

President's Report

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After appearing before Council on December 3, 2007, we anticipated that receiving our final Lease would be just a formality. However, after many hours of negotiating, the matter of insurance requirements remains an outstanding item of concern. I would like to thank our Board Members for their patience and persistence, and their trust that our time in 2009 will not be spent on the Lease.

The Alexandra Family Medical Practice is still operating three afternoons a week. Donors have equipped three treatment rooms and the ACS will focus on attracting Doctors to expand the clinic's capacity, in 2009.

Our partnerships with the Alexandra Writers' Centre Society, the Calgary Civic Symphony, Inglewood Child Development Centre, and Seedmoments have been very successful. Aikido, Yoga, Playschool, and Suzuki Music programs continue to be well attended. In September, Calgary Family Services opened their office on the main floor of the building, offering outreach services to seniors who live independently, as well as family support services through the Inner City Family Resource Centre.

As I write this report, my three-year role of President is coming to an end. I would like to thank Shirley-anne Reuben, our dedicated Board Members, Staff and Volunteers for their support. The Alexandra Centre Society is an important resource to the Community and I encourage other residents to become involved so the legacy will continue for another thirty plus years.

Respectfully submitted

Pat Abbott
President



Executive Director's Report

ACTION! That best describes the past year at the Alexandra Centre Society. We have embraced our challenges from contract and lease negotiation, to partnership development, to new program delivery. Existing ACS programs are well established and in high demand; our challenge now is accommodating growing numbers of registrants.

**NEW
TRADITIONS AND
HAVING FUN!**

Alexandra Centre Christmas Carollers and a quartet of Calgary Civic Symphony musicians met in the Alexandra Centre Dance Hall to share yuletide tunes. A keen group of carollers set out door-to-door to sing on Inglewood doorsteps, under the guidance of Dr. Christine Grabenstetter.

Passion and commitment to the Alexandra Centre legacy continue to guide the Society. The Alexandra legacy gained the support of City Council (December 2007). Council granted the ACS a 15 year lease and the right to renew for an additional 15 years. Most notably, the Alexandra Centre project history and legacy were successfully re-introduced into current City Hall records in the process. In tangible terms, important municipal government reports and approval documents as well as correspondence, from the 1970's, are now a part of the City Clerk's records. The history of Inglewood's redevelopment, recorded on a human scale, is documented in the nearly complete *Our Story* project.

The ACS now offers new programming with a focus on youth in partnership with Kristin Boettger and Seedmoments. *And Space* is an after school youth drop-in program under Kristin's thoughtful, caring, and creative guidance.

The Alexandra Centre building is now fully occupied. Calgary Family Services joined the Inglewood Child Development Centre, Alexandra Writers' Centre Society, the Calgary Civic Symphony, and Seedmoments Art Studio as a resident service provider.

The value of the Alexandra Centre goes beyond bricks and mortar; human investment in the Centre, spans several generations and continues. Much of the work of the Society is done with the help of our volunteers, for whom we are thankful. I personally thank my Board of Directors and Staff for their perseverance and support. I also thank our many supporters for their faith in the Society and for taking the time to attend meetings and hearings of City Council. We are also blessed with many neighbours and friends who willingly share their gifts and talents at the Centre. The consistent support, which we receive, is proof that the Alexandra Centre Project is sustainable.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley-anne Reuben



*Programs
&
Services*

Introducing

**ALEXANDRA
YOUTH
PROGRAMS**

The Alexandra Centre Society and Seedmoments Art Studio host an After School Club for youth aged 12-17years. This is the only youth after school drop-in program in the area.

This group is a casual gathering of young people who are interested in exploring their own creativity through various art media. Kristin Boettger supports and facilitates activities. This is a relaxed and safe setting for young people who are encouraged to explore their creativity or just “hang out”. We are presently offering modules of programming such as mixed media art experiences, sewing, and exposure to the performance arts. Youth have also been engaged in community beautification, such as small murals, under the guidance of Kristin, an accomplished artist.



This group could be a spring board for youth community and civic engagement. To ensure that this is truly “youth centred”, the Society wants to facilitate program planning by the participants themselves. Teens will gain experience in planning, budgeting and applying for SEED funds for additional activities. Possibilities include a movie night, or exposure to dance or physical activity training etc.

Teen Sewing Classes

4nd Space offered members an eight week module of sewing lessons taught by local resident Ruth Horney. Ruth has generously donated her time and shared her talents with our teens to equip them with a solid understanding of the basics of sewing.

Hip Hop

The Society and the City of Calgary partnered to offer Hip Hop classes in the Alexandra Dance Hall in October. Response from the community was phenomenal with 15 children between the age of 9 and 13 dancing every Wednesday night from October to December. The ACS is pleased to partner with the City of Calgary and thankful for their assistance in providing a dance instructor. We now have fifteen local dancers... THAT ROCK!



*Programs
&
Services*

*Family
Health*

**ALEXANDRA
FAMILY MEDICAL
PRACTICE**

Family Health Services are offered in a unique partnership between The Alexandra Centre Society and family physicians.

Alexandra Family Medical Practice has now been operating for just over a year and continues to be a work in progress. Dr. Christine Grabenstetter, our physician, carries the entire load at this time. Patients to the clinic receive personal and sensitive care from the moment they enter the clinic when they are greeted by Rebecca, who then passes them on to Dr. Chris. Dr. Chris spends the time it takes to know her patients and sees each and every one of them as an individual. Dr. Chris has covered approximately 800 patient visits since the opening of the clinic in July, 2007.

The health clinic was equipped with generous support from a local donor and the Fort Calgary Lions Club.

Flu Vaccine

The Alexandra Centre hosted its second annual flu vaccine clinic in partnership with Alberta Health and Wellness. The Health Region graciously provided public health nurses on site at the Alexandra Centre. Approximately 40 flu vaccines were delivered while local seniors re-connected for a social afternoon of coffee, cookies and conversation. We are pleased to have developed this working relationship with Alberta Health and Wellness in the interest of public health and wellbeing.

Annual Services

Christmas Hampers

The ACS delivered 50 Christmas hampers to families in the area. Our Hamper program is made possible with generous donations from local clubs and businesses as well as private donors.

Income Tax Returns

Forty five income tax returns were completed by volunteers.



*Programs
&
Services*

*Vitality
& Wellness*

RECREATION &
EDUCATION

Team Alexandra led by team captain, Selena Redgwell participated in the 2008 Run for the Cure.

Yoga & Aikido

Yoga and Aikido classes continue to gain popularity. Aikido is offered in partnership with Dojo Aikido Bonzankan, twice a week and taught by Robb Wheatley, an Inglewood resident. Classes are offered at a reasonable monthly rate. Approximately 20 students attend on a regular basis.

The demand for Yoga classes keeps growing. In 2008 the Society ran 18 Yoga classes and accommodated 182 students in total. The growing demand for yoga has prompted the ACS to offer Saturday classes; our instructor Nyk Danu is in high demand.

Alexandra Runners

A small but dedicated group of runners meet weekly on Saturday mornings under the guidance of Kinesiologist, Jeff Anderson, who volunteers his time to lead a run and post-run training session.

Suzuki Baby & Parent

Two classes of twelve students, directed by Elsie Ng and Marge Patipatanakoon (Mrs. Pat we call her) are running at full capacity. Registration for this program has more than doubled to 74 students from 33 in 2007. The Suzuki program develops music appreciation in children from new born to thirty-six months. The joyful singing, drumming and rhythm, and the happy smiles of parents and children tell us that this program delivers...we may have a *Beethoven or Bach* in the making!

Alexandra Playschool

Seventeen children attend the playschool program, three mornings a week; tiny tots aged three to five years, build, sing, dance and dream. Playschool teacher Rose Maynard received an award from Alberta Children & Youth Services for her outstanding contribution to Early Childhood Education. Rose supports both parents and children.

Alexandra Playschool Camp

This is an excellent sampling of the Alexandra Waldorf based playschool program. Twelve tots attended the five (half) day camp.



History

Our Story

Funded by



**THE CALGARY
FOUNDATION**

Our Story is an important subjective portrayal of Inglewood's amazing history as seen through the eyes of those who were there at the time. The community owes a debt of gratitude to the many people who gave heart and soul to save and redevelop our community. They laid the groundwork and wrote our original value-based community plan (Inglewood Design Brief) and spearheaded the redevelopment of Inglewood and Ramsay. The *Our Story* project is Inglewood's story, a shining example of cooperation, collaboration and passion.

Our Story was authored most appropriately by long time resident and writer Shirley Black, and edited by Ellen Kelly, who grew up in Ramsay. Both Shirley and Ellen are members of the Alexandra Writers' Centre Society.

They have captured the true feel of community culture in this work. Watch for our book launch celebration, in 2009.

There is often a time in life when the stars line up and everything comes together. The right people are in the right places at the right times and an awesome destiny is fulfilled. Such was the case in Inglewood during the 1970s. As we revisit this time, many important seats at the table sit empty, and as the people who remain dredge memories buried beneath forty years of subsequent experience, there are gentle subtleties in the retelling. Each memory has been influenced by feelings, earlier experiences and experiences over the past four decades. Sometimes there is fuzziness around the edges. The thing that remains absolutely true is that David fought Goliath and won and in the process a bond that has lasted a lifetime was forged.

- Excerpt from *Our Story*
Introduction by Ellen Kelly



*The
Alexandra
Centre...
A shared
Community
Resource*

**PARTNERSHIP
SERVICES**

Over the years the Alexandra Centre Society has supported other non-profit service providers by providing rent subsidies. Our Partnership Program encourages third party delivery of services such as daycare and writing programs, in addition to supporting the arts. In 2008 the ACS provided 50% rent subsidies to the Alexandra Writers' Centre Society, Inglewood Child Development Centre and the Calgary Civic Symphony to mutually benefit our mandates.

The Society recognises its responsibility as a truly grassroots based community organisation and the importance of being accountable to our local donors and volunteers who help to financially support the Society. In that light, the ACS Board adopted an appropriate process, which will insure that community raised dollars are invested to the primary benefit of our mandated communities. All present service partners were informed of the new subsidy application process in 2006 and 2007. Under the new program, qualifying service providers will apply for and receive their subsidies as a rebate quarterly. The approval and value of the subsidy will be based on demonstrated service or benefit to the residents of Inglewood, Ramsay, and Victoria; this ensures that limited community dollars are invested to benefit the local community. After ample discussion and feedback from our partners, the Society is comfortable in moving forward with this process for the 2009 sublease agreements.

NEW BUILDING SERVICES

The Alexandra Centre building is now fully occupied, a bustle of activity, and a truly multi-generational centre. In September of 2008, the Alexandra Centre welcomed Calgary Family Services (CFS). CFS's programs will broaden the scope of services offered in the community. CFS Older Adult programs offer an array of independent living supports to area seniors. The Inner City Family Resource Centre offers supportive family services.

