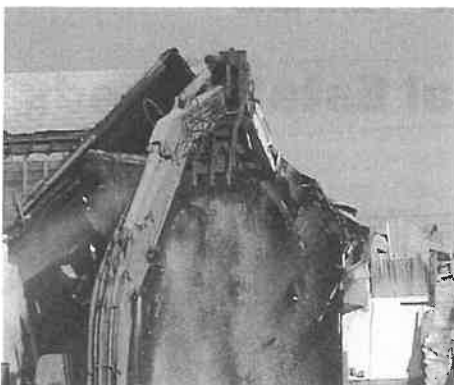


Good Night Sweet Angel

By Helga Shield

On Saturday, March 29, after saying their final prayers on the front steps, former St. Michael's and All Angels parishioners tearfully ended their 94-year-long presence in Crescent Heights. Minutes later, Flintstone Concrete Breakers started their demolition of the church buildings on the corner of 16th Avenue and 3rd Street NW. The buildings had been purchased by the City a few weeks earlier and were demolished to make way for the long-awaited 16th Avenue widening and revitalization project.

It all started back in 1909 when the land for St. Michael's was donated by Dean Paget, and the first church buildings dedicated by Bishop Pinkham on St. Thomas's Day. In April 1916, despite the absence and loss of many enlisted men overseas during WWI, more room was needed and the original Rosedale Presbyterian church building was



purchased for \$400 and moved over for use as a Hall. It was re-sold in 1923 to the Crescent Masonic Lodge and moved a few blocks east down 16th Avenue to make way for re-building as it had been discovered the original church foundation walls were beginning to give way. By 1928, the north wall of the old foundation finally collapsed and was condemned by the City. The re-building hastened forward and was completed in four months at a cost of \$16,941.

In its 35th anniversary year in 1944, a four day celebration was held in October to consecrate the church. The services were broadcast on CJCJ radio. Neighbouring church leaders and Mayor Davison were among the invited guests at a parish supper to witness the burning of the mortgage.

The first sod was turned for the E.J. Way Memorial Wing in 1949. It was built to provide additional Sunday school space, organ loft, offices and a choir vestry. Edwin Way, its namesake, was a People's Warden of the Church for twenty years. It was during his tenure that the planning, collapse, re-building and paying for the Church took place — no small feat during the dirty thirties.

With all that history behind them, it was not an easy decision to move. St. Michael's was the spiritual home for many of Calgary's first settling Anglican families. Generations had been baptized, wed and buried from within its walls. But the



congregation was getting smaller and lacking the critical mass needed to undertake some of the outreach projects so important to their ministry. Parking was difficult. Every possible alternative was explored. In 1996, in a symbolic procession covered by the *Calgary Herald*, parishioners walked from St. Michael's to St. Cyprian's on 28th Avenue and 19th Street NW where they were welcomed with open arms. The two congregations began their faith journey together re-naming themselves Holy Cross. The church buildings they left behind were rented to a series of tenants. The stronger, combined congregation continued their worship and expanded their ministry in the

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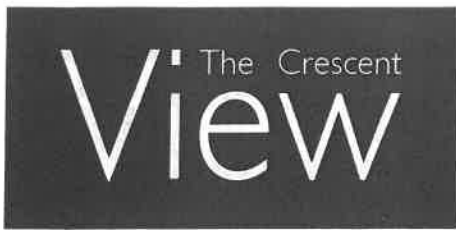
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Concerned about rising crime in Crescent Heights?

Find out what it takes to become a Block Captain for your block!

See page 11 for more details



The Crescent View is published 10 times per year by the Crescent Heights Community Association. The View is distributed to all households within Crescent Heights by your neighbours.

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Editor		
Isabelle Jankovic		276-4647
Publisher		
Flexys Systems Publishing Ltd.		271-4101
Advertising		
Kim Nagata	271-4101 (ext. 0)	
Chantelle Nishiyama	271-4101 (ext. 2)	
Distribution Manager		
Diane Altwasser		276-7118
Circulation		
Barb Noble (NW)		276-7750
Debbie and Rob Heikkila (NE - North of 8th Avenue)		276-5390
Brian Smith (NE - South of 8th Avenue)		230-5254

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**Crescent Heights
Community Association**
1101 - 2nd Street NW
Calgary, Alberta T2M 2V7

Board of Directors 2002 - 2003

President	Connie McLaren	230-0224
Treasurer	Dan Shield	230-5531
Secretary	John McDermid	277-8653
Business Liaison	Garth Tansey	276-8209
Communications	Paul Gary	277-3270
Crime Prevention	John McDermid	277-8653
Parks/Historical	Helga Shield	230-5531
Planning	Doug Haslam	230-1238
Socials	Joe Nagy	277-1364
Traffic	Morgan Yates	244-8150
Subcommittees		
Hall Rentals	Kelly	277-4723 or cell 651-7175
Babysitting Co-op	Myrene Hayes	282-7799
Block Watch	Keith Johnson	230-0529
Memberships	Dawn Loucks	277-2090

Inquiries and comments can be emailed to chcaboard@hotmail.com

President's Point of View

A very successful AGM was held the evening of April 1st. Special guests included Constable Dennis Defranceschi, Alderman Druh Farrell, architect Ken Shedden, CRC Norm Leong, Mark Townsend, website manger, Nicole Hankel from Flexys and Bruce Cooper, Lead Planner Inner North. Over 60 community residents attended this year's meeting which recognized View volunteers for their involvement in the community and saw the presentation of the first annual Ken Shedden Architectural Award. The short business meeting was followed by a wine and cheese social, enjoyed by all.

Your new "old" Board consists of the Executive including myself, returning as your President, Secretary John McDermid and Treasurer Dan Shield. The remainder of the Board rounds out as such: Communications - Paul Gary; Parks/Historical - Helga Shield; Business Liaison - Garth Tansey; Planning - Doug Haslam; Traffic - Morgan Yates and Socials - Joe Nagy. Memberships will be a subcommittee headed by Dawn Loucks. Isabelle Jankovic will remain as the View editor. Keith Johnson continues as the Block Watch Coordinator for Crescent Heights and will report to the Board through John McDermid.

The 2002-2003 year was a busy and fulfilling one for the Board. My thanks to all the Board members who made my job easy and enjoyable. Your ideas, discussion, energy and support are priceless. My personal and the Board thanks also to the many community volunteers who made this past year such a success. One of the risks facing a Board is burnout; we try to do too much. The fact that we can rely on non-board volunteers makes our job much easier and leaves us with the energy to plan the next event.

If you have an email address and would like to be put on the Crescent Heights Community Information email list please send me an email at connie.mclaren@encana.com. In addition to Block Watch updates and advisories, there is important Planning and Traffic information, program registration, various Directors' reports, and notices of upcoming events among other things. It is an exceptionally efficient way of contacting people within the community. If you have received messages in the past but haven't lately please let me know the change to your email address (usually the reason).

Goodnight Sweet Angel cont. from 1

community. Every couple of months now, they help prepare over 600 meals to people in need at the Mustard Seed Project.

Before the buildings were sold and demolished, all furnishings with any religious or historic significance to the congregation were removed by the lay people of St. Michael's themselves and put in storage for future use. The building cornerstone, the beautiful stained glass memorial windows, some of the oak and ash paneling and pews, and the 20-stop Casavant organ will all be used in the upcoming renovations to Holy Cross. The 1950s time capsule was transported, unopened, to its new home. Following a radio interview with church spokesman Bob Beaty on CBC radio's EyeOpener, there was an overwhelming response to the sale of what was left of the church treasures held on January 21st. Some 300 people from all corners the City rushed to take a piece of this sweet angel home. One eager bargain hunter arrived at 8 o'clock in the evening, searched every nook and cranny in the building, and after

finding the original oak altar board carved with the words "Holy, Holy, Holy", left disappointed when church officials refused to sell it. Efforts were made to collect funds to salvage the copper-wrapped steeple, but fell short. In the end, only the cross from the top was saved as the steeple didn't quite survive its tumble as hoped.

Bob Beaty tells me that Holy Cross parishioners are seeking to have some acknowledgement made of this sacred space as part of the 16th Avenue widening and re-vitalization project. What a wonderful idea. I can certainly imagine a small green-space or resting spot for pedestrians marking the spot on the rebuilt sidewalks. Or maybe even some public art that might be enjoyed and serve as a landmark for passing motorists. In the 1950s, the entrance tower and spire were erected, in the words of Reverend Ford, the pastor at the time, to "...shine forth as an invitation to the passer-by to pause, to ponder and to pray." Surely there is room and need for such a beacon today.