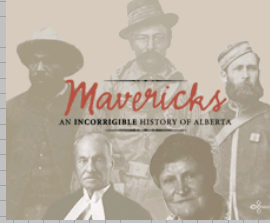




October 2007

You're Invited to Meet a New Group of Calgary Mavericks



imagineCALGARY Partners and Alumni are invited to the first annual imagineCALGARY Symposium. The afternoon will feature special guest speaker Aritha van Herk, author of *Mavericks: An Incorrigible History of Alberta*, presentations from imagineCALGARY Partners and an opportunity to tour the Mavericks Exhibit.

Date: Wednesday, November 28th, 2007
Time: 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Where: Glenbow Museum

RSVP by November 13th by calling Pia at 268-4461.

imagineCALGARY Provides Inspiration to Portland's Visioning Project

On September 19, John Lewis, Community Sustainability Leader with the imagineCALGARY Transition Team, was asked to share the experiences of imagineCALGARY with Portland City Council during their meeting to discuss visionPDX.

visionPDX is a City-supported, community-led initiative to create a vision for Portland for the next 20 years and beyond. The project provides an opportunity for all Portlanders to share their hopes and ideas for the future. Hundreds turned out for the visionPDX Community Celebration and Council session, and dozens gave public testimony after the official presentation. All five Commissioners offered enthusiastic support for the document itself as well as for implementing the vision within City processes and in the community.

"Throughout the past year, visionPDX and imagineCALGARY have kept each other updated on the progress of their work and have continually shared information. There is a great deal of similarity between the two processes, but each one was developed in a way that reflected the character of the community from which it sprang," said John Lewis.

"Throughout visionPDX, we have drawn information and inspiration from imagineCALGARY, so it was natural to invite John to present at our Council hearing," said Stephanie Stephens, visionPDX Program Manager.

Along with representatives from Vancouver, B.C. and Bend, Oregon, two other cities with recent community visioning histories, John presented important testimony about the value of visioning in planning a city. He talked about how imagineCALGARY has been used as a strategic tool to get community members and policy makers on the same page so that they can act collectively toward a sustainable future.

John spent time before the Council hearing at a meet and greet with Mayor Tom Potter and Portland's City Commissioners. "He was able to give our City Council some great advice about how best to transition vision into action," said Stephens.

For more information on visionPDX, go to www.visionpdx.com.

Events

The **Calgary Health Region** recognizes the need to create environmentally friendly facilities and has undertaken the task to design and build the first green LEED silver hospital in Canada. The Planning Department cordially invites you to attend an educational session to understand the operational and financial advantages. Guest speakers include:

- **Mr. Kai Abelkis** from Boulder Hospital in Colorado (A LEED Silver Registered Acute Facility)
- **Mr. Hagen Materne**, AAA OAA LEED AP, Practice Leader - Healthcare HOK

Date: Friday, November 16th, 2007
Time: 9:30 to 11:30 am
Where: Peter Lougheed Centre Auditorium (Level 0)
3500 - 26th Avenue NE

RSVP by November 1st by emailing patricia.novotny@calgaryhealthregion.ca.

We've Created a New Logo for Our Partners



We encourage our Partners to visit www.imaginecalgary.ca and download a special imagineCALGARY Partner logo. The logo is available for current imagineCALGARY Partners to use at their discretion. The logo can be easily transferred to any of your electronic documents or templates to demonstrate your organization's commitment to the imagineCALGARY Targets and Goals.

Inspiring Change by Watching and Talking

Sustainable Calgary recently held two events that brought the issues of environmental sustainability and transportation to the forefront. With so many issues affecting the sustainable growth of Calgary, there are also tremendous opportunities to learn about how other cities have dealt with similar issues.



On September 28th, Sustainable Calgary presented a documentary about the successful social, economic and environmental transformation by the city of Curitiba. Viewers felt **A Convenient Truth: Urban Solutions From Curitiba, Brazil** had an important message; that small changes in a city can have a large impact on a city's residents. The film focused on how the city was able to make changes in affordable housing, transportation, waste and recycling that enabled citizens to solve their problems and also build their self-esteem, increase their income and their pride in the city.

Then on September 29th, guest speakers gathered for the **Sustainable, Equitable and Smart Transportation Forum** to discuss issues related to transportation. Organizations represented at the forum included the Victoria Transport Policy Institute, Calgary United Way, City of Calgary and the Rocky View Handibus.

Sustainable Calgary is in the process of writing a summary of the event as well as recommendations about how they would like to proceed with increasing awareness and bringing attention to these issues. To view this information visit www.sustainablecalgary.ca.

Calgary Gets its First Checkup

This fall the Calgary Foundation decided it was time to give the city its first annual checkup. Vital Signs is a report that measures the vitality of cities, identifies significant trends, and assigns grades in at least ten areas critical to urban quality of life. The assessment is conducted by community foundations across Canada and is coordinated nationally by Community Foundations of Canada. The Vital Signs report is based on Toronto Vital Signs, an indicator report developed by the Toronto Community Foundation in 2001.

The Calgary Foundation felt this was the right time to take part in creating a Vital Signs report because as a city experiencing so much prosperity and growth, there is an opportunity to call attention to some of the issues affecting our city.

Over 600 Calgarians graded the city topics that included the environment, housing, work, diversity, the gap between rich and poor, education, safety, health and wellness, arts and culture, and leadership.

The report highlighted some positive things about Calgary and identified opportunities for improvement:

- Calgary had an unemployment rate of 3.2% in 2006, the lowest it has been in 20 years.
- Despite the low unemployment rate, poverty remains an issue for some - more than 15.8% of families in Calgary live in poverty.
- The 2004 municipal election in Calgary had a voter turn out of 19.8%. This is one of the lowest percentages in Canada.
- Calgarians graded the livability of our city with a C-. Factors in this category include population density, commute time, mode of travel to work, pathways and bikeways and public transit use.

Other cities that took part in creating a Vital Signs report include, Ottawa, Vancouver, and Waterloo. For more information about Calgary's Vital Signs, visit www.thecalgaryfoundation.org or www.vitalsignscanada.ca.

Do you have a story idea or event you think should be included in the imagineCALGARY newsletter?
Email your ideas or event information to info@blueflamegroup.com.