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**ANNOUNCEMENTS** PAGES B14-B15

**BODY IDENTIFIED**  
Police release name  
of man burned in garbage bin  
See Page B3

# CITY & REGION

EDITOR: GORD SMILEY 235-7474 FAX: 235-7379

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2007

## Police chief rethinks retiring

Beaton may not be ready to quit

SHERRI ZICKEFOOSE  
CALGARY HERALD

The job of Calgary's police chief is ending this year, but the top cop says he's waiting until spring-time to give official notice.

Chief Jack Beaton's contract expires Dec. 31. Although the police commission has approved funding for a national search for his replacement, Beaton says he's still debating if he will go for another renewal or retire.

"I truly, truly enjoy it. First the decision is, do I want to go for yet a third renewal of a contract? And I have to make that decision. It's not an easy decision. I've been in policing for 34 years, I'm going through that process of trying to de-

cide," said Beaton.

"I honestly haven't decided yet. I've talked with my family. It's a family decision, I've got two new grandchildren. It's a push and pull kind of thing, but I absolutely love the organization."

Beaton says he may try to give official word by April or May, despite earlier giving the Calgary Police Commission the impression he was planning on retiring.



Jack Beaton

They now have less than a year to hire a replacement if he retires.

"The bottom line is the commission has been planning a succession plan and working with the chief," Ald. Craig Burrows said. "He has every right to ask for (an extension). The question is will he or won't he."

SEE CHIEF, PAGE B4

## Clerk's killer gets parole

Family still grieves for student beaten to death working alone

JASON VAN RASSEL  
CALGARY HERALD

The killer of a Calgary convenience store clerk has been given a chance to serve the rest of his life sentence outside jail, but his victim's relatives say a lifetime won't erase their grief.

The National Parole Board has granted full parole to Jesse Waterman, who was 17 when he killed Shamsuddin Taj with a baseball bat on May 3, 1997.

A three-member panel said Waterman has matured and taken many steps toward rehabilitation, but that did little to allay the despair of one of Taj's brothers.

"I won't ever be able to come out from that shock," Muzaffar Taj said Monday.

"Shamsuddin was living with me and I loved my brother like my son."

Shamsuddin Taj, 23, was an honours commerce graduate

from a school in Pakistan. He was working at Mac's to save money to get a master's degree at the University of Calgary.

"He was a brilliant guy," Muzaffar Taj said.

Another brother, Tanveer, said he's willing to believe Waterman had changed when the parole board released the killer to a halfway house last summer.



Shamsuddin Taj

Although Muzaffar Taj doesn't begrudge his brother's more merciful view, he said he could never feel the same way.

"I know my brother can forgive, but me — never, ever," Muzaffar said.

SEE PAROLE, PAGE B4

## CITY PROMOTES 'SOPHISTICATION'

The old Co-op site at 1st Street S.E. will house a variety of projects.



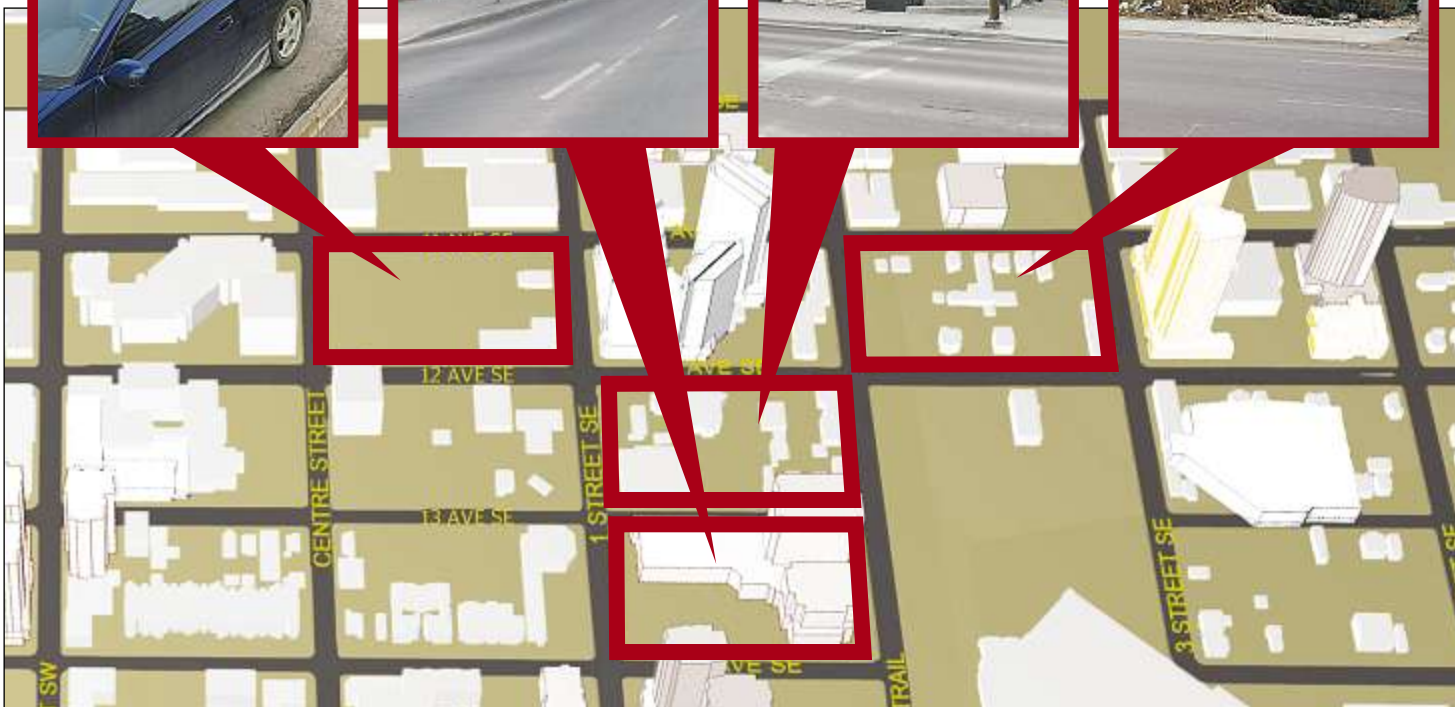
The northwest corner of Macleod Trail and 13th Avenue S.E. will be redeveloped.



The block between 12th and 13th avenues S.E. will soon have a new look.



The block between 11th and 12th avenues S.E. will likely house a hotel and offices.



Photos, Mikael Kjellström, Calgary Herald Map: Calgary Herald Archive

## Major projects aimed at Beltline

Land use changes allow development

KIM GUTTORMSON  
CALGARY HERALD

The Beltline's reputation as the new place to build was enhanced Monday after council paved the way for major projects in the area, which could add a few thousand residents.

"It's very exciting," Ald. Madeleine King said. "We made a commitment to make it possible for more people to live close to the core."

With the involvement of developers, the city is "following through on that commitment," she said.

As an added bonus, three of the sites are home to historic buildings that should be saved as part of the new development, the alderman noted.

"We're building a sense of confidence in the new sophistication of urban Calgary," King said.

The projects receiving land use changes include a mixed-use development on the old Co-op site along 1st Street S.E. It will likely come in at around one million square feet.

Architect Bruce McKenzie said the project, which will be built in phases, will include retail, office space, 1,500 condos

and possibly a hotel.

As well, it's likely to contain a grocery store, which could be one of the first in that part of the centre city. Developers of a nearby project are also looking at putting in an urban market.

"The Beltline is the hot place to be doing multi-family residential, for sure," McKenzie said. "There's probably 40 projects in the Beltline right now in various stages. If even a quarter of them are realized, it will have a huge impact on the city."

Construction on that project likely won't begin until later this year, and the first phase would take about two years to complete.

Council also approved a land

use change Monday for a block at the northwest corner of Macleod Trail S.E. and 13th Avenue, which includes the Deutsch-Canadier/Eastern Block buildings, one of the first commercial strips built outside downtown Calgary.

The block containing the Curtis building, between 12th and 13th avenues S.E. just west of Macleod Trail, is also primed to be redeveloped.

Land use redesignation was also approved for the northwest corner of 11th Avenue and 12th Street S.W.

Those redesignations would allow for commercial and/or residential development on the site.

SEE BELTLINE, PAGE B4

## CRIME

### Vandals trash homeless outreach van



Tim Fraser, Calgary Herald  
Mike Harvey of CUPS surveys damage done to an outreach program van.

Vehicle 'a lifeline' for down and out

SHERRI ZICKEFOOSE  
CALGARY HERALD

Vandals who destroyed a lifeline-on-wheels for the city's homeless have cut off precious access to warm winter clothing and outreach at a critical time, with freezing temperatures in the forecast.

On Monday morning, staff at Calgary Urban Project Society discovered their outreach van trashed and undrivable.

One of the first orders of the day was to transfer a Calgary woman to an emergency shelter.

But the vehicle's steering column was smashed open and the engine wouldn't start. Empty beer cans were found among the van's strewn contents.

On any given day, van workers make contact with dozens of street people, handing out tuques, coats, blankets, coffee vouchers and condoms as well as contact cards for outreach help.

"The van is a lifeline for people. It's a chance for the team to engage. People get their food from here, they get their clothes from here," said CUPS outreach co-ordinator Mike Harvey.

"We're not doing that this week because of some fool."

Staff can't believe the well-marked grey Chevrolet Venture minivan, parked within two me-

tres of police headquarters in the back alley outside CUPS at 7th Avenue and 1st Street S.E., would be the target of senseless and costly vandalism.

"We can budget for wear and tear, but violence isn't in the budget," said Tim Stock-Bateman, director of operations for CUPS.

"We'll borrow a van from another program, but they'll be shorted, too."

The van is used to make contact with 25,000 street people a year.

The trashed van will be off the streets for at least a week or two, just when winter is expected to again hit the city with a vengeance. Temperatures are forecast to dip well below freezing this week.

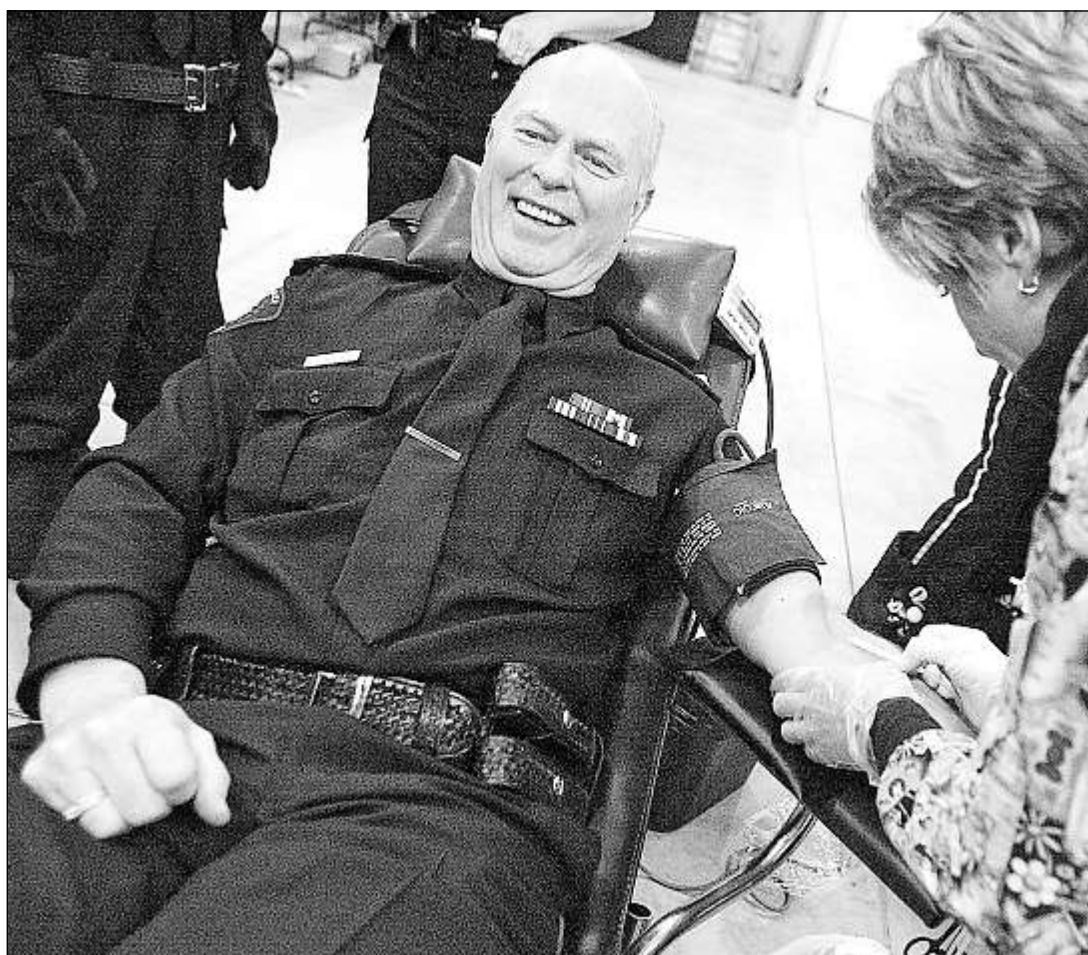
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# What's inside?



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Tim Fraser, Calgary Herald

Calgary police Chief Jack Beaton prepares to give blood Monday during the kickoff of Sirens for Life 2007, a blood donor challenge between Calgary and Edmonton police, EMS and firefighters. Beaton must decide soon if he'll seek another term as chief.

## FROM BI CHIEF: Made it clear he intended to retire

Beaton was sworn in as Calgary's chief in 2000, replacing Christine Silverberg.

When he renewed his contract in June 2005 for just 2½ years, he made it clear to the police commission he intended to retire from policing.

Although the police commission began preparing for a nationwide search for a new chief by budgeting \$125,000 in November 2005, it could take the commission a half a year to advertise for, headhunt and hire another chief, said Ald. Ric McIver, who sits on the police commission.

"It's a minimum six months to go through the process, it's a major undertaking. There's no reason to panic, we have to sort this out before the last minute. This is not anywhere near the time to panic," he said.

Should Beaton ask for another term, his request could very well be granted, says Calgary's mayor.

"I think Chief Beaton has done a very good job for Calgarians, running the police service," Mayor Dave Bronconier said. "We have extended his contract once. It's certainly something we could evaluate on the advice of the Calgary police commission."

But finding the most qualified candidate to fill the chief's shoes could take closer to a year, says the Calgary Police Association.

"It's a tough market for

police officers out there, so it probably is for chiefs of police. If you are looking to replace our chief of police, it would be reasonable to presume that the search has already commenced," said president Al Koenig.

"If the current administration has done their job, they should have planned for succession, but historically they do tend to look outside and inside for the best candidate."

The search for chief is usually led by a professional head-hunting agency, but Beaton says there are homegrown candidates.

"I would expect them to do a national search, but truthfully, I expect they'll find internally strong, strong candidates for the position if I decide to leave," said Beaton.

The chief's salary is an estimated \$190,000 to \$225,000 annually.

On average, Canadian police chiefs last approximately 4½ years in the job.

Despite Beaton's success, he has been dogged by controversy over the years. Most recently, he settled a lawsuit that led to a payment of \$5,000 and an apology from two people over their participation in a website that attacked his leadership.

WITH FILES FROM KIM GUTTORMSON, CALGARY HERALD. SZICKEFOOSE@THEHERALD

## Cities compete in blood drive

KATHERINE FLETCHER  
CALGARY HERALD

The long-standing rivalry between Calgary and Edmonton heated up when the Canadian Blood Services kicked off its Sirens for Life campaign Monday.

Established in 2002, the effort is a competition between Calgary's police, fire and EMS personnel and their Edmonton counterparts to donate the most blood by Jan. 31. Citizens from both cities are urged to donate on behalf of their respective team.

Doris Kaufmann, regional spokeswoman for Canadian Blood Services, said the Sirens for Life competition was introduced as a way to increase donations during January, which is one of the slowest months for blood collection.

"People did not want to do anything after the holidays. Usually the weather's cold, so people tend to hibernate, and because of that, the collections were always very slow," Kaufmann said.

Calgarians interested in donating on behalf of the Sirens for Life campaign can call (1-888-236-6283) to book appointments.

## FROM BI

# PAROLE: Victim struck with bat

Waterman was a high school dropout addicted to drugs and alcohol when he attacked Taj after the older man refused to sell him cigarettes without proper ID.

Taj was working alone in the Mac's at 7930 Bowness Rd. N.W. when Waterman and a 15-year-old friend returned with a baseball bat.

After Waterman felled Taj with a single blow to the head, the teens grabbed about 20 packs of cigarettes.

As Taj started to regain consciousness, Waterman struck him at least four more times with the bat. Taj died in hospital.

Although second-degree

murder carries a mandatory life sentence, young offender legislation in place at the time set Waterman's parole eligibility at seven years.

Waterman will remain under supervision for the rest of his life, and the parole board has ordered him to attend counselling and abstain from drugs and alcohol.

While in prison, he finished high school and completed a welding apprenticeship.

Waterman's whereabouts are protected by federal privacy legislation. He has a common-law wife and has fathered a child with her.

"You have been open and co-

operative, demonstrating stability with your employment. You appear genuine in your commitment for positive change," the parole board wrote following Waterman's hearing in Edmonton last Thursday.

Shamsuddin's murder wasn't the first tragedy to befall the Taj family.

The oldest of four brothers was killed in religious violence directed against the Ahmadiyya Muslim sect in Pakistan — persecution that drove surviving family members to Canada as refugees.

JVANRASSEL@THEHERALD.CANWEST.COM



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## FROM BI BELTLINE: 'More vitality'

In addition, half the block between 11th and 12th Avenue S.E., just east of Macleod Trail, which will likely be developed into an office building and hotel, received a redesignation.

The Enoch Sales home, built in 1908, is on the site, but there are discussions underway to have it moved to city-owned land.

"Things are starting to happen," architect Peter Burgener, whose firm is working on the project, said. "The area will be very, very different in the next few years."

"There'll be a lot more vitality."

The Beltline, which grew by about 302 people last year, according to the 2006 census, is poised to explode. A number of projects recently completed or under construction could add almost 7,000 people to the neighbourhood.

It is also seeing its property taxes increase. The area was one of seven communities where property values increased by 60 per cent between 2005 and 2006, leading to 17 per cent property tax hikes.

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