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# CITY



EDITOR: JOHN GRADON 235-7569

CALGARY HERALD

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## Bowmont project will stop erosion

Wilderness deteriorating in N.W. park

WENDY-ANNE THOMPSON  
CALGARY HERALD

One of Calgary's wilderness areas will undergo a facelift to ensure its unique character will survive.

The city will unveil restoration strategy at a special meeting today so Bowmont Park can be accessible to the public yet preserve its natural features.

The 165-hectare park, which stretches along the Bow River from Home Road to 85th Street N.W., was identified as a natural area in 1982. Since then, it has been slowly deteriorating.

"If we let it go the way it has been over the last number of years, it will lose a lot of its native character. That's the concern we are trying to address," said Chris Manderson, a City of Calgary natural areas management specialist.

The park is home to a mix of natural plant species, including native prairie grasses, balsam poplar forest and shrubs.

Some problems that have contributed to the deterioration of the park are a proliferation of unauthorized trails, soil erosion, weed invasion, vandalism, wildlife management issues, parking concerns, pet control and cleanup.

City staff conducted a study of the park and worked with community groups to develop a long-term management plan.

Manderson said it is important to maintain the area because loss of ecosystems in communities is a growing problem.

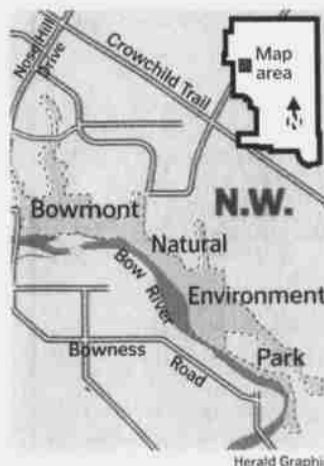
"Calgary's got a tremendous diversity of natural ecosystems. These things are in our city and they are disappearing," he said.

"Having healthy ecosystems means you will have lots of wildlife. People will be able to walk through a native prairie because there will be wild flowers in it as opposed to walking through a weedy field."

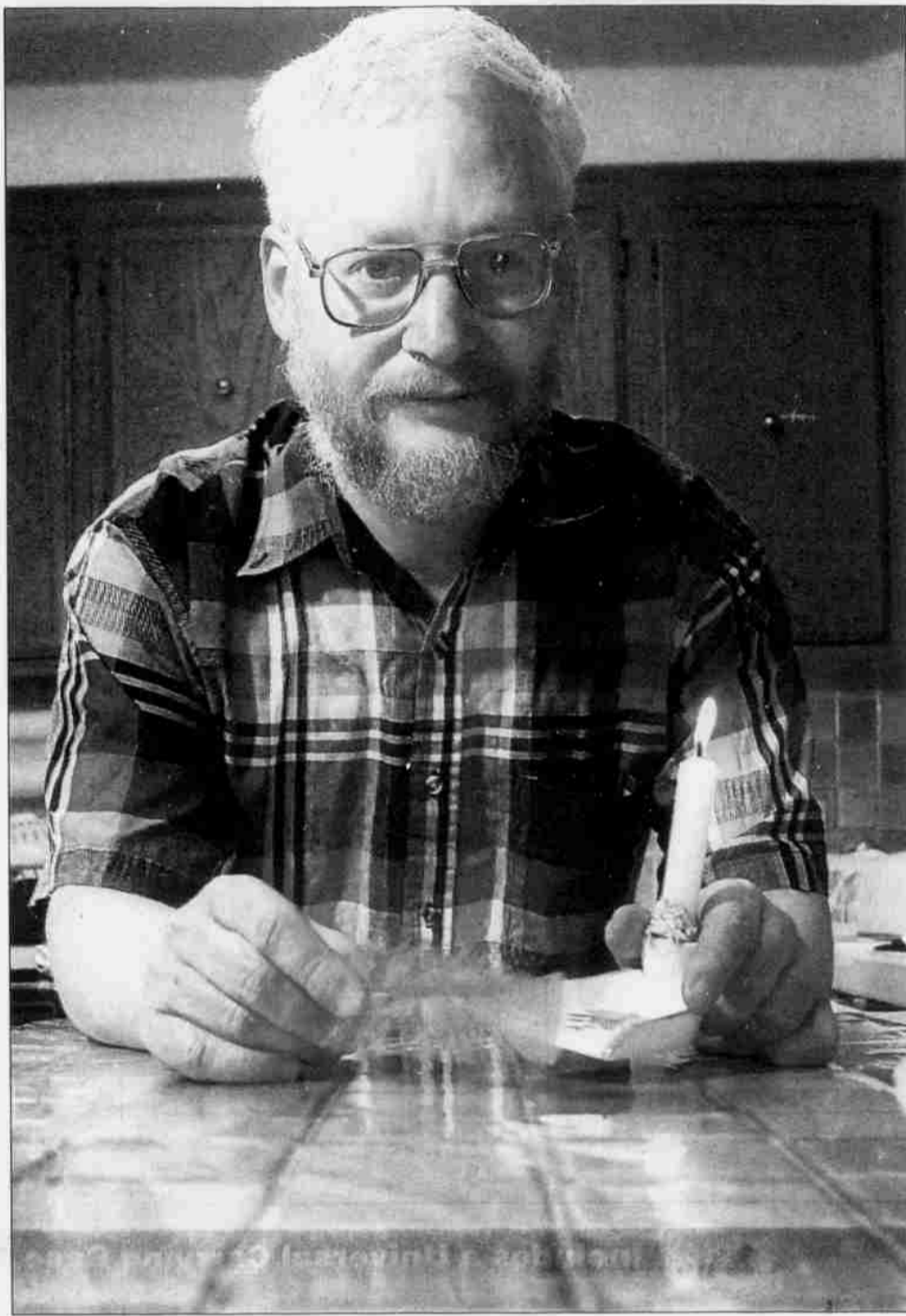
Part of the plan will include a draft of how and where the public can use the park. In the last few years, there have been conflicts between cyclists, hikers and dog owners.

Some dog owners want the park designated off-leash only. This does not sit well with other park users.

SEE BOWMONT, PAGE B2



## KEEPING TRADITION ALIVE



Prof. Eliezer Segal uses a feather to sweep up bread crumbs Friday to ensure there is no sign of leaven in his Calgary home in preparation for Passover, the Jewish festival marking the liberation of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. See story in Observer, Page O510.

Marianne Helm, Calgary Herald

## Transit workers crossing picket line irk union

Blacklisted members might be ousted

JEREMY HAINSWORTH  
AND DAVID HEYMAN  
CALGARY HERALD

Dean McKerness has a bone to pick with what he calls union traitors.

As head of the city's transit union, he says the membership has put together a blacklist of workers who have crossed the picket line during the strike — entering its 45th day.

"They'll pay for it," said McKerness. "We're going to boot them out of this union."

"Too bad, so sad. We're a democracy. We work by what the majority says. They've already put a list up here that says: 'We are not going to have these people in our union.'"

"They still have their jobs, but they're not going to be members and they'll always, always, always be known as scabs for the rest of the time they work here."

McKerness said seven people crossed the picket line earlier this week, bringing the union's total who've crossed



Anders



McKerness



TRANSIT STRIKE Day 45

including office staff and maintenance workers, have crossed.

Calgary West Alliance MP Rob Anders, former director of Canadians Against Forced Unionism, says the transit union's actions are anything but fair and just.

"It's not a democracy," An-

ders said. "That's just standard union dogma. When they're in non-strike situations, they try to pretend they're just out to represent the working guy and they're everybody's uncle."

"They're willing to use violence, intimidation, coercion to get their way," Anders said. "They're willing to resort to all sorts of things to deprive Calgaryans of a service that many people would deem to be close to essential."

McKerness attacked the media for saying he had advocated violence last week, prior to the start of limited bus service operated by transit managers.

"We don't advocate violence here at Local 583," he said after delays and violence marred morning rush hour Wednesday as transit buses rolled onto city streets for the first time in 42 days.

"We worked with our brothers. There was no violence on that line," McKerness said.

SEE TRANSIT, PAGE B2

## Mom sues CBE over son's death

Three killed in California trip in 2000

GRADY SEMMENS  
CALGARY HERALD

A Calgary mother wants to hold the Calgary Board of Education legally responsible for her son's death on a school-sponsored hiking trip in northern California last year.

Hazel Koschel confirmed Friday she has filed a lawsuit in the court of Humboldt County, Calif., claiming the CBE was negligent in its planning of last year's fatal hiking trip that claimed the life of three people, including her son Brodie MacDonald.

She said she hopes winning the lawsuit will make future outdoor trips safer for Calgary students and their adult supervisors.

"The Calgary Board of Education has steadfastly declined to accept responsibility or be accountable for the losses that have occurred as a result of the Lost Coast Trail incident," Koschel said.

"I feel that my hand has been forced and I have no alternative but to take this matter to court." The school board has been advised of the lawsuit but declined to discuss the matter.



Calgary Herald  
Hazel Koschel's son drowned during a trip to California.

"This matter has been referred to our lawyers," the board stated in a brief news release issued Friday afternoon.

"This matter is now before the courts and any additional comment is inappropriate," the statement read.

MacDonald, a student at Bowness High School, and William Aberhart High School student David Elton died after jumping into the Pacific Ocean to try to save parent chaperone Barbara Clement, 45, who was swept into the water by a wave while walking along a remote beach on March 25, 2000.

SEE SUES, PAGE B2

## Attorneys quit for easier jobs

SHELLEY KNAPP  
AND JEREMY HAINSWORTH  
CALGARY HERALD

Too much work for too little money has led more than 10 per cent of Calgary's Crown prosecutors to resign over the last two months.

"The recurring themes during exit interviews are workloads and salary," Alberta Justice spokesman Bart Johnson said Friday. "It's a significant concern."

Since Feb. 1, six out of the 51 prosecutors working in Calgary courts have quit. And many people employed at the Crown's office fear more resignations are on the way.

"I know that there are at least two or three more coming," said one worker, who asked not to be identified.

"It's definitely been hard on morale."

According to numbers quoted from Statistics Canada in 1998-99, Alberta prosecutors handled an average of 500 cases a year.

The national average is 379. No breakdown on Calgary's caseload was available.

As an example, Vancouver prosecutors get one day of preparation time for every day they spend in trial.

In Calgary, many of the department's prosecutors are in court on preparation days dealing with a burgeoning caseload.

In the compensation department, Alberta's prosecutors are in the middle of the pack nationally, making between \$49,000 and \$95,000 a year.

Ontario prosecutors are by far the highest paid, receiving between \$68,113 and \$162,863.

While one review of salaries was done last year, another review in consultation with the Alberta Crown Attorneys' Association is underway, said Johnson.

"We want to ensure the department maintains salaries that are competitive with other jurisdictions," he said.

SEE ATTORNEYS, PAGE B2

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