

## Parks & public places

### King gets new park for Beltline

The Beltline will get its newest park, but it remains unclear whether it will remain a playfield or truly become a green space.

“The park is going to be there, there’s no question about that said Madeleine King, Alderman for Ward 8, which includes the Beltline.

Currently a fenced-in and unkempt soccer field, the western third of the Carl Safran block between 8th and 9th streets SW is set to become a new open space for Beltline residents.

The sandstone building to the east will become the new headquarters for the Calgary Board of Education. An administration building and conference centre is planned, and the historic structure will be rehabilitated.

King said “It took a considerable amount of advocacy for quite a period of time,” to secure the western third of the property for green space.

Beltline Communities president Rob Taylor added, “The alternative was for the school board to sell off the land for condos.”

King said it is just a matter of time before the land is transferred for public use.

“It is a very expensive piece of land for the city to invest in, but I’m glad to say that the needs of Beltline residents were recognized by city council as being a very high priority,” she said.

Parks planner Kyle Ripley hopes that the details of negotiations with CBE will be concluded before the end of the year. After that, the city will engage with residents to determine the future of the new park.



*Beltline’s new park will be located along 9th street between 12th and 13th avenues.*

"There's limited open space in the Beltline, and I think it's important that it responds to the desires of the residents," he said.

The city has no specific plans for the site, but Ripley noted that the first step after acquisition would be to tear down the fence surrounding the field to make the space more inviting.

"I believe it's a very interesting community question as to whether it should remain as a playfield or whether it should change its use," said King.

Beltline Communities took the initiative and held a community charrette – an exercise to envision what the park should look like – on August 16th.

The Beltline Parks & Public Places charrette was organized by Beltline Planning Analyst Jen Maximattis. Eighteen interested residents assessed community needs and preferences for the new park. They also developed an initial concept plan.



*Beltline Parks & Public Places participants discuss Beltline's new park*

Ideas stemming from the exercise include pathways along "desire lines", a clear preference for a mix of active and passive uses, a double row of trees lining the 9th street side of the park, and preservation of sightlines to the historic Calgary Collegiate Institute building. The charrette also calls for installing a significant piece of public art on the 12th avenue frontage.

Commenting on the planning process for the park, Beltline Communities president Rob Taylor said, "If a new urban park is to truly succeed, Beltline residents should lead the way."

Beltline Communities will hold a public open house about the park in the fall.

Taylor said, "The community will tell us what they think of the charrette concept, and Beltline residents will clarify ideas for the city parks department to implement."

# Plant trees on your Beltline property!



To find out how to get money for planting trees please call us at 670-5499 Ext. 4



## Social environment

### Alpha House expands to meet the need

Alpha house, established in 1981 to help those with addictions find shelter and recovery services, is expanding its operations to better serve clients.

Following strategic planning in 2004, the board of Alpha House identified the need to redevelop their facility on 15th avenue.

A stakeholder meeting took place the following year with Beltline Communities, the BRZ, local businesses and other interested parties.

“Our building is full of professionals and they understand the needs of society. It is our home and it needs to be protected”, said Cynthia Kumar nearby Sasso resident. “We want to be able to enjoy the area around us and be safe at night.”

“There can be lots of fear around social agencies,” said Kathy Christiansen, Executive Director of Alpha House, “but for the most part the community was quite enlightened and understanding.”

Shared concerns included a drop in property values and individuals loitering outside of the building. Alpha House worked closely with their own staff and Poon McKenzie Architects to address these issues in the redesign of the facility. The client entrance was moved to the side of the building and the driveway moved from 17th avenue.

“Once we had the open house and shared this information, people didn’t have a problem with [the redevelopment],” said Hee Sung Kim, a local business owner and member of the Alpha House Board.



*The current Alpha House building has been on 15th avenue in the Beltline for 26 years.*

Much of the effect of the redevelopment will be felt inside the building. Staff worked hard to create a design that will improve work and client areas.

Monitoring stations and separate areas for people who cannot be in the mix with other clients will be created.



*Alpha House will be a more functional space when renovations are complete.*

A partnership is also in the works with the Calgary Urban Project Society, CUPS, to provide a range of healthcare services on site. This will include preventative healthcare, wound care, immunization as well as health education.

The detox will be more flexible with 16 beds for men and 12 for women. Currently there are 20 beds in total. Quiet rooms will also be provided.

A transitional housing program will be created with 12 beds in three different rooms – one for men, one for women, and one that is flexible.

“Functionally it is better programmed, people can move from one area of treatment to the next,” said Kim.

“The expansion will help to meet the needs in a much more comprehensive way,” adds Christiansen, “we’re grateful we get to do it.”

Groundbreaking took place in April of this year with the project expected to be complete by June of 2008.

<http://www.alphahousecalgary.com>



# Join Beltline Communities!

Support your community and the growth of urbanism in Calgary

\$10.00 individual membership for one year.  
Condo and business memberships also available.

Beltline Communities of victoria and connaught

## Beltline builds west

### Residential living in the design district

Located on the edge of the design district, Kai towers will bring a Scandinavian inspired look to the 11th avenue strip.

Featuring Calgary's first application of Prodema wood paneling, a durable high quality material that has been used in ultra-hip Scandinavian design, these handsome towers will set a new standard in Calgary.

Two towers, 28 and 32 storeys respectively, provide 476 residential apartments and over 15,000 square feet of retail space at street level.

The five storey podium features an expansive green roof that requires no potable water to maintain. There's also advanced heat recovery in both the air and water systems.

"The project's commitment to sustainable architecture is most impressive. It sets a positive standard for future development," says Josh White, Beltline Community Planner.

Kai Towers' environmental features are part of a western Canadian pilot program for multi-family buildings called Built Green. Demolition of the site is complete and construction of the towers will begin within weeks.

Developer: Homburg-Centron Teamworks  
Architect: Poon McKenzie  
Location: 11th Avenue SW at 12th Street S.W.



Rendering provided by Poon McKenzie

# Volunteer

Help raise funds for Beltline at the 2007 Beltline casino  
We need volunteers at the Elbow River casino September 4 and 5, 2007

Cashier, chip runner and countroom volunteers still needed!  
● Call 670-5499 Ext. 1 or email [admin@beltline.ca](mailto:admin@beltline.ca) to sign up

## Beltline builds east

### Entrepreneurial innovator builds in Victoria Crossing

Family owned and operated Battistella Developments was among the first to show renewed faith in the Beltline. They started over 15 years ago with the sophisticated Connaught Gardens townhouse project on 10th street.

Battistella is now the first to contribute to the transformation of the 1st street corridor with Chocolate. The 19 storey tower is clad in white and blue and brings a fresh look to the Beltline. Chris Davis, Beltline planning technician says, "The

building celebrates its contemporary design from the top right down to the sidewalk."

Chocolate's apartments are fully occupied. O'Connors clothing will soon open a women's shop on the ground floor.

Developer: Battistella Developments

Architect: GEC

Location: 1st street at 15th Avenue



Rendering provided by Battistella  
mmm Chocolate

Battistella's now working on its encore, Colours. This project faced a unique challenge, a site that could not support enough underground parking for every apartment.

"Battistella turned this obstacle into one of the most striking features of any building in the Beltline," says Beltline Planning Group chair Lucas Rojek. The above ground parking is concealed behind a colourful mosaic of glass.

Above the glass. 19 storeys of modern, loft-style living await Colours' future residents.

Developer: Battistella Developments

Architect: GEC

Location: 1302 - 1st Street SW



Rendering provided by Battistella

### Historic Collegiate Institute's many transformations

One of Calgary's best examples of elaborate school architecture was completed in 1908 to address a shortage of school space resulting from the city's pre-World War I boom. The Calgary Collegiate Institute is one of the oldest remaining school buildings in the province.

The building was designed by architect R.G. Gordon, former architect to the Melbourne Australia City Council. The eight room locally quarried sandstone building was the most ornate and detailed of all the schools in the city.

The school's Scottish Baronial style exhibits a number of details such as separate "Boys" and "Girls" entrances and tourelles – small turrets at the upper corners of the central tower.

Gordon was also the architect of the three-storey Haultain School, also in the Beltline. Constructed in 1906, it burned down in 1964. Calgary Collegiate Institute is now Gordon's only remaining work in the city.

Calgary Collegiate Institute had 101 students and four university-educated staff when it opened. Enrolment increased quickly. In 1911, a four-room addition was designed by local architects Lang & Major, with sympathy to the original structure. Lang & Major were also the architects of nearby Connaught School.

Further overcrowding led to the establishment of Crescent Heights, a second public high school. Calgary Collegiate was renamed Central High School.

The school's curriculum was academically-oriented, intended to prepare students for higher education. It's many prestigious alumni include: former Alberta Premier Peter Lougheed, Canadian flag designer Dr. George F.G. Stanley, former Calgary Buffalo MLA Sheldon Chumir, and plus-15 innovator Harold Hanen.

Central High School was closed in June 1965. The school was once again renamed in 1972. Dr. Carl Safran Centre served as a special education facility until 1986 when the Calgary Board of Education re-commissioned it as an adult education centre. The building was once again used as a school from 1996-2001 when it housed the Rundle College Junior High.

Next, Carl Safran will become the new trustee and administrative headquarters of the Calgary Board of Education.



*Calgary Collegiate Institute, one of the Beltline's heritage buildings designed by R.G. Gordon*

# Beltline Urban Forum 2

Should back alleys be only for garbage trucks?

Thursday September 20th 7:00 PM



## Summer in the city



*Beltline Communities' planner Josh White discusses planning group activities with Calgary Herald reporter Suzanne Goldman*



*Beltline Communities members enjoy food at the Summer in the City party at Victoria Hall on August 19, 2007. Party goers enjoyed the musical stylings of Matt Masters and his band. The four Beltline committees made displays for the community members and the media.*

### Walkability for health

According to a new study from Rutgers University, your health is yet another reason to live in the Beltline.

Living in walkable urban neighbourhoods like Beltline leads to thinner and healthier residents compared to suburb dwellers, says the study.

Grocery stores, shops, restaurants, recreational facilities, entertainment and everything else to meet your needs are within walking distance. Without even thinking about it, residents can burn calories and stay healthy by simply walking around their community doing day-to-day things.

Now studies of U.S. cities are confirming that suburbanites are fatter and less healthy. According to the study, people living in the most sprawling areas weighed six pounds more on average than residents of the most compact urban districts. Rutgers urban planner Reid Ewing concluded that: "All other factors being equal, each extra degree of sprawl means extra weight, less walking and a little more high blood pressure".

According to Ewing, "Poor accessibility is the common denominator of urban sprawl -- nothing is within easy walking distance of anything else." As a result, suburbanites walk far less on a day to day basis than urbanites.

In the long term, there are serious implications such as the increased health care costs of unhealthy and obese people. Better health through walkability is one way Beltline is an "eco-city" within a city.



*The Calgary Police Service's Mounted Unit standing outside of the Roundup Centre. Beltline Communities advocates an urban policing model for the Beltline Community District*

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