



WHAT'S IN THE STARS FOR YOU?

We unveil the first in a series of Georgia Nicols' 2008 horoscopes
Entertainment, Page C5

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125 YEARS
CALGARY HERALD
PROUDLY CALGARY SINCE 1883 calgaryherald.com Tuesday, January 1, 2008

JOIN US AS WE MARK OUR 125TH ANNIVERSARY!
Happy New Year and thanks for your support as the Herald celebrates being part of the Calgary community in 2008



DOWNTOWN REVIVAL
Today the Calgary Herald embarks on its 125th year as a newspaper. We'll celebrate our milestone throughout 2008 by delving into issues critical to our future. First up is a look at the phenomenal growth of Calgary's downtown.
TODAY: Repopulating the inner city
WEDNESDAY: Traffic crunch
THURSDAY: The retail experience
FRIDAY: Mod dash for culture
SATURDAY: Changing landscapes



20 COMPELLING CALGARIANS



With the Calgary Herald celebrating its 125th year as a newspaper, we're telling the stories of Calgarians who will help make our community great in the years to come. From fitness gurus to fledgling politicians; athletes to environmentalists; entrepreneurs to community activists, these are the kind of people who make Calgary one of the most dynamic cities in the country. Starting on **Page B1** you'll find profiles of amazing Calgarians. 20 people the Calgary Herald has deemed Compelling Calgarians.



Lifestyle perks draw people to city's core

MICHELLE MAGNIAN
CALGARY HERALD
There are many aspects about inner-city condo living that appeal to Nick Rowe. First, there's the view of the city's skyline that he enjoys every morning while sitting at his breakfast bar. Then, there's the fact that he can walk to his office in Mission. The 20-minute stroll not only lets him cut the amount of pollution he creates — a contribution he feels good about — but it also gives him time with his thoughts, a chance to plan his workday. And he's already looking forward to next summer's Stampede, when he'll be able to walk to the grounds. But it's not just convenience that he's after. Rowe, 38, recently moved into Arriva, one of the new inner-city condo buildings, which will be decked out with premium offerings such as two restaurants, an outdoor park, a wine boutique and an executive medical concierge service once construction is completed in the spring. Luxuries, convenience and lifestyle perks appeal to more than just Rowe — the new year is set to see thousands of people looking for an upscale life more into the city's core. The City of Calgary estimates that 8,500 new residents will move to the Beltline in the next two to five years, pushing the population in the area to 25,000. There are approximately 3,400 units under construction and plans for another 2,000, according to Thom Mahler, co-ordinator of Centre City planning and design policy with the city.
SEE LIFESTYLE, PAGE A4



MORE 125TH ANNIVERSARY COVERAGE
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Don Braid on a changing Calgary Column, Page A3
A snapshot from Calgary's past Page A4
ONLINE FEATURES
Go to CalgaryHerald.com/125 for additional, exclusive content including a column from historian David Finch and several photo galleries.

Gang unit probes death

Three shootings on violent day
JAMIE KOMARNICKI AND MICHELLE LANG
CALGARY HERALD

Witnesses say a spray of bullets peppered a downtown alleyway shortly before a young man was found dead Monday in a suspicious death that capped a near record-breaking year of Calgary slayings. The shooting — one of three on Monday — happened around 11 a.m. in the alley between 6th and 7th avenues at 8th Street SW. "I just heard bang, bang — that's it," said Peter Chisem, who works on the sixth floor of a building adjacent to the alley. The victim, an Asian man believed to be in his 20s, was pronounced dead at the scene. Police will not release his name until after an autopsy, which is expected on Wednesday. Homicide detectives are leading the investigation, but the gang unit was also called in. If confirmed as a homicide, Monday's death would be the 30th of 2007. The worst year in the city's history for homicides was 1992, when there were 42. There were 26 slayings in 2006. Police say it's too early to say whether two other shootings — one in Forest Lawn and another in Sandstone — are connected to the downtown killing. About 3:40 p.m., a nearby worker called police with reports of gunshots in the parking lot of the Little Saigon Centre in Forest Lawn, said duty inspector Kevan Stuart. When police arrived at the plaza at 9th Street and 27th Avenue S.E., they found two damaged vehicles with several shell casings nearby. A red Honda Civic had several windows shot out, and a brown Hyundai SUV also sustained damage. No one is believed to have been injured in the incident. The victim in the first shooting was known to police, but Acting Staff Sgt. Chris Matthews would not elaborate. "I can't divulge how we know him," he said.

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HERALD HOCKEY
Flames grab first win over Canucks
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Scientist renowned in MS field

Dr. Voon Wee Yong
Malaysian-born researcher
at work at U of C since 1996

RITA MINGO
FOR THE CALGARY HERALD

Canada has one of the highest rates of multiple sclerosis in the world. Keeping that in mind, Calgary is fortunate to have one of the preeminent MS researchers, working diligently to better understand and combat this disease.

Dr. Voon Wee Yong is a professor and neuroscientist at the University of Calgary whose brilliance in this area has won him international renown.



Greg Fulmes, Calgary Herald

Dr. Yong is working with a pair of U of C neurosurgeons on an ongoing trial to reduce injury to the spinal cord.

Originally from Malaysia, Yong earned his PhD at the University of British Columbia. His first faculty position was as an associate professor at McGill and he's been at the U of C since 1996.

He co-directs the MS program at the Hotchkiss Brain Institute with Dr. Luanne Metz. As well, he's an Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research scientist, which includes doing

studies on spinal cord injuries and brain tumours.

But that's only the tip of the iceberg. Yong chairs the medical advisory committee for the MS Society of Canada.

He also travels the country giving talks to the public on the progress in MS research, indicating that there are hopeful findings emerging.

Quick to commend his colleagues, Yong is working with

a pair of U of C neurosurgeons — Dr. Steve Casha and Dr. John Hurlbert — on an ongoing trial to reduce injury to the spinal cord.

"They're vital to any research enterprise," he says.

Yong also teaches across North America, as well as consulting for pharmaceutical companies. He has had 150 manuscripts published and is frequently invited to international conferences.

"The research I do is translated into clinical trials, which I am still involved in," he says. "We're entering into a definitive Phase 3 trial for MS."

A \$4-million study funded by the MS Society involves 200 patients at 14 centres across Canada.

Due to his standing in the research community, he's been successful in obtaining grants from national agencies in leading teams based around various universities in Canada. The most recent is a \$1.5-million grant to attempt to repair the nervous system.