

MAY 3 1 2021

ITEM: 7.14 PFC2021-0631  
*relayed*  
 CITY CLERK'S DEPARTMENT

PFC2021-0631  
 Attachment 4

**Attachment 4 - Application and letters of support for "Mary and Catherine Barclay Park" (Confidential)**

Proposed Name:	Mary and Catherine Barclay
Nominator:	Liz Ferguson, Hostelling International Mountain Region
Achievements:	<p>These two remarkable Calgarians were instrumental in founding the Canadian Hostelling Association. The movement started in 1933 with a single tent as the first hostel in North America. Their vision and insight inspired many in Calgary and beyond. Their energy and commitment was recognized by the Int'l Hostelling Association in 1937 when their organization was officially recognised as the Canadian Hostel Association. There are now over 50 hostels in the Canadian network in every region of the country annually hosting &gt;200,000 travelers (Canadian and international) with &gt;20,000 members and &gt; 400 employees. Inspired by the learning opportunities in travel and connection with nature, they were both teachers in Calgary for over 30 years. Both are regarded as innovators in teaching methods in their respective subjects. The sisters received these recognitions: • Calgary Jaycees - Citizen of the Year (in 1973) • Canadian Centennial Medal (1967) issued to commemorate the 100th anniversary Canada's Confederation. • Canadian Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee Medal (1977). • Calgary Stampede's as two of 100 Outstanding Albertans (2012) • In 2017, listed in the YWCA Calgary's She Who Dares project (an installation highlighting stories of 150 women who impacted Calgary during Canada's first 150+ years). • Bragg Creek, in 2012, was recognized by Parks Canada as a place of historical significance on the strength of its status as the location of the first hostel in Canada. • There is a 2,260-metre summit in the Canadian Rockies named for Mary. Mary Barclay's Mountain can be seen from Highway 40 in Kananaskis Country. • In 1987, in recognition of her work and dedication to the advancement of the youth hostelling, Mary became a Member of the Order of Canada. • In 1935 E. Catherine formed the "Cercle Francais", an organization for Grade 12 students started to award bursaries for members for study in Quebec and France. It is reported that over 35 years, 100 students had received a bursary. It is also reported that Catherine played a key role in founding the French section in the Banff School of Fine Arts and the Calgary branch of Alliance Francais. • E. Catherine Barclay Award was established by a dedicated group of her friends, colleagues and former students to honour her legacy. First awarded in 1991, this scholarship now offers \$7,500 annually to support a two semester learning experience in France for a U of Calgary student.</p>
Impact:	<p>Mary Belle and Elsie Catherine Barclay moved to Calgary with their parents and younger brother in 1913. In 1929, both began teacher training at the provincial Normal School (now Heritage Hall at SAIT). Even as qualified teachers, each sought further post-secondary education, Mary at the U of Chicago and the U of Toronto, Catherine at the Sorbonne in Paris and the U of Alberta. As the founders of the Canadian Hostelling Association, since the 1930s, the Barclay sisters have inspired thousands of students and young adults in Calgary to enrich their lives through travel and learning experiences. The vision that began with enthusiasm, a rented tent and permission from a landowner in Bragg Creek quickly expanded to more permanent structures throughout the countryside surrounding Calgary. From the beginning, the activity brought opportunities for travel and tourism encouraging Calgarians to expand horizons and showing them an affordable way to do so. Both sisters made extraordinary contributions to teaching in Calgary: Mary, a dedicated naturalist, brought a passion for the outdoors into the classroom. The Calgary Herald (Oct 7, 2000) credited her with "pioneer[ing] outdoor educations and the use of parent volunteers in the classroom". A recent quote from one of Mary's former students, "One of the sisters [Mary].....was my grade 4 teacher at Stanley Jones. Her classroom was full of stuffed owls, birds and small mammals. I remember vividly the field trips we went on to identify mushrooms and plants." Catherine, passionate about French language and culture, brought what was at that time an innovation to teaching the language. "During her career as a high school teacher in Calgary, including 18 years (1937-1955) at Western Canada High, she spearheaded a minor revolution by encouraging – sometimes insisting – that her students speak French in the classroom." The impact of Catherine's contributions to French language training in Calgary is carried on through the work of those leading the E. Catherine Barclay Scholarship and in the enduring operations of Alliance Francais in Calgary. These continuing energies honour her belief that "travel enhanced language [and] education" and that "young people should be able to do such travel without being inhibited by cost". After retirement, Mary donated a collection of 1,600 flower specimens to the River edge Foundation and her collection of colour slides of trees, rocks, flowers, etc. to the Calgary Board of Education.</p>
Preferred Greenspace:	CRE864
letter of support from CA:	attached - Crescent Heights
letter of permission from family:	Edgar Hemmings letter stating no next of kin
other letters of support:	5 attached: Hostelling International, Chinook Country Historical Society, Catherine Barclay Scholarship Advisory Committee, Alliance Francais, University of Calgary.



November 20, 2019

Crescent Heights Community Association  
1101 - 2nd Street NW  
Calgary, Alberta  
T2M 1V7

To Whom It May Concern,

Re: Municipal Naming Program, City of Calgary

The Crescent Height Community Association is pleased to give its full support to naming a green space in our neighbourhood for the Barclay Sisters, Elsie Catherine and Mary Belle. We have learned that their vision and enthusiasm for adventure and the outdoors not only inspired many of their fellow Calgarians to enjoy and benefit from new experiences but continues to inspire Canadians to learn about the world around them. The Barclay sisters were longtime residents of Crescent Heights. We are pleased to know that their roots began in our community, and support the naming of a currently unnamed green space in our community in their honour.

We are aware of the two options being proposed (CRE875 & CRE864) and agree that, with its prominent location, the CRE864 green space in preferred. It will offer excellent exposure for the recognition of these two fine Calgarians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K Blair", is positioned above the typed name.

Kirstin Blair, President  
Crescent Heights Community Association

Crescent Heights Community Association

1101 - 2nd Street Northwest  
Calgary, Alberta CANADA T2M 2V7

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Edgar A Hemmings  
308 2400 Sorrel Mews SW  
Calgary AB T2T 6H8

November 24, 2019

The City of Calgary's Municipal Naming Program

P.O. Box 2100, Stn M  
Calgary, AB T2P 2M5

[Municipal.Naming@calgary.ca](mailto:Municipal.Naming@calgary.ca)

To Whom it May Concern,

I would like to join in recommending that a green space in the Crescent Heights district of Calgary be named to commemorate Mary and Catherine Barclay. I was the executor of Mary's estate.

Neither of these women ever married or had children. I knew them both from 1953, when I came to Calgary until their deaths. During the last ten years of Mary's life, my wife and I were good friends of Mary, and checked up on her almost every day, until she moved into the Agape Hospice in 1998. Thereafter we visited her almost every day until her death in 2000. I remained active in Hostelling and was elected National President for two years before retiring in 2006.

You will have received information about the sisters' involvement in the creation of Hostelling International Canada, in 1933, while they were living at 212 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue N.W, Calgary. I believe naming a green space in the neighbourhood would be a fitting remembrance of the significance of these two women to the history of Calgary and to Crescent Heights.

If you need further details of the later part of Mary's life I can be contacted at the above address, or by telephone at 403-242-4051. My email address is [edgarahemmings@gmail.com](mailto:edgarahemmings@gmail.com).

Yours sincerely,



Edgar A Hemmings



To Whom It May Concern;

Hostelling International – Canada is pleased to give its full endorsement for naming a green space in the Crescent Heights neighbourhood in Calgary for the Barclay Sisters, Mary Belle and Elsie Catherine. The energies and leadership shown by these two women ignited a vibrant community of young travellers adventurers in Calgary that continues to inspire both in Calgary and across the country. Both teachers in Calgary, and in other parts of Alberta, the Barclay sisters infused their own enthusiasm for learning into the DNA of our national organization.

It began with the idea that learning and travel go together to enrich the lives of their students and community members. They started in 1933 with a rented tent in Bragg Creek and a modest 25¢ per person for an overnight. From there, the sisters harnessed their passions for education in language training (for Catherine) and nature conservation (for Mary) to lay the platform for a group of Calgarians eager to build a community and share experiences. Today, Hostelling International Canada continues to attract and encourage the young and the young at heart to experience the world and to travel responsibly. I have attached a summary of the sisters' many accomplishments and recognitions.

Our international community of travellers is founded on the kind of vision provided by the Barclay sisters and the inspiration they gave to others. Crescent Heights is the neighbourhood in which their family home was located. Their house, at 212 12th Ave NW, also served as the first Hostel in Calgary and the Canadian Hostelling Association's first headquarters so it is fitting that a green space in that neighbourhood be named for them.

We offer our wholehearted support for this nomination to name a green space for the Barclay sisters in Crescent Heights.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alistair", written over a horizontal line.

Alistair McLean  
Chair of the Council of Executive Directors

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Pacific Mountain Region  
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Vancouver, BC V6G 2G3  
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**The Barclay Sisters – Founders of Canadian Hostelling Association  
Accomplishments, Awards and Recognitions**

This summary of accomplishments is prepared as information for support of the nomination to the Calgary Municipal Naming Program to name a green space in Crescent Height, Calgary, for the Barclay sisters, Mary Belle and Elsie Catherine.

The founding contribution made by the Barclay sisters to hostelling in Canada began with the idea that learning and travel go together to enrich the lives of their students, friends and community members. They began in 1933 with vision, enthusiasm, a rented tent and permission from a landowner in Bragg Creek. The following year, a more permanent structure was built nearby and local horses were rented for activity along with general hiking. Not long after (1937), with a small but dedicated group keen to establish more hostels and encourage more hostelling, the two formed the Canadian Youth Hostels Association (CYHA). The headquarters of the CYHA was their family home at 212-12 Ave SW in Calgary, also Calgary's first hostel. It was an address that became well known by hostellers around the world.



Above: The T-shaped cabin built on Tom Fulterton's land, the new hostel location after the new music hall in Bragg Creek made the first site a bit too noisy.

Left: In 1933, the first hostel in Canada at Bragg Creek, AB.

- Inspired by the learning opportunities in travel and in contact with nature, they were both teachers in Calgary for over 30 years. Both regarded as innovators in teaching methods in their respective subjects.
- In 1935 E. Catherine formed the "Cercle Français", an organization for Grade 12 students started in 1935 to award bursaries for members for study in Quebec and France. The first bursary was awarded in 1938 and, as of an article published in the Calgary Herald in 1973, 100 members of the group had received a bursary. The Calgary Herald also reported that Catherine also played a key role in founding the French section in the Banff School of Fine Arts and the Calgary branch of Alliance Française.
- Both sisters were regarded as innovators in teaching methods in their respective subjects and embraced travel experience as essential to inspiring interest and proficiency in the subject area.
- Mary was a dedicated naturalist who brought a passion for the outdoors into the classroom. In her obituary (Calgary Herald Oct 7, 2000), she was credited with "pioneer[ing] outdoor educations and the use of parent volunteers in the classroom".
- Catherine aimed to teach French proficiency decades before official bilingualism began, introducing the concept of language immersion in the classroom. "During her career as a high school teacher in Calgary, including 18 years (1937-1955) at Western Canada High, she spearheaded a minor revolution by encouraging – sometimes insisting – that her students speak French in the classroom." E. Catherine Scholarship website.
- In 1973, Mary and Catherine Barclay were honoured by the Calgary JayCees as **Citizens of the year**.

- In 1975, the two sisters received the **Richard Schirrmann medallion and scroll** from the International Youth hostel Association in Germany (DJH) for their work as the founders of the youth hostel movement in Canada.
- In 1987, Mary received the founders' award, the **Isabelle and Monroe Smith award**, from the American Youth Hostels Association now HI-USA.
- In 1987, the Canadian government recognized Mary's pioneer work and dedication to the advancement of the youth hostelling. Mary received one of her country's highest tributes and became a **Member of the Order of Canada**.
- **Mary Barclay's Mountain** is a 2,260-metre (7,410-foot) summit located in the Kananaskis Range of the Canadian Rockies of Alberta, Canada. Mary Barclay's Mountain can be seen from Highway 40 in Kananaskis Country. The summit honors **Mary Belle Barclay (1912-1983)**, who founded the first of the Canadian Youth Hostels in 1933 at Bragg Creek near Calgary, Alberta.
- E. Catherine Barclay Scholarship was established by a dedicated group of her friends, colleagues and former students to honour the memory of this exceptional educator and world citizen. First awarded in 1991, this scholarship now offers \$7,500 annually to support a two semester learning experience in France of a University of Calgary student.
- In 1996, The **Mary Barclay Building** of the HI-Banff Alpine Centre was inaugaured in 1996 and is a perfect exemple of today's great hostels in Canada.
- In 2012, the Barclay sisters included in the **Calgary Stampede's 100 Outstanding Albertans** named to mark the Stampede's Centennial and contributions to their communities and our province.
- In 2017, the Government of Canada recognized Bragg Creek as a "historically significant place" on the strength of its status as the location of Canada's first hostel and the place where Canada's hostelling movement began.
- In 2017, for the YWCA Calgary's Canada 150 project entitled **She Who Dares**: an interactive installation highlighting the stories of 150 women who have impacted Calgary during the Canada's first 150+ years.
- In 2018, Parks Canada erected a plaque in Bragg Creek to commemorate the National Historic designation. Inscription on the plaque: *"On 13 May 1933, Mary and Catherine Barclay and a few of their friends pitched a large canvas tent on Ida May White's property in Bragg Creek. They began to charge young hikers a modest fee for a safe place to stay and soon started a permanent home for the hostel on Thomas Fullerton's nearby property. Inspired by the youth hostelling movement in Europe, the energetic Barclay sisters founded the Canadian Youth Hostels Association. By the early 1940s, its success had led to the creation of a network of affordable accommodations in Canada, offering opportunities for independent, adventurous travel."*



Mary on the left,  
Catherine on the right behind their home,  
212 – 12 Avenue NW, Calgary



November 1, 2019

Crescent Heights Community Association  
1102 2 Street NW  
Calgary, Alberta T2M 2V7

Attention: The Board of Directors

It has been brought to our attention that there is an opportunity to name a park in Crescent Heights Community after Mary and Catherine Barclay who are credited with the founding of Hostelling in Canada. We can think of nothing more appropriate, as the Barclay home was located on 12th Avenue in Crescent Heights. There is a photo in the Glenbow Archives (now located at the University of Calgary's Western Research Centre) which shows the Barclay's Model T in the alley behind their house. The car was used for expeditions to the original hostel site in Bragg Creek. The Barclay home was the de facto headquarters for the Hostelling Association in its early years.

The aim of Hostelling as stated in its original charter "To help all, but especially young peoples, to a greater knowledge, care and love of the countryside by providing hostels or other simple accommodation for them on their travels" is as important today as it was in 1933. Bragg Creek as the site of the first hostel has been given national historic significance designation in 2012.

We fully support the proposed commemorative naming to recognize the work of the Barclay sisters who lived in the community of Crescent Heights in Calgary.

Yours truly,

Kate Reeves  
For the Chinook Country Historical Society  
The Local Chapter of the Historical Society of Alberta

January 12, 2020

Dear Madam/Sir,

RE: Our Parks, Our People, Calgary 125 Campaign Nomination of Mary Belle and Elsie Catherine Barclay

The E. Catherine Barclay (ECB) Scholarship Advisory Committee enthusiastically endorses the nomination of Mary Belle and Elsie Catherine Barclay to The City of Calgary's Naming Program for a green space in their memory and in honour of their legacy.

Our committee is a group of independent volunteers that formed in 2012 to continue the work of The Friends of E. Catherine Barclay Society. The Society was comprised of students and colleagues of Elsie Catherine Barclay who were inspired by her pioneering philosophy of having students to speak French inside and outside of the classroom. In Calgary at the time when Miss Barclay was a high school teacher, language education tended to focus on written grammar and translation exercises, so her passion for having students speak the language and be creative with it truly set her apart. She founded exchange programs so that young people could experience immersive language learning and a new culture. The Society also included Elsie's sister Mary Belle, with whom Elsie opened the first youth hostel in North America in Bragg Creek, Alberta. The remarkable Barclay legacy is what the Friends wished to share with future generations through the establishment of the E. Catherine Barclay Scholarship in 1990.

Each year, the E. Catherine Barclay Scholarship sends a student to France for a full academic year. To date, 16 students have spent a year studying in French and hostelling in Europe.

The mission of the ECB Scholarship Advisory Committee is to collaborate with the University of Calgary to perpetuate the award founded in honour of Elsie Catherine Barclay. Our vision is an annual award in perpetuity that attracts talented candidates and retains active alumni. We create and distribute two newsletters per year; past issues can be viewed on the ECB webpage, hosted by the University of Calgary (<https://sillic.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate/french/e-catherine-barclay-scholarship>). The Committee also hosts a growing group of alumni, their families, University stakeholders, and community partners at an annual gathering to share stories of how Elsie Catherine and Mary Belle Barclay's legacy has made such a difference in our lives.

The Committee members are Scholarship alumnae who spent a year in France, studying in French, adapting to a new environment and culture, hostelling and meeting other students from all over the world. This international opportunity fostered in each of us the development of a broader and deeper worldview. We owe the experience, which we have all described as transformative, to the pioneers being nominated for the Calgary 125 Campaign: Elsie Catherine Barclay and Mary Belle Barclay. It is our pleasure and privilege to support this nomination.

With sincere regards,

The E. Catherine Barclay Scholarship Advisory Committee: Silvia Rossi (1991 Scholarship Recipient), Andrea Jung (1993 Recipient), Audrey Taylor Bereznicki (2009 Recipient), Paola Velasquez (2016 Recipient)

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*E. Catherine Barclay Scholarship Advisory Committee*





Calgary, December 4<sup>th</sup> 2019

**Subject: Support letter for the naming of a green space after the Barclay sisters**

Dear Madam or Sir,

With this letter I hereby wish to support the naming of a green space after the Barclay sisters, Mary and Catherine, in Crescent Heights. Miss Catherine Barclay was a French teacher and one of the founders of the Calgary branch of our organization and as such, she has contributed immensely to the cultural vitality of the Francophone community of our city. She is also admirable in many other different regards and in particular the creation of the first youth hostel in Canada. She truly was an educator who believed in creating connexions through education and travels.

The Alliance Française of Calgary is part of the largest non-profit cultural organization in the world: the network of Alliances Françaises with more than 850 branches in 130 countries. All of these branches rely on the passion and energy of local individuals who believe that building a diverse community would enrich our cultural landscape. Miss Catherine Barclay was one of these visionaries and the support she showed for Alliance Française helped establish an institution that has been thriving in Calgary for more than 70 years.

As a language teacher myself, I know the importance of supporting the learning of other languages and how it helps us better understand our world. As Fellini said, "A different language is a different vision of life" and I find that Miss Barclay is the perfect embodiment of this precious thought. She had a vision that would help people, and youth in particular, transcend themselves through education and travels.

In that respect, I strongly support the initiative of naming a green space after the Barclay sisters as I believe they are strong inspirational figures that should be remembered and honoured by present and future generations.

Jean-Baptiste ROUX  
Executive Director

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**FACULTY OF ARTS**

Office of the Dean  
2500 University Drive NW  
Calgary, AB, Canada T2N 1N4  
ucaigary.ca

December 10, 2019

Municipal Naming Program  
City of Calgary  
P.O. Box 2100, Stn. M  
Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2P 2M5  
Municipal.Naming@calgary.ca

Dear Sir/Madam:

As Dean of the Faculty of Arts, I fully endorse Hostelling International Canada's nomination to name a park in honour of the Barclay sisters, Mary Belle and Elsie Catherine, in their home community of Crescent Heights for the *Our Parks, Our People, Calgary 125 Campaign*. These inspirational women made a significant difference, particularly as champions of the concept of youth hostels and as promoters of the French language in Western Canada.

As members of HI Canada know well, the Barclay sisters literally founded Canadian youth hosteling by establishing the country's first hostel in Bragg Creek, Alberta in 1933. The idea came from Catherine's exposure to hosteling during her own travel in Europe. Back home, it was Mary who helped put the vision into practice. From this start, hosteling in Canada blossomed. Naming a park after these two incredible women would be a noble addition to their current honours, being named the 1973 Citizens of the Year by the Calgary Jaycees and recognized in that same year by the Government of Alberta for their outstanding achievements. In addition, in 1975 the Barclay sisters were honored with the Richard Schirrmann Medal presented by the International Hosteling Association of Germany.

As well as their contributions to hosteling, the sisters (especially Elsie Catherine Barclay) promoted the study of French, one of Canada's two official languages, and intercultural awareness, particularly as achieved through international study experiences. Again, it was Catherine's own study abroad experience that led her to fully appreciate the power of international study to enhance one's language fluency but also one's understanding of the culture from which that language was born, which further supports the language learning.

Catherine was a much loved and highly respected teacher of English and French. Although it was uncommon at the time, I am told Catherine insisted that her students not only read and write in French but also speak French in the classroom. It is this commitment to language and culture instruction that inspired her sister Mary and friends to establish the E. Catherine Barclay Scholarship at the University of Calgary – one of the largest awards in the Faculty of Arts.

Since 1991, 16 University of Calgary students have been given a life-changing opportunity through the E. Catherine Barclay Scholarship.

Recipients have reflected that in addition to enhancing their speaking ability, the study abroad experience afforded them by the E. Catherine Barclay Scholarship has given them much more. It has forced them out of their comfort zone and, in turn, given them increased resilience in the face of new challenges; it has exposed them to new ways of living and doing, and thus, has broadened their perspectives; and it has enabled them to meet new people, some of whom have become life-long friendships. Most of these recipients have been inspired to continue to promote the French language but also the values of cross-culturalism and diversity through their work and/or volunteer commitments in Higher Education or as French school teachers.

To this day, a group of past recipients, who never met Elsie Catherine Barclay, have taken it upon themselves to form a volunteer advisory committee to ensure that her legacy and the opportunities she promoted will continue to benefit many young, aspiring French speakers in perpetuity.

Each year, the E. Catherine Barclay Advisory Committee hosts a reception for recipients, family, friends and donors to the scholarship to welcome home the previous recipient and warmly send off the new recipient. The E. Catherine Barclay Advisory Committee and the Faculty of Arts hope to one day host an alumni reunion at the Elsie Catherine and Mary Belle Barclay Park.

Mary Belle's support of her sister's passion for the French language has enabled others to develop their love of travel through hosteling and to enhance their personal connection to the French language and culture. Recognition of these amazing women through naming of a public space would increase awareness of this legacy for future generations of Calgarians.

Sincerely,



**Richard Sigurdson**  
Dean, Faculty of Arts