home and coordinate a fun evening. You can pick your date!

Please contact Allison Sutton at 253-7928 or absutton@shaw.ca if you are interested in helping out in any of these positions.

Membership News

- Karen Clark

Welcome to the 217 families who have joined the 2005-05 Mayfair/Bel-Aire Association by purchasing a membership. We have achieved a 69% participation rate compared to 75% last year for the same 314 homes. We would still like to improve participation, so if you have not yet purchased a membership, please consider doing so now. I am also pleased to announce that Kathy Benham will be taking on the role of Membership Coordinator for the coming year with the assistance of Kathy and Jeffrey Booth. If you have questions regarding your current status of membership or wish to join, please contact Kathy at 259-3844 from this point forward. Membership forms will also be available at the general meeting on November 24th, or on our website at www.maybel.org

"Evening with Neighbours" 2005

If there is anyone interested in opening your home and hosting our annual winter "Evening with Neighbours" event in late January or early February, please contact Caryl Brunet at 252-4338 or Odile Sargent at 253-8086. This event is

funded by ticket sales and is a great opportunity to put names to those faces we see around the community. We are also open to using other venues in the future for this event so please let us know if you have any other interesting ideas with regards to a location.

New Neighbours?! Please let us know!

Please let one of the association board members know if you are new to the neighbourhood, or if you have a new

neighbour. The board of director's contact information is on the back page of this newsletter.

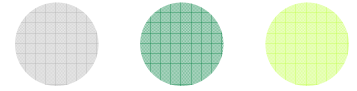
Community Branding and Beautification Committee

The Branding & Beautification (B&B) Committee would like to thank everyone who took the time to complete our survey earlier this year. The survey facilitated excellent input and feedback that was used to form the basis for the go-forward B&B Strategy which will presented in detail at the upcoming AGM on November 24. As a result, we encourage you to attend the meeting to learn more about our exciting plans going forward.

- Glenn Huber, Chairperson, B&B committee

Staying Safe in the Cold Weather

Calgary EMS



YOUR paramedics...
YOUR ambulance service
...here for YOU
"Caring for the Community"



Winter is here and Calgary EMS wants to ensure everyone stays safe in the cold weather. Every winter paramedics respond to cold weather related emergencies, most of which are preventable.

Overexposure to the cold can lead to frostbite, hypothermia, and even death. Proper prevention is essential for preventing cold related illness. Prevention is simple, effective and by far preferable to treatment. Proper prevention measures significantly reduce the probability of cold related illness.

Overexposure to the cold, compounded by wind and moisture can have detrimental effects. Here are some tips you can follow to prevent illness from the cold environment:

- Dress warmly in layers with a wind and waterproof outer layer. You can always remove clothing if the weather improves. Bring along extra clothing in case there is a weather change, you can't put on extra clothing if you don't

have it.

- ALWAYS wear a hat to prevent heat loss. Your head is the body's greatest source of heat loss.
- Avoid activities that cause physical exhaustion. Sweating, in combination with the wind can cause significant heat loss.
- Avoid prolonged exposure to a cold environment.
- Avoid drinking alcoholic beverages prior to exposure to cold environments.⁶

Overexposure to cold, wind and moisture, especially in children and the elderly, may lead to cold related illness. This usually takes one of two forms: frostbite and/or hypothermia. The symptoms of mild hypothermia are shivering, numbness and mild drowsiness. Frostbite is the localized cooling or freezing on an area of the body. The most commonly affected areas are the ears, nose, hands and feet.

Preparing in advance is key to prevention.

Christmas Holiday Safety Information

As the holiday season approaches, Calgary paramedics want to help ensure you enjoy a safe, happy and festive season with your family. Please keep in mind a few simple Christmas holiday safety tips...

Toys and Gifts

Be especially careful when you choose toys for infants or small children. Be sure anything you give them is too big to get caught in the throat, nose or ears. Avoid toys with small parts that can be pulled or broken off. If you are giving toys to several children in one family, consider their age differences and the chances that younger children will want to play with older kids' toys.

Food and Cooking

The holidays often mean preparing large meals for family and friends. Wash hands, utensils, sink, and anything else that has come in contact with raw poultry. Keep in mind that a stuffed bird takes longer to cook. Refrigerate or freeze leftovers in covered shallow containers (less than two inches deep) within two hours after cooking. Date the leftovers for future use.

Alcohol, Parties and Driving

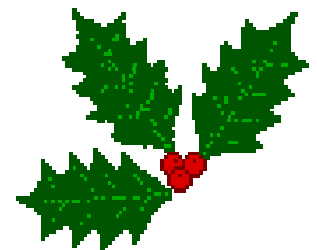
Being a smart party host or guest should include being sensible about alcoholic drinks. Use designated drivers, people who do not drink, to drive other guests home after a holiday party. As always, drivers AND pedestrians should be cautious on Calgary's streets - everyone plays a role ensuring pedestrian safety.

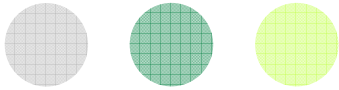
Plants

Small children may think that holiday plants look good enough to eat. But many plants can cause severe stomach problems and some may be toxic. Plants to watch out for include: mistletoe, holly berries, Jerusalem cherry, and amaryllis. Keep all of these plants out of children's reach. If you suspect someone may be poisoned contact the Alberta Poison Centre at 944-1414 for advice, or dial 9-1-1 for emergency medical care.

From everyone at Calgary Emergency Medical Services, have a safe and happy holiday season.

Holiday plants to watch out for include: mistletoe, holly berries, Jerusalem cherry and amaryllis. Keep all of these plants out of children's reach.





Community Classifieds:

For Sale: Antique Oak Table expands to 6'. 4 chairs.
Contact Allison 253-7928

Babysitter List:
Sandy McDonnell would like to put together a list of available babysitters in the community. If you are interested in having your name and phone number available for Mayfair/Bel-Aire families, please contact Sandy MacDonnell at 229-1991 or email at sandy.macdonnell@telus.net. Also, if you are a family looking for a babysitter, please call or email Sandy.

Christopher Robin School

Ongoing enrollment for age three to Grade Three. Contact Ms. Payne 252-6063 for a brochure or come for a tour

Alexander Calhoun Library Update

Happy Holidays: Holiday Hours for the Alexander Calhoun Library are:
Dec 24, 10am-4pm, **Closed Dec 25**
Dec 31 10am-4pm, **Closed Jan 1 & 2, 2005**



Technology Programs

The Internet: Beyond the Basics
Wed. January 19, 2005, 10:00-11:00am
Introduction to E-Mail
Wed. January 26, 2005, 10:00-11:30 am

Children's Programs

Toddler Storytime-Holly Jolly Toddlers
Tues Dec 7, 10:10-10:30am, Register starting Nov. 16
Preschool Storytime-Santa's Helpers
Thurs Dec, 9, 10:30-11:30am, Register starting Nov 18
Drop-in Family Storytime-Reindeer Stories
Sat. Dec 11, 10:30-11:00 am, Ages 2-5

Looking for that perfect gift for the holidays? The library has consumer information to help you make an informed purchase.

If you like to make your own gifts we have a great selection of craft books and magazines or books to make your gift wrapping a work of art.

We now have DVD's! **The selection is great for kids, teens and adults.**

- ❖ **One DVD per card**
- ❖ **One week loan**
- ❖ **No holds permitted at this time**



TREE PICKUP AND BOTTLE DRIVE:

Our annual Christmas Tree Pick-up and Bottle Drive will be happening on January 8, 2005. Please leave your tree and bottles at the end of your driveway or sidewalk, clearly marked for St. Andrew's 118th Scouts, and leave payment in your mailbox. The cost for the tree pick-up is \$5.00, but any amount (above \$5.00) would be graciously accepted. Watch for our flyer that will be delivered in late December.

If your tree and/or bottles are not picked up by 1:00 pm on Saturday, Jan 8th, please phone 651-6274.

Report From The St. Andrew's 118 Scout Group

Our recent Bottle Drive was a great success and we want to thank everyone in the community for their wonderful support. The funds raised at the drive will be used to cover the cost of many of the upcoming years activities and we all thank you very much.

Again this year the Scout Troop will be collecting old phone books as a fund raising and we are asking for your support on this endeavor. Last year we raised over \$1400.00, which allowed our Scout Troop to participate in some very exciting activities like rock climbing, archery and a canoeing camp in June. Until early December, a collection box will be set up in the lobby of the St Andrew's United Church and we hope to have other collection areas set up in the communities our youth live in. They will be clearly marked St. Andrew's 118th Scout Troop, so

watch for them in your community. If you have access to a large number of books that you would like to donate, please contact Lorraine at 274-2547 to make arrangement for a pick up. Our Beavers, Cubs and Scouts have been very busy over the past month with camps, outings and variety of fun activities at our weekly meetings. More great things are planned for the weeks leading up to our Christmas Break.

The Scout Group would like to extend a BIG thank you to the community for your support of our recent Scout Popcorn Sales. Our total sales exceeded last year and the money we raised will be used to fund camping, canoeing, archery and a variety of activities.

New members and leaders are always welcome. Why not check us out!



Update from the City: Barry Erskine, Ward 11

As we bring this year to a close, please accept my season's greetings and best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year for you and for all whom you care about. In the past few months my office has received several inquiries as to large trucks in residential areas. In response, I wish to submit the information as noted below and hope that we can successfully resolve some of the issues surrounding this concern.

As advised by Mr. Bill Bruce, Manager of Bylaw Services, trucks are not permitted in residential areas unless they are actively involved in delivering or picking up goods or supplying a service. Under the Truck Routes Bylaw, a truck is a vehicle with a registered gross vehicle weight in excess of 5450 kg. The Truck Route Bylaw specifies the routes trucks may use, typically major roads, and the conditions where trucks may leave a truck route to deliver or pick up goods or supply a service. Under this bylaw, no truck may drive or park on a street that is not a truck route unless they have a lawful purpose as outlined in the bylaw. Trucks and truck type vehicles are also addressed in the Calgary Traffic Bylaw in a more inclusive manner. No vehicle weighing more than 4000 kg. can be parked on a residential street between 8 pm and 8 am. This more inclusive restriction captures vehicles such as school buses as well as trucks.

The Land Use Bylaw addresses parking on private property. No truck weighing in excess of 5450 kg. can be parked on a residential property. There is a provision in the bylaw for a resident to apply for a development permit to allow them to house a truck on their property, however, community agreement is required.

There is no regulation that restricts commercial vehicles (those with company markings or signs on them) unless they exceed the weight restrictions. For reference, most pick up trucks and vans do not come under the truck regulations.

For illegally parked trucks on the street, call the Calgary Parking Authority at 537-7100. For illegally parked trucks on a residential property, call the Development and Building Approvals Department at 268-5415. For any other truck issues, call Bylaw Services at 268-2489 or the Calgary Police Service, Truck Unit, at 266-1234. As always, should you wish to provide comment on this or any other issue, please feel free to contact my office at 268-2430 or berskine@calgary.ca



Update from the Province: Calgary Elbow Constituency

New process for disputed auto insurance premiums

A new three-step dispute resolution process will help consumers who believe their automobile insurance premium is being incorrectly calculated, have been refused coverage or had their policy cancelled as outlined in legislation.

The process provides a fair, no-cost dispute resolution system to consumers who are concerned about their premiums for basic coverage under the province's new auto insurance system. The dispute process works as follows:

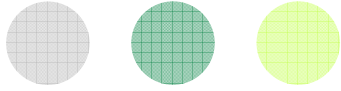
1. Talk to your broker or agent first. If you're not satisfied, file a complaint with your insurer. A complaint liaison officer will review your case and issue a letter stating the company's final position.
2. If you are unsatisfied with the company's final position, the General Insurance OmbudService (GIO) will help you resolve your complaint or assign an independent mediator. If you cannot solve the problem, the mediator will prepare a report with non-binding recommendations. You can contact the GIO toll-free at **1-888-421-4212**.
3. Apply to the Automobile Insurance Dispute Resolution Committee. The committee will review the case and attempt to resolve the dispute. If no resolution is possible, it will either recommend no further action be taken or refer the issue to an arbitrator. The arbitrator's decision will be binding. The Automobile Insurance Dispute Resolution Committee can be contacted at **780-427-8322**, or call toll-free **310-4455** and ask for the Office of the Superintendent of Insurance.

The GIO is an independent, national not-for-profit corporation. It offers non-binding dispute resolution services across Canada to policyholders of its member companies. GIO helps customers of home, car and business insurance and their insurance companies to resolve differences in a fair, independent and impartial environment.

More Rubber Roads Paved for Alberta

This year 100,000 recycled tires are being used to pave about 30 kilometers of road with the asphalt rubber. The paving is part of a pilot project which has been underway since 2002 to determine if asphalt rubber is viable for Alberta. We are the only province to actively test asphalt rubber on its roads and highways. It is a mixture of traditional asphalt cement, recycled tire crumb and aggregate. Since 1993, 30 million scrap tires have been recycled in Alberta.

Honourable Ralph Klein, MLA Calgary Elbow #128, 6707 Elbow Drive S.W., Calgary, AB T2V 0E3
Telephone 252-0346 Fax 252-0520 Email Calgary.Elbow@assembly.ab.ca



How's Your Home's Energy Efficiency Health?

Energy Solutions Alberta

Do you have air leaks amounting to a hole a Saint Bernard could crawl through in the side of your home? What about a leaky faucet filling 16 baths per month or maybe an ancient fridge in the basement draining over \$100 dollars a year?

Today's gas prices pack a painful punch but using the energy we need more efficiently can make this year's winter season more bearable. From the hardcore renovator to the tight budget household, there is a practical energy efficiency project for every price range. Plus, they pay for themselves in energy savings.

Take a walk through your home. How many lights are on and are the light bulbs efficient compact fluorescents? What are your appliances' energy efficiency ratings? Is cold air leaking through your window frames and doorways? Is your furnace blasting all day and night, even when you are out or sleeping?

Whether you're grimacing or smiling after answering these questions, there is something everyone can do to improve their home's energy efficiency.

Energy Efficiency for under \$50:

- Reduce heating needs by 20 per cent: For \$10-\$20, you can tighten up air leaks around doors, windows, electrical sockets, baseboards and attic hatches with weather stripping, caulking and door sweeps.
- Install a programmable thermostat (\$50) that will automatically turn the house temperature down when you go out or to bed.
 - Install compact fluorescent light bulbs. Although more expensive, they last 10 times longer and use 75 per cent less energy.
 - Reduce hot water use by 15 per cent: Install low flow showerheads (\$15) and aerators (\$4) and avoid running water continually while brushing your teeth.
 - Put an insulating jacket (\$20) around older hot water tanks.
 - Always rinse clothes in cold water (heating water accounts for up to 90 per cent of a washing machine's total energy use).
 - Select the air-dry setting on the dishwasher
 - Get your gauges in order: Set the refrigerator temperature at 3-4°C and 0°C for the freezer and set the hot water tank at 49°C.
 - Set the 'power management setting' on your computer to automatically turn the monitor off when not in use for 15 minutes.
 - During the heating season, close your blinds or curtains after sunset.

The City of Calgary is currently offering a \$50 rebate to eligible city residents who buy a new, water-efficient toilet.

Larger Investments in Energy Efficiency:

- Replacing an aging refrigerator is the single biggest thing you can do to reduce your home's energy consumption. A new, energy-efficient refrigerator will reduce operating costs by up to ¾ of an early 1980s model.
- The water used in a low-flow toilet (\$150-\$300) for an entire day is equivalent to about one flush of a conventional toilet. Most old toilets use 15-20 litres of water per flush compared to a low-flow toilet's 3-6 litres. The City of Calgary is currently offering a \$50 rebate to eligible city residents who buy a new, water-efficient toilet.
- Front-loading washing machines use about half the water, electricity and detergent of a top-loading washer and cut dryer costs by wringing more water from clothes.
- Replacing a conventional furnace with a high-efficiency model can reduce fuel costs by up to 30 per cent, which, for many families, could save over \$500 in annual heating costs.

Remember, don't be scared off by the higher sticker price of energy-efficient products; rather look at products' operational costs and, over the long-term, energy efficiency will save you money every time.

Visit Energy Solutions Alberta's website at www.energysolutionsalberta.com for more energy efficiency tips and to stay updated on provincial and national rebate opportunities

Glenmore Trail Interchange Update

As you can see, the preparation for the interchange construction is well underway. The remaining gas station disappeared overnight, and the school is coming down very quickly. We will be giving an update on the interchange plans and issues at the AGM on November 24th.

Bus Stops: MBCA recommended to the city that the bus stops on Elbow Southbound be moved away from residential dwellings to South of Malibu Drive and closer to Glenmore trail. Unfortunately after numerous delays, the city and transportation indicated that this was not feasible and the bus stops will be locating in front of the meridian adjacent to Melville which is directly in front of Mayfair.

Elbow Northbound Detour: the left turn-lane into Mayfair from Elbow Drive Northbound has been closed, and has been shifted one lane to the right. This will be in effect for approximately 6 months, while crews work underground to re-route telecommunication networks currently located under the turn-lane.

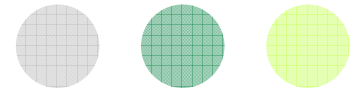
Message from the MBCA President:

SEASONS GREETINGS! So many of you have contributed to our community in one way or another over the past year - thank you for all your time and effort. We all appreciate it. It is time for our AGM and with that time to thank those who have contributed to our board and have decided to step down from some of their current responsibilities. My co-partner **Mark Smith** has decided that it is time to step down from the board but he will still be assisting with the Interchange.

Thanks Mark. **Herve Boscher** has worn many hats for us; Interchange, website, events. Herve is a man of many talents. **Karen Clark** has been organizing our successful membership drive for four years now. **Eleanor Pidgeon** and family have been putting up signs for us for over two years. Joan Gauthier has been coordinating Mayfair Street Captains for some time. Many thanks to you all for contributing to our community! At our AGM you will note that most of these areas have found new neighbours to help out. We look forward to working with: **Natalie Shields**, Vice President; **Bruce Williams**, Interchange; **Kathy Benham**, Membership; **Odile Sargeant**, Events; **Dan Baxter**, Residential Development; **Jackie Achtymichuk**, signs; **Lynda Kinsella**, Christopher Robin School Liaison. We are always happy for people to come out and help as much as they are able. Call me, I'm sure we can find something you'd find rewarding to do!

Looking forward to seeing you at the AGM.

- Allison Sutton



Calgary Health Region Update

Premier Klein Breaks Ground for New South Hospital

Premier Ralph Klein joined construction crews and community leaders at the site of the new south hospital in July, climbing aboard a 50-tonne earth mover, to officially kick-start land preparations that will pave the way for construction of the hospital. The Premier described the project as a 'hospital for the 21st century', a demonstration of the government's ongoing commitment to the future of health care for southern Alberta.

The new hospital is welcome news for the people who live in the Calgary Health Region and for Region employees. It will add approximately 300 beds in its first phase - beds that are very much needed as the Health Region continues to deal with immense pressures placed on the system by phenomenal population growth in Calgary. The Region appreciates the Klein government's recent investment announcement of \$150 million in capital funding - money that will be used for additional beds in Calgary hospitals.

New Children's Hospital Ahead of Schedule

Thanks to good weather and the efforts of the design and construction management team, work on the new Alberta Children's Hospital is progressing rapidly. The facility is now scheduled to open three months ahead of schedule, in August 2006.

The Region has made every effort to make this a 'true' Children's Hospital by involving children and parents in the design process. That guidance resulted in a hospital design that is very open, with lots of colour and windows. Every inpatient and ICU room will have a view of the mountains, the river valley or Nose Hill Park. Parents will also be able to sleep in their child's room and have use of

a washroom and shower, as well as have the use of a family lounge with accommodation and state-of-the-art family resource centre containing medical information on their child's condition and computers.

Calgary Gets State-of-the-Art Surgical Suites

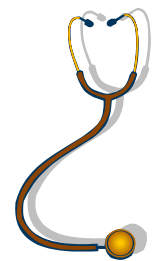
Calgary will soon be home to six state-of-the-art surgical suites known as i-suites. These suites will allow surgeons to perform less invasive laparoscopic surgery that is more comfortable for patients and speeds up recovery times.

Calgary will be the first city in North America to link i-Suites. This means a surgeon at Foothills Medical Centre will be able to view and participate in a surgical procedure at the Rockyview General Hospital and vice versa. The Calgary Health Trust is raising \$3.6 million for i-Suites through the efforts of the Rockyview Development Council and the Pengrowth Rockyview Invitational Golf Tournament.

Calgary Health Region Receives Top Marks in National Survey

The Calgary Health Region met or exceeded the national average in 85 per cent of the 13 health system performance indicators in the fifth annual report released by the Canadian Institute for Health Information's (CIHI). The report was based on hospital data from 1999 to 2003. Compared to last year, the Region improved in 67 per cent of the areas analyzed, including admissions for pneumonia and the flu, and re-admissions for asthma and pneumonia. The Region is below the national average in two areas - the rate of C-sections performed, and the rate of in-hospital hip fractures. Medical Director for Quality Improvement and Health Information Dr. Ward Flemons is pleased with the progress but recognizes there are still areas where the Region can improve and that is where attention is now being focused

Please visit www.calgaryhealthregion.ca to stay abreast of the latest developments in the Calgary Health Region.



New Foothills Hospital Parkade Planned:

*The Calgary Health Region has selected Foothills Parkade Ltd. to design, build and operate a \$23-million parking project at the Foothills Medical Centre. The Calgary Health Region completed a master plan for Foothills in 2002. Planned redevelopment for the site will cause the loss of parking stalls and will increase parking demand at the site. To meet the demand, a 1,558-stall parkade will be built. The parking structure will be self-supporting from parking revenues. Health-care dollars are **not** being used. Construction will begin this summer with completion scheduled for the summer of 2005.*



Mayfair Bel-Aire Community Association

Happy Holidays!

We welcome your input!
For submissions please contact

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We're on the Web!

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Rooting Out Marijuana Grow Operations and Meth Labs

Marijuana and other illegal drugs are one of the crime issues about which the citizens of Calgary have expressed the most concern when responding to surveys. One of the reasons for this is the proliferation of marijuana grow operations and methamphetamine laboratories across Calgary, illicit drug factories that can turn otherwise normal suburban homes into an unwelcome and unsafe presence in our communities.

"Last year, the Calgary Police Service's Drug Unit seized more than \$53 million worth of marijuana from indoor grow operations in neighbourhoods across the city", says Inspector Brian Skeet of the Calgary Police Service Organized Crime Control Unit, "and calls from concerned citizens lead us to a large number of the operations we find." Skeet points out that the vast majority of grow operations are controlled by organized crime elements. In addition, fire hazards from faulty wiring or health risks posed by chemicals or mould make these operations especially dangerous to their neighbours who may not even be aware the operations exist.

Skeet encourages citizens to stay aware of what's happening in their neighbourhoods. He says there are several easy-to-spot, telltale signs that a home may have been converted into a grow operation, including:

- windows covered or blinds drawn at all times;
- condensation on windows, in soffits, eaves and on siding;
- the house seems vacant, lacking furniture or lighting in the evening, but visitors still come by;
- high traffic at unusual hours;
- excessive or unusual electrical hook-ups or outside generators;
- a lack of snow on the roof due to the high heat inside the residence.

You should also watch for people bringing in or discarding items such as plastic

sheeting, pipes, plastic pots or materials used for constructing watering systems. Humming, fan-like noises and strong "skunky" smells or the scent of heavy deodorants are other clues

Methamphetamine labs can also be hidden in otherwise innocent-looking homes and buildings. "Meth" is an extremely toxic and powerful stimulant that works on the central nervous system and is dangerous, not only to those who use it, but its production labs can also be toxic, explosive or cancer-causing. "Each kilogram of methamphetamine produced leaves behind five or six times as much in toxic waste that can cause severe health problems or even death," says Skeet.

Skeet says the telltale signs of a methamphetamine lab include:

- unusual smells, such as ammonia, acetone, etc.;
- unusual or apparently excessive amounts of glass containers being brought into the building;
- suspicious trash such as red-stained coffee filters, bed sheets or towels;
- excessive garbage including large numbers of containers for such items as drain cleaner, solvents, lye, iodine.

Police are always on the lookout for such illegal drug production facilities, but can't be in all places at all times. "The best way to stop drug production is for the community and the Police Service to work together," says Skeet. "Citizens know their neighbourhoods the best, and are vital in helping us find and stop these operations."

If you see the signs of marijuana grow operations or methamphetamine labs in your neighbourhood, call the Service's Drug Tip Line, 206-8100, the police non-emergency number, 266-1234 or Crime Stoppers, 1-800- 222-TIPS (8477).

CALGARY POLICE SERVICES

Mayfair/Bel-Aire Community Association

President	Allison Sutton	Beautification & Branding	Glenn Huber
Vice President	Natalie Shields	Skating Rink	Louis Stack
Treasurer	Susan Rubin	Newsletter	Sue Homik
Secretary	Caryl Brunet	Membership	Kathy Benham
Residential Development	Dan Baxter/Margot Willox	Events	Odile Sargent
Interchange	Mark Smith/Bruce Williams	Sports/Clubs	open
E-Mail	Jessica Abt	Seniors/History	George Milne
Signs	Jackie Achtymichuk	Website	open
Street Captains	Jackie Taylor (Bel-Aire) open (Mayfair)	Tennis	Judy LeSourd
		Casino	Deanie Petrunia