

CALGARY Street TALK

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JUNE 2006 VOL. 10 NO. 6

SPARE CHANGE NEWSPAPER



Calgary Street Talk
photo by PAUL DROHAN

4 *real* men and a baby

For the last 14 years CUPS Community Health Centre and the Calgary Stampeders have had a special relationship. It took on even more meaning at this year's annual fundraising breakfast. The Offensive Line under the leadership of CUPS player representative Jay McNeil said they would sponsor the first football game of the year for CUPS and

challenged their teammates to match them. So far Brian Clark accepted the challenge on behalf of the linebackers. Above left to right are some of the line-men: Alexandre Gauthier, Jay McNeil, Jeff Pilon and Taylor Robertson with Shelsea whose mom, Darla, spoke at the breakfast on behalf of CUPS. For more details see Pages 8 to 10.

**Putting
people and
problems in
perspective**

Points to ponder
on Pages 3, 4, 5



**Diaper
dilemma**

CUPS Family Resource
Centre needs large diapers
in a big way.

Details on Page 16

Vendor Code of Conduct

Calgary Street Talk vendors are proud of their newspaper and the people who sell it. They each sign a Code of Conduct that stresses the importance of a high standard in customer service because they realize that the conduct of one affects all the others. On occasion, certain persons obtain copies of *Calgary Street Talk* and sell them without authorization; this can be accompanied by undesirable behaviour. The authorized vendors and the publishers are anxious to eliminate such incidents. If you witness or experience any unacceptable behaviour, please report it directly to the offices of *Calgary Street Talk* at 221-8780.

Vendors Needed

Calgary Street Talk has openings for new vendors. If you are looking for a way to earn money while learning new skills, this is the job for you. We require our vendors to be genuinely interested in working and trying to improve their circumstances. We currently have a number of excellent locations available. For more information, please contact *Calgary Street Talk* at 221-8780.

Top Sellers

Top sales for May was #217 **Carolyn M.** Congratulations! In second place was vendor #02 **Bob B.** and #21 **Jim M.** was in third place.

Vendor Incentive Program

Vendors #09 **Dennis F.** and #68 **Rob C.** are the recipients of the Vendor Incentive Program for May and will receive a \$25 food gift certificate.

We are dependent on supporters to donate to our Vendor Incentive Program. We would like to award a \$25 food gift certificates to one vendor each month to reward initiative or improved sales or to acknowledge participation in the *Calgary Street Talk* Program.

This program is made possible through the generosity of two anonymous donations.

VENDOR BIRTHDAYS in June:

#02 Bob B. - June 2;
#476 Mike H. - June 9.

Vendor enjoys happier times



Photo and text by Paul Drohan, *Calgary Street Talk*

Calgary Street Talk vendor Terry Flamond, centre, had reason to celebrate in early May - his birthday and a new home. Some friends had a party to help him celebrate on May 8. In the photo on the left in the back are Andre Reinders and Brigid Stewart and on the left Alex and Larissa Reinders and in the front on the left are Eva Lam and Hope Reinder and Steve Anderson on the right.

Six years ago Flamond slept on the banks of the Bow River and often was drunk. In the last six years he has always slept with a roof over his head and is sober these days. He chose to make the changes but says he had a lot of help from people like the Reinders who befriended him six years ago. Back then Lam was a volunteer at CUPS who took an interest in Flamond. She doesn't volunteer at CUPS any long but stays in touch with him. Stewart volunteers at CUPS these days and helps support Flamond in his new way of life.

Anderson is one of Flamond's newfound friends who helps him sell papers at 7th Ave and 2nd St. SW. ■

FIBROMYALGIA FIRST STEP & BEYOND SOCIETY OF CANADA (FMFSBSC)

Coalition Partner of the Calgary & District Labour Council

ANNUAL FUNDRAISING GARAGE SALE

9am - 5pm Friday, JULY 7th & Saturday, JULY 8th, 2006
108 Hillary Crescent S.W.

If you can donate good quality household goods, etc. or assist with the sale it would be greatly appreciated.

To arrange for drop off or pick up,
Contact Aloma at 255-9536

Street Talk Distribution

Here is a list of authorized active *Street Talk* vendors, each of whom works his or her own hours. The best time to find one is during the morning, lunch and afternoon rush.

Vendor #1: "Saint"- Pete
17th Avenue & 7th Street SW

#2: Bob Bland
6th Avenue & 2nd Street SW

#4: Mike Abhar
4th Avenue & 1st Street SW (A.M.)
Eau Claire Market (lunch & early P.M.)
6th Avenue & 4th Street SW (late P.M.)

#5: Harley H. 6th Ave. & 1st Street SW

#7: Andie Wolf Leg Kensington

#8: Leonard V.
Safeway, 12th Avenue & 8th Street SW

#9: Dennis Fryklund Kensington

#19: Norm "The Mayor" Mansell
City Hall, 8th Avenue & Macleod Trail SE

#21: Jim M. Bankers Hall

#60: Caroline M. 8th Ave. & 1st Street SW

#68: Rob Champion
Plaza Theatre, Kensington

#130: Vince Montana
Globe and Uptown Theatres

#187: Bruce S.
(underpass) 8 St. & 9 Ave. underpass PM
4 St. & 9 Ave. underpass AM

#190: Shane F. 7th Ave. & 1st St. SW

#242: Eugene M.
7th Avenue & 4th Street SW

#251: Ed G. 5th Ave. & 4th St. SW

#253: Darrell S.

#273: Ray R.
Safeway at 410 - 10th Street NW

#303: Joan Brooks 7 Ave. & 3 St.

#316: Terry Flamond
7th Avenue & 2nd Street SW

#381: Wade A.
9th Avenue & 1st Street SW

#383: Gordon E. 12th Ave. & 14th St. SW

#397: Lois O. 6th Ave. & 4th Street SW

#398: Glen O. 5th Ave. & 3rd Street SW

#400: Robert H.

#406: Ron M. 7th Ave. & 10th Street SW

#420: Kris C.

#431: Bill M. 8th Ave. & 7th Street SW

#442: Steven G. 7th Ave. & 8th St. SW

#466: Phil J. Safeway at Northgate Mall NE

#469: Lenard C.

#476: Michael H.

#480: Lori H. 7 Ave. & 4 St. SW

#493 James Falconer
Co-op 11 Ave. & 11 St. SW

#495: Tasha R.

#498: Corine C. Glamorgan

#499: Eugene F.

CALGARY Street TALK

MAY 2006 VOL. 10 NO. 5
A SPARE CHANGE NEWSPAPER

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The following contributed in some way to this issue:
Mike Abhar, Jon Bateman, Rob Champion, Tade Cregeur, Kathy Houston, Ramona Johnston, Dione McGuinness, Ron Murdock, Stonebridge Capital Corporation, Carolyn Semeniuk, Pete S.

COMMUNITY



HEALTH CENTRE

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Calgary Street Talk welcomes your comments, questions, suggestions and article ideas. Please write or telephone. Letters to the editor are assumed to be for publication, must be signed, must include phone number, and may be edited for length.

Worth Noting...

If you regularly read the contributors list at the top of this column you know that some of our vendors are among our regular contributors. Some contributors such as Ramona Johnston - Vibrant Communities Calgary on Page 6 - write about particular interests. Another, Kathy Houston, is a children's story teller who often has a message for adults, also. Then we have contributors who sponsor features such as the Rubes cartoons which are sponsored by Stonebridge Capital Corporation. Occasionally we publish opinion pieces by Carol Goar, a Toronto Star columnist who about social issues. Gridiron Rathole Drilling underwrites the costs of these columns.

We especially welcome contributions from readers. Tade Cregeur recently read her first issue and was inspired to submit From Plunkett to Poverty on Page 13. Then she felt compelled to respond to comments by Alderman Craig Burrows on Page 5 so she has two pieces in this issue. Carolynn Semeniuk, a journalism instructor and freelance writer, offered to help and her first offering is a feature about Gwen Moncayo which appears on Page 11.

Adjusting the picture

By **PAUL DROHAN**
Editor, Calgary Street Talk

What's wrong with this picture?

Seven officers of the Calgary Police Service - five bicycle officers apparently just starting their patrol and two foot patrolmen - have a 15 minute conversation about 7 a.m. with two men at a downtown C-Train station.

On another day, two CPS officers roust a man off a bench on 7th Ave S.E. After talking to him for less than five minutes, one officer reaches into the man's knapsack, finds a container and pours the liquid onto the sidewalk.

A few weeks before that, city council by a close vote decides to spend a big chunk of \$26 million on more policing downtown.

So what's wrong or at least skewed with this picture? Perspective, that's what's wrong.

First, my perspective is probably somewhat wrong. I don't know why the police officers acted they way they did on those two occasions. I was too far away to hear what was said. I only know what I saw from a distance and for only part of the whole encounter. However, I am sure that if those men had been wearing suits that the police wouldn't have even been talking to them.

During the week I witnessed the police talking with these men there were letters to the editor from people complaining police responses to their calls. I cynically thought that these letter writers should hire one of these men to come hang out in their neighbourhood and then see how fast and how many policemen showed up.

Then there's the part of the picture that deals with city council and \$26 million in tax money. That money was originally taxed by the province for spending on education, as I understand it. Taxed by one level of government for a specific purpose and then spent by another level of government on an entirely different priority, again as I understand it.

And, as I understand it, part of the education picture here in Calgary shows that many city schools are crumbling and there is \$454 million in deferred maintenance and many classrooms no longer have teachers' aides in them. These are many classrooms with students and teachers who would benefit from the presence of a teacher's aide. Maybe if we spent some of that \$26 million on schools today we would have fewer problems downtown tomorrow but that's probably better being another subject.

It's clear that there are undesirable people right smack dab in the heart of the city.

Some are dope addicts. Some sell dope.

Some are drunks. Some are down and out. Some look down and out. Some are a pain in the neck; others have a pain in their neck or somewhere else. At first sight most make people want to look the other way.

There are more acceptable or correct ways to describe these undesirables but this is how they are seen and thought of by too many in our community.

Basically these undesirables fall into three categories: *problem people*, *people with problems* and *problem people with problems*. There are laws to deal with the problem people. Creating special laws or bylaws is not the best way to deal with the other two groups.

A lot of the undesirables are there because society has looked the other way and when it is forced - by their mere existence and presence - to look at them, society doesn't like what it sees and doesn't want to see it.

So we call out the cops - most of whom would probably prefer to be doing real police work. The cops will clear them out - to someone else's backyard - but at least they will be out of sight and out of mind downtown. Makes one think the Calgary solution to dealing with undesirables is as simple as ABC - Anywhere But Calgary.

Cops aren't social workers. However, one of the best ideas that has never been tried did come from a cop. He figured the police are best suited to deal with *problem people* who he said were in the minority. Social workers were best suited to deal with *people with problems* who were in the majority.

His idea was to assign one social worker to four people. The social worker would work with these people for a year or so and then there would be an assessment of what needed to be done next.

Many of the *problem people with problems* have mental health issues. Some used to be in institutions. Years ago it was decided that many would be better as a part of society rather than being kept apart from society. After all there were more effective medications and with proper support and housing these people would do well in the community. Truth is they don't all take their medication or aren't able to get it and there is not enough support or housing.

So many of these people have ended up are on the street wandering or bouncing from one social agency to another.

These people are much more in need of help than to be feared.

If only we could just change that perspective and realize that many of these people are more in need of help than to be feared. . . is that too much to ask? ■

Pumping 26 million dollars into combating crime in the downtown core and proposing a plan to eliminate the free fare zone by adding a \$1 fee to ride in the downtown core are just two of the latest brainstorms to come from city hall during the past month. I can't help but wonder though if these measures are more about cosmetics then they are about actually fighting crime.

I think the most telling statement about the real reason for these spending initiatives from the city comes from Alderman Craig Burrows himself when he said (referring to the elimination of the free fare zone):

'I want to put a token charge on riding the train, maybe a dollar, that will go towards enforcement. We need some sort of toll booth, so only paid customers can get by, and you can't get on any more for free - I'm trying to keep off people who are homeless, with addictions problems, who are bothering other riders.'

I don't know about the rest of you but I'm far more intimidated by the organized crime and growing gang problems that we have in our city than I am by an intoxicated apparently homeless person who is babbling incoherently on the LRT. We have a growing drug trafficking problem in Calgary along with an increase in gang violence and these problems while they have some influence in the downtown core are not limited to that particular area and are much more dangerous to the average Calgarian.

I understand completely that homelessness is not an attractive social problem. It makes people very uncomfortable and can cause a feeling of overwhelming helplessness as the problem continues to grow. It's not a problem with a quick fix solution and it can only be reduced through the combined efforts of many people who contribute in small ways to help individuals solve the problems that bring them to such a situation. However, shuffling the homeless off into the corner under the guise of cleaning up the core is simply not the answer. Eliminating the downtown free fare zone will not benefit anyone, including the business people in our city who travel frequently through the zone during lunch breaks and at other times of the day to access appointments quickly from across town.

Even though I do think this solution is somewhat cosmetic, I'm not saying for a second that there isn't crime, drugs and



From Where I Stand

By JON BATEMAN
For Calgary Street Talk

aggressive panhandling in the downtown core. No doubt there is, but to focus exclusively on this area is perhaps a bit of a misplaced notion. In my opinion, the real growing crimes in our city are in drug production and in the development of organized crime and increased gang activity. Most of the other activity you see within the core is a byproduct of these larger problems, particularly when it comes to the trafficking of drugs.

An increase of police in the core probably will catch more criminal activity but I don't believe this influx of police presence will strike at the root of these crimes. The organized crime, drug production and gang violence is taking place throughout the city in some of the most serene and comfortable neighborhoods we have and what you are seeing in the core is merely one of many outlets where the criminal activity takes place. Perhaps the police will succeed in lessening it in the core, but then I fear another inner city neighborhood would feel the infestation instead.

This is why the implementation of the spending spree from the city and a transit-fee in the free fare zone seems so much like a cosmetic answer to hide the homeless and others from public view then it does a safety measure. I don't believe the core is the most active place in the city for Calgary's major crimes. It seems to me that police have found most of Calgary's grow-ops in suburban areas and many of our city's gang related shootings have taken place elsewhere.

Let's face it, even if aggressive panhandling and the perceived threat of crime is the problem, it will continue to be an issue for as long as there are people standing around in areas waiting for trains and if the panhandlers can't get access to the platform, others in the vicinity will be targeted. The facts are simply that crime isn't likely to lessen in Calgary when the population of our city continues to grow at unprecedented rates.

Cleaning up the core with an increased police presence is a nice idea but I don't think it's worth \$26 million dollars. I just hope these new officers aren't run off their feet following petty crime and freeing up LRT space while the more severe crimes grow in our seemingly quiet and peaceful suburban neighborhoods. ■

Do we need protection from Guardian Angels?

There is no question that along 7th Avenue, particularly at the C-Train stations and the cul-de-sac in front of the St. Louis Hotel have problems with drug dealers. But of late with Calgary police making their presence known along 7th Avenue along with transit officers making the rounds at the C-Train platforms, won't that be enough to eliminate criminal activity in the downtown core? Or, will it just move to another part of Calgary? Whatever the case is, it is time to start dealing with crime wherever it is so citizens of Calgary can feel safe outside any time of the day anywhere in the city.

When the announcement came that the Guardian Angels were setting up shop in Calgary, I wondered if they will be instrumental in eliminating drug and gang activity in the downtown core. Over a two-day period I asked people what they thought of the Guardian Angels coming to Calgary. Everyone I asked was middle-aged and worked in offices or as security guards.

Most were apprehensive or uneasy about the Guardian Angels coming in. Questions were asked whether they would co-operate with Calgary police or bring in a vigilante style justice. Others were afraid that Guardian Angels may be little more than bullies



RON MURDOCK...reporting from the streets that will get in the faces of those doing legitimate street work. One felt that the Guardian Angels would

fink on anyone to higher authorities. They went on to say one reason Guardian Angels were coming to Calgary was because of the slow response time of the Calgary police in dealing with calls.

Others were fine, if not enthused, with the arrival of the Guardian Angels but they were in the minority of the people I spoke with. I was told that Calgary today is supposed to be as bad as New York City was in 1989. Somehow I find this hard to believe as NYC is much more populated than Calgary at any time in history. One woman was looking forward to the Guardian Angels coming in but wanted to find out more about them.

Myself, I would like to see the Guardian Angels given a six month trial period, just to see what difference they if any they would make. If the Guardian Angels co-operate with the police and other security firms, fine. If the Guardian Angels are there to observe and report more than getting involved, fine. In either case I don't have a problem. As a vendor for Street Talk, I wonder about the Guardian Angels response to others in my position such as other vendors, street musicians and so on. It might just depend on who gets selected as members of the local Guardian Angels. ■

Alderman Burrows infuriates reader

By **TADE CREDGEUR**
(For Calgary Street Talk)

Truth be known, I don't full understand what an alderman is or what job descriptions they are provided with when they get hired. What I would like to believe is that they are the best people that the city has to offer to provide extra-ordinary vision and strategy to the thriving community we call Calgary.

This is why I was truly taken back when my radio alarm was broadcasting Alderman Craig Burrows on the CBC Radio's Eye Opener program, and his language was completely contradictory to what I believed.

At first, it was wonderful to hear passion in his voice. A good leader in the

community should be passionate.

But then, I heard his message. I'm sure that many people, sympathetic to the plight of others who have had less fortunate trials in life, may have been appalled by his message. His rant started with comments on how we should start charging people to use the downtown LRT to decrease the number of homeless who ride it, and it continued on to suggest that once people are kicked out of the Calgary Drop In Centre they should get out and clean the parks. I'm sure these comments really upset those who work in the social services, and those who are trying to create policy change that is productive, rather than counter-productive.

But my disappointment was in the lan-

guage he used. "THEY are intimidating to even me and I am over 200 pounds." "THEY are not victims but aggressive predators. THEY are trying to get OUR money."

So it's us against them hey? Or, am I one of them? Maybe one day I will be, and then what? Do I get a ribbon on my arm and told to move across enemy lines?

I simply do not understand why the leaders and visionaries of this great city would use language that segregates and fails to be inclusive. Shouldn't they see the big picture of our community as a whole? But like I said, I have never seen his job description so maybe he was told conquer and divide - us vs. them.

In the end, you have to feel bad for

the guy. I'm an average-sized female, who lives and works in the Beltline and I'm doing alright. Poor Alderman Craig Burrows is over 200 pounds, male, and is intimidated by strangers asking him questions when he is downtown during the day. It is probably for the best that the poor dear lives in the burbs... but maybe it would be better if he only commented on what happens out there? ■

(This is one of two articles in this issue by Tade Credgeur, a new reader of Calgary Street Talk. She had already submitted an article which appears on Page 13 when she was moved to write this opinion column in response to comments by Alderman Craig Burrows.)

211

Community Connection

Three numbers are
changing a lot of lives

Just by dialing 2-1-1 Calgarians can get information about the complete network of care in Calgary, including more than 4,000 community, social and related government services.

211 is free, confidential, and multilingual, offering assistance in more than 150 languages.

211 service is available 24 hours a day.

Last year more than 30,000 callers found the help they needed by calling 211.



VIBRANT Communities Calgary

BY RAMONA JOHNSTON

Summer recreation on a limited budget

Do you think summer is only about longer days, warmer weather and lounging in the sun?

Unfortunately, for thousands of Calgarians summer presents a number of challenges. Not everybody can afford recreational and leisure programs – and with school getting out, many low-income families are scrambling to find inexpensive summer activities for their children.

Thankfully, Calgary provides many accessible low-cost alternatives to avoid such an issue and addressing barriers to participation in recreation and leisure activities for low-income families has become a priority for many local groups and organizations including the City of Calgary.

“We understand the rewards of recreation and leisure opportunities, and recognize the contribution to quality of life that participation offers,” says Barry Strangward, manager of business services

in the city’s recreation department.

There are a number of proven benefits related to participation in recreation activities including improved mental and physical health and well-being, skills development and social inclusion.

Research has also shown positive links between recreation and youth development through higher self-esteem, sportsmanship, academic improvements and prevention of high risk behaviors such as drug and alcohol use.

“We also recognize many low-income Calgarians do not have the means to take advantage of city programs and facilities so we developed the Fee Assistance program,” says Strangward.

Fee Assistance is available to residents of Calgary who are in financial need to access recreation programs and admissions at a reduced rate.

“Essentially, the program allows any Calgarian, deemed eligible, affordable access to our recreation facilities and

services,” says Strangward. “In 2005, nearly 5,500 families, representing about 15,000 Calgarians, took advantage and enrolled in the program.”

In developing the program, feedback from low-income individuals suggested they really appreciated the opportunity to access city leisure and recreation but did not want everything for free.

“We were told by customers that they would prefer to pay reduced registration and admission fees,” continues Strangward. “They wanted to be able to contribute what they could.”

With Fee Assistance, admission prices at city facilities are 10 percent of the regular cost. For example, admission at a city pool is \$4.50; an individual on the Fee Assistance program would pay just 45 cents. A variety of programs offered by the city are also covered by Fee Assistance. Children can register in four city programs per year and adults one per year, also at 10 percent of the regular

cost.

To qualify for Fee Assistance customers must be residents of Calgary and provide proof of financial need. Applying is simple and proof of eligibility can be easily confirmed from a variety of sources including, but not limited to, a current copy of a Canada Revenue Agency “Notice of Assessment” or Health Benefits Card from any AISH or Alberta Works program. Once approved, customers will receive a Fee Assistance card that they can use at any city facility including pools, leisure centres and golf courses, or at any civic partner in the program.

“The program continues to expand year by year and we only see it getting bigger,” says Strangward. “We now have a number of Fee Assistance partners including the Calgary Zoo, Science Centre, Fort Calgary, Heritage Park and the Talisman Centre, and continue to

■ see *SUMMER RECREATION...* on page 15

Fee Assistance for Facility Admissions

Listed below is a summary of City of Calgary facilities, participating agencies and contact numbers. Subsidy rates may vary from agency to agency and customers are responsible for paying the full amount of the Registration Fee over the maximum subsidy.

THE CITY OF CALGARY

Indoor pools

Customer pays 25% of the GENERAL ADMISSION drop in rate. Also, Adult Annual pass where customer pays 50% of the Adult Annual pass fee.

311

Leisure centers

Customer pays 25% of the GENERAL ADMISSION drop in rate.

311

Golf courses

Rates vary by Golf Course. Contact the individual Golf Course for details. 10 admissions at the FA rate available.

311

Registered programs

Fee Assistance does not cover any supplies, equipment, costs or pre/post care not included in the Registration fee.

Children - 4 programs per year.

Customer pays 10% of the registration fee to a maximum subsidy of \$50 for Fall/Winter/Spring and \$100/summer. Adult - 1 program per year. To a maximum subsidy of \$50.

268-3800 for information.

Registration in- person only.

CARDEL PLACE

Customer pays 50% of general admission and 50% of annual pass rates.

Registered programs-customer pays 50%.

532-1013

CALGARY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Client must show identification with current address at time of application. Teens require a parent’s signature on the Cardholder Application.

FA Card can be used as proof of eligibility

to receive one free library card per year.

260-2600

TELUS WORLD OF SCIENCE

Customer receives one admission at no charge.

268-8300

CALGARY ZOO

Customer receives 3 free passes to access the Zoo.

232-9300

FORT CALGARY

Customer pays 25% of the GENERAL ADMISSION drop in rate.

290-1875

HERITAGE PARK

Customer pays 23% of the GENERAL ADMISSION day rate plus GST. Also applies to admissions with rides.

268-8500

ROTARY CHALLENGER PARK

Customer pays 50% of the Program rate. Check with the Park for details.

250-2707

SOUTH FISH CREEK RECREATION ASSOCIATION

Customer pays 25% of the General Admissions rate and receives a subsidy on Program Registration.

201-8652

TALISMAN CENTRE

Customer pays 55% of the full price.

233-8393

VRRI (Vocational Rehabilitation & Research Institute)

(403) 284-2231

Rates vary. Contact VRRI for details.

Please Note:

- The Fee Assistance card cannot be used in conjunction with any other special promotions or fee reductions.
- The Fee Assistance rates may only be available at certain times. Contact the facility for a schedule of hours.
- Fee assistance admission rates may change without notice. ■

Teammates pick McNEIL as top leader

Photo and Story
By PAUL DROHAN
Calgary Street Talk

For the last 12 years, Jay McNeil watched as various teammates each year were singled out one at a time as the leader most worthy of a player's respect for that year.

Over those years he shared a locker room with them, stood on the sidelines with them and played his heart out on the field with them. Together they won Grey Cups. They lost close games or were embarrassed by a blowout score. He's experienced the joy of victory; the heart-break of defeat. He's learned what it means to "suck it up" or "step up" or "show up" and probably to shut up when he didn't agree with the way things were going off the field in the front office.

Along the way he learned what it takes to be a leader on and off the field. He's had some good teachers, he said.

This year he was the leader that his teammates picked as most worthy of their respect. On May 11 he received the President's Ring at a luncheon at the Telus Convention Centre. At the end of each season players vote for the player who demonstrates exceptional motivational and leadership skills on and off the field.

"What a tremendous honour it was to receive this award. I have been to these events in the past and now to be the recipient is something that I am extremely proud and grateful for," McNeil said.

He wouldn't have gotten the award if he had been a more motivating leader 12 years ago. In his rookie season he made a pact with another player that if the going got too tough they would pack it in - if one left the other would also. Finally the grueling practices and initiation into professional football got too much for McNeil. However, his partner didn't realize that McNeil was serious about leaving. So in the end neither quit the team. McNeil said that experience taught him a lesson about how to face adversity and difficulties in a way that benefits him.

McNeil said he learned that a Stampeders has status in the community and with that comes responsibility. "First and foremost we have influence, like it or not, so if we can do anything to help out that is fantastic. Secondly we get support from the community so you want to support those who support you as well." McNeil has strong interest in children which became stronger after the birth of his son, Cuyler, on Christmas Day in 2003. "Children are

the future and so you want to have a positive impact."

In addition to being the Stampeders player representative to CUPS, McNeil has been involved with Wordfest which supports literacy, education and the arts and the Cardio Rehab program at the Talisman Centre and represented the Stampeders at a number of community activities.

Jeff Pilon, who is entering his sixth year on the offensive line with McNeil, said McNeil is "a true Stampeders. He bleeds red. He gives his all to the team and community and deserves this award."

A newcomer, Godfrey Ellis, sees McNeil as a leader. McNeil took the rookie centre under his wing last year when regular centre Jamie Crysedale was injured.

"Jay helped me adjust to the centre position. Jay didn't have to do it but he just stepped up... that is the kind of guy he is. He was not angry with me when I made a mistake."

McNeil leads by example and action, Ellis said. "He just takes on way more than he has to, but that is what a leader does. He takes everybody and carries them on his shoulders."

Scott Coe, a defensive linebacker, said that players really respect McNeil. "He can take control of the locker room and not a lot of guys have that quality where they can stand up in a locker room and say something and everybody is going to be



HAPPY DAY - May 11 was a big day for the Jay McNeil family. The Calgary Stampeders lineman received the President's Ring for his leadership on and off the field. His wife Tara and son Cuyler share his excitement.

on the edge of their seat and listening."

McNeil is a good example with respect to community responsibility, Coe said. "Jay is always out there and is someone that a young player such as myself can look up to and see that you have a commitment to give back in the city where you are playing."

Coach Tom Higgins has seen McNeil from near and afar.

Higgins was part of the Calgary Stampeders organization that drafted McNeil in 1994 but then he left for the Edmonton Eskimos where Higgins watched McNeil for 11 years.

From afar Higgins could see that McNeil played well on the field. But coming back to the Stampeders last year gave Higgins the chance to see the whole McNeil. "Being here all last year I came to under-

stand that he is the complete package. He has all his priorities straight. He understands that it is family, your beliefs and then whatever else you do and he happens to be a professional football player."

"He is very deserving of the fact that his teammates overwhelmingly decided he should be President's Ring winner. His teammates understand what he does for the football team but also the community."

Ted Hellard, one of the team's owners, said the award reflects how highly McNeil is regarded for his play and what he does in the community. "The President's Ring winner is elected by the players and they are looking beyond just football. They look at the player who contributes the most both on and off the field in the community." ■



MUTUAL ATTRACTION - Five-month-old Shelsea seems much more interested in Sharol Josephson, CTV news anchor and co-emcee of the breakfast, than the \$45,100 cheque. From left to right are Josephson, Darla, Shelsea's mom, Dr. Sandy de la Ronde of the CUPS Women's Health Clinic and Brian Schmidt, president of Apache Canada Ltd. which sponsored the breakfast.



About 700 people at the breakfast heard commitment and that of the team to



NOW AND THEN - Calgary Stampeders from today and yesterday's teams were represented at the breakfast. Left to right are quarterback Henry Burris and lineman Jay McNeil from this year's team and past stars Sugarfoot Anderson and Bernie Morrison.



SCOTT STEALS SHOW - Again this year with longtime CUPS supporter Christopher promptly donated to CUPS which earned

Stamps-Apache breakfast real GOOD for CUPS

Photos and Story
By PAUL DROHAN
Calgary Street Talk

Those who attended the recent fundraising breakfast for CUPS Community Health Centre could feel good for a number of reasons.

They could feel good because it the 14th annual CUPS/Calgary Stampeder Kickoff Breakfast sponsored by Apache Canada Ltd. and emceed by Sharol Jospelson of CTV and Jay McNeil of the Calgary Stampeders was a success for a number of reasons.

They could feel good because the breakfast helped raise funds and awareness for CUPS Community Health Centre and its various programs to help those living in poverty. These programs include a full range of health care services and emergency dental care, outreach and crisis counseling, showers, family resource centre, referrals to other agencies and self-employment through selling Calgary Street Talk.

They could feel good because they heard

poignant proof that with support people can turn their lives around. Darla, a young mother, outlined in a general way what her life used to be like when she was on the streets and using drugs and what it is like now and how CUPS helped her resurrect her life.

They could feel good because they could see that individuals who care enough to be personally involved can make a difference. Christy Hall received the Giving Wings to the Dream award which recognizes those whose contributions help CUPS in its work. Hall spearheaded a number of projects to benefit CUPS when she was associated with Gowling Lafleur Henderson.

They could feel good because they were experiencing the power of community when various parts of a community share their expertise and strengths. In this case it is corporate Calgary, a professional sports franchise and a non-profit agency. See Page 10 for a list of those who contributed in various and significant ways to the breakfast.

They could feel good because once again the Hyatt Regency Calgary – a staunch supporter of CUPS throughout the year – served up a great breakfast to the 700 who packed the Imperial Room.

They could feel good because of the fun and excitement generated by the antics of Calgary Stampeder linebacker Scott Coe during the auction. Coe set his sights on longtime CUPS supporter Chris Slubicki of Scotia Waterous. With Coe's encouragement Slubicki won the bidding for a pair of tickets to Cirque du Soleil which Slubicki immediately donated to CUPS. The auction, raffles and 50-50 draw generated \$18,878.

They could feel good because some of the players stepped up to become game day sponsors. McNeil, the CUPS player representative, and his teammates on the Stampeder offensive line will sponsor the first home game of the season. McNeil challenged other players to match the offensive line who will contribute \$50 for each point scored by the Stamps against B.C. Lions on June 8. Brian Clark, speaking for the linebackers, said they would match the offensive line. See Page 10 for a complete list of game day sponsors who each pay at least \$50 for each point the Stamps score the game being sponsored. ■



Tom Higgins, Stampeder coach, talk about his personal supporting CUPS Community Health Centre.



Scott Coe turned the auction portion of the program into his own personal floor show. This year he teamed up Slubicki of Scotia Waterous to make the winning bid on a pair of tickets to Cirque du Soleil which Slubicki applause from Coe and everyone else.





CUPS AWARD – Christy Hall is the 2006 recipient of the CUPS Giving Wings to the Dream award which is presented at the CUPS/Calgary Stampede Kickoff Breakfast to a person in recognition of their support for CUPS Community Health Centre. Hall's support came in large part through her association with Gowling Lafleur Henderson. Above left to right are Ken Warren of Gowling Lafleur Henderson, Hall, Carlene Donnelly, executive director of CUPS and Michael Lang, chair of the CUPS board of directors.

Apache employees raise \$2,657 before breakfast

By **DIONE McGUINNESS**
(For Calgary Street Talk)

Each year the employees at Apache Canada Ltd. look forward to an annual fundraiser in support of CUPS. Along with this corporate initiative, Apache personnel take part in an employee awareness campaign. For this year's campaign, volunteers secured prize donations from over 20 vendors, and these were then offered as draw prizes in a raffle. As a new addition to the annual raffle, this year boxes were set up on each floor for personnel to bring in donations of various clothing items and general supplies. Apache employees were also directed to the corporate intranet website to learn more about CUPS, and increase awareness about their activities.

In total, ticket sales for the raffle raised \$2,657, and numerous valuable items were collected for distribution to CUPS. One volunteer remarked, "It's so great to be a part of such a worthwhile cause – we can't wait to do it again next year!" ■

SERVICES & DONATIONS

Akita Drilling
Apache Canada Ltd.
ATH Services Inc.
Boland, J. Stuart
Burris, Henry
Calgary Stampeder Football Club
Carpenter, Sandy
Casey and Associates
Coe, Scott
Cougar Tool Inc.
Datum Exploration Ltd
Demong Professional Corporation
Downtown Drugmart, Hanif Mulji
Engel, Virginia
Eslinger, Llyle
Esprit Exploration Ltd.
Explorer Software Solutions Ltd
Fekete Associates Inc.
Fluor Canada
Goodfellas Delivery Inc.
Grace, John
Great Northern Data Supply Co. Ltd.
Higgins, Tom
Johnson, Amy
Kaufman, Cielia
Mayr, Amber
Maurer, Dwayne
McNally, Steve
McNeil, Jay
Megatrains Inc
Melchior, Lorraine & Ron

Thank you from CUPS

The 2006 CUPS/Calgary Stampede Kickoff Breakfast sponsored by Apache Canada Ltd. was a success thanks to the contributions of a number of organizations, companies and individuals. About 700 people attended the breakfast May 19 at the Hyatt Regency Calgary. CUPS Community Health Centre deeply appreciates their support for its vital work and services for those living in poverty in our community. It is the generous actions in various ways by those listed on this page who help to make Calgary a caring community.

The following four companies made significant contributions to the 2006 CUPS/Stampede Kickoff Breakfast.

Hyatt Regency Calgary
PSAV Presentation

Nabors Drilling
RBC Foundation

Michener Allen Auctioning
Oreston, Wayne
PetroTech Printing
PSAV Presentation Services
Parent, Ken
Pikov, Stephen
Scott Land and Lease Ltd.
Stephen, Mark
Toombs KWA
Total Oilfield Rentals/Chinook Drilling
Wray, Lucian

2006 CALGARY STAMPEDER GAME DAY SPONSORS

The following will each sponsor one of the 10 Calgary Stampeder home games this year. They will contribute at least \$50 for each point the Calgary Stampede score in the sponsored game. Last season sponsors contributed \$17,500 to CUPS.

This year's sponsors include:

Offensive Line players, Calgary Stampede;
ARC Resources;
Apache Canada Ltd.;
BMO Bank of Montreal;
Gilbert Lautsen Jung Associates;
Gridiron Rathole Drilling;
Hyatt Regency Calgary
Petro-Tech Printing;
Precision Drilling;
Titan, a Trinidad Drilling Company.

AUCTION & RAFFLE

An auction and raffle of various items raised \$16,445 at the CUPS/Stampeder Kickoff Breakfast. Those who contributed auction or raffle items include:

Alliance Tubulars and Service Ltd.;
Calgary Stampeder Football Club;
Crape Geomatics Corporation;
Crest Energy Consultants;
Earth Signal Processing Ltd.;
Hyatt Regency Calgary;
M&M Meat Shops;
Nusco Supply and Manufacturing Inc.;
Pajak Engineering Ltd.;
Stamps Store;
United Safety. ■

Nurse on road to good health

By CAROLYNN SEMENIUK
(For Calgary Street Talk)

For nurse practitioner Gwen Moncayo, the road to Reykjavik, Iceland is just 20.8 km long. While that distance may seem short, the journey is immeasurable, demanding commitment, discipline and more than a little bit of tenacity.

Moncayo is one of 275 Canadians taking part in the Reykjavik marathon on Aug. 19 as a member of Team Diabetes. The team is a fundraising initiative by the Canadian Diabetes Association which covers some of the travel and accommodation expenses for members who go to road races around the world. This year, Team Diabetes will journey to marathons in Honolulu, Dublin, Rome, New York and Reykjavik.

Free travel to races in exciting destinations is an incredible opportunity, but there is a catch or two. First, Moncayo and each of her team mates must raise a minimum of \$6,100 for the Canadian Diabetes Association prior to the race. Second, team members have to train and run a considerable distance. Competitors can take part in a full 43 km marathon, 20.8 km half marathon or a 10 km race. Moncayo has elected to run in the half marathon.

Before committing to this race, Moncayo had not been a runner. Caring for her three young sons, keeping up with their busy family life and working two days per week as a nurse practitioner at CUPS felt like more than enough on her plate. In January, when Moncayo started training for Team Diabetes running five days per week, she realized having time for exercise in her life was simply a matter of making time.

"Not having time is not an excuse," she says. "I'm making it a priority and so can you."

Moncayo has even managed to stay motivated despite a serious setback. In February, she contracted bronchial pneumonia and was sick for a month. Although she's still feeling the effects of the illness, she is back on her training schedule and thinking ahead to August.

One of Moncayo's greatest challenges being part of Team Diabetes has been the fundraising.

"\$6,100 is mighty daunting," she says.

Her first experience with fund raising was a scrapbook party that required hours and hours of work for Moncayo, and netted just \$400.

"I thought 'what am I doing? I should have just done a 10 km race in Kamloops.'"

After this discouraging start, Moncayo drew on her own experience to come up with a winning plan for fundraising. She decided to hold a family dinner and dance with a silent auction in Strathmore, where she lives. Local small business and home-based business owners donated generously for prizes, so the

silent auction and the well-attended dinner and dance were a success. In the end, the event raised over \$3,000 towards Moncayo's goal. The remainder of the money was donated by her friends, family and co-workers.

"It's easy when you have diabetic kids in the family."

These diabetic kids, Moncayo's seven-year-old niece Jannessa and 11-year-old nephew Jordan, have both been insulin dependant diabetics for the past six years. It's a condition that dictates much of their daily life. Jannessa and Jordan have to test their blood sugar levels six times a day and inject themselves with insulin three times per day. They have to count their carbohydrates, monitor their activity levels and adjust their insulin and carbohydrate intake accordingly. Observing the challenges of her niece and nephew's lives has been a source of inspiration for Moncayo in fundraising for diabetes research.

"There has been some progress towards an improvement in quality of life for kids like Jannessa and Jordan which includes pancreatic islet transplants, nasal spray insulin, etc." Moncayo said in a fundraising letter sent to her co-workers. "Here's hoping that some of the research will find a cure within their lifetime."

Another big motivation for Moncayo to train for this race is her work as a nurse practitioner at CUPS. Moncayo believes the role of nurse practitioners in the health care system is the prevention end of care.

"Every day I see diabetics, people who need to quit smoking, loose weight, manage their addictions...If I'm talking to someone and telling them they've got to find the time in their day to get this exercise in, I'd better be doing it too."

If scientists announced they had the answer for people to feel healthier, manage depression, help with addiction, and assist in control weight, and they were selling this in a pill form, it would be a top seller, says Moncayo. It turns out the answer to addressing many health issues is exercise. It's not easy to do, but the benefits are substantial.

Moncayo has already felt the benefits of her exercise regimen. She's shed some weight and finds she even sleeps better at night. Best of all, Moncayo says her commitment to run the half marathon in Iceland for Team Diabetes has put her in a place to be a positive influence on those around her.

"I want to demonstrate that a busy wife, mother of three young boys, friend and nurse practitioner can find the time to create a healthy balance in her life. When I accomplish this goal, I'll be in a perfect position to impact many people with my example, including Dion, Thomas and Mateo (my boys).

To make a donation to Moncayo's fundraising mission for the Canadian Diabetes Association contact her at gwenmoncayo@yahoo.com. ■



Calgary Street Talk Photo by PAUL DROHAN
Gwen Moncayo . . . working out for marathon

Cycling for kindness

Photo and Story
By PAUL DROHAN
Calgary Street Talk

One night last September, Tracy Persson, 37, a Grande Prairie housewife watched the news on TV. She watched the news most nights but this night was different.

There was an item about a missing girl. "There had been a lot on the news about child pornography."

Then there was coverage about Habitat for Humanity helping to rebuild in the southern U.S. Gulf states after Hurricane Katrina and the Tsunami in Thailand and Indonesia.

Both stories touched her. She decided to do something to help Beyond Borders which fights against child abuse and child endangerment and Habitat for Humanity.

In the Grande Prairie area she found out that Habitat for Humanity is able to build only every few years and there was a waiting list of about 30 families.

She decided she wanted to raise money and awareness for both causes by cycling to Ottawa. Knowing what she wanted to do was one thing. Realizing what it would take was another.

"Back then I was a smoker. So I had to throw the cigarettes away first. I didn't say I was going to do the trip out loud for about four months until I knew I was committed to quitting smoking. When I quit I put on 20 pounds but I actually feel a hundred times better than I did five years ago."

Her husband's reaction surprised her. "I thought he would chuckle and say yeah okay honey but he jumped right on board the second that I said I was going to do it. He has been a total support all the way," Tracy said.

Her husband, Kelly, contacted family, friends and business associates to get support. Then he signed up to go to gym with Tracy. "When I hit a low period he tells me I can do it and pats me on the back when I achieve it."

An already strong marriage became just that much better, she said.

She has also been encouraged by the response she received. When she stopped in Calgary May 7, Jamie Crysdale, a business associate of her husband, not only supplied souvenir T-shirts to sell to raise more money but the recently retired Calgary Stampeders got quarterback Henry Burris and lineman



SUPPORT – Tracy Persson stopped off at McMahon Stadium in early May on her cycling marathon to Ottawa. Former Calgary Stampeders Jamie Crysdale through his company, Gridiron Rathole Drilling, was supporting her efforts. Quarterback Henry Burris and lineman Jeff Pilon said they came out to encourage her effort.

Jeff Pilon to come out to wish Tracy well.

Burris said: "When I heard she was riding Grande Prairie to Ottawa I had to come out to meet someone who is putting in that kind of effort. It certainly shows great focus on the goal at hand."

Pilon echoed his comments.

"Anyone who can bike that far to protect kids deserves support. I am going to be a dad in October and so I really support efforts to help kids. It takes some serious mind over matter to be able to be on a bike that long. It just blows my mind when I think of weather and distance."

Tracy hopes to complete the 4,200 km by the time you are reading this – in early June. She left May 1. The trip home will be quicker and smoother – a five hour flight from Toronto.

Tracy said this kind of response was encouraging.

"We have gotten awesome response because it has to do with children ... right now with what is going on with child pornography and the Internet rings ... it really hits you right in the pit of your stomach."

At the same time last fall there was also

news about the 25th anniversary of the Terry Fox run. "I am in awe of him and his accomplishment. I figured bicycling would be easier than running. I didn't realize how naïve I was about cycling and the extreme amount of training and work that is involved."

She already had a few bumps and bruises when she arrived in Calgary at the end of her first week on the road. "I am adjusting and haven't had any falls so far."

Each day is different. She put in 10 hours and covered 197 km on the first day. That's not a typical day thought. "I think a lot of that was adrenalin." On the second day she did about six hours. She figured she would fall into a pattern of a long day (10 hours) followed by a short day five or six hours.

In addition to her husband, her son Tyler, 16, and daughter, Mackenzie, 5, came along. Tyler left the marathon after two weeks to return to school. The family puppy, Sabrina, will have its own memories from the trip – an encounter with ticks in Brandon, Manitoba.

The family support helped early on. "I had a few hours where she wanted to

shed a tear because of pain in legs and stuff. Then a minute later I would get exhilarated again and think of the cause. The amount of support has been unreal." In the first seven days over \$22,000 had been pledged or donated. By the end of May, 127 contributors had donated \$28,431 towards her \$150,000 goal.

There's another payoff: what she has learned.

"The biggest lesson is that you don't have to be a sports star or famous – they do wonderful work for charity but anyone can get out there and work for charity and do something to help somebody else."

Kelly said he is really proud of his wife. "She has shown me that she is lot stronger than I thought. I knew she was strong. For someone who smoked 15 years to quit and take on a task like this she deserves lot of credit. Our families and communities are proud of her." ■ (Tracy Persson will continue to solicit donations and signatures for her petition even after the marathon. Go to www.cycle4kindness.com for more information.)

From Plunkett to poverty

By TADE CREdgeUR
(For Calgary Street Talk)

I picked up my first issue of Street Talk in May and it overwhelmed me. I remembered thoughts I had a kid growing up in Plunkett Saskatchewan.

Plunkett is a village in central Saskatchewan (population 43. It's 44 when I go home and 45 if my sister is there for a visit as well). Life in a small town in the prairies sucks, or so I thought back then. Now I recognize it was four, paved streets of safety, peacefulness, and community.

At the age of 11 my family drove to Edmonton to vacation at the West Edmonton Mall. On that trip I witnessed something completely unimaginable. There was a man lying in the street and people were walking right by him! I wondered if he was dead or injured or sick?

I couldn't walk down the sidewalk in Plunkett without every nosey person in town stopping to ask how I was and what I was up to. Omnipresent and annoying for a kid looking to find any adventurous path to trouble available, but a grateful presence when the chain came off my bike or when I scrapped my knee. There was always someone there to pick me up, but even though he was surrounded by people, no one was there to pick up that man.

Mom and dad wouldn't let me out of the car to go and help him. Not that they didn't feel as compelled to as I did, but they were more cognizant of the 'rules' of the city around us. I've never been much of a 'rule' follower, and that is why I'm still wondering why no one has picked that man up.

I see him everywhere now. I've since lived in Calgary, England, Scotland, and Mexico. I've traveled through India, Africa, and Brazil. I walk by him everywhere I go. And every time I walk by him, I realize that he is not as dead or injured or sick as my spirit has become for not stopping and picking him up.

Thanks for listening. I wanted to share that with you after picking up my first copy of Calgary Street Talk. ■

(This is one of two articles in this issue by Tade Credgeur, a new reader of Calgary Street Talk. She had already submitted this article when she was moved to write this opinion column which appears on Page 5 in response to comments by Alderman Craig Burrows.)



Calgary Street Talk photo by PAUL DROHAN

Megan Jenkinson and Nicki Irwin helped collect socks to donate to CUPS.

Students sock it to CUPS

After seeing some homeless people, two seven-year-olds wanted to do something to help them.

Megan Jenkinson and Nicki Irwin, who go to Elbow Park School, talked to their teacher who helped organize an assembly. Tanya Hossli, CUPS volunteer and special projects coordinator, spoke at the assembly. She told students about CUPS and the people it serves and their needs. CUPS helps

people make the transition from poverty to stability, she told the students. Founded on the principle that all people have an inherent right to lead a life of dignity, equality and respect, CUPS is a safe, warm and welcoming environment free of judgment and rejection, Hossli said.

The students organized the sock drive which resulted in a donation of about 900 pairs of socks to CUPS. ■



*"We pay a non-living wage.
If you're dead, it should just about cover your expenses."*

Summer Recreation

■ continued from page 6

look for opportunities to collaborate with community-run organizations.”

Strangward adds that the city is continually reviewing the program and looking at ways to address any barriers they may have initially overlooked.

“Although we are experiencing great success, we know the market for this is bigger,” says Strangward. “We continue to be active in looking for ways to get the message out that this program is available and easily accessible.”

Strangward reminds people that the summertime is also a good time of year for a variety of free activities at locations around the city like Olympic Plaza, and that many community-based agencies offer low cost or free programs and services throughout the summer to meet the needs of low-income Calgarians – organizations such as the Boys and Girls Clubs of Calgary, the YMCA and YWCA. For example, the Women’s Centre of Calgary offers free Girl Power camps for girls aged 11 to 16 years.

Calgary and area Community Resource Centres, located all across the city, offer a wide range of activities that cater to parents, youth and families – many of them for free. Everything from Moms and Tots programs to barbecues to self-care and health programs for young girls are available in communities throughout the city.

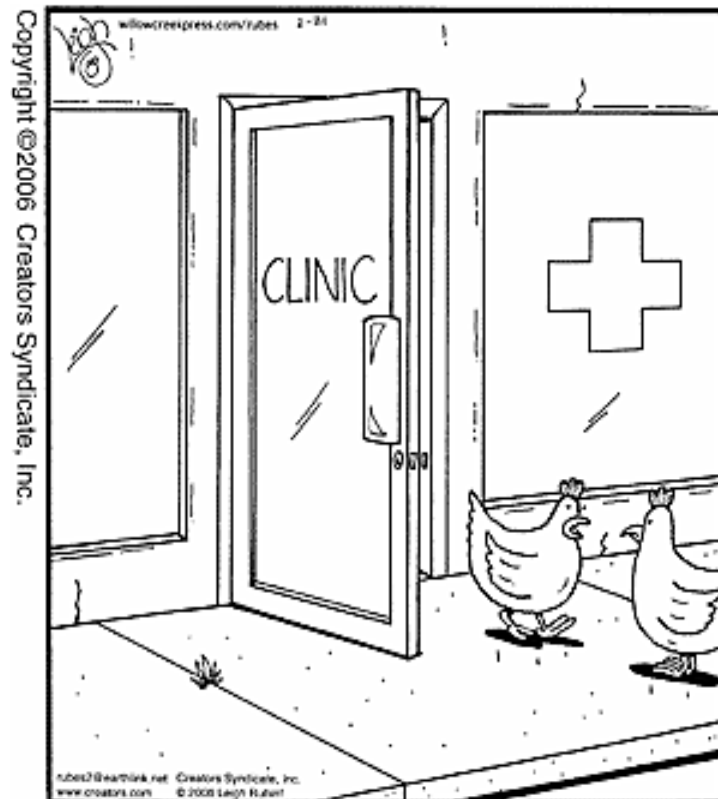
Understandably, it can be complicated and frustrating accessing the countless resources available in Calgary. Sometimes it can be difficult even knowing where to start. Fortunately, access to information on more than 4,000 community, social and government services is just a phone call away. To find out more information on the free and low-cost services available across the city, people are encouraged to call 2-1-1, a free, confidential, multilingual information and referral service available to Calgarians 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

For city services, citizens can call 3-1-1, a municipal phone service that provides convenient access to city information and services including the Fee Assistance program. Calling 3-1-1 also provides the opportunity to offer any feedback, make suggestions on improvements or to put in a request for additional services people would like to see included in the program. Information on the Fee Assistance program can also be found at www.calgary.ca. ■

(Ramona Johnston is Manager of Vibrant Communities Calgary, a local non-profit poverty-reduction organization.)



"Son, it looks like our next cattle-driving lesson will be on braking under emergency situations."



"Good news. The doctor gave me a flu shot and told me there's no reason I shouldn't remain perfectly healthy right up until I'm broiled, barbecued or kung paoed."

The comic feature Rubes is sponsored by **STONEBRIDGE MERCHANT CAPITAL CORP.**

The Giggle Giggles



KATHY HOUSTON ...
the story teller

Have you ever seen or heard the Giggle Giggles?

Well, maybe you have, but just don't know it. Maybe it would help if I told you something about them.

The males are deep green and cream and are shaped like two space ships, one of them upside down. On top of their heads is a red star with blue tubes, six of them, I think. They usually talk in twitters.

When the female lays her eggs on the ground,

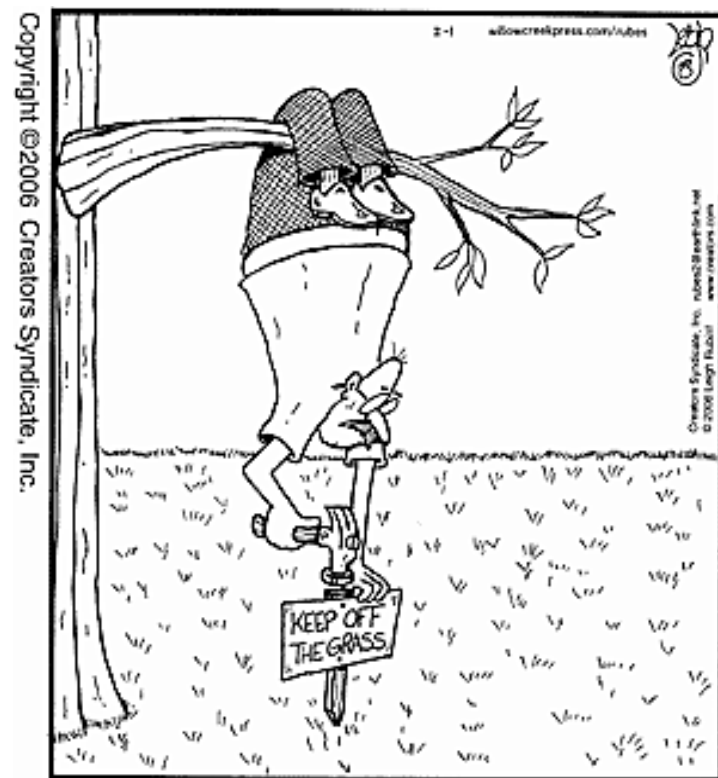
the male jumps on them and covers them with sparkling webbing, which drips out of his blue tubes. And, yes, I'm sorry to say, sometimes the males break the eggs – by mistake of course.

Usually the females have pink and purple bodies the same shape as the males, but they have the ability to change shape so that they can melt into their surroundings. When she lays her two pearly eggs, each containing at least 20 babies, she leaves.

If you see something like this, you can be sure it's a Giggle Giggle.

Once I was taken to a cave when I was depressed. These little creatures can actually speak 10 languages, so I had no trouble listening to them or speaking with them. They made me well by giving me something they called yo-yo drink. I arrived back home just before dawn. No one even missed me.

I would like to tell you more, but I have been sworn to secrecy. All I can say is that if you see or hear any of these creatures, you will be blessed, so giggle to yourself. ■



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A project of the Calgary Urban Project Society

*If a picture is worth a thousand words
... how many diapers will it bring us?*



The CUPS Family Resource Centre needs larger size diapers in a big way.

When this picture was taken on May 29 we had no diapers in sizes 3, 4, 5, and 6. As you can see at that time we had lots of sizes 1 and 2 – so many that on that day we might have considered trading for bigger sizes, but our families need those sizes, too.

If you want to help our families please call 206-0280 for more information. You can help by making a donation towards buying diapers or donating a package of diapers or going together with a group of friends or coworkers to purchase large size diapers.

For more information about the Family Resource Centre or other programs at CUPS Community Health Centre go to www.cup-healthcentre.com.

If you want to make a donation to buy diapers please send a cheque with the notation FRC diapers to CUPS Health Centre, 128 7th Ave S.E., Calgary, AB, T2G 0H5 ■

CUPS
Community Health Centre